



# Criminal Justice Research Center News



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## ***Featured Article: Looking Back: Past Participants Reflect on their Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute Experiences***

### From the Director's Desk



**HELLO EVERYONE.** I hope that you are having a good summer that includes rest and relaxation along with your usual academic productivity. All is well with CJRC, but there are important changes to tell you about. First though, let me update you on our summer activities. As has been the case over the past five years,

July was both a serious and celebratory time at the Center. We hosted the [6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Research Institute](#) (SRI) for young faculty. This year, we had a nine-member, rather than the usual eight-member, cohort of young scholars from universities across the country. They worked hard on their own scholarship under the guidance of an OSU senior faculty mentor, took advantage of professional development seminars, and began connections with one another and other national scholars that should serve them well over time. Although everyone worked hard, we had a lot of fun learning from, and interfacing with, each other around very important crime and justice issues. As always, the institute culminated in a small conference ([The Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Workshop](#)—our 9<sup>th</sup> such workshop) that brought together criminology and criminal justice scholars from a variety of disciplines at various career stages. We engaged in intellectual exchange regarding innovations in crime and justice research, and celebrated the achievements of the newest cohort of SRI faculty, as well as the accomplishments of the entire group. Indeed, a “great time was had by all,” and one member proclaimed the workshop “the best ever.” (For SRI faculty perspectives on the institute, see the featured article below by Amanda Kennedy.)

*Now to recent changes.* CJRC is a dynamic organization, and each year we report on a number of changes that affect the Center's directions, activities, and opportunities. Certainly, 2010-11 has been no different than other years in this regard. Following upon the

heels of Laurie Krivo's and others' departure last summer, in December we had the traumatic experience of our long-term “next door neighbor” (the [Initiative in Population Research](#)) moving out of the Journalism Building. IPR's move was to wonderful new space in Townshend Hall, but it shook our earth a bit as we had shared activities, resources, and sometimes personnel with them since 2000. Although we are a bit lonelier, CJRC has weathered this major change in our environmental context; we now enjoy visiting IPR in their new quarters and are learning to collaborate from a little more distance. Still, it will take a bit more time for us to stop missing the daily contact with Susan Pennington, John Casterline, Jill Morris, and others.

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We are happy and sad to say farewell to [Dylan Adams](#), who served as an undergraduate intern for CJRC during the past academic year. As an intern, one of Dylan's major responsibilities was to provide a featured article for this newsletter reviewing and assessing the relevance for undergraduates of research reported in CJRC seminars. (Please see below Dylan's write-up and assessment of the "[Excellence in Justice](#)" seminar featuring Merry Morash [Professor, Michigan State University] and commentators, Denise Robinson [Executive Director, Alvis House] and Paula Smith [Assistant Professor, University of Cincinnati]). This final article by Dylan is representative of the quality of the features that he provided throughout 2010-11.) Dylan graduated with OSU's Spring 2011 class. Next year, he will reside in Chicago and is hoping to get some hands on research experience with an organization there before heading to graduate school the following year. Dylan, a hearty CONGRATULATIONS on your graduation, a big THANK YOU for your work at CJRC, and BEST WISHES for success in all your future endeavors.

Finally, the most recent change for the Center involves yours truly. After a wonderful 26 years at Ohio State, I am retiring from the University. Thus, this year marks the end of my tenure as Director of CJRC. Indeed, my final act as CJRC Director occurred a couple of weeks ago as I welcomed [Dana Haynie](#) (Professor of Sociology) as the new Director on August 1, 2011. Dana is a wonderful colleague and an excellent leader. Many of you are already familiar with her very innovative work on youth and crime. Although her research interests go well beyond delinquency, she is perhaps the nation's foremost expert on the role of adolescent social networks in the etiology of delinquency. Dana is also a very capable administrator, who takes on leadership roles both locally and nationally. She will bring new energy and new foci to the Center, but will also ensure that and good traditions continue and thrive. I am honored to introduce her to you as CJRC's new Director, and I am extremely pleased that the Center is in her very capable hands. As she enters this new role, Dana's own good fortune is that she will be helped along in her work by Debbie Flower-Smith and Amanda Kennedy, two very skilled and special women who are remaining in their respective roles as Administrative Associate and Research Associate for CJRC. Equally important, Dana will be able to count on your participation and help to bring projects and goals to fruition. This contributions to Center activities will be an invaluable resource for Dana as it always was for me.

On a personal note, the Center has provided me with a wonderful second home at the University. I have benefitted both personally and in my career from my tenure as director. I am grateful to: my respective bosses (Dean Giff Weary, and former Deans Randall Ripley and Paul Beck) for the opportunity to hold this position; current and former staff (especially Laurie Krivo, Susan Pennington, Rita Van Buren, Anne Miller, Debbie Flower-Smith, Jason Whitesel, and Amanda Kennedy) for putting up with my craziness, while appreciating my goals and hopes; current and former sociology chairs (Betty Menaghan, Toby Parcel, Bob Kaufman, Craig Jenkins, and Zhenchao Qian) for their support, in-kind resources, and recognition of the added value of CJRC for the university; members of the [spatial crime research working group](#) (Chris Browning, Kate Calder, Bill Darneider, Aubrey Jackson, Laurie Krivo, Mei-Po Kwan, and Heather Washington) for their great ideas, willingness to write grant proposals, and stellar work; sociology research lab staff (John Crawford, Matthew Moffitt, and Colin Odden) for adding us to your workload without complaint; and all of you for helping me to move CJRC forward from where we began when I became director in 1999. I look forward to long-term, albeit more relaxed, participation in the Center's activities.

WELCOME ABOARD DANA and best wishes as you lead us forward!!!

--Ruth



**Summer's Event:  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime and Justice Summer  
Research Institute - 2011**

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**July 11-29 at the Ohio State University**



*The SRI Class of 2011*

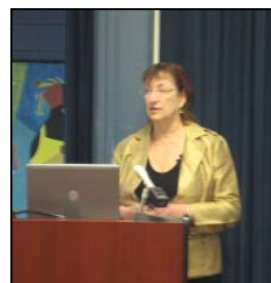
Since 2006, the Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute has welcomed talented junior faculty members from around the country to attend a rigorous, three-week long program where they develop their scholarship and make valuable connections with others in the field. Organized by Lauren J. Krivo and Ruth D. Peterson and funded by the National Science Foundation and 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 completes an ongoing project (either a research paper or grant proposal) in preparation for journal submission or agency funding review. In addition, participants gain information that serves as a tool-kit tailored to successful navigation of the academic setting. The Summer Research Institute provides participants with resources for completing their research projects, senior faculty mentors in their areas of study, opportunities to network with other scholars, workshops addressing topics related to publishing, professionalization and career planning, and travel funding. The institute culminates in our two-day Racial Democracy and Criminal Justice Network Workshop where participants present their completed research projects before a scholarly audience. We were pleased to welcome our sixth cohort of Summer Research Institute participants in July: Ericka Adams (San Jose State University); Robert Durán (New Mexico State University); Marie Jipquep-Akthar (Howard University); Dior Konate (South Carolina State University); Cid Martinez (California State University, Sacramento); Michael Tapia (University of Texas, San Antonio); María Vélez (University of New Mexico); Jason Whitesel (Seminole State College); and Haifeng (Charlie) Zhang (University of Louisville).

**Article: Institute for Excellence in Justice  
Presentation with Dr. Merry Morash**  
By Dylan Adams, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

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On Friday, May 20, 2011, the CJRC hosted a refreshing reinstatement of its Institute for Excellence in Justice (IEJ) series, featuring Dr. Merry Morash (Professor of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University), accompanied by expert panelists Denise Robinson (President and CEO, Alvis House) and Dr. Paula Smith (Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the Corrections Institute, University of Cincinnati). The seminar took place in the MLK Lounge of the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center and was attended by CJRC and OSU affiliates, Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Corrections employees, and the generally interested public.



*Dr. Merry Morash during her talk*

Drawing upon ideas from her 2010 book, *Women on Probation and Parole: A Feminist Critique of Community Programs and Services*, Dr. Morash gave an intellectually stimulating lecture of the same title. Through a study of two counties in a Northwestern U.S. state – termed “Gender Responsive County” and “Traditional County” to reflect their distinct styles of supervision – Dr. Morash aimed to determine the relative effectiveness of each style. Using “extensive longitudinal, qualitative” data, including countless interviews with 369 women on probation and parole, supervision reports, and official records, this project was rather unique for Dr. Morash, who typically considers herself a quantitative criminologist.

Taking into account that approximately two-thirds of her subjects were drug involved, and less than 5% were arrested for violent acts only, Dr. Morash divided her subjects into three categories: “substance-centered,” “acts of violence,” and “partner influenced.” While she found several strong cognitive and behavioral predictors of negative outcomes for these women, such as stress, anger, depression, trauma, self-blame, and over-analysis of thoughts, she explicitly emphasized the importance of non-predictors.

“Don’t ignore the things that don’t predict,” she warned. Frankly put, female offenders have different treatment needs than their male counterparts. Differential socialization sparks gender-dependent responses to traditional supervision techniques, and as Dr. Morash’s findings reinforce, women should be given gender responsive treatment to ensure successful rehabilitation and to prevent recidivism.



(L to R) Drs. Paula Smith and Morash, and Denise Robinson

Dr. Morash suggests that women be provided stable housing and kept away from drugs during their time on supervision. She asserts that the “construction of success” is necessary, rather than the “construction of failure” (via intensive supervision) as displayed in “Traditional County.” Additionally, she stresses the importance of the relationship between the offender and the supervisor, as the positive, caring relationships with probation/parole officers in “Gender Responsive County” ultimately helped women offenders achieve successful rehabilitation.

Directly following Dr. Morash’s presentation, Denise Robinson (Alvis House) approached the podium to offer some feedback from a nonprofit policy-based perspective. Ms. Robinson, a former OSU student, mentioned that her organization, which aids men and women in community reentry, takes pride in implementing research-based practices. She applauded Dr. Morash’s work, as it exemplifies the type of research they tend to take into consideration. To wrap things up, Dr. Paula Smith (University of Cincinnati) offered her own reply, highlighting the fact that women are increasing in numbers in the corrections population. She discussed the different approaches to dealing with women in the corrections system, emphasized the importance of integrating quantitative and qualitative research methods, and reiterated the idea that cognition affects behavior, particularly among women.

When I spoke with Dr. Morash following the seminar, I asked for a few bits of advice to policymakers and corrections administrators. Among her responses were: “transformational leadership instead of simply monitoring,” “new approaches to supervision, including organizational change,” and “revised training of employees.” I also managed to insert my own interest of felony record stigmatization, asking whether it further hinders women’s already hindered job opportunities from gender bias and discrimination in the workplace. To that, she answered “yes” and proceeded to note that in today’s poor economy, with increasingly fewer jobs to fill, “having a felony record really hurts.” With her visit, Dr. Morash gave us greater insight into the reentry experiences of female offenders. Her talk was very informative and she was a pleasure to interview.

If you missed Dr. Morash’s talk, it is available for viewing on OSU’s Knowledge Bank website. Please go to <https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/handle/1811/49079> to see the presentation.

## What Center Participants are Doing

**Rudolph Alexander Jr. (Professor, College of Social Work – OSU)** co-authored an article with Jacquelyn Meshelemiah entitled “Gender Identity Disorders in Prisons: What are the Legal Implications for Prison Mental Health Professionals and Administrators?” The article appears in *The Prison Journal*, vol. 90(3), pp. 269-87.



**Leigh Anderson (Ph.D. student, John Glenn School of Public Affairs – OSU)** has a recent article coauthored with Terri Adams, Milanika Turner, and Jonathan Armstrong, entitled “Coping through a Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina.” The article appears in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management* 8(1), Article 19.



**Audrey Begun (Associate Professor, College of Social Work – OSU)** has two new publications. The first, coauthored with Susan Rose and Thomas LeBel, is in press at *Alcohol Treatment Quarterly* and is entitled “Intervening With Women in Jail Around Alcohol and Substance Abuse During Preparation for Community Reentry.” The second is a chapter (also coauthored with Rose) entitled “Programs for Children of Parents Incarcerated for Substance-Related Problems,”





which appears in S.L.A. Straussner, & C.H. Fewell, (Eds.), *Children of Substance Abusing Parents: Dynamics and Treatment* (2011).



**Amy Bonomi (Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Sexuality Studies – OSU)** learned in May that she has won the Dean's Distinguished Scholar Award from the College of Education and Human Ecology. She was nominated for the prestigious award by her colleagues.

**Nyron Crawford (Ph.D. student, Political Science – OSU)** was the recipient in May of both the William E. Nelson Research Grant from the OSU Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus (BGPSC), and the Madison H. Scott Grant from the OSU Department of Political Science.



**Mark Davis (Research Scientist, CJRC – OSU)** and Valerie Callanan of the Department of Sociology at the University of Akron recently had their paper, "Gender Differences in Suicide Methods," accepted for publication by *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*.



**Walter DeKeseredy (Professor, Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies – University of Ontario Institute of Technology)** presented a paper with Joseph Donnermeyer (Professor, Rural Sociology – OSU) at the York Deviancy Conference in England in July. The paper was entitled "Thinking Critically about Rural Crime: Toward the Development of a New Left Realist Perspective."

**Joshua Dressler (Professor, Frank R. Strong Chair in Law, Moritz College of Law – OSU)** completed the spring semester teaching at Fordham University School of Law, where he held the Bacon-Kilkenny Distinguished Professor Visitorship. His chapter on duress is being published this Summer in the *Handbook on the Philosophy of Criminal Law* by Oxford University Press. Dr. Dressler also did presentations at Fordham University and St. John's University on the issue of the morality and legality of killing innocent persons in order to save a greater number of lives.



**Michael Maltz (Research Scientist, CJRC – OSU)** has a new article with Randolph Roth (see more information on him below) and Doug Eckberg of the Department of Sociology at Winthrop University. The article, "Homicide Rates in the Old West," appears in the Summer 2011 issue of the *Western Historical Quarterly*.

**Townsend Price-Spratlen (Associate Professor, Sociology – OSU)** has a forthcoming article with Wayne Santoro (Lecturer in Sociology, University of New Mexico), entitled "Neighborhood Disorder and Individual Community Capacity: How Incivilities Inform Three Domains of Psychosocial Assessment." The article will appear in *Sociological Spectrum*, Vol. 31(5).



**Randolph Roth (Professor, History – OSU)** recently published "The Biology of the Deep History of Homicide," in the *British Journal of Criminology*, 51 (2011): 535-555. His 2009 book, *American Homicide*, received a featured review in the *American Historical Review* (February 2011). Dr. Roth served as a commentator at a 6-paper workshop on "How the Law Handles the Rejection (or Acceptance) of Motherhood: Abortion, Infanticide, Murdering Mothers, and Pregnant Teens," at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, in June at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He also delivered an invited lecture on "Can We Learn to Play Well with Others? Enlisting the Humanities, the Sciences, and the Social Sciences in the Study of Violence," at the Conference on Emerging Disciplines, Humanities Research Center in February at Rice University. Dr. Roth presented a paper on "The Sudden Appearance of Sexual Serial Killers in Late-Nineteenth Century America," at the Organization of American Historians, in Houston, Texas, in March. In addition, he has been named the Wayne N. Aspinall Visiting Chair Professor at Mesa State College, where he will teach a three-week course on violence in the spring of 2012.

**Brian Soller (Ph.D. student, Sociology – OSU)** recently coauthored an article with Juliet Lee, Robyn Battle, and Naomi Brandes, entitled "Thizzin'---Ecstasy Use Contexts and Emergent Social Meanings." The article is forthcoming in *Addiction Research and Theory*. In May, Brian was also named the 2011 Outstanding Doctoral Student in the OSU Department of Sociology.





**María Vélez (Assistant Professor, Sociology – University of New Mexico)** is a 2010-2011 recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence at the University of New Mexico.

## Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

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***Homicide Studies* is seeking articles for a special issue** on homicides among the elderly. The issue will focus on elderly homicides in relation to one or more of the following topics: race/ethnicity, gender, and/or social class of victims and offenders, victim/offender relationships, weapons, circumstances, social isolation, fear of crime, trends, relation to abuse, neglect, and treatment, nursing homes and caregivers, and social constructionist and scientific theories of aging. Manuscripts must follow the editorial submission guidelines of *Homicide Studies*. **Deadline for submissions is September 1, 2011.** All manuscripts must be submitted through ScholarOne, which can be accessed at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/hs>. Select *Special Issue Manuscript* for the manuscript type. All papers will be peer reviewed.

**If you have questions, please contact:**

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***The International Criminal Justice Review* is seeking article submissions for a special issue** entitled “Cross-Cultural and International Investigations of the Victim-Offender Overlap,” edited by Dr. Wesley G. Jennings. Specifically, the editor welcomes manuscripts from diverse methodological approaches that focus on empirical assessments of the overlap between victims and offenders as a growing body of literature has indicated that victims and offenders often display similar risk and protective factors and are often the same people. All manuscripts should also place emphasis on the implications of the research for policy and practice. An abstract and a brief biographical sketch that includes the author’s current affiliation, research interest(s), and recent publications must accompany the manuscript.

Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages double-spaced including tables, figures, and references. **Original manuscripts should be received no later than September 1, 2011.** Please send two electronic copies of the manuscript, one full version (with a cover page containing the author’s name, title, institutional affiliation with complete address, email and phone contact information; acknowledgments; research grant numbers; and the date, location, and conference at which the manuscript may have been presented, if any), and one blind copy (with all identifying information removed) to Dr. Wesley G. Jennings at [jenningswgj@usf.edu](mailto:jenningswgj@usf.edu). Manuscripts should be in MS Word format and conform to the formatting style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Additional style and formatting guidelines for authors are available at: <http://icj.sagepub.com/>.

***The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* is seeking articles for a special issue** on the topic of youth gangs. Empirical, theoretical, and policy-oriented papers are welcome. They particularly welcome papers that advance the empirical knowledge surrounding youth gangs in the American or international context. Finn-Aage Esbensen and Kristy N. Matsuda, University of Missouri – St. Louis, will serve as Guest Editors for this special issue. All manuscripts will be peer reviewed. An abstract of approximately 100 words and a brief biographical sketch that includes the author’s current affiliation, research interest(s), and recent publications must accompany the manuscript. Manuscripts must be 30 pages or less, double-spaced, including the abstract, biographical sketch, references, and all figures and tables. **Manuscripts should be received no later than November 1, 2011.** Please send two electronic copies of the manuscript one complete version (with a cover page containing the author’s name, title, institutional affiliation with complete address, email and phone contact information; acknowledgments; research grant numbers; and the date, location, and conference at which the manuscript may have been presented, if any), and one blind copy with all identifying information removed to facilitate blind peer review to Dr. Matsuda at [matsudak@umsl.edu](mailto:matsudak@umsl.edu). Manuscripts should be in MS Word format and conform to the formatting style of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.).

***The Journal of Poverty* is seeking article submissions for a special issue** entitled “Poverty and Incarceration: Managing the Poor in the Neoliberal Age.” Guest editors are Stephen Nathan Haymes, Ph.D. Department of Educational Policy Studies, DePaul University-Chicago and Reuben Miller, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, Loyola University-Chicago. The editors seek papers that will critically examine the relationship between the poor and carceral institutions broadly defined. Submissions are

invited from scholars from a wide range of academic disciplines and professional areas of study. To submit an article, please create a user account and submit your manuscript to Routledge ScholarOne Author Center at this link:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wpov>. Please note that in the first step, under manuscript type, you should select "special issue". Additionally, in the fifth step of the submission process check "yes" to indicate that your manuscript is a candidate for the special issue. **The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2012.**

If you have questions, please contact:

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*~Featured Article~*

## **Looking Back: Past Participants Reflect on their Summer Research Institute Experiences**

By Amanda Kennedy

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For the past six years, our Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute (SRI) has drawn competitively selected, talented young faculty from all over the country to take part in an excellent professional opportunity. During three weeks each July, our participants work intensively with Ruth Peterson, Laurie Krivo, and their senior faculty mentors to bring their dynamic projects to a publishable state. Perhaps just as important, the SRI provides several instructional workshops on navigating the academy, as well as a space for building collaborative relationships and support networks with other professors. During the last two days of the SRI, the CJRC hosts the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) two-day workshop, at which participants present their finished work to an audience of scholars. The workshop showcases the efforts of the SRI participants, and also includes sessions which highlight groundbreaking, timely research from RDCJN members. Participants are given the chance to meet colleagues with whom they can share their scholarly ideas, professional concerns, and personal interests.

To find out more about past participants' experiences with the SRI, I asked several alumni to share their thoughts on what their time at the SRI meant to them. For some participants, the SRI is a true introduction to the expectations of the academy. Robert Durán (of the 2007 and 2011 cohorts) stated, "The three weeks attending the SRI in 2007 was intense. I had barely finished my first year as an assistant professor and had very little knowledge of what was required to succeed in pursuing tenure and promotion. The SRI made me more aware of academic expectations and the importance of publishing." The SRI also provides a venue for young professors to meet others who have faced similar challenges in academia due to coming from an underrepresented background. Anthony Peguero (of the 2007 and 2008 cohorts) said, "Prior to SRI, even though I was not even one year from graduating, I felt incredibly isolated at my institution. SRI provided a network of minority peers that were generally in my same situation. SRI and RDCJN provided me a network of colleagues, friends, and mentors who understand the career pitfalls, hurdles, and structural barriers that I have or would encounter." Apparent in their responses, the SRI and RDCJN gives participants an opportunity to connect, which they may not have found in other conferences or workshops.

I also asked participants to discuss their views on the mentoring relationships that take place at the Institute. All participants at the SRI have their papers sent to at least one expert reviewer prior to coming to the Institute. The responses they get from reviewers provide a foundation for reworking their papers during the SRI. Robert shared that his first SRI-related mentoring came when he received feedback from an expert reviewer regarding his ethnographic research on gangs. "At first the comments were hard to accept as I was very personally involved in my research," he stated. However, the harsh critique provided a chance to work closely with his mentor, Steve Lopez, in order to improve his work. "My mentor helped me to understand these comments [from the reviewer] and bring out the best in my analysis. We met on a regular basis and I am truly thankful for the open-dialogue that we established." Andrea Leverentz (of the 2010 cohort) discussed the unique opportunity in working with her mentor, Mary Thomas, who was also a younger faculty member. "She was ...a good fit in terms of my work. It was an interesting pairing in that we were at fairly similar places in the tenure track. This meant she didn't have as much experience to draw on (in a general professional development sense) as some of the other mentors, but it was nice having a "mentor" who really understands the stage I am in professionally," Andrea stated.



*From L to R: Robert Durán, David Hernández, Andrea Leverentz and Anthony Peguero*

David Hernández relayed the importance of having Amy Shuman as a mentor because she understood that he was an Ethnic Studies scholar, not a traditionally-trained social scientist. “She pushed me hard on drafting and redrafting my article. I was especially lucky because I do not come from a criminology background, but instead an interdisciplinary one. Dr. Shuman understood this intrinsically and was able to contribute a great deal to my thinking and the construction of my narrative.” Lastly, Anthony explained that his SRI mentor, Vincent Roscigno, continues to be a strong professional proponent for him. “He still reviews my work, provides career advice, and even wrote letters of recommendation for me when I entered the job market. My SRI mentor advocated me for on the market so much – some people even thought I graduated from OSU,” he said.

Participants also shared their impressions regarding the RDCJN Workshop. David said that the Workshop was “an excellent way to end three weeks of research.” Andrea discussed how “breakout sessions and other small group activities may be particularly valuable” for forming new professional connections during the event. Robert explained that presenting at the workshop was at first an intimidating prospect, but that his experience doing so was ultimately positive. “I had heard of many of the names in the larger network but had not personally met most of these individuals. Thus, I was very nervous to give a presentation of my paper...The audience was very supportive of every presentation and asked excellent questions,” he stated. Anthony discussed how the RDCJN provided a great network he continues to call upon professionally. “RDCJ-N and SRI provided access to a network of colleagues who provide me with feedback, criticism, and advice with publishing my research and attaining grants,” he said. All of the alumni I spoke with unanimously viewed participation in the RDCJN as a highly valuable professional opportunity.

Perhaps most important, past participants view the SRI and RDCJN as crucial venues for transforming the traditional face of the academy. Robert explained, “We [RDCJN members] continue to maintain a strong presence at national conferences where individuals of a minority background are rare, but when we are together people stop and notice that something within the academia has begun to change.” Anthony shared that the camaraderie he has gained from the SRI and RDCJN has helped him greatly. “[H]aving a group of minority scholars who share, empathize, and appreciate the inequities with being a minority in Academia has been incredible. I am often reminded that I am not going through this alone and that there are a number of intelligent, hard-working, and dedicated scholars who want me to succeed --- in other words, my perspective and research are indeed important and valuable to my discipline and field of criminology,” he stated.

*For more information on the Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute and Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network, please go to <http://cjrc.osu.edu/rdcj-n/>.*

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*Thanks to Drs. Merry Morash, Robert Durán, David Hernández, Andrea Leverentz, Anthony Peguero and María Vélez 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](mailto:kennedy.312@sociology.osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.*