



# Criminal Justice Research Center News

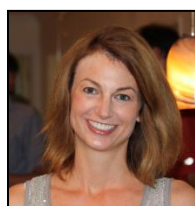


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***Featured Article: A Conversation with René Olate***

## From the Director's Desk



**Hi, everyone.** We're in the full swing of things in this first official semester at Ohio State.

First, I want to tell you about an important CJRC graduate and professional student research grant opportunity currently available. **We will be accepting applications for research awards through Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.** The competition is open to any OSU graduate or professional students who submit proposals related to research on crime and criminal justice. Awards of up to 1,000 dollars will be given. Please see further information on these awards and the application [here](#), as well as in the "Opportunities" section of this newsletter.

Second, we were very pleased to have Dr. Victor Rios kick off this year's CJRC speaker series when he visited our center on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Rios discussed the significance of the criminal justice system in the lives of young African American and Latino males. On October 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier, a Professor of Sociology and Crime, Law and Justice at Penn State, as well as my dissertation chair from graduate school, spoke on the role of gender in white color crimes. We thank Dr. Rios and Dr. Steffensmeier for sharing their important research as well as the audiences at both talks for attending and being so engaged. We will round out this semester's speakers' series with a CJRC graduate student research symposium on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Our affiliated graduate students will showcase the dynamic research they will be presenting at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Chicago this November (please see further information in the "Upcoming Events" column below).

We are also proud to say that all of our presenting students at the symposium have received Travel Grant Awards from CJRC to help fund their trip to the conference.

Lastly, our CJRC Undergraduate Internship continues to grow in its scope and level of participation. First, we welcome this year's CJRC newsletter intern, Alexis Preskar. Alexis is a journalism and pre-law major at OSU, as well as the President of the OSU chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Alexis contributed a great article on Dr. Rios' talk to this issue of the newsletter, and will continue to serve as our speakers' series columnist in future issues. Aside from Alexis, we currently have nine other active interns working with state agencies and research projects here at OSU. Recently we met with the Ohio Public Defender's Wrongful Conviction Project Director, Joe Bodenhamer, and staff attorney, Joanna Feigenbaum, to discuss placing interns with their program. This would give students an invaluable opportunity to be part of an investigative team that re-opens cases for incarcerated individuals in the state of Ohio. Amanda is actively working on recruiting strong candidates, and we look forward to placing interns with the project in the near future.

--- Dana

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*Upcoming Events*  
**CJRC Graduate Student Symposium**  
 November 8, 2012  
 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
 Journalism 217

*Speakers' Column*  
**Victor Rios:**  
**"Processes of Crime, Desistance, and  
 Resistance among Black and Latino Boys"**

By Alexis Preskar, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

This research symposium will showcase the projects of ten current or former Ohio State graduate students in the fields of Sociology, Social Work, and Economics. The following is a listing of presenters/paper titles:



**Christopher Keenan (Sociology) and Nathan Doogan (Social Work):** *"Friendship Dynamics and Homophily on Sex Behaviors: Selection or Influence?"*



**Martin Kosla (Sociology) and Trent Steidley (Sociology):** *"Get 'em while you still can': Structural and Cultural Motivations for Firearm Attainment"*



**Aubrey Jackson (Sociology):** *"The Protective Effect of Women's Neighborhood Resources on the Risk of Intimate Partner Violence"*



**Jessica Linley (Social Work) and Anup Gampa (Economics):** *"Are Therapeutic Community Residents' Economic Choice Behaviors Correlated with their Program Behaviors?"*



**David Ramey (Sociology) and Emily Shrider (Sociology):** *"Social Organization, Sources of Community Investment, and the Prevention of Street Crime"*



**Brian Soller (Sociology):** *"Residential Proximity to Peers and Adolescent Social Networks"*



Dr. Victor Rios knows how it feels to be criminalized. He also knows what it feels like to receive a Ph.D. From being a gang member to becoming an associate professor of sociology at University of California-Santa Barbara, Dr. Rios is a true success story. His experiences with the criminal justice system inspired him to research "at-risk" youth in California and the role of the criminal justice system in their lives. He shared his work during a lecture sponsored by the CJRC on September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Rios grew up in an impoverished area in California. In his early teenage years he became involved in a gang and had a criminal record. While getting ready to graduate high school Rios began to understand more about the society he lived in. "I really started to see that the conditions I grew up in ... there was also this system that was set up to fail some people and to give privilege to others," he said. This realization helped him choose to pursue his degree in sociology so he could help change the system.

In conducting his research, Dr. Rios goes out and spends time with teens and young adults who have been labeled "at risk" by authorities. He spends time with gangs and youths who are likely to join gangs and watches their daily lives and interactions. In one part of his research he asked the teens to "take pictures of what most impacts your community," and most of them came back with photos of police arresting or questioning their friends and peers. When Dr. Rios went out with a gang and they were arrested, he took a picture and was then handcuffed himself.

Experiences like these encouraged Dr. Rios to pen his newest book, *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* (NYU Press, 2011). In it, he discusses what makes these youth more likely to join a gang or become involved in criminal activity, and how they are consequently treated by the criminal justice system. Dr. Rios said that often it is because of the very labels given to them that these teens rebel and become criminals. Dr. Rios discovered during his research that these teens are typically profiled by police and teachers as dangerous at an early age before any wrongdoing has even occurred. According to Dr. Rios, these children grow up feeling criminalized and the constant scrutiny and pressure can cause them to become criminals. "Criminalized youth react to criminalization through criminality," he said.



Left to right: Dana Haynie, Victor Rios, Ruth Peterson, and Alexis Preskar

Dr. Rios noted several trends and problems with the criminal justice system in his research. One issue is over policing or under policing. Subjects of his research noticed police were often around and questioning them when they were hanging out on the street behaving legally, but were slow or did not respond when serious crimes, such as drug deals, were called in. Another problem that concerns Dr. Rios is the expansion of the criminal justice system into other areas. He said schools have become a part of the system of “ubiquitous punitive social patrol.” Since society expects them to fail and be criminals, these youths often give into the pressures and comply. He also blamed the media and politicians for twisting information about “at risk” youth and criminal justice to scare people. This social phenomenon of judging and punishing teens, not based on their criminal history, but rather their socio-economic status and race, makes it incredibly difficult for these young adults to succeed.

Oftentimes, these teens are degraded by what Dr. Rios calls a “systematic stripping of dignity.” This is when police or other authorities look down upon these youths and embarrass them in front of others. Dr. Rios said this process manifests itself in many forms, but one example was police officers pulling young teenage boys out of the line for rides at the fair to check for gang tattoos. The officers disrespected the boys and put them on trial in front of their peers and the community. Dr. Rios said he believes that after a period of time this dignity stripping leads youths to act out in ways to regain their dignity, including criminal behavior. He said that because of this, promoting dignity enhancement could actually work as a crime suppressor.

While Dr. Rios said he has become used to the injustices he witnesses, he remains an optimist. “I find a lot of hope in this new generation. I find this generation to be highly empathic,” he said.

## What Center Participants are Doing



**Reginald Byron (Assistant Professor, Sociology – Southwestern University)**

recently had a co-authored paper entitled “Food for Thought: Frequent Interracial Dining Experiences as a Predictor of Students’ Racial Climate Perceptions,” accepted for publication in

*The Journal of Higher Education*. The authors on the paper are: Dr. Maria Lowe, Dr. Byron, Griffin Ferry and Melissa Garcia. Dr. Byron was also chosen as one of two faculty members from Southwestern University to teach in London, England for the Fall Semester of 2013.

**Walter DeKeseredy (Professor, Criminology – University of Ontario Institute of Technology)**



made a presentation on August 30<sup>th</sup>, titled “New Ways of Thinking About Responses to Various Types of Violence Against Women: Back to the Future” at the Ohio Attorney General’s Summit on Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence. DeKeseredy also has three new publications to report:

- DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). An interview with Bernie Auchter. *Violence Against Women*.
- DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). “Pornography and Violence Against Women.” In C.A. Cuevas & C.M. Rennison (Eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook on the Psychology of Violence*. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
- DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). “Separation/divorce sexual assault.” In L. McOrmond Plummer, P. Eastseal, & J.Y. Levy-Peck (Eds.), *Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Survivor Support and System Change*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers.



**Dana Haynie (Professor, Sociology; Director of CJRC – OSU)**

had a paper accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Addiction*. The paper is co-authored with Derek Kreager and Suellen Hopfer and is entitled “Dating and Substance Use

in Adolescent Peer Networks: Replication and Extension.” In addition, Dr. Haynie was a keynote speaker at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Illicit Networks Workshop in Vancouver this month. The title of her presentation was “Gender, Friendship Networks and Delinquency: A Dynamic Network Approach.”



**Charis Kubrin (Professor, Criminology, Law and Society – University of California at Irvine; Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) affiliate),** along with RDCJN members Ramiro Martinez (Professor, Criminal Justice and Sociology – Northeastern University) and Marjorie Zatz (Professor, Justice and Social Inquiry – Arizona State University), edited a book published this month, entitled *Punishing Immigrants: Policy, Politics and Injustice* (NYU Press).



**Danielle Kuhl (Assistant Professor, Sociology – Bowling Green State University)** co-authored an article with David F. Warner and Andrew Wilczak entitled “Adolescent Violent Victimization and Precocious Union Formation,” forthcoming in *Criminology* (November).



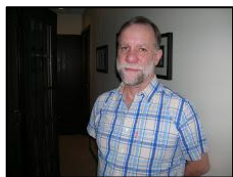
**Michael Maltz (Research Scientist, CJRC – OSU) and Randolph Roth (Professor, History – OSU),** together with four other colleagues, received a National Science Foundation Grant (Law and Social Sciences Division) for \$165,000 to work on their National Homicide Data Improvement Project, 1959-present. (SES-1228406).



**René Olate (Assistant Professor, Social Work – OSU)** co-authored a recently published article: Salas-Wright, C., Olate, R., Tran, T., & Vaughn, M. G. (2012). “Assessing Empathy in Salvadoran High-Risk Youth and Youth Gang Members: A Spanish Validation of the ‘Basic Empathy Scale’,” appearing in the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* DOI: 10.1177/0306624X12455170



**Harold Pepinsky (Professor Emeritus, Sociology – Indiana University-Bloomington)** posted a blog entry on September 8<sup>th</sup> entitled “Criminology as Diplomacy.” The piece was inspired by Victor Rios’ CJRC presentation, wherein he discussed treating black and Latina/o youths with dignity, not suspicion, and is available to read [here](#).



**Randolph Roth (Professor, History – OSU)** also was interviewed on C-SPAN’s “Book TV” on August 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss his book *American Homicide* (Belknap Press-Harvard University Press, 2009). Click [here](#) to see the interview.

## Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

**CJRC graduate and professional student research grants are available to apply for through 5 pm, Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.** The Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) requests proposals from graduate and professional students relating to research on Crime and Criminal Justice. We welcome proposals for research on a wide range of topics, and from graduate and professional students from a variety of disciplines/schools. CJRC will award up to \$1,000 to support graduate thesis/dissertation or equivalent professional research on crime and justice issues. Funds may be used to: defray research expenses, contribute to costs of acquiring specialized training (e.g., participating in statistical courses), assist with research-related travel costs, and the like. **Eligibility:** Applications may be submitted by any full time student enrolled in a graduate or professional program at OSU. Please click [here](#) to access the application. **Submit completed application packages to:** Criminal Justice Research Center, ATTN: Deb Flower-Smith, The Ohio State University, 231 Journalism Building, 242 W. 18th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210. **Please direct all inquiries to:** [flower-smith.1@osu.edu](mailto:flower-smith.1@osu.edu).

**You can view a [video on the American Society of Criminology’s website](#) featuring a very interesting 1996 interview with renowned Criminologist and former OSU Professor Simon Dinitz (b. 1926- d. 2007). (Thanks to Northeastern University Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice and OSU alumnus Dr. Ramiro Martinez for bringing this to our attention!)**

***The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice invites submissions for a special issue on the topic of cybercrime victimization.*** This issue will be dedicated to advancing the empirical investigation of the correlates of multiple forms of cybercrime victimization and assessment of criminological theory. Manuscripts considering computer hacking victimization, identity crimes, and malicious software infection are especially welcome. 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 December 1, 2012.** 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. Tom Holt at [holtt@msu.edu](mailto:holtt@msu.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.).

***Race and Justice: An International Journal invites paper submissions for a special issue edited by Rod K. Brunson and Eric A. Stewart.*** The goal of the special issue, "Examining Racial Disparities in a Post-Racial Era," is to highlight theoretically grounded research that examines the nature and extent of disparate criminal justice processes and outcomes experienced by racial and ethnic groups. This includes a broad range of topics within the area of formal social control (e.g., police, courts, and corrections). Paper submissions employing novel and/or sophisticated methodological approaches are highly encouraged. **All manuscripts will be peer reviewed and must be submitted no later than January 1, 2013** using the [Manuscript Central online system](#). Only papers that are properly formatted as per Race and Justice guidelines will be considered for publication. Author instructions can be found on the Journal's [website](#). Please direct questions to either one of the guest editors (Rod K. Brunson: [rod.brunson@rutgers.edu](mailto:rod.brunson@rutgers.edu) or Eric A. Stewart: [estewart2@fsu.edu](mailto:estewart2@fsu.edu)).

***Women & Criminal Justice Journal has a call for papers for a special issue on Gender and Dating Violence.*** They welcome submissions dealing with teen dating violence, teen cyber-stalking and cyber-harassment, adult dating violence, and differences between males and females in offending and victimization. Gender is broadly defined to include gay and lesbian issues of dating violence. Papers should include policy and legal changes that have responded to gendered violence in dating relationships. Published quarterly, Women & Criminal Justice is a peer review quarterly journal serving the needs of criminal justice educators, students and policy makers worldwide. For more information, please visit the journal's website [here](#). Typical length of submissions is twenty-five pages, double spaced, including abstract, appendices, references, figures, and tables. **Deadline for consideration for this special issue is January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

***The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence is now accepting submissions*** for the Tenth Annual Law Student Writing Competition. Submissions must address the legal needs of victims of domestic violence or domestic violence victims and their children, or advance efforts to address the incidence, causes and effects of intimate partner violence. Submissions may be no longer than 7500 words (typically 20-25 pages), including footnotes and other text but excluding author identifying information, and must be double-spaced with one-inch margins. Any paper exceeding the 7500 word limit WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. Students are free to submit papers of shorter length as they are most concerned with quality and originality. **The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2013.** Please click [here](#) for more details.

~Featured Article~

## A Conversation With René Olate

By Amanda Kennedy

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Last month I had the opportunity to speak with René Olate, a CJRC affiliate and an Assistant Professor of Social Work at OSU since 2011. We discussed what led René to social work as a profession, his career path, his research interests, and thoughts on the role of teaching in the social work profession.

As an adolescent raised in a working class family in Chile during the 1980s, René's daily existence included social activism. At that time, Chile's government was a military dictatorship under the rule of army general and President Augusto Pinochet. The regime was notorious for its suppression of oppositional political parties and violent persecution of those dissenting from the dictatorship's ideas. Raised Catholic, René was part of a parish that embodied Liberation Theology, an ideologically-driven religious movement originating in Latin America during the 1960s. Religious beliefs served as the basis for social protest against unjust social, political and economic conditions. "We were going to mass, and we were going to protest," René explained. Given this experience, social work seemed like a natural field of study to choose for René. "My decision to study social work was quite easy. I wanted to be a part of social change and fight against the forces that were oppressing my country," René stated. Furthermore, social work was the only social science-oriented discipline available to pursue at the time, as sociology and political science were banned in the universities by the dictatorship.



During his undergraduate training in the city of Concepción, René did his social work practicum conducting program evaluation for local governments and working with indigenous communities and young adults in prison. René finished his undergraduate degree and received a scholarship to pursue a

master's of social sciences, being able to do so since the dictatorship fell three years prior. During his second year of graduate studies, René was invited to fill a faculty position at the Catholic University in Santiago, Chile. His academic career continued to be defined by his home country. "I was only 23 at the time they invited me to become a faculty member. They were opening this position because the school had literally missed an entire generation of students and faculty, due to people being persecuted, exiled, or assassinated," he said.

Over time, René's career became a blend of teaching, consulting, and a variety of research experiences. He served for three years as a consultant and lecturer at the Inter-American Development Bank, which assists Latin American and Caribbean nations in fostering viable economic development. René worked in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic, researching the role of social capital in development, and teaching social management. In 2002, he came to the United States to begin his doctoral studies at Washington University in Saint Louis. After completing his Ph.D., René accepted a faculty position at Boston College before coming to OSU last year.

Through his various personal and professional experiences, René developed a cross-national approach to his research. "It's important to me to empirically show the differences that exist between cultures, particularly in Latin America, which is where the heart of my research is. And as a social worker, my work must support the intervention of social problems," he explained. His dissertation examined youth volunteer programs in twelve countries, featuring data from Portuguese, Spanish, and English-speaking nations. René has increasingly studied the role of violence in Latin America "because it is one of the main problems in the region." According to recent survey data from *Latinobarometro*, violence and delinquency have been identified as more prevalent issues than poverty and unemployment in Latin America. Drug trafficking is a leading factor in the perpetuation of this violence, often leaving youths in its wake. Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador are now referred to as "the Northern Triangle," due to the area having more drug-related violence than Colombia notoriously had in the 1980s.

Much of René's recent work focuses on youth gangs. According to René, he has examined youth gangs in the Central American region, "not to merely understand the social dynamics of these gangs, but to focus on how can implement effective programs for these kids, and how we can further research which negates the strong criminalization of these youths as they are often portrayed in mass media." René feels it is imperative to talk directly to gang members to understand their personal perspective. "Gang members are not the dumb kids of the neighborhood. They are the brilliant kids – they think strategically about what gangs can offer them when they're coming from a place of disadvantage. There are a lot of attractive incentives that go along with getting involved with gangs." René explained that people in poverty often feel powerless, and people in gangs "are often marginalized people able to harness power." He also thinks that anti-violence efforts targeted at gang members must employ intervention methods more so than prevention methods. He explained that failed Central American policy efforts such as *mano dura* (literally meaning "strong hand," or tough-on-crime measures) emphasized repression instead of intervention, often exacerbating the problem and increasing prison populations. "It's ridiculous to say we can eliminate gangs - it's impossible. The goal is to decrease the negative effects of gangs," he explained. René emphasizes "harm reduction policies" in his work, a public health approach that seeks to reduce risk factors that accompany dangerous or illegal behaviors.

René's research passions extend to his teaching approach. "I feel it's important to offer a cross-national approach to the research community, but also to my students, especially since these students are in the social work field." It is important to René to expose students to multiple cultural perspectives because they will be working with people from various backgrounds. He is currently working with the College of Social Work to develop a visiting program to Nicaragua for undergraduate students. "I am happy at OSU. My colleagues and dean are very supportive." René also plans on writing an E-book on community development for his students. "I love to teach, and I would like to increase my blending of technology with teaching," he explains. "My students are great. They know they will not be getting a lucrative salary by going into social work. However, by pursuing their studies, they are expressing strong values of equality and social justice."

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*Thanks to Drs. Victor Rios and René Olate 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.*