



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Featured Article: An Interview with Keith Warren

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. We're on the cusp of Spring, and as usual, we are quite busy at CJRC.

Several more important speakers will be at CJRC before the academic year's end. This Friday (March 9th),

we will host [Dr. David Kirk](#) (Assistant Professor of Sociology-University of Texas-Austin) as the featured speaker for our *Institute for Excellence in Justice* Series. David will tell us about the [residential changes of ex-offenders after Hurricane Katrina](#). Our expert panelists, [Dr. Paul Bellair](#) (Professor of Sociology-OSU) and [Dr. Ed Rhine](#) (Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction) will comment on David's talk. In the weeks following the talk, we will feature a streaming video of the event and a "Best Practices Tool-kit" on OSU's [Knowledge Bank](#) website. On April 19th, we are honored to have our own [Dr. Ruth Peterson](#) (Professor Emeritus of Sociology) featured as the keynote speaker at our [23rd Annual Walter C. Reckless-Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture](#). We're pleased that our friends and colleagues [Laurie Krivo](#) and [Ramiro Martinez](#) will be joining us to discuss how Ruth's work has enriched the disciplines of Sociology and Criminology over the course of her illustrious career. Last but not least, our affiliate [Dr. Keith Warren](#) (Associate Professor of Social Work-OSU) will speak to us on June 1st about his research on social networks in correctional therapeutic communities. For more details on David and Ruth's talks, please see our "Upcoming Events" columns on the next page.

We were lucky to have Anup Gampa and [Dr. C. André Christie-Mizell](#) visit us this earlier this quarter. A recent master's recipient from OSU's Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics Department, Anup discussed his interesting research on [pro-social behaviors of offenders](#) as revealed by decisions made during economic games. André explained his [findings on father-child relationships](#) and resultant antisocial behaviors in children.

We encourage you to peruse the other articles in this issue. Please see Matt Hays' fine summaries of our two most recent speaking events, as well as Amanda Kennedy's featured piece on a conversation with Keith Warren.

Lastly, I'm pleased to tell you that our most recent efforts at CJRC are rolling along nicely. Thus far, the CJRC Undergraduate Internship Program has successfully placed several interns with assignments at the Historical Violence Database (HVD) and at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). Two new interns will also be starting work at the Ohio Office of Victim Services (OVS) in Spring quarter. Many thanks to Dr. Steve Van Dine, [Dr. Randy Roth](#), and [Dr. Amy Bonomi](#) for being instrumental in connecting our interns with these valuable opportunities. We also had a good response to our call for applications for CJRC Graduate Student Travel Grants. This week, seven of our affiliated graduate students learned they will receive 500 dollars each from CJRC for their travel to the American Society of Criminology Meetings in November. We are thrilled to help facilitate the crucial professional development of our graduate students.

Thanks to ALL of you for your continued support. CJRC wishes you a successful and productive Winter's end!

--- Dana

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Upcoming Events

An Institute for Excellence in Justice Seminar: "How Residential Change Might Help Ex-Offenders Stay out of Prison: Findings from a Natural Experiment"

A talk by David Kirk, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Texas-Austin

Accompanied by Dr. Paul Bellair (Professor of Sociology, OSU) and Dr. Ed Rhine (Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Offender Reentry, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction)



Dr. David Kirk

Friday, March 9, 2012, 9:00 am – 10:20 am
Frank H. Hale Black Cultural Center
153 W. 12th Avenue, Columbus, OH

Abstract: Many former prisoners return home to the same neighborhood with the same criminal opportunities and criminal peers they had before they went to prison. Yet, if the path to a crime-free life largely requires knitting off from past situations and establishing new routines, then separating returning offenders from their past criminal contexts may be one way to reduce recidivism and foster desistance.

Professor David Kirk explores the idea of residential change by examining how Hurricane Katrina affected ex-prisoners originally from New Orleans and their likelihood of returning to prison. Kirk discusses potential strategies for fostering residential change among ex-prisoners, focusing specifically on parole residency policies and greater access to housing.

The 23rd Annual Walter C. Reckless-Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture: "The Centrality of Race in Local Crime: Do External Investments Make a Difference?"

A talk by Ruth Peterson, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, the Ohio State University

Accompanied by Dr. Laurie Krivo (Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University), and Dr. Ramiro Martinez, Jr. (Professor of Criminology and Sociology, Northeastern University)



Dr. Ruth Peterson

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 6:30 pm
The Barrister Club
25 W. 11th Avenue, Columbus, OH

Abstract: Throughout urban areas of the United States, there is considerable inequality in levels of street crime across neighborhoods of different racial and ethnic compositions. In this lecture, Dr. Ruth Peterson describes this variation and reports on findings from research relying on data from the National Neighborhood Crime Study that show how inequality in various structural conditions of neighborhoods and cities account for these differences. In light of arguments that external investments in local communities affect crime levels therein, particular attention is given to whether and how mortgage lending matters for crime across distinct race-ethnic neighborhoods. The results demonstrate that this type of external investment may be an important starting point for reducing crime in racially and socioeconomically marginalized communities.

Speakers' Article:

Anup Gampa: "Altruism, Generosity, Trust, Risk, and Time Preferences: The Results of Five Economic Games Played with Prisoners"

By Matthew Hays, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

On January 6th, the CJRC hosted a lecture by Anup Gampa, M.S. in Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics from Ohio State. The lecture centered on outcomes of economic experiments performed in conjunction with Dr. Keith Warren (Social Work) at the Xenia, Ohio Therapeutic Community (which exclusively houses non-violent offenders). The experiment set out to prove that members of the general population were more pro-social than offenders housed in the therapeutic community. This was measured in terms of altruism, generosity, trust, risk and time preferences through the results of five different economic games. The results from this experiment were not quite as expected, and several questions have been raised as a result.



Anup Gampa during his presentation

The games that Gampa and his associate played with the prisoners involved two individuals, essentially determining ways to share the same reward. In some games one individual would decide the amount (the dictator games), and in others the second individual could choose whether or not to accept it (the ultimatum games). Finally, in one of the games (the trust game), the amount traded to another player tripled and the first person had to trust that the other would return a fair amount. The economic games were played with real cash rewards, both for the Therapeutic Community (TC) group and the general

population sample. Although the rewards were fairly small in amount, the services afforded to the TC patients made the money earned a valued commodity. The general population sample, which largely included strapped-for-cash Ohio State students, was perhaps not entirely indicative of the entire population. Gampa explains that this sort of selection bias is not necessarily problematic in the study because the results matched those of other studies of populations across the globe. When comparing the TC individuals to the general population (both from this and other studies), the results were surprising because the TC patients actually indicated more pro-social behaviors (such as altruism and risk aversion techniques) than their non-offending counterparts. The effects compounded when individuals remained in the therapeutic community, as those about to leave showed the highest level of cooperation.

The results of the experiment certainly warrant discussion, but the experiment itself needs repeating. There may be some degree of bias in the experiment: Anup Gampa himself talks about some degree of observational bias as some patients play these games in a way that matches the community's expectations of them. While Gampa and his associates continually stressed that the results were anonymous and not going to affect treatment, he still admits to perceiving some degree of anxiety among the participants. Nevertheless, the results of the experiment are certainly important, and cannot be ignored. The findings of Anup and his colleagues give weight to the argument that therapeutic communities are effective in reintegrating certain non-violent offenders. The communities stress above all respect for one's self and others, and Gampa claims that this may have to do with some of their success. It is important to note, however, that the findings only apply to the type of "minimal" offenders that are likely to end up in a therapeutic community and not the violent or career criminals likely to be placed in higher security settings. When talking with him after the lecture, Anup explained to me that he would expect drastically different results if his study was to include offenders in an actual prison setting. This difference, he claims, is due in large part to the antisocial nature of convicted felons and the culture of the correctional institution itself. The results of Gampa's experiment should still be well received, as they point to a part of our criminal justice system that may actually be working in a way that benefits offenders and society more largely.

Speakers' Article:

Dr. C. André Christie-Mizell: "Child and Adolescent Antisocial Behaviors and Race-Ethnicity: The Consequences of Fathers' Involvement"

By Matthew Hays, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

On February 10th the CJRC, in conjunction with Ohio State's Sociology Department, hosted a talk from Dr. C. André Christie-Mizell (Associate Professor of Sociology, Vanderbilt University), entitled "Child Adolescent Antisocial Behavior: The Consequences of Fathers' Involvement." Dr. Christie-Mizell's recent research has tried to establish a link between father absenteeism and problematic behaviors in children. The study looked at actual time spent between fathers and children and the child's perception regarding the adequacy of time spent; these results were subsequently compared across ethnicity groups (White, Hispanic and African-American). Father's involvement, which Christie-Mizell found to be the most important factor, was defined as the father making clear decisions regarding seven key activities of their children, including: 1) with whom the child spends time, 2) how the child should spend his or her money, 3) the amount of religious training, 4) how late a child could stay up, 5) the clothes the child wears, 6) how much allowance the child receives, and 6) the amount and content of television watched by the child.



Dr. C. André Christie-Mizell

The results from Christie-Mizell's research indicated that a father's involvement was more important in discouraging anti-social behaviors than time spent and whether this amount was perceived to be adequate. Fathers also seemed to be more involved with sons than daughters, and increasingly so when the child gets older (involvement with infants was extremely low). Adjustments for paternal income seemed to have little effect on how involvement mattered, although the father's level of education did seem to have a positive effect on the child's behavior. The amount of time fathers spent with their children did prove to be important in preventing the child from acting out,

benefiting all ethnic groups equally. When fathers spent more time with their children, more egalitarian parent-child relationships were evident. It is important to note that the benefit from time spent with children was independent of the parents' work schedule. When I asked Dr. Christie-Mizell whether a child would benefit from an unemployed father he was quick to point out that children benefit the most from employed parents, and even overworked parents (those that work persistent overtime) are more likely to have well-adjusted children than their underemployed counterparts.

I found Dr. Christie-Mizell's talk very informative, with the most interesting of his findings being the differences that occurred when accounting for race. During his lecture, Dr. Christie-Mizell stated that the child's perception of adequacy of time spent seemed to only affect the behavioral outcomes of African-American children. When I asked him about this finding, Dr. Christie-Mizell claimed that this is because comparisons are made within the ethnic group, and that African-American children are more likely to compare this aspect of home life with their racial peers. Dr. Christie-Mizell also claims that in the African-American communities where fathers are largely absent, having a father in the house who does not spend much time with his children can be very damaging. A father's involvement also seemed to be more important in the African-American community: having an involved African-American father was the single biggest indicator for healthy social behavior.

Some criminogenic policy implications can be drawn from Dr. Christie-Mizell's research. First, the importance of father's involvement cannot be overlooked by our criminal justice system: if we are to prevent the intergenerational transmission of crime we must acknowledge that the incarceration of fathers can lead to non-involvement which in turn contributes to anti-social behavior among children. Rehabilitation programs should not only stress reintegrating offenders into society but into their families as well. Efforts should be made to either return fathers to their families as quickly as possible, or more practically, to allow incarcerated fathers to still be involved in the lives of their families (perhaps through expanded communication or visitation privileges). While many of the findings need to be replicated, Dr. Christie-Mizell ultimately hopes that his research into father's involvement can be expanded to include other racial/ethnic groups (such as Native Americans and Asian Americans) and focus on the health consequences for children in addition to the behavioral outcomes.

What Center Participants are Doing



Rudolph Alexander, Jr. (Professor of Social Work – OSU) authored “Just Desserts and Life Without Parole for Juveniles: An Iniquitous Law and Policy.” The article appears in *Forum on Public Policy* (Vol. 2011, No. 3).

Amy Bonomi (Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science, Sexuality Studies – OSU) was an organizer and group session facilitator at the 2nd annual OSU Women’s Summit, held on February 17th at the Ohio Union.

This year’s theme was “Dating in the Digital Age.” Over 200 OSU students and community members were in attendance. The event was sponsored by the Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence.



Walter DeKeseredy (Professor of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies – University of Ontario Institute of Technology) has been appointed Adjunct Professor in Queensland University of Technology’s (QUT) School of Justice, which is based in the Faculty of Law. QUT is located in Brisbane, Australia. The following are Dr. DeKeseredy’s recent publications:

- Rennison, C.M., DeKeseredy, W.S., & Dragiewicz, M. (in press). “Urban, Suburban, and Rural Variations in Separation/Divorce Rape/Sexual Assault: Results From the National Crime Victimization Survey.” *Feminist Criminology*.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., & Dragiewicz, M. (in press). “Gaps in Knowledge & Emerging Areas in Gender and Criminology.” In C.M. Renzetti, S.L. Miller, & A. Gover (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Gender and Crime*. London: Routledge.
- DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). “Patriarchy.com: Adult Internet Pornography and the Abuse of Women.” In C.M. Renzetti & R. Kennedy Bergen (Eds.), *Understanding Diversity: Celebrating Difference, Challenging Inequality*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.



Marianna Klochko (Associate Professor of Sociology – OSU, Marion campus) was the key presenter at a public forum entitled “Drugs: Should we Legalize Them?,” held on February 7th, 2012. The event was part of OSU Marion’s “[Science Café](#)” series, which showcases conversation with experts in the field about current topics of research. The forum took place at the Infinity Restaurant in downtown Marion, Ohio. Science Café events are open to the public and take place in casual, local settings.

David Maimon (Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice – University of Maryland) has several new publications to report:



- Maimon, David Olena Antonachio and Michal French. 2012. “Severe Sanctions, Easy Choice? Investigating the Role of School Sanctions in Preventing Adolescents’ Violent Offending.” *Criminology* 50 (forthcoming).
- Maimon, David and Christopher R. Browning. 2012. “Underage Drinking, Alcohol Sales, and Collective Efficacy: Informal Control and Opportunity in the Study of Alcohol Use.” *Social Science Research* (forthcoming).
- Maimon, David and Christopher R. Browning. 2012. “Adolescents’ Violent Victimization in the Neighborhood: Situational and Contextual Determinants.” *British Journal of Criminology* (forthcoming).



Michael Slater (Professor, Communication – OSU) co-authored a study with Andrew Hayes, David Edwoldsen (also from OSU’s School of Communication) and Catherine Goodall (of Kent State) entitled “Increasing Support for Alcohol-Control Enforcement Through News Coverage of Alcohol’s Role in Injuries and Crime.” Their findings demonstrate that subjects who read newspaper articles about alcohol-related injury accidents or violent crimes are more likely to support the enforcement of alcohol laws. The study appears in the March 2012 issue of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*.

Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

The Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity is holding their biennial "Transforming Race" conference on March 15-17, 2012. This year's theme is "Visions of Change." At this conference, speakers such as OSU professor and NAACP Image Award winner Michelle Alexander, Senior fellow at the Center For American Progress, Van Jones, and many others will dialogue and attempt to answer the questions: What would a generation or two of racial progress look like? What seeds of change are in place right now? How do we get from here to there? Professors, staff members and students are invited to attend. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel, located downtown. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services has published a report on the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)'s Victim Awareness Program. This study assesses whether offenders gain knowledge and insight into the impact of crime on victims and the community. The acquisition of knowledge and insight is central to changing criminal mindsets (Kegan & Lahey, 2009). It has been the experience of professionals at ODRC that this program effectively demonstrates to offenders the true impact of crime. Program facilitators have provided accounts of observable behavior and attitude changes relative to crime. However, the positive experience of practitioners should be tested by empirical evidence. This study was completed in order to conduct an exploratory assessment of the claims of increased knowledge as a result of the Victim Awareness Program. ODRC is committed to the model of practitioners and researchers working in partnership to assess the validity of theories of intervention and improve their practical application. The 13-week program is offered in all state institutions, and in some Adult Parole Authority Offices, Community Based Correctional Facilities (CBCF), and halfway houses in Ohio. The curriculum is intended for high-risk offenders who will be released back into the community. Program participants are selected according to risk-level and date of release unless court-ordered to complete programming. The overall goal of the program is to increase offenders' awareness of how crime negatively affects victims and the community. To view the report, please click [here](#). To learn more about the Victim Awareness Program, please click [here](#).

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), a federal Office of Justice program, is offering grant monies for Wraparound Victim Legal Assistance Network Demonstration Projects. **The application deadline is April 19, 2012.** OVC will fund up to six sites to develop collaborative models for comprehensive, wraparound, pro bono, legal assistance networks to meet the range of legal needs of crime victims. This is a 4-year project, with sites receiving up to \$400,000 for the first 15-month phase, with the potential of continuation funding for 3 additional years. Applicants are limited to private nonprofit organizations; faith-based and community-based organizations; colleges and universities; public agencies; and tribal governments and organizations that can demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the range of legal assistance needs of crime victims, as well as the capacity to partner with other organizations and key stakeholders to deliver comprehensive, seamless legal services to victims. For more information, go to <http://www.ovc.gov/>.

Behavioral Sciences and Law has a call for articles for a special issue entitled Measuring and Interpreting the Predictive Validity of Violence Risk Assessment. The field of violence risk assessment has expanded rapidly over the past several decades, resulting in the development of a number of structured risk assessment tools. While there is a substantial literature on these instruments, few articles have been published to guide researchers in the measurement of their predictive validity and the interpretation of such findings. Further, a debate has begun to emerge concerning the predictive validity of risk assessment tools when applied to individual cases, and methodological advances may be needed in this area. To address these gaps, this special issue aims to provide a comprehensive and accessible resource for researchers, clinicians, and policymakers interested in the measurement of predictive validity or the use of such findings in clinical or legal practice. They invite empirical and conceptual papers on the measurement of predictive validity as it relates to violence risk assessment. In addition, papers focusing on the implications of the measurement of predictive validity for public protection and individual liberty are also welcome, as are legal perspectives on these issues. Papers should be no longer than 35 pages, inclusive of all tables, figures and references. References should be in American Psychological Association style. **The deadline for submissions is July 1, 2012.** Please send two electronic copies of the submission, one blinded for peer review, to John Petrila, J.D., LL.M., University of South Florida (petrila@usf.edu) or Jay P. Singh, Ph.D., University of South Florida (jaysingh@usf.edu), the guest editor for this issue.

~Featured Article~
An Interview with Keith Warren

By Amanda Kennedy

Last month I had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Keith Warren, an Associate Professor of Social Work at OSU and one of our most recently added affiliates here at CJRC. We discussed the path Keith took from direct practice to academe, some of Keith's research interests, and his thoughts on teaching.

Like many social work faculty, Keith practiced in the field for a number of years prior to his academic career. He worked for over a decade with varied populations, including adults with chronic mental illness, adolescent sex offenders, adolescents with developmental disabilities, and elderly clients facing multiple health problems. While there were numerous rewarding aspects in being a practitioner, Keith came to the conclusion that he wanted to do research. His direct practice work took him to Massachusetts, California, and finally to Texas, where he entered graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin in the 1990s.

By pursuing his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Social Work, Keith developed a stable academic career. He initially had a greater interest in pursuing clinical psychology, and he somewhat arbitrarily happened upon social work as his course of study. However, as he told it, this was a very fortunate accident: "Social work has been a wonderful fit. The great thing about social work research is the extraordinary breadth of what you can do. Social work also takes one of the most holistic views of human problems of any profession. I'm interested in how complex systems work, so it is a natural field for me." Another advantage of being in social work is the presence of fellow, quality-minded faculty. Because of their general desire for research to improve direct services, Keith's social work colleagues give critical feedback which informs and improves his work. According to Keith, he often has an "abstract approach" in his way of thinking, and his colleagues provide crucial checks and balances by asking him how his theoretical ideas can be applied in a meaningful way to everyday practice. "Social work really emphasizes the pragmatic outcomes of research," he stated.

Despite his ultimate decision to become a professor, Keith's background as a practitioner profoundly affected his academic research interests. He had worked mostly in group homes, and was intrigued by three patterns he saw in relation to the group home setting. First, there were the day-to-day behavioral fluctuations people showed in their lives, particularly those who had profound mental illness such as schizophrenia.

The second pattern was the sense of community, and the way people worked cooperatively to help each other in these residential settings. The third pattern was the unfortunately common occurrence of clientele to decompensate when leaving residential care, often leading to re-hospitalization or homelessness. Upon entering graduate school, Keith became interested in complex systems ideas as a way of thinking about these phenomena, particularly the interpersonal interactions of clients living in residential treatment. He eventually began using social network analysis to study the nature



Keith Warren

of cooperation between residents of therapeutic communities, treatment programs based on mutual aid exchanged between criminal offenders, substance abusers, or people with severe and persistent mental illness. "In therapeutic communities, people help each other with serious human problems. As part of the mutual aid process, they are supposed to affirm each other when they do something good, and correct each other when they do something bad – it's written into the rules of a community." Through the work of his then-graduate student Carol Harvey, Keith was able to access hundreds of thousands of case note records from Ohio therapeutic communities which documented these interactions. "These interactions form a directed social network, so you can use social network analysis to test hypotheses about cooperation," Keith said. One such hypothesis is the "pay it forward" phenomenon, sometimes known as *generalized reciprocity*, in which people who are helped by someone in turn provide help to someone else. Analysis suggested that this phenomenon indeed played out in the residential treatment setting. "When a resident receives an affirmation, they are much likely to give one to someone else. This is an important finding because it brings laboratory-based observations from experiments on social interactions into a 'real world' setting. It also confirms clinical instinct, which can inform future applications in therapeutic communities" Keith stated.

Much of Keith's work regarding these communities is collaborative, including scholars from Sociology, Psychology and Economics. "Social science is not an individual endeavor. You have to bring together different people with unique skills," he explained. With the help of other researchers, Keith said that he plans to continue

looking at mutual aid-based residential programs including substance treatment-centered therapeutic communities. By finding common patterns in a variety of treatment programs, Keith's hope is that effective interventions observed in one place may become widely applicable to a variety of treatment settings.

Keith and I next discussed his teaching experiences at OSU. He emphasized his dedication to teaching undergraduate courses as often as he teaches graduate courses. "Undergraduate education is so important, and it's often sold short in a 'research one' university setting," he stated. Keith also gave his thoughts on the inherent connection between teaching and research: "My philosophy is that if you don't have research, there's nothing to teach. But if you don't teach your research, it's pretty pointless." Keith said that teaching gives him the chance to "rethink and review concepts in a meaningful way." He says he greatly enjoys teaching, particularly the "joyful interpersonal interaction with students."

As mentioned in the Director's Column, Keith will be speaking at CJRC on June 1st regarding his social networks research on therapeutic communities. To learn more about Keith and his work, please see [his College of Social work faculty webpage](#).

Thanks to Anup Gampa, Dr. C. André Christie-Mizell and Dr. Keith Warren 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](#). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.