

Criminal Justice Research Center News

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This issue's feature:

Crime: What's Love Got to Do with it?!

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Hello everyone!!! I hope that Winter Quarter is going well for you. CJRC is continuing to be very active on its central fronts of: offering research-based intellectual exchange, fostering basic and policy-relevant crime and justice research, and building infrastructure support of these activities. On the intellectual exchange front, during the quarter, we have already had two very interesting seminars. **Aubrey Jackson's** discussion of the sources of rape law reform was very interesting and pointed to the continuing influence of race in the strength of rape laws. The findings for race are net of the influence of feminist political strength, and fundamentalism and other traditional contributions to changes in law. **Marie Provine** also provided a very stimulating talk on how local police departments are responding to federal policies encouraging them to participate in enforcing federal immigration laws. In the days following her visit, the buzz around CJRC was all about the timeliness and importance of her project, the interesting and varied responses of local police departments to the federal request, and the extent to which her project, given the politics of image management, can provide answers to the role of local police in dealing with undocumented immigrants. **Many thanks Aubrey and Marie!!!**

Also regarding intellectual exchange, we anticipate an equally stimulating talk on March 6, 2009 when our own **Osei Appiah** (Communication) will give a presentation on "**When I Play as a Black Man I Think Violent Thoughts: Identification and the Influence of Cultural Stereotyping on Post Game Play Hostility.**" (See details of this talk below.) Coincidentally, all of the winter quarter talks fit with CJRC's strategic goal of positioning itself as a national center of excellence on the topic of race/ethnicity, crime and criminal justice. Moving beyond winter quarter, please mark your calendars for the **20th Annual Walter C. Reckless and Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture on April 2, 2009.** This year's Reckless-Dinitz Lecture will feature **Tom R. Tyler**, Chair and University Professor of Psychology at New York University. Tom will speak on "**Legitimacy and Criminal Justice: The Benefits of Self-Regulation.**" (See details below.) Later during Spring Quarter, Paul Bellair (Sociology) and Derek Kreager (Pennsylvania State University) will present on their on-going research. Stay tuned for the times and dates of these talks.

On the research front, CJRC continues to support faculty and graduate/professional student research in a variety of ways. Coming up, we will announce our 2009 **Call for Proposals** in small grants in three categories: (1) Collaboration Projects; (2) Faculty Seed Grants; and Graduate/Professional Student Research Awards.

On the administrative front, we recently acquired Room 217 in the Journalism Building that will allow us to develop our own seminar room. The renovation work will take place during spring quarter. We hope that the room will be available in late spring or early summer so that we can host an inaugural event there before the academic year is over. Stay tuned for announcements of the □call for proposals□ and the opening of our new seminar space.

--Ruth

UPCOMING CJRC EVENTS OF INTEREST

Friday, March 6, 2009—Osei Appiah (Assistant Professor, School of Communication, Ohio State University). "[When I play as a Black Man I think Violent Thoughts: Identification and the Influence of Cultural Stereotyping on Post Game Play Hostility.](#)" Journalism 243 (IPR Seminar Room), 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Coffee, juice and refreshments will be served.

Abstract

There has been a great deal of interest among researchers to identify patterns that exist between violent video game play and aggression. For example, are there certain features of video games that may interact to predict individual's aggressive outcomes? The race of the characters combined with violent actions in a video game may activate well-learned Black cultural stereotypes among White video game players. The current presentation examines the impact of racial representation on character identification and post video game play hostility. Data examining Black and White participants demonstrate that cueing racial attributes in a video game influences identification and elicits stereotyping and violent thoughts among game players. Specifically, White players displayed more violent thoughts when playing as a Black character than they did playing as a White character. Black participants had more violent thoughts when playing against a White opponent than they did playing against a Black opponent. These findings are quite revealing and consistent with the literature on Whites' racial attitudes toward Blacks. That is, past adjective list studies and research using implicit racial attitudes among Whites provide support that Whites do hold Black cultural stereotypes that link Blacks to aggression and violence. The findings and implications are discussed in the context of distinctiveness theory, theories of accessibility, and cultural voyeurism (Appiah, 2004).

Thursday, April 2, 2009—2008 Walter C. Reckless-Simon Dinitz Lecture
Lecturer: Tom Tyler (Chair and University Professor of Psychology at New York University). "[Legitimacy and Criminal Justice: The Benefits of Self Regulation.](#)" The

Ohio State University Barrister Club (25 West Eleventh Avenue). 6:30 p.m.
Reception follows.

Abstract

Obeying the law in everyday life cannot be taken for granted. Whether the concern is compliance with traffic laws, drug laws, immigration laws, or the payment of taxes, legal authorities are confronted with sufficient noncompliance to question whether the resources normally devoted to social control are adequate. In some cases, such as the illegal downloading of music and copying of movies, levels of noncompliance are so high as to make effective regulation difficult -- nearly impossible. Also, studies of personal encounters with the police demonstrate that compliance can never be assumed; people often resist, and even defy legal and judicial orders. In this lecture, I advocate the value of a self-regulatory approach to law and criminal justice. I do so by first describing and critiquing the dominant approach to regulation in use today: deterrence. I argue that, in practice, this model is costly and minimally effective in securing compliance with the law and motivating the acceptance of decisions made by legal authorities. I then outline a different, self-regulatory, model based upon engaging people's values as a basis for motivating voluntary deference to the law. I review empirical research suggesting that this strategy is both viable and in many ways more desirable than current approaches.

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Walter DeKeseredy (University of Ontario Institute of Technology), Joseph Donnermeyer and Martin Schwartz have co-authored an article titled "Toward a Second Generation Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design for Preventing Woman Abuse in Rural Communities," which will soon appear in a special issue of *The Security Journal* edited by Bonnie Fisher and Martha Smith.

Walter has also has an entry titled "Critical Victimology" to be released soon in the *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention*.

Deanna Wilkinson (Human Development and Family Science; OSU) has the following new publications:

Wilkinson, Deanna L. (2008). Event Dynamics and the Role of Third Parties in Youth Violence. Final Report submitted to the *U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice*. Grant #: 2006-IJ-CX-0004. Columbus, Ohio. December 19, 2008. 473 pages.

Wilkinson, D.L., McBryde, M.,* Williams, B.,* Bloom, S.,* and Bell K.*(2009). An Examination of the Embeddedness of Gun Use among Violent Youths' Peers. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*. Special issue on Firearms and Violent Crime (forthcoming).

Wilkinson, D.L., Magora, A.*, Garcia, M.* and Khurana, A.* (2009). Fathering from the Margins of Society. *Journal of Family Issues* (forthcoming).

Elizabeth Stasny (Statistics; OSU) has the following new publication:

Yu, Q., and Stasny, E. A. and Li, B., (2008), "Bayesian Models to Adjust for Response Bias in Survey Data: An Example in Estimating Rape and Domestic Violence Rates from the NCVS", *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 2(2), 665-686.

Deborah Merritt (Law; Moritz College of Law) has the following new publication:

Deborah Jones Merritt & Ric Simmons, *Learning Evidence: From the Federal Rules to the Courtroom* (West 2009).

The book is designed for use in law school classrooms, but is also accessible for students in criminal justice and related fields. It discusses all of the Federal Rules of Evidence, with many criminal case examples. The book has a website, www.merrittevidence.com, which includes problems, evidence news, and resources for teachers.

CALLS FOR PAPERS, CONFERENCES, AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

"Celebrating Diversity: Population Centered Sexual Violence Prevention"

June 23-24, 2009 Quest Conference Center Columbus, OH

This two-day statewide conference will focus on effectively administering sexual violence prevention work with specific populations while remaining inclusive and accepting of all people. National and local speakers will present on working with specific populations such as youth, men and boys, disenfranchised communities, LGBTQ Youth, community organizations, and schools. Registration information will be available in May 2009.

For more information please visit the Ohio Domestic Violence Network website at: <http://www.odvn.org/>

Ohio State's **Mershon Center for International Security Studies** is holding a competition for OSU faculty and graduate students to apply for research support in international security. Grants may be used for a variety of research-related purposes including travel, seminars, conferences, interviews, experiments, surveys, library costs, and other expenses. Applications must be for projects that relate to one or more of the Mershon Center's three areas of focus:

- The use of force and diplomacy
- The ideas, identities and decisional processes that affect security
- The institutions that manage violent conflict

For more information, go to: <http://mershoncenter.osu.edu/grants/grants/grants.htm>

Corrections Compendium

Have you recently completed a research study or scholarly essay that you think would be of interest to those in corrections? **Corrections Compendium**, the bimonthly journal of the American Correctional Association, is seeking submissions for upcoming issues. Its international readership includes individuals involved in various sectors of the corrections and criminal justice fields, including individuals employed in academia, state and local correctional agencies, and community corrections, to those in probation and parole and juvenile services.

A leading peer-reviewed publication in the corrections field, **Corrections Compendium** welcomes you to submit your research-based papers for possible publication. We are open to submissions on all subjects — provided that they relate to corrections and adhere to standards of quality scholarship. A typical article is approximately 3,000 to 6,000 words, excluding references, endnotes, tables, charts, etc. All submissions are reviewed by members of our editorial advisory board.

Articles must not have been published elsewhere or be under consideration by another publication. Do you think you may have just what we are looking for? If so, please e-mail your article to Susan Clayton, Managing Editor, Periodicals, ACA, at susanc@aca.org in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format, double spaced, with any tables or charts at the end of the text. Please remember to include your name, title, affiliation, address, daytime telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

Deadline for submissions: Continuous

The **Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice** invites individuals to submit manuscripts for consideration for inclusion in a planned special issue on *Crime and Justice in China*. This volume will focus on the legal reforms, particularly the reforms of the criminal justice system, and their impact on crime and justice in the past 25 years since the economic reforms in China. Appropriate topics for submitted manuscripts include legal reforms, characteristics of specific criminality and victimization, laws and practices with regard to policing, courts/sentencing, and corrections/punishment. The journal particularly welcomes empirical research that utilizes survey, interview, fieldwork data, and existing published official data. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are appropriate. Theoretical and analytical papers are appropriate and welcomed as well.

Inquiries about the appropriateness of topics should be directed to one of the guest editors: Hong Lu, University of Nevada, Las Vegas can be reached via email (at hong.lu@unlv.edu) or telephone (702-895-0242); Terance D. Miethe, University of Nevada, Las Vegas can be reached via email (at miethe@unlv.nevada.edu) or telephone (702-895-0248).

All manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Manuscripts should be no more than 25 typed, double-spaced pages, including tables, figures, and references. Please send four manuscript copies, along with the manuscript on disk, to Hong Lu, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154-5009.

Deadline for submissions: July 1, 2009

This Issue's Feature:

Crime: What's Love Got to Do with it?!

With Valentine's Day just past, love is in the air! It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending [Valentine's cards](#), [presenting flowers](#), or offering [confectionery](#). The day became associated with [romantic love](#) in the [High Middle Ages](#), when the tradition of [courtly love](#) flourished.

An alternative historical perspective from eastern European states is that the holiday originates from the story of Saint Valentine, who upon rejection by his mistress was so heartbroken that he took a knife to his chest and sent her his still-beating heart as a token of his undying love for her.

Even though many don't instinctively associate love with crime, many violent crimes are "love crimes", motivated by an intimate relationship that has dissolved into the inflamed passions of jealousy and anger. We all would, if we could, expunge the ill consequences that can flow from the failures of the highest and noblest passion of all, love for another.

Yet, no one suggests that these crimes warrant a more severe punishment, simply because they were motivated by lost love. They may actually evoke pity and a lesser penalty. That is the humane face of deliberative justice, which is quite distinct from the critically different element of established intent.

The law has long recognized intent as a valid mitigating factor in crime. That's why we have clear distinctions between pre-meditated and passionate murders, manslaughter, and accidents. Though not always clearly demonstrable, intent always counts. The fundamental objective of all laws is just deserts. Justice cannot be accomplished if there was no intent to cause injury.

One factor in establishing intent is discovering motive. Showing a reason why the accused may have intended the crime can be circumstantial evidence of intent. Clear intent will bear on the severity of the accusation and the punishment. But, intent is not

the crime and neither is motive. In various degrees and kinds, it is the act -and only the act - of inflicting injury that constitutes the crime, not the actor's mental inclination.

Another common motive for crime is hate. Frequently, it is as much self-hate as it is hatred of the intended victim. Like love, hate is just another human emotion that can overcome our better judgment. Hatred is not always an evil emotion. Because we hate crime, we punish the perpetrator. Hatred can also be justified by the extremes of crime. We can even hate the hatred that is unjust and erroneous. It is this later kind of hatred that has brought us "hate crimes". Is it shameful to hate those who act violently on the basis of irrational prejudice and fear, or even love?

When it comes to crime, neither hate nor love is more horrendous a motive. They can both still lead to crimes that venture beyond thoughtless, crude, and inhumane. Regardless of what the motive is, there are and will always be individuals who get their pleasure from giving others pain. They have no hate or love for themselves or their victims. They have no respect for human, or any other variation, of life.

Thanks to all of you who sent your suggestions and announcements. We encourage you to keep us informed about any events that might be of interest to CJRC participants as well as any suggestions that you have for activities or programs. To contact the newsletter editor, please e-mail Derrick Bryan at bryan.127@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Derrick your e-mail address.