



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Volume 11, Issue 2

Fall 2010 – October/November

Featured Article: Sociologist Meghan Myers Explores Aspects of Gender and Homicide

From the Director's Desk



Hello, everyone!!! I am very pleased that we have gotten off to a good start this year with our "new and improved" newsletter and our informative seminar series. Judging by the messages and notes that Amanda and I have received, you seem to like the new format of the newsletter, and are finding the

information presented to be useful. I thank you for the feedback and am grateful to Amanda for refreshing our look and keeping us up to date. Janet Lauritsen got our seminar series off to an excellent start with her discussion of relationship between economic conditions and trends in violent victimization. The seminar was interesting and informative, and really brought home the importance of documenting and assessing the links between such phenomena with longitudinal data. If you missed this talk, you can now read the paper in *Criminology and Public Policy* 9(4):665-92. As is the structure of this journal, the paper is presented as part of a discussion forum with an introduction by Albert Blumstein (Carnegie Mellon University), and commentaries on Janet and Karen Heimer's work by Philip J. Cook (Duke University), Kenneth C. Land and Hui Zheng (Duke University), Ramiro Martinez (Florida International University), and Patricia Y. Warren (Florida State University). As you have your own take away lessons from Janet's talk or from reading the article and related papers, I will not dwell on its substance here. However, I do hope that you will read Dylan Adam's (the Center's undergraduate intern) column below for his perspective, as a novice researcher, on Janet's work. I am sure that Dylan would also enjoy hearing from you about his analysis of Janet's talk and visit. You can write to him at adams.1267@buckeyemail.osu.edu. Now that we have gotten off to such a good start, we look forward to a continuing dynamic and stimulating series. So, please mark your calendars for the following upcoming talks:

November 12, 2010, **Xin Jiang** (Ph.D. candidate in Sociology, OSU) will share some of her dissertation work on "Immigrant Generation, School Extracurricular Activities, and Adolescent Violence."

December 3, 2010, **Hal Pepinsky** (Professor Emeritus, Indiana University) will discuss his work on *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminologist*.

January 14, 2011, **Mathew Coleman** (Professor of Geography, OSU) will speak on "Detention and Deportation in Context: State Power and Social Control in the U.S. South."

February 4, 2011, **Michelle Alexander** (Moritz College of Law and the Kirwan Institute) will join us to discuss her recent book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

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I look forward to seeing you at all of these and additional seminars. In the meantime, if you have suggestions for center activities of any type, please do not hesitate to make me aware of them.

--- Ruth



Upcoming Talk: Xin Jiang

"Immigrant Generation, School Extracurricular Activities, and Adolescent Violence": A talk by Xin Jiang, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University.

Friday, November 12, 2010, 9:00-10:20 a.m.
217 Journalism, 242 W. 18th Ave.



Xin Jiang

Abstract: Previous research indicates that participation in extracurricular activities is negatively associated with involvement in various forms of risk behaviors among adolescents. However, little attention has been given to the influence of extracurricular activities on youths' involvement in violence and the possibility of variation in risk outcomes by activity type and participants. This study examines variation in the associations between extracurricular activities and violence involvement by activity portfolio and immigrant generation. First, drawing on social control arguments which emphasize that adolescents who participate in school extracurricular activities are tightly bonded to conventional institutions, Jiang hypothesizes that participation in three types of activities, i.e., sports alone, non-sports alone, and both sports and non-sports, contribute to a reduced likelihood of violence participation. Second, studies have shown that the preventive effects of extracurricular activities are particularly strong for high-adversity adolescents and for historically disadvantaged racial/ethnic minorities. Given the adversities encountered by immigrants in settling into and adopting a new culture, quick assimilation into mainstream extracurricular programs may be a particularly effective delinquency prevention

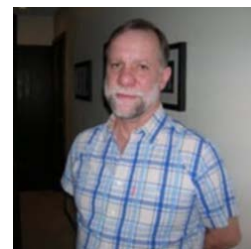
for newly arrived immigrant youth. Thus, Jiang hypothesizes that the preventive effect of extracurricular activities on reducing the likelihood of violence involvement is stronger among earlier than later immigrant generations.

With data collected during the first two waves of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health), Jiang uses survey-corrected logistic regression models to assess the above hypotheses. The results show that: (1) although later immigrant generations have higher level of participation than the earlier ones, all immigrant generations are active in activity participation; (2) while participation in non-sports is negatively associated with violence involvement, participation in sports alone shows a positive relationship to violence involvement; and (3) extracurricular activities are positively related to violence among first generation Hispanics, and among first generation Asians (an immigrant group with low delinquency rates and "model minority" status). Possible explanations for these patterns and their implications for public policies are discussed.

Upcoming Talk: Hal Pepinsky

"From Studying Crime and Criminality to Learning about Violence and its Transformation": A talk by Hal Pepinsky, Professor Emeritus of Criminal Justice, Indiana University.

Friday, December 3, 2010, 9:00-10:20 a.m.
217 Journalism, 242 W. 18th Ave.



Dr. Hal Pepinsky

Abstract: Over some thirty-five years as a criminologist, Hal Pepinsky's thinking has evolved, principally to replace notions of "crime" and "criminal justice" with the notions of "violence" and "peacemaking". In his most recent book, *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminologist* (University of Ottawa Press, 2006), Pepinsky traces the evolution of the criminal justice system in the United States since 1973. He discusses how he came to embrace the radical feminist view that patriarchy and the "politics of fear" can provide explanations for the rise in incarcerations in the US, as well as for other forms of systemic power in society.

In his guest presentation, Dr. Pepinsky will focus primarily on explaining his own radical shift regarding criminological problems of interest.

Hal Pepinsky retired in 2009 after teaching criminal justice at Indiana University in Bloomington since 1976. He has rejoined his wife, Jill Bystydzienski, in Worthington. Dr. Pepinsky has focused on peacemaking criminology since the mid-eighties. In retirement, he blogs on peacemaking at pepinsky.blogspot.com. The final page proofs of his book, *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminologist*, are available at the Critical Criminology website ([click here to view](#)), and are virtually identical to the hard copy version.

Janet Lauritsen's Visit to CJRC

by Dylan Adams, Undergraduate CJRC Intern

Here at The Ohio State University, "research" and "graduate school" have been reduced to taboo words among some undergraduates. This is largely due to the fact that many of our students do not and will not understand these concepts unless they are exposed to them. For a massive, densely populated Big Ten powerhouse, this should come as no surprise. It's much too easy to get lost in the chaos of trying to balance the exploration of one's social identity with earning a bachelor's degree, let alone worrying about graduate school.



Dr. Lauritsen explains her research to the audience

Often times, undergraduates are simply underrepresented in the research world; however, this can be offset by becoming more involved in one's field of study and by attending academic events across campus. The Criminal Justice Research Center, for example, is just one of many intra-university organizations that host lecture series and events on a monthly basis. Anyone is welcome to attend, and greater undergraduate involvement would certainly be a positive thing for us all.

On the eighth of October 2010, we were honored to kick-off our CJRC monthly lecture series with a presentation by one of the most prominent criminologists today, Dr.

Janet Lauritsen (University of Missouri-St. Louis). In a seminar titled "Violent Victimization and Economic Conditions: The Vulnerability of Race and Ethnic Minorities," based on a recent paper co-authored with Dr. Karen Heimer (University of Iowa), Dr. Lauritsen discussed the nature of violent crime rates among males during economic recessions, and stressed the importance of disaggregating these trends by race and ethnicity. The presentation was relevant to the recent economic turmoil in the United States, and its findings were rather intriguing. Using data from the National Crime Victimization Survey, and by "splicing" the results to create custom annual estimates, Dr. Lauritsen concluded that: a) periodic fluctuations in violent crime rates are highly similar for blacks and Latinos, but much different for whites, b) these fluctuations coincide almost perfectly with changes in economic conditions from 1973-2000, and c) violence among strangers is staggeringly more uniform than among known individuals. These findings present significant public policy implications; for example, if more researchers disaggregate crime trends in this manner, we will eventually be able to design effective programs to deter crime during periods of economic recession.



Dr. Lauritsen (center) with Professors Robert Greenbaum (Public Policy) and Ruth Peterson

I had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Lauritsen after her presentation. We began by discussing her undergraduate experiences at the University of Illinois, a Big Ten research institution quite comparable to Ohio State. As a first-generation female student, Dr. Lauritsen began her post-secondary education the way that most of us do: unsure of what she wanted to do with her life. She had a background in mathematics and computer science, but became dissatisfied with the lack of real-world application; soon thereafter, she fell in love with sociology. She pushed and shoved through the early 1980's recession to earn a bachelor's degree, and thanks to encouragement from faculty in her department, she decided to remain at Urbana-Champaign to attend graduate school.

Dr. Lauritsen and I agreed that comfort and sponsorship are integral for students' success at the graduate level. She found a great deal of sponsorship at the University of Illinois, and is thankful to have had such great

mentors as Robert Sampson (now at Harvard University) and John Laub (now at the University of Maryland) to guide her through her studies. She has since collaborated with such notable figures as Eric Baumer (Florida State University) and Scott Decker (Arizona State University).

Janet Lauritsen was a pleasure to interview. She's incredibly passionate about her field, and she truly understands the value of a great education. Her research is powerful and would be of great interest to any aspiring scholar in sociology or criminology – most of her articles can be retrieved via JSTOR or Google Scholar. When asked to give a bit of advice to undergraduates and aspiring scholars, Dr. Lauritsen said, matter-of-factly, "Study hard, both in substance and methods, and don't restrict your interests or options!"

What Center Participants are Doing

Michelle Alexander (Moritz College of Law and the Kirwan Institute – OSU), along with fellow CJRC affiliate Deanna Wilkinson (as mentioned in CJRC Newsletter Issue 11, Vol. 1), received the "Fire and Focus" Award for Service from the OSU Office of Outreach and Engagement on October 12, 2010. The award is given to faculty members who "personify the aim of Ohio State to improve lives through teaching, research, and service."

Christopher Browning (Sociology – OSU) and CJRC members Reginald A. Byron, Catherine A. Calder, Lauren J. Krivo, Mei-Po Kwan, Jae Yong Lee, and Ruth D. Peterson had their research showcased in the Sunday, October 17, 2010 edition of the *Columbus Dispatch*. The newspiece noted the authors' important finding that pedestrian-friendly communities with a mix of residences and businesses tend to stave off violent crime. Their data indicates the notion that with more eyes and ears on the street, criminals are less likely to act. This finding contradicts earlier research which claimed an actual increase in burglaries and robberies in mixed-use areas. Browning and his co-authors' research was funded by a grant from the National Science foundation, and used census and crime data to support their findings. The research appeared in an article entitled "Commercial Density, Residential Concentration, and Crime: Land Use Patterns and Violence in Neighborhood Context," in the August 2010 issue of *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.



The Columbus Dispatch article highlighted the Clintonville community in Columbus as a neighborhood which is mixed-use and low in crime.

Danielle C. Kuhl (Sociology – Bowling Green State University): Dr. Kuhl has a forthcoming publication with several of her colleagues from BGSU. The article, by Michael Roetterger, Raymond R. Swisher, Dr. Kuhl, and Jorge M. Chavez, is entitled "Paternal Incarceration and Trajectories of Marijuana and Other Illegal Drug Use from Adolescence into Young Adulthood: Evidence from Longitudinal Panels of Males and Females in the United States," and will appear in a forthcoming issue of *Addiction*. As of September 2010, the article is available online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1360-0443.2010.03110.x/abstract>.

Trevon Logan (Economics – OSU) has an article entitled "Personal Characteristics, Sexual Behaviors, and Male Sex Work: A Quantitative Approach" in the October 2010 issue of the *American Sociological Review*.

Michael Maltz (Sociology – OSU) will be presenting at the November meeting of the American Society of Criminology during a session which will be devoted to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* (JQC). All of the past editors of JQC will be making presentations, to be included in the 25th anniversary issue. Dr. Maltz's talk and paper, focusing on data visualization methods, is entitled "Picturing JQC's Future."

Deanna Wilkinson (Human Development and Family Science – OSU) has a forthcoming chapter with first author Angela Taylor entitled "The Emergence of Violence in Drug Market Settings." The piece will appear in the edited volume *Crime Emergence* (Eds. Christopher Sullivan, Jean McGloin and Leslie Kennedy) and will be published by Routledge.

Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

Project Connect Conference: On November 16, 2010, a conference showcasing Project Connect with the theme "Building Opportunities for Safety" will be held at the Quest Conference Center in Columbus, Ohio. Project Connect is a national demonstration project supported by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health. A coordinated public health initiative to prevent domestic and sexual violence, the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) is launching this exciting new multi-state program. The vision of Project Connect Ohio related to family planning and adolescent health is that all persons presenting in family planning and adolescent health settings have access to a safe supportive environment, appropriate assessment, resources or intervention when indicated, and universal prevention education for reproductive coercion, sexual and dating/domestic violence. For further information, please go to:

<http://odvn.org/images/stories/Brochure.pdf>.

Call for papers for Race & Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts, the academic journal of the Kirwan Institute at OSU: The editors of the acclaimed journal are currently seeking articles for their Spring 2011 Issue on "Field Notes on the 9/11 Moment: Transformations in Community and Country." The deadline for submissions is November 19, 2010. The following issue, to be published in Summer 2011, will be on the theme "Race and the Food System," and submissions must be received by January 10, 2011 for consideration. For more information, please go to:

<http://www.raceethnicity.org/call4paper.html>.



Alexander, powell, and Loy

Conversations in the Humanities Series with Humanities Institute Associate Fred Andrie on November 10, 2010 will feature the theme "On Thinking About Race," with discussants Michelle Alexander and John Powell, both of OSU's Moritz College of Law and the Kirwan Institute, and David Loy, a Zen master and former Professor of Ethics, Religion and Society at Xavier University. The panel will be held at the Wexner Center for the Arts at 4:30 pm on the OSU campus. For more information, please go to

<http://icrph.osu.edu/conversations/default>.

The Community Safety Institute (CSI) Knowledge Center, housed at Ohio State and directed by Dr. Deanna Wilkinson, has current and past issues of its eNewsletter, *From Research to Practice: Bridging the Gaps through Collaboration*, available online. Please [click here](#) to access the newsletter website.

New organization addresses the needs of sexual assault and domestic violence survivors and co-survivors: Debbie Hanchin of Columbus has recently founded a non-profit organization, the Raye Foundation. The foundation was established to facilitate "Write to Heal" workshops for survivors and co-survivors of sexual or domestic violence. The writing workshops teach journal writing as art therapy, and the foundation will provide journals, pens and any other materials needed to the organizations hosting the event. The foundation's goal is also to establish a website with a private blog room, featuring weekly writing exercises. More importantly, the workshops empower men and women by identifying fears and triggers, concerns, progress and positive thoughts - journaling creates a map for emotions and aids in the healing process. Debbie has been facilitating these workshops for nearly six years through SARNCO (Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio), The Ohio State University - Sexual Violence Education and Support, FPRC - Women's Correctional Facility Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility for girls and BRAVO. She found that most organizations struggle for funding and grants, and are unable to offer post-traumatic art therapy, so she used her education, background and talent and volunteered to facilitate the workshops.

The Write to Heal project began on a personal level for Debbie. In 2002, she was attacked by stranger who broke into her apartment and attempted to rape her. Though she was able to fight off her attacker, she dealt with severe post-traumatic stresses that led to her journaling.

She leaned on her years as a writer, local journalist, also nationally published, and her creative writing degree from Ohio State University to establish The Write to Heal workshop. The foundation will pursue funding, but seeks resources in setting up the 501c3 and business plan. Part of its three-year business plan is to teach other writers how to facilitate the Write To Heal workshop so it can reach across the country.

The Raye Foundation is solely operated by charitable time and money. All proceeds go directly toward the foundation's goals. Workshops are available to any organization who wishes to host the event in Central Ohio. For more information, **please contact Debbie Hanchin at 614-783-3857.**

The Governor's Office for Women's Initiative and Outreach, Ohio Board of Regents and the Ohio Department of Health convened a statewide task force broadly representing Ohio's campus communities and partners to identify best practices to prevent and respond to sexual and intimate partner violence and stalking. In August 2010, The task force published *A Safer Campus: A Guidebook for Prevention and Response to Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence and Stalking for Ohio Campuses*. The guide identifies key recommendations that Ohio's colleges and universities can implement in four focused areas: Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Recovery. By taking this focused approach, the task force seeks to provide avenues for short and long term action by Ohio colleges and the individuals within them. To view the guidebook, please click on the following: [Safer Campus](#).

The Critical Criminology & Justice Studies Mini-Conference will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia on February 3, 2011. The Department of Sociology, Criminology & Justice Studies at California State University San Marcos, the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University, and the School of Urban and Public Affairs University of Texas-Arlington are hosting the mini-conference. This day-long event is the third in a conference series viewed as a grassroots effort to cultivate a critical criminology and justice studies collective in the western region of North America. This year's program focuses on the politics and practice of exclusion -- broadly examined from immigration and other critical and justice-centered perspectives. The 8:30am-4pm event immediately precedes the opening reception for the Western Society of Criminology's (WSC) annual meeting (Feb. 3-5) at the Four Seasons Hotel (<http://www.sonoma.edu/ccjs/wsc/conference>). The space in which the mini-conference will be held is TBA, but it will be either at or very near the WSC conference site. Please note that registration and submissions for the two conferences are independent processes. Contact kglover@csusm.edu with submissions questions. Registration Fee – Faculty/Non-student: \$40.00 (includes morning coffee service, meeting space, student support). **Students are encouraged to attend and will not be charged a registration fee.** Please make checks/money orders payable to the University of Texas-Arlington.

A symposium entitled "Gender and States of Emergency" will be hosted by the Ohio State University's Department of Women's Studies on April 22, 2011. The Department of Women's Studies invites presenters for the symposium. They hope to gather a range of perspectives on how gender, in relation to racial, sexual, bodily, and economic dimensions is vital to investigating the impact of war, natural disasters, and political upheavals.

At the same time, "states of emergency" cannot be confined to discussions of catastrophic events; trauma exists in the everyday. In addition, some political actors work to define a particular moment as a state of emergency in order to mobilize publics, re-define citizenship, or execute political machinery. Participants will explore the issue of states of emergency from a variety of angles, not only states in (economic, political or environmental) emergency, but also, for example, what it means to be in a state of crisis as a particularly situated woman.

Participants will examine the nexus of material and affective "states" of crisis, considering the difference that gender makes in natural disasters, war, public policy, institutions and national discourse about citizenship and belonging. Papers are sought which address gender and states of emergency in relation to topics such as war, institutions, **law**, literature, popular culture, natural disasters, state and **intimate violence**, citizenship, **immigration**, environment, health, and economic instabilities. They welcome papers with U.S., non-U.S., and transnational foci. Some participants may be asked to contribute to a publication devoted to this theme.

Symposium Events:

- Kimberlé Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia Law School will open the symposium with an evening keynote address on April 21st.
- Cynthia Enloe, Professor in the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment and Women's Studies at Clark University, will provide a closing keynote the evening of April 22nd.
- The all-day symposium on April 22nd will include a continental breakfast, boxed lunch (with registration fee) and an evening reception.

Please send a 300-500 word abstract by January 7, 2011 to: genderstates@gmail.com. Questions about the conference also can be directed to that email.

A conference entitled "Opening Minds/Expanding Opportunities: Prison Education for the 21st Century" will be held at the University of Toledo, May 19 – 20, 2011. The event is still in the planning stages, so further details will be given in upcoming newsletters.

Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute: Broadening Perspectives & Participation will be held from July 11 – 29, 2011 at The Ohio State University. Faculty pursuing tenure and career success in research intensive institutions, academics transitioning from teaching to research institutions, and faculty members carrying out research in teaching contexts will be interested in this Summer Research Institute. Organized by Lauren J. Krivo and Ruth D. Peterson and funded by the National Science Foundation and The Ohio State University, the institute is designed to promote successful research projects and careers among faculty from underrepresented groups working in areas of crime and criminal justice.

During the institute, each participant will complete an ongoing project (either a research paper or grant proposal) in preparation for journal submission or agency funding review. In addition, participants will gain information that will serve as a tool-kit tailored to successful navigation of the academic setting. The Summer Research Institute will provide participants with:



Summer Research Institute Class of 2010

- Resources for completing their research projects;
- Senior faculty mentors in their areas of study;
- Opportunities to network with junior and senior scholars;
- Workshops addressing topics related to publishing, professionalization, and career planning;
- Travel expenses to Ohio, housing in Columbus, and living expenses.

The institute will culminate in a research symposium where participants present their completed research before a scholarly audience. **Completed applications must be postmarked by February 11, 2011.** To download the application form, please see our web site: (<http://cjrc.osu.edu/rdcj-n/summerinstitute>)

Eligibility: All applicants must hold regular tenure-track positions in U.S. institutions and demonstrate how their participation broadens participation of underrepresented groups in crime and justice research. Graduate students without tenure track appointments are not eligible for this program. Please direct all inquiries to: kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu.

~ *Featured Article* ~

Sociologist Meghan Myers Explores Aspects of Gender and Homicide

by Amanda Kennedy

Since the start of Meghan Myers' post-secondary education, issues surrounding the place of gender in our society have been a driving force in her research and teaching interests. A Ph.D. candidate in the OSU Department of Sociology, Meghan claims that gender is "social phenomenon – it's not always economic, not always material – it is a feeling and a sense. It is both intrinsic and socialized. As a result, I think it's challenging, but not impossible, to capture it in a quantitative way." Due in part to her compelling subject matter, Meghan recently won a Criminal Justice Research Center seed grant to carry out her dissertation work entitled "Women and Men as Murder Violators and Murder Victims: Gender and Homicide in Columbus, 1980-2005."



Meghan was a Sociology major at Indiana University-Bloomington where much of her scholarly reading and coursework focused on women, crime and deviance, with a particular interest in examining the sex worker industry. When she began graduate school at Ohio State, Meghan initially wanted to research gender in the contexts of health and medicine. Then, two years ago, Meghan's interest in criminology was re-sparked by two factors. "I took a criminology seminar with Ruth Peterson, and I read an excellent qualitative book by Jody Miller called *Getting Played: African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence*, which made me want to seek out answers why our gender roles influence patterns of violent behavior." At that point, Meghan realized the importance of quantitatively examining an underresearched area which has traditionally been analyzed through qualitative methods. "Women typically are understudied because they only account for seven percent of homicide offenses. Their criminal behavior is only really prevalent when it comes to larceny. But gender patterns are changing and we really need more quantitative studies about why and how women kill or are killed."

“Gender patterns are changing and we really need more quantitative studies about why and how women kill or are killed.”

Criminologist Richard Lundman became Meghan’s advisor, and with his help Meghan gained access to a 25-year dataset with information on approximately 2,500 local homicides. The data details the gender and ages of the offenders and victims,

weapons used, locations of the homicides and reasons given as to why they happened. This information is complemented by census information for the neighborhoods in which the murders occurred. In Meghan’s words, her research seeks to give “a more complete sociological understanding of how gender gets played out when women murder and women are murdered” and will address “how macro-level variables, particularly gender composition and the male-to-female ratio, may impact homicide rates.”

I asked Meghan why she chose the methods and approach she did to answer her research questions. She explained how the census data gives the facts regarding socioeconomic status, race and gender. This information helps reveal the interplay between demographic factors in creating proneness to killing or being killed. “The census teaches us about the contexts in which we live,” Meghan said. “A woman living in an impoverished neighborhood with few educational or career opportunities may be more vulnerable to a domestically violent relationship.” Having homicide data from a city like Columbus is also advantageous since it is a large, midwestern city with a median amount of violent crime in comparison with other larger U.S. cities. When the census data are matched with information on the reasons behind the homicides, the connections between gender, economic instability, and a lack of resources become evident. “We know that when many women kill, it is precipitated by a systematic pattern of domestic abuse – it comes to the point where ‘it is going to be me or is going to be him.’ If you have fewer opportunities, you are more likely to be trapped in certain situations where you have no money or resources. Your choices become more desperate if you don’t have financial means,” Meghan said. Knowing that homicide is often spurred on by a domestically violent relationship also helps explain why women might use knives more than guns when it comes to committing murder and men are more prone to using firearms. “Women might be acting in retaliation, they are often in their own homes, and they may just grab the weapon that is readily accessible. A knife is more likely to be laying around than a gun.”

Beyond research specific to her dissertation, Meghan discussed more broadly how changing social patterns have altered the connections between gender and patterns of crime. With the transformations in marriage and divorce,

education and career patterns women have experienced over the past fifty years, we can expect patterns in crime to change as well. “How does offending relate to increasing gender equality?,” Meghan asked. “With census data we can measure equality through divorce as well that women may be exiting relationships they don’t want to be in for a variety of factors. This may alter patterns of abuse, and consequently patterns of violence.”

Meghan’s intellectual passion for criminology and gender translates from her research to teaching undergraduates as well. She discussed how giving “real world” examples and doing exercises about gender differences in crime helps her students more carefully consider their own places in society. “I give my students the example of walking alone, especially at night, and what it means to be a man doing this or a woman doing this. I encourage them to consider the neighborhood and their own race in the scenario,” she stated.

In conclusion, Meghan conveyed the importance of being an uncompromising researcher and educator in the face of pressures from academia. “In my opinion,” she stated, “a true scholar is someone who doesn’t just care about pleasing others in the field, but wants to thoroughly know the reality of the situation they are researching.”

Corrections

In Volume 11, Issue 1 of the CJRC Newsletter, we reported that Dr. Deanna Wilkinson had received the “Fire and Focus” Award for Service from the OSU Office of Outreach and Engagement on October 12, 2009. The award was in fact about to be given to her on October 12, 2010. We regret this error and offer our apologies to Dr. Wilkinson.

Many thanks to all of you who sent your suggestions and announcements, and to Meghan Myers for her valuable time and insights. 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 email [Amanda Kennedy at kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu](mailto:kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.