



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Featured Article: Policy and Prisons: Perspectives from Heather Schoenfeld

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. I hope that you are having a happy and productive fall term so far! As usual, we are keeping busy at CJRC. We're gearing up for the annual [American Society of Criminology Meetings this week in Washington, DC](#)

(Wednesday, November 16 through Saturday, November 19th). Many of our affiliates will be attending and presenting their work. The event will also give us the opportunity to reunite with alumni and friends of CJRC, with several reunion activities planned during the conference. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there! Please stay tuned for our next newsletter which will highlight events at the ASC meetings.

Please note that two of our affiliates will be given well-deserved recognition during the meetings. First, Ruth Peterson will deliver the 2011 Edwin H. Sutherland Address on Wednesday the 16th during the ASC Awards Plenary, held from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Washington Hilton's International Ballroom East, concourse level. Dr. Peterson will formally accept the 2011 Sutherland Award at that time, bestowed on her for her outstanding, career-long contributions to theory and research in criminology. Second, Randy Roth will receive the Michael J. Hindelang Award for an outstanding contribution to criminology over the previous three years. Dr. Roth is being recognized for his 2009 book, [American Homicide](#) (Harvard University Press), in which he analyzes homicide in the United States from colonial times to the modern era. **Big congratulations to you both, Ruth and Randy, for your superlative scholarly achievements!**

We have also been lucky to have a great start to our speakers' series for the 2011-2012 year. On October 14th, Dr. [Michelle Alexander](#) presented [a talk](#) jointly sponsored by CJRC and the Department of Sociology. She discussed highlights from her 2010 book, [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration the Era of Colorblindness](#).

The event was very well-attended and highly engaging. Our second speaker this fall was [Heather Washington](#), Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology. Heather gave a compelling [talk](#) on November 2nd, highlighting her dissertation research regarding parental incarceration and childhood behavior problems. Thank you, Michelle and Heather, for sharing your excellent work with us.

Next, we look forward to our final speaker for the term. On December 2nd, Dr. [Alexes Harris](#) (Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Washington) will give a [presentation](#) entitled "Justice by Context: How Organizations and Political Factors Influence the Assessment and Enforcement of Monetary Sanctions." Dr. Harris is an expert on a number of criminal justice issues, including the role of legal debt in perpetuating social inequality in the United States. Please see our column in this issue with details about Dr. Harris' upcoming talk.

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We encourage you to read on. On page 3, we feature the premiere article by Matthew Hays, CJRC undergraduate intern for the 2011-2012 school year. Matt details Dr. Alexander's visit to CJRC, as well as the discussion he had with her following her presentation. In upcoming newsletters, Matt will continue to highlight our speaking events. We look forward to more fine work from him.

In our feature article on page 7, you'll learn more about our affiliate, Dr. Heather Schoenfeld, a new faculty member of the OSU Sociology Department. Amanda Kennedy talks with Dr. Schoenfeld about her take on penal reform, her research on the politics behind the growth of incarceration in Florida, and last but not least, her goals and interests as she continues on at OSU.

In other news, we recently launched our [CJRC facebook page](#). We'll be posting relevant, timely articles, as well as announcements for upcoming events. Thanks for the "likes" we've received so far on the page!

Lastly, we want to let you know that an exciting opportunity is in the works at CJRC. At the beginning of 2012, we'll announce seed grant opportunities for graduate student conference travel. As always, we appreciate your valuable contributions to the CJRC community. You make our center better through your continued involvement and your support!

--- Dana

"Justice by Context: How Organizational and Political Factors Influence the Assessment and Enforcement of Monetary Sanctions"

A talk by Alexes Harris



Dr. Alexes Harris

**Friday, December 2, 2011, 9:00 am – 10:20 am in
217 Journalism**

Abstract: Dr. Harris' recent research has illustrated the various ways the United States criminal justice system imposes monetary sanctions to people committed of felony offenses. This sentencing option includes fines, fees and restitution, and also court user fees (such as the costs associated with public defense, paper work, and juries). This work shows that, as a result of their indigence, offenders remain closely connected to the surveillance and sanctioning of criminal justice agents, but also to the stigmatizing effects of their original felony conviction. Informed by this research, the current talk will present recently collected observational data of Superior Court sentencing and violation hearings and interview data with judges, attorneys and county clerks to illustrate 1) the various ways counties (operating under the same state statute) implement financial penalties to felony convicts and sanction those labeled as "willful" non-payers, and 2) will discuss how variations in organizational and political structure impact these sentencing practices. Her analysis illustrates how court actors interpret the state statute as well as their defendants' social and legal characteristics, and examines the informal mechanisms individual counties have developed to assess, manage and sanction defendants who carry legal debt.

This presentation summarizes a chapter from Dr. Harris' solo-authored book project that documents how the criminal justice system differentially impacts poor Americans involved with the criminal justice system, and disproportionately people of color. This multi-method study produces a detailed and analytic story about the contemporary use of monetary sanctions in the U.S., with Washington State as the case study, and situates this work within a broader discussion about the systemic ways in which U.S. institutions have removed citizenship rights, stigmatized and marginalized its poor and people of color.

Speakers' Article:
Michelle Alexander's Talk on "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness"

By Matthew Hays, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

On October 14th, CJRC and the Department of Sociology co-hosted Dr. Michelle Alexander, who gave a compelling lecture regarding race relations in today's legal system. Dr. Alexander highlighted ideas from her book, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. She addressed the growing problem of mass incarceration in the African American community. This mass incarceration is not due to a disparity in violent crimes so much as it is the result of "the War on Drugs."



L to R: Dr. Carla Curtis (Associate Professor of Social Work), Ms. Cheyenne Chambers (Student at Moritz College of Law), and Dr. Michelle Alexander talk after her presentation

With the advent of the War on Drugs, African American men are arrested and imprisoned at alarming rates. Nowhere is this more the case than in highly populated urban areas: for example, in Chicago, as many as 80% of African American men have some sort of criminal record. These rates, according to Dr. Alexander, could not be explained by poverty alone, but are the product of "a literal war that has been declared on poor men of color." The War on Drugs has brought higher levels of drug-related sentencing and incarceration. In some states African American men are admitted to prisons on drug-related charges twenty to fifty times more often than white men, according to Dr. Alexander's research. This is politically problematic because these men are then stripped of many of their legal rights, including access to student loans, the right to sit on juries, access to employment and housing, and the right to vote.

More African American men are disenfranchised today than in 1890. It is here that a Jim Crow parallel can really be seen. The only difference in this new discrimination is that the "criminal" label due to drug convictions, which is by and large placed on African American men, has replaced legislated discrimination overtly based on race.

After her lecture, I was privileged enough to talk with Dr. Alexander over several issues that interested me personally. She elaborated further on mass incarceration's damaging effect on the family. While the problem is currently not as pervasive as it is for African American men, African American women are now "the fastest growing population in the prison system." This is especially problematic because family structure has already been damaged by the mass incarceration of African American men: with the removal of the mother the family is further marginalized. Dr. Alexander says that taking women out of the family "really threatens to unravel the entire structure of the family." Children are the true victims: with laws in various states (including Ohio) prohibiting children from being placed with relatives with felony records, the children of the incarcerated are highly vulnerable to being separated from their relatives and being placed in foster care.

Another aspect of mass incarceration that interested me is mass incarceration in relation to the courts. In her lecture, Dr. Alexander explained that the U.S. Supreme Court has limited civil rights litigators from bringing up issues of mass incarceration by race. When I asked her about jury nullification (juries giving a "not guilty" verdict not for reasons of proof but because a law is unjust) as a possible solution, she provided me with some very interesting insight. She first directed me to the ideas of Paul Butler, another legal scholar who thought that jury nullification could be a potential remedy for mass incarceration, provided juries could always acquit an African American man for any nonviolent drug charge. Dr. Alexander, however, is less optimistic on whether or not this will work. She believes that it is well within the rights for those opposed to the drug war, but it is likely that African Americans will systematically be excluded from juries if it is thought that they would nullify.

So what can be done to best address the problem of mass incarceration? Alexander claims that the first thing that we must do is "have a discussion regarding legalization and decriminalization." Alexander is not calling to legalize drugs across the board, but she does believe that we need to begin with the decriminalization of marijuana. A majority of drug arrests are for minor possession, and marijuana is responsible for over 80% of the recent increase in drug-related sentencing. A major problem associated with legalization, however, is the social stigma attached to drugs such as marijuana.

Politicians will invariably fear being seen as too liberal or soft on crime and will be hesitant to speak out in favor of legalization, due in part to this stigma. The public, however, seems to be more supportive of change. In fact, [a recent Gallup poll](#) announced that over fifty percent of Americans feel that marijuana should no longer be an illegal substance. It is possible that public sentiment will one day put an end to the War on Drugs. However, the pervasive profiling, high conviction rates, and stripping of crucial rights of African American men and women must also change if we hope to see a decrease in incarceration rates in our country.

What Center Participants are Doing

Audrey Begun (Associate Professor of Social Work – OSU) has a new publication with Lisa Berger and Trina Salm Ward entitled “Using a Lifecourse Context for Exploring Alcohol Change Attempts and Treatment Efforts among Individuals with Alcohol Dependence.” The article appears in *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*, Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 101-23.

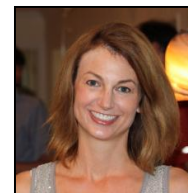


Eileen Bjornstrom (Assistant Professor of Sociology – University of Missouri-Columbia) has several recent publications to report: Bjornstrom, Eileen E.S. “To Live and Die in L.A. County: Neighborhood Economic and Social Context and Premature Age-Specific Mortality Rates among Latinos” in *Health and Place*; Frank, Reanne (of OSU) and Eileen E.S. Bjornstrom. “A Tale of Two Cities: Residential Context and Risky Behavior among Adolescents in Los Angeles and Chicago.” in *Health and Place*; and Bjornstrom, Eileen E.S. “Relative Position, Perceived Trust, and Self-Rated Health within Neighborhood Context” in *Social Science & Medicine*.

Stephen Gavazzi (Professor of Human Development and Family Science – OSU) has a new article with Tamara Davis (first author), Scott Scheer, Il An Kwon, Alexandra Lammers, Mary Fristad and Reena Uppal entitled “Measuring Family Caregiver Perceptions of Support in Caring for Children and Youth with Mental Health Concern,” in *Journal of Social Service Research*, Vol. 37, No. 5, pp. 500-15.



Dana Haynie (Professor of Sociology, Director of CJRC – OSU)’s article (with Derek Kreager of Penn State) in the October 2011 issue of *American Sociological Review* has garnered a great deal of media attention, with feature stories by *CNN*, *Time*, *US News and World Report*, and the *Los Angeles Times* to name a few. The article, entitled “Dangerous Liaisons? Dating and Drinking Diffusion in Adolescent Peer Networks,” explains that an adolescent’s drinking behavior often emulates the drinking patterns of the peer group with which that adolescent’s romantic interest is affiliated. Here is a [link to a story](#) at the *Los Angeles Times*.



James Moore III (Professor of Physical Activity and Education Services; Director of the Bell National Resource Center – OSU) presented a Policy and Promise for Low Income People in American webcast, “The Dream We Dream: A World Report,” co-sponsored by CLASP (a policy organization serving the interests of low income individuals) and the 2025 Campaign for Black Men and Boys.

René Olate (Assistant Professor of Social Work – OSU) has had numerous recent publications, and has a number of forthcoming articles as well:



- Olate, R., Salas-Wright, C., & Vaughn, M. (2011). “A cross-national comparison of externalizing behaviors among high risk youth and youth gang members in metropolitan Boston and San Salvador.” *Victims & Offenders*, 6(4), 356-369.
- Olate, R. & Salas-Wright, C. (2011). “¿Cómo intervenir en los problemas de violencia y delincuencia juvenil? El fracaso de los enfoques punitivos y las posibilidades del enfoque de la salud pública.” *Revista de Trabajo Social*, 79, 7-21.
- McBride, A., Johnson, E., Olate, R., & O’Hara, K. (2011). “Youth volunteer service as positive youth development in Latin America and the Caribbean.” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33 (1), 34-41.
- Olate, R., Salas-Wright, C., & Vaughn, M. G. (in press). “Predictors of violence and delinquency among high risk youth and youth gang members in San Salvador” (El Salvador). *International Social Work*.

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- Biswas, B., Olate, R., & Vaughn, M. (in press). "Comparing risky sexual behavior among gang-involved youth in Metropolitan Boston, and San Salvador, El Salvador." *Journal of Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*.
- Vaughn, M. G., Perron, B., Abdon, M., Olate, R., & Groom, R. (in press). "Correlates of handgun carrying among adolescents in the United States." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.



Keith Warren (Associate Professor of Social Work – OSU) received the 2011 Ohio Therapeutic Community Association De Leon Research Award, which is given to researchers whose work, according to the Association, "best exemplifies the melding together

of theory and research and uses the best strategies to apply them to the Therapeutic Community treatment model."

Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

Criminal Justice Review invites submissions for a **special issue**, "Preventing Gang Joining and Facilitating Gang Desistance Among Youth," edited by Dr. Terrance J. Taylor. The goal of this special issue is to disseminate new and innovative research about gang prevention and intervention efforts to keep youth out of street gangs and methods and processes associated with desistance among youth involved with street gangs. Manuscripts must be original work, and diverse methodological approaches are welcome. An abstract of approximately 200 words and a brief biographical sketch must accompany the manuscript. **Submissions should arrive no later than January 1, 2012** to allow for blind peer review. Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages double-spaced excluding tables, figures, and references. Send two electronic copies of the manuscript, one full version (with a cover page containing the author's name, title, institutional contact information; acknowledgments; research grant numbers; and the date, location, and conference at which the manuscript may have been presented), and one blind copy (sans all identifying information) to Dr. T.J. Taylor at taylorjtj@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.) and *CJR* formatting guidelines: <http://cjr.sagepub.com/>.

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: Jessica Martone, Editorial Associate. Loyola University, Chicago - School of Social Work - jmartone@luc.edu.

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 American Society of Criminology invites applications for the position of Editor of *Criminology & Public Policy*, one of its official journals. The new Editor will be responsible for three volumes, beginning with the February 2014 issue. It is anticipated that new manuscript submissions will transfer to the new Editor around November 2012. The Editor is responsible for the timely and substantive output of the journal, including the solicitation of manuscripts, supervision of the peer review process and the final selection of articles for publication. The American Society of Criminology pays for copy-editing and final proof-reading, typesetting, providing PDF files, and up to \$35,000 per year toward full-time equivalent Managing Editor/graduate student assistance (*continued on next page*).

The Editor's supporting institution might propose to provide office space, file storage, equipment, and funds to cover office expenses such as postage, phone, copying, additional graduate student assistance, and release time for the Editor. ASC will provide a \$5,000 honorarium to the Editor each year. Supporting institutions may propose to assume some of the expenses now provided by the ASC. Interested applicants may contact the current Editor, Thomas Blomberg (tblomberg@fsu.edu or 850-644-7365), for additional information regarding the logistics or operational details of editing and producing the journal. Applicants are also encouraged to call Ross Matsueda, Chair, ASC Publications Committee (206-616-2432) to discuss their applications before submissions. Application materials should include (1) a statement of editorial philosophy, (2) resumes of all proposed personnel, including the Editor and Associate Editors, and (3) assurances and details of institutional support. Application materials are due **March 1, 2012** and should be sent to: Ross Matsueda - Department of Sociology, University of Washington, 202 Savery Hall, Box 353340, Seattle, WA 98195-3340, matsueda@u.washington.edu, 206-616-2432.

The Prison Journal invites submissions for a special issue on corrections in Asia. Since there is a very limited literature on corrections in Asian countries, this issue will accept papers on correctional systems in general and correctional officers and inmates in particular. Both theoretical and empirical studies are welcome. Empirical studies can be qualitative or quantitative. Send original manuscript by email to the special issue editor Dr. Shanhe Jiang at shanhe.jiang@utoledo.edu. Manuscripts including abstract, tables, figures, notes, and references should not exceed 30 double spaced typed pages, with a 100-word abstract and a brief author biographical sketch. Notes, references, tables, and figures should also be double spaced and on separate pages. Manuscripts should follow the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). Submission to *The Prison Journal* implies that the manuscript has not been published elsewhere nor is it under consideration by another journal. Authors in doubt about what constitutes prior publication or about the appropriateness of topics should consult Shanhe Jiang. Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in the journal. **Manuscripts must be received no later than June 30, 2012.**

Cityscape, published three times a year by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), is accepting submissions involving issues related to the nexus of housing and crime. These submissions will appear in *Cityscape's* new Refereed Papers section.

Historically, PD&R has supported research on such topics as *crime prevention through environmental design* and *crime-in-public housing*. They welcome high-quality submissions in all areas of housing and urban policy and consider crime issues to be important here. *Cityscape* is published both in hard copy and online. The referee process is double-blind and timely, and referees highly qualified. The Managing Editor also will give guidance to authors about the suitability of papers proposed in outline form. Send manuscripts or outlines to Cityscape@hud.gov.

The Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, published by the Michael E. Moritz College of Law, is a semi-annual, interdisciplinary scholarly journal. The primary audience includes legal academics in English-speaking nations, and professionals in the criminal justice system; the secondary audience includes academics in related criminal justice fields. Each issue includes a symposium, with solicited scholarly articles on the symposium topic, and briefer Commentary essays on a wide range of topics. The journal currently is seeking relatively short (up to about 5000 words, including footnotes) "Commentary" essays on criminal justice subjects. These essays may be written in less formal manner if the author wishes (e.g., fewer footnotes; first-person language; etc.). What we seek are thoughtful, provocative, insights on matters relevant to our audience. Queries and manuscripts (preferably in Word format) should be delivered by electronic mail to crimlaw@osu.edu.

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program invites you to consider applying for one of the four week-long National Instructor Training Institutes to be held this summer. Inside-Out provides a unique opportunity for instructors to hold semester-long classes in prison with 'inside' and 'outside' students learning and working together collaboratively. Inside-Out creates a dynamic partnership between institutions of higher learning and correctional systems in order to deepen the conversation about and transform our approaches to issues of crime and justice. For more information: go to www.insideoutcenter.org or contact them at insideout@temple.edu.

~Featured Article~
**Policy and Prisons: Perspectives from
Heather Schoenfeld**

By Amanda Kennedy

On November 2nd I had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Heather Schoenfeld, a new CJRC affiliate and a first-year faculty member in the OSU Sociology Department. We discussed her research interests, current projects, and plans for her career at OSU.



Dr. Heather
Schoenfeld

According to Heather, becoming a sociologist was a natural fit. She was interested in social justice issues from the time she was in high school. "It runs in my family. My dad was involved in the anti-war movement," she explained. As an Urban Studies major attending Columbia University, Heather began learning more about the criminal justice system. She interned as an investigator with the Public Defender's office in Washington DC during the summer before her senior year. Though racial inequality was an obvious problem in the criminal justice system, she wanted to know why there was a lack of open discussion about the issue. "We had so many clients who were young black men from Southeast DC who expressed feelings of isolation and a lack of options – violence came to be what they considered to be their best option. I wanted to know the social reason behind that feeling," Heather stated.

A key research interest was born out of her summer in DC. Much of Heather's work as a graduate student and postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern and as a new professor at OSU has centered on mass incarceration. As Heather explained, there are many facets of the issue to be considered. "It is the incarceration of huge numbers of people in the United States and the disproportionate number of incarcerated minorities, but it is also the hyper-surveillance of entire groups of people," including individuals on probation or parole.

In exploring this area, Heather has honed an interdisciplinary approach, delving into the areas of law, political and historical sociologies, and the study of social movements. She explains that such an approach is imperative when examining the historical evolution of mass incarceration and the creation, interpretation and implementation of laws which contributed to its development.

I asked Heather to discuss some of her scholarly works which highlight her interests in penal policy and the rise of mass incarceration. The first, an essay entitled "Putting Politics in Penal Policy Reform," was published in *Criminology & Public Policy* earlier this year (10(3):715-725). She explained that there are a few signs we could be at a turning point in mass incarceration. For one, national incarceration rates are declining for the first time in thirty years. Second, state legislators and governors are looking to reduce the scope of the prison system because of the budget crunch. Some states are now spending more on their prisons than on their public universities, causing many to realize that the prison system is deleterious to other fundamental public institutions. And the political tide is making an interesting turn; while many Republican legislators were once advocates of the "tough justice" approach that encouraged high rates of imprisonment, they now vouch for penal reform because of budgetary concerns. Third, there is a proliferation of research organizations and think tanks with resources (e.g., relevant data, evidence-based practices) to help states implement reform, which could have an impact on the number of people we imprison. However, Heather states, "Knowing how to reduce incarceration at the state level is not enough because it is a political process." Various political interest groups such as victim's rights organizations, prosecutor's organizations and correctional officer unions have a high level of influence, and a big stake in keeping the current system intact. An organized opposition must band together to advocate for prison reduction. In her essay, Heather argues that the tide will only start to shift if citizen-based groups – such as groups against mandatory minimum sentencing and re-entry advocacy groups – team up with state-level political coalitions, creating a more unified movement to reduce levels of incarceration.

The second project Heather discussed was her book in progress tentatively entitled *Growing Prisons: Race, Politics and the Capacity to Punish in Florida*. "In this book I tell the story of the rise of incarceration in Florida beginning in the 1950s, when the state formally organized its modern day Department of Corrections," she explains. Heather links the story of incarceration growth to the history of punishment from the post-Civil War period. Florida incarcerates a large number of people in part because it is a big state, but its incarceration rate has increased 150 percent since the 1970's, and the state currently detains over 100,000 people in its state prisons. In the book, Heather assesses the roles of political partisanship and interest groups which feed mass incarceration in the state, and the dearth of interest groups working to dismantle it. She discusses a concept she calls "state capacity," which includes police departments, the bureaucracy of the Department of Corrections, state revenue which funds the criminal justice system, and the actual physical resources of prison buildings. According to Heather, the novelty of mass

incarceration is not its punitive approach. What sets mass incarceration apart from pre-1950s imprisonment is that there is a greatly expanded state capacity to punish. Technology and advances in research techniques also help to create mass incarceration. "There are systems in place which allow the state to estimate how many prisoners they'll have ten years from now. It allows for expansion that would not have been possible otherwise," Heather states.

Switching gears, I asked Heather about acclimating to life in Columbus and at OSU. "Columbus seems like a very livable city with a lot going on. I am just starting to get a taste of all that's available here." She is looking forward to teaching two Sociology of Law classes in the spring. "I am excited about inserting more technology into the classroom," she states. In the long run, Heather wants to do more research at the local level, examining how cities and local organizations responded to the War on Drugs and mass incarceration during the late 1980s and early 1990s when a lot of crucial anti-drug and anti-crime legislation was implemented. Lastly, Heather explained that she wants to learn more about prison policy and reform in Ohio. She is enthusiastic about making connections through CJRC. "I have already met a few people at CJRC events who work for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation who can help me get up to speed on state issues."

In sum, talking with Heather made it clear to me that she is a dynamic scholar with a bright future in the academy, and is also a wonderful addition to the CJRC community.

Thanks to Drs. Michelle Alexander and Heather Schoenfeld for their valuable time and insights, and to all of you who sent 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](mailto:Amanda.Kennedy). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.