



Criminal Justice Research Center News



Available online at <http://cjrc.osu.edu/newsletter.html>

Volume 12, Issue 1
February – Winter 2011

Featured Article: Kenneth Steinman's Research on Family Violence

From the Director's Desk



Hello, everyone!!! How quickly we have proceeded through the first half of Winter Quarter. We hope that it has been a good one for you so far. At CJRC, we got the quarter off to a great start with Professor [Mathew Coleman](#)'s (Department of Geography, Ohio State University) talk on "[Detention and Deportation in Context: State Power and Social Control in the U.S. South](#)." The talk was very informative regarding nonfederal immigration enforcement, patterns of deportation over time, and how ordinary laws (e.g., traffic) may come to bear in immigration enforcement activities. The talk was sobering in terms of how such enforcement may take on a life of its own, and the types of unintended consequences that flow from what Mat terms "detention and deportation regimes." **Thanks Mat for such an informative and engaging presentation!!! We look forward to learning more from you about immigration enforcement as your research continues to yield interesting findings.**

We had hoped to follow Mat's talk up with one about another very timely issue that focuses on the other end of the criminal justice spectrum i.e., incarceration and its consequences. [Michelle Alexander](#) was scheduled to give our February lecture on her book (*The Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*). However, due to a shift in her class schedule, we have had to postpone Michelle's talk until we are able to find a mutually agreeable alternative time. But stay tuned, she will visit CJRC soon.

In the meantime, we have three additional talks scheduled for the academic year. April will be especially busy for CJRC. On April 21, 2011 we will hold our [Annual Walter C. Reckless and Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture](#) at 6:30 p.m. at the Barrister Club. The seminar will feature a talk by [Dr. Robert Fullilove](#) (Department of Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University).

Dr. Fullilove writes on a variety of issues, many of them at the intersection of community, crime, and public health. Especially noteworthy from a crime and justice perspective is his research on the effects of violence on inner city communities, violence and drug use, youth violence prevention, and the health consequences of criminal justice policies and processes. The title and abstract of Dr. Fullilove's Reckless-Dinitz Lecture are soon to be announced. However, with information just on the types of issues that he investigates, we anticipate a very interesting talk and a lively discussion. So, be sure to join us for the 22nd Annual Reckless-Dinitz Lecture.

The following week on Friday, April 29, 2011, [Beth Huebner](#) (Department of Criminal Justice, University of Missouri-St. Louis) will join us for a seminar jointly sponsored with the Department of Sociology. In line with sociology's seminar schedule, the seminar will be held at 12:30 p.m. rather than our usual morning time. Beth has a diverse research agenda, but a lot of her most recent work has focused on such topics as post-release

In This Issue:

Article: Hal Pepinsky's Talk at the CJRC.....	2
What Center Participants Are Doing.....	3
Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences.....	4
Featured Article: Kenneth Steinman's Research on Family Violence.....	6

offending, recidivism, parole decision-making, and the like. We will pass along the title and abstract for her talk as soon as we receive it.

On May 20, 2011, [Merry Morash](#) (School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University) will join us at our regular time for a talk on women on probation and parole. If we are able to work out the details, this seminar will take the format of our previous "Excellence in Justice" series, whereby Dr. Morash's talk will be followed first by brief comments from other experts, including a social scientist and a criminal justice policymaker/practitioner; we will then open the floor for your comments and questions.

I hope that this note has whetted your appetite for these upcoming CJRC events. Please enjoy the remainder of the newsletter that includes Dylan Adam's essay on our December lecture featuring [Hal Pepinsky](#), Amanda Kennedy's article on Kenneth Steinman's research on Family Violence, and some of your many accomplishments.

---- Ruth



Hal Pepinsky's Talk at the CJRC

By Dylan Adams, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

Every now and then, the CJRC hosts a guest lecturer who completely stands out from the rest; one such speaker is Dr. Hal Pepinsky (Professor Emeritus, Department of Criminal Justice, Indiana University). On the morning of Friday, December 3, 2010, many of us arrived to a rare treat at the Center, as Dr. Pepinsky provided us with an entertaining verbal account of his thirty-plus years of experience in the field of criminal justice, during which he preferred to work under the unconventional label of "radical criminologist."

A former Chinese major at Michigan and law student at Harvard, Dr. Pepinsky had a very diverse accumulation of interests. At one point, he even merged them and worked as a legal intern at the U.S. State Department's Office of Legal Advisor for East Asian Affairs, although it didn't take long to realize that he didn't belong in government work, or even law, for that matter. Impersonal relationships with clients were in no way conducive to Dr. Pepinsky's extroverted personality. Shortly thereafter, a friend and neighbor encouraged him to consider graduate school, insisting that he study sociology with a focus on criminal justice. To that, Dr. Pepinsky replied, "What's sociology?" Though amusing, this would lead him to apply to the Ph.D. program in sociology at one school, and one school only: the University of Pennsylvania. The rest is history.



Hal Pepinsky (center) at his presentation

In an interesting and intentionally unmethodical speech, titled "From Studying Crime and Criminality to Learning About Violence and its Transformation," Dr. Pepinsky explained the reasoning behind his gradual shift in thinking about the criminal justice system, drawing upon several themes from his recent book, *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminologist* (2006).

He began with a story of a time when he stayed at a friend's house and took note of a Native American-inspired saying posted on a door, which contained four simple lines:

Show up;
Pay attention;
Tell the truth;
Let go of attachment to outcome.

These words spoke volumes to Dr. Pepinsky, and they would later become the foundation of his attitude toward life. I met with the professor following his lecture and asked for a clearer interpretation of the saying, which he gladly provided.

The first line, "show up," simply means being there for whatever is brought to the table, so to speak. It seems like a simple task, but with the cold, impersonal nature of our society's bureaucratic way of conducting business, "showing up" is not as valued as it used to be. Dr. Pepinsky prides himself on his personal relationships with his research subjects. "I regularly correspond and hang out with prisoners, mental health clients, and apparent victims of staggering personal violence whom my colleagues know only on paper," he writes in his 2000 book, *A Criminologist's Quest for Peace*.

The second line, "pay attention," implies proactive listening, so as to avoid unnecessary mistakes. Paying attention is certainly necessary in the field of criminal justice, as the slightest misinterpretation of data can damage an entire research project. It is especially important when using qualitative methodology, as it becomes far too easy to misconstrue the words of a research subject. Those successful in the field of criminal justice are those who pay a great deal of attention to detail, and Dr. Pepinsky undoubtedly fits such a description.

The third line (and Dr. Pepinsky's favorite), "tell the truth," is rather self-explanatory, though unfortunately not practiced enough in contemporary society. "Honesty is the bedrock of trust in any relationship," the retired Hoosier advised. In a recent blog, he applauded WikiLeaks for their controversial disclosure of shocking government documents. "It's a question of whether the government ought to be allowed to lie to the people, of whether that threatens national security or supports it," he asserted. When speaking of politics, perhaps transparency is a better word for honesty, and after having spent a great deal of time speaking with the professor, I can advocate that total transparency is indeed a catalyst to progress.

The fourth and final line, "let go of attachment to outcome," deals with having the courage to let your life change course. Dr. Pepinsky related this concept to ancient Eastern philosophical teachings, namely those of Buddhism. This particular concept hits me rather close to home, as I am guilty of stubbornness and reluctance to change. As a 22 year-old undergraduate senior approaching graduation, with strong intentions of beginning graduate school in the fall, I have become increasingly addicted to the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel," so to speak. Such an addiction can have highly detrimental effects; in worst cases, it can imprison our spirits and discourage freedom of thought. Perhaps Dr. Pepinsky is right; perhaps we could all use a little dose of "carpe diem" in our lives.

His views may be a bit radical, but Dr. Hal Pepinsky is one of the most intelligent, honest, and genuine individuals I know. Regardless of our interests, beliefs, and assumed knowledge, I think we can all learn something from this man. If you missed his lecture, want to learn more about his ideas, or even just want to chat, Dr. Pepinsky encourages you to reach him: pepinsky@indiana.edu.

What Center Participants are Doing

Walter DeKeseredy (Professor of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies – University of Ontario Institute of Technology) has a new book coming out this month entitled *Violence Against Women: Facts, Myths and Controversies* (University of Toronto Press, 2011). To read more about the book, please go to the [publisher's website](#).



Walter DeKeseredy's new book

Andrew Grant-Thomas (Deputy Director, the Kirwan Institute - OSU) presented information at gatherings in Philadelphia and Milwaukee in November and December, 2010, respectively, as part of the [Open Society Institute's Campaign for Black Male Achievement](#). The presentations, before audiences of researchers, advocates, and foundation professionals, spoke to the challenges and opportunities facing African American men and boys nationally and in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions.



Andrew Grant-Thomas

Harold Pepinsky (Professor Emeritus, Criminal Justice - Indiana University) had a March 2010 article, "Jails and Jailing in Monroe County, Indiana," originally published in *Dialectical Anthropology* (Volume 34, Number 4), which can now be downloaded [here](#).

Darlene Saporu (Ph.D. student, Sociology - OSU), along with co-authors Charles Patton (M.A. student) and Drs. Lauren Krivo and Ruth Peterson, has a forthcoming article in *Race and Justice* entitled "Differential Benefits? Crime and Community Investments in Racially Distinct Neighborhoods."



Darlene Saporu

Valerie Wright (Research Analyst, the Sentencing Project - Washington, DC), who received her Ph.D. in Sociology from OSU in 2009, has published a professional report for the Sentencing Project entitled *Deterrence in Criminal Justice: Evaluating Certainty vs. Severity of Punishment* (November 2010). The report can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

A Women's Summit on Relationship Abuse will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **February 12, 2011** at The Gateway Film Center (1550 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio). Dr. Amy Bonomi (Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science, Sexuality Studies, OSU) will be the keynote speaker. She will be discussing what distinguishes arguing from abuse and why couples stay in harmful/abusive situations. Participants will learn how abuse plays out in "Generation Y" couples, the media's role in depicting abuse, and what to do if someone is in an abusive situation. The summit will be interactive, in that the audience will dissect real police reports from domestic violence situations. Free lunch, resources and giveaways will be provided. **Seats are now filled, but there is a waiting list to attend.** Please contact Candi Krisch at krisch.1@osu.edu or 614-688-8449 for further information.

The Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is seeking nominations for its 2011 Graduate Student Paper Competition. Papers may be empirical or theoretical, and they may be on any aspect of crime, deviance, and/or social control. To be eligible, a paper must have been written during 2010, and at the time of submission, it may not be published, accepted for publication, or under review for publication. Papers which have been presented at a professional meeting or accepted for presentation at a professional meeting are eligible. Papers must be student-authored; they can be single-authored or co-authored by students, but may not be co-authored by a faculty member or other non-student. Please submit in MS Word 2007. There is a 25-page limit, including all notes, references, and tables. Submissions should use 12-size font, one inch margins, and double spacing throughout. Send papers and a cover letter specifying that the paper is to be considered in the SSSP Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division Graduate Student Paper Competition to Dr. Lloyd Klein. **Submissions are due by February 15, 2011**, and should be submitted electronically to: lklein@stfranciscollege.edu. The winner(s) will be announced in Spring 2011, will receive a \$200 stipend, and is eligible to present the paper at the 2011 annual meeting in Chicago.

The American Statistical Association (ASA) Committee on Law and Justice Statistics announces a small grant program for the analysis of Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and other justice-related data. This program is designed to encourage the creative and appropriate use of these data to inform substantive and/or methodological issues. Other than these criteria, there are no restrictions placed on the topic of a submission. Dissertation research may qualify for these funds and young investigators are encouraged to apply. Research is to be completed within a two-year period. Awards are typically in the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000, although projects as high as \$40,000 will be considered if they are exceptional. **Proposals must be received by February 18, 2011.** For more information and instructions on how to submit please go to: <http://www.amstat.org/careers/bjs.cfm>

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is seeking applicants for their 2011 PhD Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Topics of interest to NIJ under this program vary from year to year but students from any academic discipline may propose original research that has direct implications for criminal justice in the United States. NIJ encourages a variety of approaches and perspectives in its research programs. NIJ awards these fellowships in an effort to encourage promising doctoral students in the application of critical and innovative thinking to pressing criminal justice problems. The official applicant to the Graduate Research Fellowship Program is the sponsoring academic institution. Students must contact and seek the assistance of their university office of sponsored research or office of research, grants and contracts. **Applications are due February 28, 2011.** For more information, please click [here](#).

The Division of Critical Criminology is seeking an editor(s) for its newsletter, *The Critical Criminologist*. The newsletter is published and distributed to all members 3-4 times a year. The editor(s) are responsible for sending out notices to members for submissions (e.g., essays, photos, announcements, and other relevant division news), collecting, editing, and organizing materials and integrating them into the newsletter. Applicants need to have access to Publisher and pdf writer programs (and good knowledge of the programs). It is a three-year position, beginning in Spring/Summer 2011. Historically there have been joint editors that have worked together and/or are at the same institution; however, given the current format of electronic pdf, one editor would be considered. **The deadline to apply is March 15, 2011.** Applications and inquiries should be sent to: Dr. Stephen Muzzatti (Ryerson University), Chair, Editorial Search Committee: muzzatti@ryerson.ca

The Law and Society Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is seeking nominations for the 2011 Alfred R. Lindesmith Award. The Law and Society Division of the SSSP annually gives the Alfred R. Lindesmith Award to the best paper that is law-related and written by one or more untenured faculty and/or graduate student(s) and has not been accepted for publication prior to the nomination deadline. They welcome nominations, including self-nominations, for papers that meet these criteria. Ohio State Ph.D. student Aubrey Jackson won last year's Alfred R. Lindesmith Award for her paper, "The Right to Refuse Sex: Gender Conflict and Marital Rape Laws in the U.S." Please email inquiries and papers to: Dr. Lloyd Klein, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, St. Francis College, lklein@stfranciscollege.edu. **The deadline for submissions is April 1, 2011.** The winner will receive a plaque and a ticket to the SSSP awards banquet.

The Asian Journal of Criminology invites submissions for a special issue, "Crime Control in Asian Countries," guest edited by Drs. Shanhe Jiang and Eric Lambert. This volume will focus on crime control in Asia, including formal (or legal) control and informal (extra-legal) control. The journal particularly welcomes empirical research that utilizes survey, interview, fieldwork data, and existing published official data. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches are appropriate. Inquiries about the appropriateness of topics should be directed to: Shanhe Jiang, University of Toledo, Ohio, who can be reached via email (shanhe.jiang@utoledo.edu) or Eric Lambert, Wayne State University, Michigan, who can be reached via email (dz9258@wayne.edu). All manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Manuscripts should be no more than 30 typed, double-spaced pages, including tables, figures, and references. **Manuscripts must be received no later than June 30, 2011.** Please send a copy of the manuscript via email attachment to either one of the guest editors. Please feel free to send abstract/outline to the editors before the deadline. Style and formatting guidelines for authors and additional information are available [here](#).

~Featured Article~

Kenneth Steinman's Research on Family Violence

By Amanda Kennedy

This is the first in a series of articles on groundbreaking research in family violence. In the next three issues of the CJRC newsletter, we will showcase the innovative work of CJRC-affiliated Ohio State faculty members and graduate students in this area of study.

Each year, perpetrators of family violence physically, psychologically, and at times fatally harm people of all socioeconomic, racial, religious and sexual backgrounds. As a phenomenon, family violence includes child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse and neglect. Beyond its direct victims, family violence creates a ripple effect of problems in our society, including lower worker productivity and rising costs in the health care, child welfare, and criminal justice systems. Research concerning family violence is often overlooked and underfunded despite these resultant social ills. "Family violence doesn't fit neatly in the research streams of public health or criminal justice. People aren't sure what to do with it," Dr. Kenneth Steinman says. Even with the difficulty in categorizing exactly who "owns" the problem of family violence, Steinman and others are successfully working to address this important public safety issue.

Steinman is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the College of Public Health at Ohio State. Since 2007, Steinman has been working with the Health Policy Institute of Ohio's Family Violence Prevention Project (OFVPP) to assess how family violence is affecting the communities within our state. The Health Policy Institute of Ohio approached Steinman regarding the project, and he consequently directed a working group with state agency officials. In 2008 Steinman and Dr. Timothy Sahr of the OFVPP produced the [White Paper on Preventing Family Violence in Ohio](#) (co-funded by the Anthem Foundation of Ohio), which set forth a collaborative, community-minded policy vision for what could be done regarding family violence. Traditionally, services have met victims of family violence at the point of intervention – through contact with the police or hospital emergency rooms – rather than trying to prevent family violence before it happens. The OFVPP seeks to change that approach. Its goals are three-fold; improving public awareness of the magnitude and consequences of family violence, pinpointing preventative programs that are realistic, and mobilizing public support for implementation of such preventative policies/programs.

Steinman has pinpointed measurable markers of family violence in his research, but not without methodological challenges along the way. Local jurisdictions independently keep data regarding abuse statistics, and not uniformly. For instance, while statistics regarding civil protection orders and elder abuse reports in long term care facilities are recorded in a similar fashion, there is great variability in the amount of violence reports filed due to staffing and procedural differences across agencies. Steinman identified and statistically accounted for the variation in jurisdiction recordkeeping, accessing data in all 88 counties regarding child, intimate partner and elder abuse. "I needed to summarize this secondary data in a very thoughtful way, so that lawmakers could plainly see the problem at hand," he explains. Each year since the project began, Steinman has monitored the changes in levels of family violence and compiled those figures in statewide assessment reports available on the [project's website](#). Still, he cautions that, because of regional and demographic differences, comparison between counties is not entirely possible.



Kenneth Steinman

Dr. Steinman is hopeful about the possibilities for change that come from presenting this comprehensive set of data. "I'm really excited by the intersection between research and policy," he states. In presentations of his research, Steinman has adopted a persuasive technique which illustrates just how serious family violence is in its effects on a community. Because he comes from a public health perspective, Steinman parallels the frequency and costs of family violence with other major threats to public health: "Ask an average person: What is the greatest threat to women's health out there? They might quickly answer you with 'breast cancer' or 'heart disease.' These are the first women's health issues that come to a person's mind. That's why we have to compare family violence with these commonly held concerns in terms of its cost to a community." By showing audiences that family violence threatens peoples' health in many of the same ways physical diseases do, Steinman builds a strong case for funding preventative programs.

In 2010, Steinman testified before the Ohio State Senate on behalf of House Bill 19, which mandated public schools to include dating violence prevention education in their middle and high school curricula. The bill successfully passed and was implemented in March of last year. The Ohio Family Violence Prevention Project also has been active in supporting the Nurse Family Partnership of Ohio which provides

maternal and early childhood health programs to families at risk. There is still much work to be done, though. For instance, Steinman explains that preventative programs addressing child abuse or teen dating violence are a lot more clear-cut than effectively being able to address elder abuse. Children are more likely to have social contact with people who might identify abuse, such as teachers, school officials or other relatives, whereas elderly people are often very socially isolated. Steinman acknowledges that the work to ameliorate family violence is just beginning, and that we need more research and invested community collaboration to tackle the issue effectively.

Thanks to Hal Pepinsky and Kenneth Steinman for their valuable time and insights, and 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 email Amanda Kennedy at kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.