



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Featured Article: Thoughts on the Reckless-Dinitz Memorial Lecture

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. We're quickly working our way through Spring here at CJRC, and planning a busy summer ahead. To begin with, we are looking forward to our signature event coming up later this week. On Thursday, our very

own Dr. Ruth Peterson will be the keynote speaker at CJRC's signature event - the 23rd Annual Walter C. Reckless-Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture at the Barrister Club. We are honored and delighted that Ruth will share her thoughts on the place of race and community investments in affecting local crime, and that she'll be joined by our friends Laurie Krivo and Ramiro Martinez who will offer their remarks. Further, we are very grateful to the many generous contributors who gave monetary gifts to help make the Reckless-Dinitz lecture a possibility. To learn more about the engagement please see the column on the Lecture below, as well as Amanda's featured article on the Reckless-Dinitz lecture.

In other news, we continue to build our CJRC Internship Program. We're in the process of interviewing candidates for two internship positions with our affiliate, Dr. Deanna Wilkinson (Human Development and Family Science). Once hired, Deanna's interns will be working with FBI data, studying the clearance rates of violent crimes. We were enthused about the hearty number of responses we received over the past two weeks from students interested in these internships. Big thanks to Deanna for providing these valuable opportunities for our OSU undergraduates, and to Dr. Helene Cweren of the Undergraduate Research Office for getting the word out about the internship openings.

Even though it's only April, we are also being mindful here at CJRC that Summer is right around the corner. This July, we will be holding the seventh annual Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute. We will welcome and host eight talented young scholars from colleges and universities across the nation. During their three week stay in Columbus, our participants will be diligently working on their respective research projects. At the end of the three week institute, our participants will present their work at the ninth annual Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) Workshop. This year, the RDCJN Workshop will be held in the new Ohio Union. Ruth Peterson and Amanda Kennedy are busily preparing arrangements for these important scholarly events, and we look forward to seeing friends old and new when July rolls around.

Lastly, we thank you, our CJRC affiliates, for your continued support and interest in the center. We couldn't do the work we do without you!

--- Dana

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Upcoming Event:

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:

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

By Matthew Hays, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

On Friday, March 12th, the CJRC was proud to host their annual Institute for Excellence in Justice seminar in the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center on Ohio State's campus. The primary speaker for the event was Dr. David Kirk of the University of Texas-Austin, who was joined by panelists Dr. Edward Rhine (Deputy Director of the ODRC, Office of Offender Reentry) and Dr. Paul Bellair (Professor in Ohio State's sociology department). Kirk's lecture, titled "How Residential Change Might Help Ex-Offenders Stay Out of Prison: Findings from a Natural Experiment," was primarily concerned with his findings of reduced recidivism in Louisiana after the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Kirk, who has always been interested in recidivism, has been engaged in this specific project for the last seven years and is continually updating his findings. Many of Kirk's conclusions, however, remain as constant as they are groundbreaking. More importantly, Kirk's findings seem to be applicable to other geographical settings, making his conclusions relevant to all criminologists and professionals in the criminal justice field.



Dr. Kirk during his lecture

Considering himself to be both an urban Sociologist and a Criminologist, Dr. David Kirk has been interested in the influence of neighborhoods on criminality for some time. Understanding how a neighborhood can influence an individual to commit crime is ultimately helpful in trying to prevent similar crimes in the future. This is especially important with regard to prisoner reentry - roughly half of the 700,000 individuals released from prison each year are expected to be rearrested in their first three years. Kirk claims that addressing this social problem is both a public safety and a budget imperative. We must prevent recidivism not just to reduce victimization; we must do so because many states can no longer afford to do otherwise.



From L to R: Paul Bellair, Ed Rhine, and David Kirk

In order to understand how residential change affects recidivism, it helps to first understand how residential factors can lead to a greater likelihood of offending. Kirk explains how many prisoners upon release return home to potentially unsafe environments. Prisoners often return to areas with high concentrations of other parolees and criminal peers. Peer influence, according to Kirk, is one of the most important factors in repeat offending, and is one of the reasons marriage seems to be an effective deterrent (because it impacts social networks). Residential change also seems to be another way to improve social networks, especially when offenders are relocated to more affluent areas.

While it was commonly held that improvements to one's environment could be associated with improvements to one's behavior, there aren't many empirical studies involving criminal recidivism when placed in entirely new environments. Because of the devastating effects of Katrina, Louisiana parolees had nowhere else to go, and were essentially forced to relocate. Dr. Kirk explains that prior to Katrina, around 25% of parolees moved to a different parish and afterwards that rate doubled. Kirk found that those parolees that moved (voluntarily or by force) were much less likely to be rearrested. While more affluent areas offered greater opportunity and fewer chances of reoffending, Kirk explains that the

benefit of residential change is present regardless of neighborhood income levels. In a discussion following his speech, Dr. Kirk explained that even relocating a parolee to a new neighborhood with the same level of poverty would reduce his/her chances of offending by a significant margin. Dr. Kirk claims that the important aspect of the relocation is not the improvement of the environment (although it helps) so much as it is giving the parolee a "fresh start" by removing them from criminal social ties.

I personally found Dr. Kirk's lecture interesting for a number of reasons. First, it is highly interesting that criminological knowledge resulted from the repercussions of a natural disaster. While Hurricane Katrina was a tragic event, Kirk's resultant research may help to address the problem of criminal recidivism. The potential universality of Kirk's findings was also significant. When I sat down with Dr. Kirk, my first question was to what type of crime/offender his findings best applied. Dr. Kirk explained that while his study did not include sex offenders (which have very different housing policies from normal offenders), the effect of residential change was significant for crimes ranging from victimless drug crimes to acts of interpersonal violence. I was also interested in the emphasis Kirk placed on social networks and social ties. I asked Dr. Kirk if he was concerned that giving a parolee a "fresh start" could actually increase their chances of offending. According to the strain theory of crime, individuals with fewer social ties are actually more likely to experience social stress and subsequently more likely to offend. Dr. Kirk believes that this is not necessarily the case with parolees, and that the issue is not entirely "one-sided". Kirk acknowledges that while there are oftentimes pains associated with moving and residential mobility, at times it is the best option available for parolees wanting to improve their lives and stay out of prison.

What Center Participants are Doing



Audrey Begun (Associate Professor, Social Work – OSU), along with co-authors Susan Rose and Thomas LeBel, recently published “Intervening with Women in Jail around Alcohol and Substance Abuse During Preparation for Community Reentry” in the journal *Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly* (29)4.

Treatment Quarterly (29)4.

Amy Brunell (Assistant Professor of Psychology – OSU Newark) and Mark Davis (Research Scientist, CJRC – OSU) had their paper entitled “Measuring Narcissism within Add Health: The Development and Validation of a New Scale,” accepted for publication by the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*.



Brenda Chaney (Senior Lecturer, Sociology and Criminology – OSU Marion) is teaching an Inside-Out Exchange class this quarter at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville. Twelve OSU students will be taking part in this class alongside inmates from the facility, and the course theme is Issues

in Globalization. The Inside-Out Prison Exchange is a national program, headquartered at Temple University. Started in 2003, the program encompasses 123 colleges and universities with 7500 students involved to date. If you would like more information about the class, feel free to contact Brenda at chaney.2@osu.edu.

Mark Davis (Research Scientist, CJRC – OSU) had an article accepted for publication in *Suicide and Threatening Behavior*. The article, entitled “Assessing Legal Strains and Risk of Suicide Using Archived Court Data,” was co-authored with Thomas B. Cook of the Cleveland Clinic.

James Moore III (Professor of Physical Activity and Education Services and Bell Resource Center – OSU) co-authored “College Readiness and Academic Preparation of Postsecondary Education: Oral Histories of First-Generation Urban College Students” with M. Jeanne Reid.

The article appeared in *Urban Education* and was the journal’s seventh most-read article in the journal’s history.



René Olate (Assistant Professor of Social Work – OSU) recently published an article entitled “Cross-National Study of Risky Sexual Behavior Among Gang-Involved Youth in Metropolitan Boston and San Salvador, El Salvador,” in the *Journal of Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies* (6)4.

Heather Schoenfeld (Assistant Professor of Sociology – OSU) appeared on NPR News on the WOSU radio station on April 13th, 2012. She discussed laws enforcing mandatory sentencing minimums. Click [here](#) to read more.



Hui Zheng (Assistant Professor of Sociology – OSU) has a forthcoming article in *Criminology and Public Policy*. The article, “The Differential Short-Term Impacts of Executions on Felony and Non-Felony Homicides,” was co-authored with Kenneth Land and Raymond Teske.



Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

Miami University is currently hiring for a Visiting Assistant Professor/Instructor position in Sociology and Gerontology. The Visiting Assistant Professor will be expected to teach a full load of courses in sociology and social justice, with those classes being primarily criminology and/or criminal justice courses. Requirements: ABD (for appointment as instructor); Ph.D. by date of appointment (for appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor) in sociology, criminology or a related field. Desired: experience in teaching and conducting research in sociology, especially criminology. Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, evidence of teaching effectiveness, and three letters of recommendation to: Jean Lynch, Ph.D. Department of Sociology and Gerontology, Miami University, Oxford, OH 45056 or via email to: lynchjm@muohio.edu. The contact phone number is (513) 529-3811. **Screening begins April 15, 2012 and will continue until the position is filled.** Women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply. Miami University is an EOE/AA employer with smoke-free campuses.

Alvis House is celebrating its 45th Anniversary on Tuesday, April 24th, 2012, from 11:30 am to 1 pm in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Individual tickets to the event are 50 dollars. Please call Heather Jones at (614) 252-8402 if you would like to RSVP to attend the event, or if you would like more information. You may also email events@alvishouse.org to RSVP. A non-profit organization in community corrections programs, Alvis House has services in Columbus, Chillicothe, Dayton, Lima and Toledo. Their programs serve individuals and families who face barriers as a result of involvement in the criminal justice system or as a result of having developmental disabilities. Alvis House served 5,000 individuals during the last year.

Criminal Justice Policy Review is currently soliciting manuscripts for a special issue on sentencing policies and practices. Manuscripts considered for publication in this special issue could focus on a variety of topics, including (but not limited to): (a) federal, state, and local sentencing policies and practices; (b) sentencing guidelines; (c) sentencing outcomes; (d) juvenile and adult court sentencing; (e) effects of sentencing on recidivism; (f) sentencing of special categories of offenders (e.g., homicide, sex offenses, drug offenses); and (g) gender, racial, and ethnic disparities in sentencing. All submitted manuscripts should contain discussion of relevant implications for criminal justice policy and practice. **The submission deadline is May 31, 2012.** For more information about *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, please go to <http://cjp.sagepub.com>. An online submission and review system for *Criminal Justice Policy Review* is available at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjpr>. Manuscripts should be submitted in current APA style and format (i.e., according to the current *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*). For additional information, please contact EmmaLeigh Kirchner, Assistant Managing Editor, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, at e.e.kirchner@iup.edu or call (724) 357-1247.

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~

Thoughts on the Reckless-Dinitz Memorial Lecture

By Amanda Kennedy

Over the past several months we here at CJRC have been gearing up to host the Walter Cade Reckless-Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture, which will be held at the Moritz School of Law's Faculty Club on Thursday, March 19th, 2012. To give a brief history, CJRC has hosted the lecture series each year since 1990. The purpose of creating the event was to honor Dr. Reckless' life and scholarly contributions following his death in 1989. He was a professor in the Sociology Department at Ohio State from 1940 until his retirement in 1969. Dr. Reckless was a key player in bringing the discipline of Criminology to Ohio State. In 1951, Dr. Reckless persuaded Dr. Simon Dinitz to join the faculty at Ohio State, and they subsequently collaborated with one another to forge a strong, nationally recognized program in Criminology. Dr. Dinitz gave the first Walter C. Reckless Memorial Lecture ("The Tidal Wave of Imprisonment") to honor the legacy of his friend and colleague. In the following years, he also helped to select the series lecturers. In the spring of 2007 and following the death of Simon Dinitz, the Reckless Lecture Series was renamed the Walter Cade Reckless and Simon Dinitz Memorial Lecture Series. Another change took place in 2003, when in the Moritz College of Law partnered with CJRC to publish the Lecture in the *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law*. Indeed, the lecture has long been CJRC's signature event, welcoming scholars from around the country and beyond to speak on cutting-edge topics in criminological research.

In carrying on the rich tradition of the Reckless-Dinitz Lecture, we could not be more thrilled that Dr. Ruth D. Peterson agreed to be this year's featured speaker. Ruth was a faculty member at Ohio State for twenty-six years. After retiring in 2011 from her positions as both a Professor of Sociology and the Director of CJRC, Ruth has remained an active part of the center, facilitating the transition in leadership to current Director Dana Haynie, as well as continuing her work as an advisor, scholar and co-organizer of the NSF-sponsored Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute. It seemed quite fitting to ask Ruth to be this year's keynote speaker, as her scholarly work in issues of race and crime is renowned, oft-cited, and has blazed the trail for successive researchers in criminology. Further, Ruth's work carries on the legacy of Reckless and Dinitz's commitment to approaching criminological research in a multidisciplinary, accessible, and innovative way.

At Thursday's lecture, Ruth will be joined by long-time friend and colleague Dr. Lauren J. Krivo, a former OSU faculty member now at Rutgers University and Dr. Ramiro Martinez, a Professor at Northeastern who earned his Ph.D. in Sociology at Ohio State. I spoke with Ruth, Laurie and Ramiro regarding their thoughts on the lecture series, and on Ruth's esteemed scholarly career.

In our conversation, Ruth explained that the Reckless lecture is central to the mission of CJRC. "As the University's focal point for interdisciplinary scholarship on crime and criminal justice, a part of the mission of CJRC is intellectual exchange with various audiences. The Reckless-Dinitz lecture is a way in which this exchange is accomplished. CJRC invites faculty members, criminal justice officials and practitioners, graduate students, and members of the surrounding community to attend the lecture. In addition, the lecture series generally showcases research that is directly relevant to policy. Ruth also explained why the series is important in terms of honoring Dr. Reckless and Dr. Dinitz. "Simply put, they were giants in the field. They left an amazing legacy of criminological scholarship and scholars on which the rest of us have built." While Ruth did not have the opportunity to meet Dr. Reckless, Dr. Dinitz was her coworker for a number of years. "He was an excellent colleague, mentor, and friend. He really valued asking important questions that were relevant to solving important societal problems. Sy was also an amazing teacher. He made learning fun and always took his students' ideas seriously,"

Ruth is excited to give the talk on Thursday, and explained why having Laurie and Ramiro as contributors at the event is important.

"Laurie and I have been full partners in developing and bringing to fruition research on race, place and crime. In this sense, without Laurie there is no Ruth. The collaboration worked well for both of us and strengthened what was already a good friendship," she said. In discussing Ramiro, Ruth said that it has been a pleasure to watch him and his career develop over time. "He has carved out an important academic niche for himself in studying the structural determinants of Latino crime, and the role of immigration in crime patterns across diverse settings and time periods. Ramiro also brings great humor to what can sometimes be staid academic environments," she stated.

Laurie and Ramiro also shared their thoughts on Ruth as a scholar, mentor and friend. First, Laurie explained what a crucial role Ruth played in expanding CJRC as an interdisciplinary research outlet. "Ruth worked hard to make the center a place which incorporated more graduate students, more faculty, and more research grants. She built its recognition as a premier, visible research center," Laurie stated. "Given the amount that Ruth has given in building CJRC, it's really fitting that she gives the lecture at this moment as she transitions to another stage in life. She should be recognized in the way previous key figures in criminology have been recognized," Laurie elaborated. Laurie also explained that her research with Ruth brings crime and criminal justice research to the forefront as being integral issues to society at large, not separate entities. Ramiro explained the importance Ruth holds in the discipline as a pioneer in the study of race, inequality and crime. "Ruth took the field a big step forward in looking at issues of stratification within crime. Also, Ruth was the only person of color who I ever had as a professor, and the only female criminologist I had as a professor. She truly forged a path for others including myself," he stated. Ramiro also said that Ruth's door was always open, and that she is "a generous person that is always willing to give her time to others."

Thanks to Dr. David Kirk, Dr. Laurie Krivo, Dr. Ramiro Martinez and Dr. Ruth Peterson 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@osu.edu). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.