



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Featured Article: An Interview with Heather Washington

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. After a successful summer hosting the Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute and the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network, we are in the middle of a busy fall semester!

Our first speaker this school year was CJRC affiliate and Associate Professor Mary Thomas (OSU Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies), who gave a captivating talk to a conference room of OSU and community members on September 5th. The seminar, entitled "[This place saved my life": The myth of the savior prison and why it is appealing to incarcerated girls,](#)" showcased Mary's ethnographic work with young women at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility over the past several years. We were pleased to have Mary at the center, and are proud to have helped previously fund her valuable research with a CJRC seed grant.

We also look forward to the CJRC Speakers' Series agenda for the remainder of the semester (please see pages 2 and 3 for further details). On October 3rd, Dr. Angela Stroud (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Northland College) will share her qualitative findings regarding gun owners' perceptions of criminal threat. On November 7th, we will welcome David Kennedy (Professor of Anthropology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice) as the keynote speaker for our Institute for Excellence in Justice Seminar. David will discuss his work on effective strategies for reducing gun violence in urban areas. Our affiliate Dr. Deanna Wilkinson and Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services Director Karhlton Moore will join David as guest panelists. In addition, we are co-sponsoring a talk with the OSU African American and African Studies Department. On November 8th, Dr. Monique W. Morris (2012 Soros Justice Fellow and Leadership Studies lecturer at Saint Mary's College) will discuss criminal

justice issues facing African American girls and women. Lastly, we will hold the annual CJRC Graduate Student Research Forum on November 14th. We will provide further details on these last two events as they draw nearer.

CJRC is pleased to support Dr. Townsend Price-Spratlen by providing a 2013 faculty seed grant for his project, "Sober Turning Points in an 'Imprisoned Community': Reentry, Desistance and Faith at the DOPE Ministries." Townsend is working with our Program Assistant, Yolanda Gelo, to complete surveys, interviews and focus groups with participants in and affiliates of a ministry that has a substance abuse recovery emphasis.

Our undergraduate internship program is going strong. Amanda recently met with the Columbus Police Department to establish opportunities for our students there. By next month, we will have placed approximately forty interns at various agencies and research projects since our program's inception. One of our recently added interns is Alaina Clark, a junior honors student majoring in English and Criminology. She is this year's student columnist for our newsletter. Please see her engaging debut article featuring interviews with our 2013 Summer Research Institute participants. We welcome you, Alaina!

Happy reading!

--- Dana

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Upcoming Events



Angela Stroud, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Justice at Northland College

"The Visible Bad Guy: How Concealed Handgun License Holders Explain Criminal Threat"

**Thursday, October 3, 2013
217 Journalism
12:00 pm – 1:20 pm**

Abstract

In recent years, the violent crime rate has dropped to near record lows. At the same time, there has been an explosion in the number of private citizens who obtain a license to carry a concealed firearm in public. There are now nearly eight million people with concealed carry permits nation-wide, and yet little is known about how they think about crime, threat, and self-defense. An analysis of in-depth interviews with 36 concealed handgun license holders in Texas suggests that while concealed-carry instructors explain threat in ostensibly race-neutral, colorblind language, license holders themselves utilize racialized and classed understandings of crime as they navigate public spaces. As this research makes clear, the way that license holders think about crime and victimization, including differences in how men and women explain threat, is a critical component in understanding the social implications of an armed citizenry.

The Presenter

Dr. Angela Stroud, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Justice at Northland College, states "I grew up in South Texas, ten miles from Reynosa, Mexico, and seventy miles from the gulf. When I was young, my family and I would cross the border into Mexico for

shopping or to go to restaurants, and we would witness profound poverty. Of course the U.S. side had a great deal of inequality too, and it didn't take a sociology degree to see that race and social class were deeply tied. As I grew older, I became aware of how other boundaries-around gender and sexuality-are also tied to power. As an undergraduate, at a college much like Northland, I encountered sociology courses taught by engaged, dynamic, and passionate professors. I began to develop a language for understanding our social world, and started to see that race, class, and gender are intertwined concepts that are profoundly influential in our lives. I soon knew what I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing: trying to understand our world as a sociologist and teaching sociology to college students.

I teach courses in the sociology of gender, human rights and social justice, race and racism, and the sociology of culture. My research focuses on how meanings around whiteness and masculinity circulate in American culture. I'm currently working on a book that examines how race, class, and gender shape people's desire to obtain permits to carry concealed firearms in public places. In my research and my teaching, I am centrally concerned with illuminating how inequality and privilege emerge at the intersections of race, class, and gender."



David Kennedy, Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

*An Institute for Excellence in Justice Event:
"Why We Can Fix America's Scandal of Violence, Race, and Prison"*

**Thursday, November 7, 2013
035 Psychology Building –
OSU Campus, 1835 Neil Avenue
Columbus OH 43210
9:00 am – 10:30 am**

Abstract

The United States faces two closely linked and appalling problems: extraordinarily high rates of serious violence and extraordinarily high rates of incarceration, both concentrated in poor minority, especially black, communities. There are now proved approaches that dramatically reduce that violence while also reducing arrest and incarceration and resetting relationships between community and law enforcement. The work has revealed unexpected facts about what lies behind the violence, and unexpected ways in which law enforcement, communities, and even offenders want the same things. Kennedy, who has been central to designing these approaches, will trace their development, their underlying logic, and the potential they have for resetting how the nation thinks about and addresses violence.

The Presenter

David Kennedy directed the Boston Gun Project, whose "Operation Ceasefire" intervention was responsible for a more than sixty per cent reduction in youth homicide victimization and won the Ford Foundation Innovations in Government award; the Herman Goldstein International Award for Problem-Oriented Policing, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Webber Seavey Award. (Please see Kennedy's appearance on MSNBC's *Dylan Rattigan Show*.) He developed the High Point drug market intervention strategy, which also won an Innovations in Government Award. Professor Kennedy helped design and field the Justice Department's Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative, the Treasury Department's Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Drug Market Intervention Program. His latest book, *Don't Shoot, One Man, a Street Fellowship, and the End of Violence in Inner-City America*, was published by Bloomsbury in September 2011.

Details Regarding the Event

Professor Kennedy will be joined by two panelists - Dr. Deanna Wilkinson (Associate Professor, Department of Human Sciences, OSU), and Karhlton Moore, Director of Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services. This should make for a lively, engaging discussion, and there will be time for a Q&A session with the audience. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) employees may request training credit by submitting a Supplemental Learning request in ELM. Employees must obtain a flyer with the event agenda from us to bring back to work. After the event, we will provide a copy of our sign-in sheet to ODRC.

CJRC Highlight on Speakers

A Discussion with our SRI participants

by Alaina Clark, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

Professors and scholars from universities across the country convened in the Ohio State University's Blackwell Hotel for the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Workshop on July 25th and 26th. The event is the annual meeting for the network, a component of which includes research presentations from the Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute participants. Eight junior faculty members selected from a national pool of applicants came to Ohio State at the beginning of July to develop their ongoing research projects with the guidance of mentors and access to the resources of the Criminal Justice Research Center. Not only was the conference an opportunity for faculty members and graduate students to join together and share advice, but it was also a chance for them to showcase their research efforts. After three weeks of working at Ohio State, each researcher stood in front of an audience of professors and scholars to present his or her project. The presentations at the conference covered a wide variety of research topics, ranging from the results of day-to-day policing decisions regarding undocumented Latino immigrants to predictors of drug treatment outcomes for black women.

I was able to personally sit down and speak with three of the Summer Research Institute's participants. All of the participants expressed enthusiasm about contributing to the fields of racial democracy and crime. The researchers also conveyed interest in using their projects to formulate solutions to real social issues.

First, I spoke with Amada Armenta, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. Having grown up on the Mexican-American border, Dr. Armenta's source of interest is rooted in the social injustices experienced by undocumented Latino immigrants in her hometown.



Dr. Armenta's research seeks to understand "how police are involved in immigration." Specifically, her research is focused on the consequences of what she terms "mundane police decisions" for undocumented Latino immigrants in Nashville, Tennessee.

Her project, titled "Bureaucratic Incorporation or Street-Level Bureaucracies? Creating Aliens through Traffic Base Policing," is built on two years of ethnographic fieldwork including police ride-alongs and interviews with law enforcement officers. Throughout her fieldwork, Dr. Armenta observed that frequent traffic stops made by police in Nashville (an area with a high population of Latino immigrants) inevitably leads to contact between undocumented Latino immigrants and law enforcement officials. Since Tennessee law prohibits undocumented immigrants from obtaining drivers licenses or identification cards, contact with police can lead to confusion, arrest and ultimately, deportation. Because officers are unable to identify immigrants without documentation, they may decide to arrest them in order to "get them into the system" (essentially documenting them). Dr. Armenta often witnessed police letting undocumented Latino immigrants go with a warning or citation. Nevertheless, being pulled over by a police officer can be a terrifying experience for undocumented immigrants because the consequences – arrest or deportation - may be devastating.



Forrest Stuart, an assistant professor in sociology at the University of Chicago, is taking a unique approach to the study of civilian contact with police by researching the ways in which individuals living in

Skid Row deal with hyper policing tactics. Hyper-policing is an aggressive law enforcement strategy that involves frequent traffic stops, searches, arrests, and citations. Dr. Stuart's Skid Row is located in Los Angeles and is home to over one-third of the city's parolees. During his ethnographic study, Dr. Stuart quickly determined that residents live in front of "an audience of police officers who remain fixated on the most innocent of actions." He learned first-hand that staying out of trouble does not always keep individuals out of handcuffs; at one point, he was detained by police simply because he "looked like a suspect." Dr. Stuart explained that his detainment "peaked [his] interest about how you live in a neighborhood where at any given time, an officer can throw you against a wall and put you in handcuffs for no reason at all." During his five years of fieldwork, Dr. Stuart regularly met with an informal exercise group at a pile of weights on the sidewalk in the neighborhood. The meeting point, fittingly called "The Pile," was a spot for neighbors to share personal experiences about interactions with officers and discuss tactics for averting the police's attention. Dr. Stuart found that the hyper-policing tactics implemented in Skid Row force residents to be highly aware of their "outward appearances and associations."

Dr. Stuart's research will eventually culminate into a book which he hopes will ultimately be used to facilitate community-based solutions to over-policing and profiling of these men and women.



Stephanie DiPietro, an assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice at University of Missouri-St. Louis, also spent the summer working on a book-length project. Dr. DiPietro's manuscript called "Making it Home: The Search for Family, Community and Identity," will explore the

experiences of Bosnian refugees before and after the war in former Yugoslavia. More specifically, her book will describe the adaptation experiences, community, family life and criminal behavior of Bosnian refugees living in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. DiPietro first became interested in the experiences of Bosnian refugees when she worked as a visiting professor there. To her surprise, the large unique Bosnian population in St. Louis did not receive much attention from researchers. Intrigued by the lack of research done to date, Dr. DiPietro was interested in about how the Bosnian refugee population has been adapting since the violent war waged in Bosnia from 1992-1995. Her project is built on a combination of ethnographic research, historical analysis, and interviews with forty Bosnian refugees. The next step in her project is to go to Bosnia to "conduct a comparative study of the long-term patterns of adaptation in St. Louis and post-war Bosnia among those that stayed behind." She even plans on interviewing individuals in St. Louis with family members that remained in Bosnia.

For Dr. DiPietro, the Summer Research Institute was instrumental in developing her work and expanding her knowledge of qualitative methodology. She comments, "My colleagues have been amazing resources in helping me sort through my data. The mentorship has been incredible." Dr. Armenta, Dr. Stuart, and Dr. DiPietro's projects are representative of the many ideas that comprise the collaborative dialogue at the Summer Research Institute.

In closing, the Racial Democracy and Crime Network Workshop demonstrated the important role of researchers in identifying and publicizing previously under-researched social injustices. By illuminating the flaws in social institutions, researchers give a voice to individuals who are burdened by crime and injustice. It is the participants' hope (as well as mine) that their finished projects will be useful for policy makers.

What Center Participants are Doing



The Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) hosted a highly successful 2013 Workshop on July 25-26, 2013 (pictured above are members of the RDCJN Steering Committee after their meeting). The conference, which took place at the Blackwell Hotel on the OSU campus, had the highest attendance in the history of the RDCJN, with approximately 100 attendees. The first morning of the conference included presentations by the Summer Research Institute participants. We also heard updates from Susan Sterett and Marjorie Zatz regarding National Science Foundation funding opportunities. David Thomas and John Garcia of the Resource Center for Minority Data (RCMD) of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research at University of Michigan (ICPSR) led an informative webinar on the various datasets accessible at their center. The first day concluded with a stimulating panel on Media, Popular Culture, and Crime and Justice. With Patricia Warren of Florida State University serving as session chair, panelists included Gray Cavender (Arizona State), Kishonna Gray (Eastern Kentucky), Charis Kubrin (University of California-



Ruth Peterson talking during a breakout session

Irvine) and Osei Appiah (OSU). The second day of the conference started with updates from RDCJN Program Committee co-chairs Eric Stewart (Florida State University) and Rod Brunson (Rutgers-Newark), as well as American Society of Criminology chair of the Division on People of Color and Crime, Hillary Potter (University of Colorado-Boulder). There were breakout sessions for RDCJN participants to discuss current and developing research collaborations.



Glenn Loury during his keynote address

Also, we hosted an interesting didactic session on the balance between building an academic career while engaging in social justice advocacy. Led by session chair Deanna Wilkinson (OSU), panelists included Elsa Chen (Santa Clara University), Andres Rengifo (Rutgers-Newark), Yasser Payne (University of Delaware), and Townsend Price-Spratlen (OSU). Our keynote address was delivered by Glenn Loury (Professor of Economics, Brown University). He gave a rousing and informative lecture on the responsibilities of the academy in the age of mass incarceration. In sum, this year's workshop strengthened network collaborations, and provided stimulating discussions on timely issues in criminal justice research. We are honored to support the important work carried on by the scholars of the RDCJN.



Amy Bonomi (Professor and Chair, Human Development and Family Studies – Michigan State University) left her position as Associate Professor of Human Sciences at Ohio State this summer. Dr. Bonomi is still an invaluable

affiliate at CJRC, but we will miss her here in Columbus. Her recent research regarding the physical and sexual abuse of women as portrayed in the popular 2011 novel *Fifty Shades of Grey* appears in the September 2013 *Journal of Women's Health* article, "[Double Crap! Abuse and Harmed Identity in Fifty Shades of Grey](#)" (co-authored with OSU graduate students Lauren Altenburger and Nicole Walton). This study has received a lot of media attention, appearing as a topic of discussion in stories from [CBS Cleveland](#), the [Los Angeles Times](#), and [MSNBC](#).

Christin Carotta (Ph.D. candidate, Human Development and Family Science)

will begin a Research Associate (post doc) position in the Human Development and Family Studies Department at Michigan State University, starting in January 2013. Christin will be working on publishing from her dissertation on hopes expressed between domestic violence offenders and victims. She will also be extending her research interests to develop programs for disadvantaged children, particularly programs that



address hope and nurture resilience. This latter research focus is an extension of Christin's work as a teacher with children in inner city school settings.



Nyron Crawford (Ph.D. candidate, Political Science – OSU) received a Diversity Dissertation Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is in residence there this academic year as a pre-doctoral fellow.

Walter DeKeseredy (Professor, Criminology – University of Ontario Institute of Technology) has the following new publications to report:



DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press). *Crime, Justice, and Inequality: inequality: Oh Canada, Where Art Thou?* *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*.

DeKeseredy, W.S., Muzzatti, S.L., & Donnermeyer, J.F. (2013). "Mad Men in Bib Overalls: Media's Horrification and Pornification of Rural Culture." *Critical Criminology* (OnlineFirst).

DeKeseredy, W.S., & Schwartz, M.D. (2013). "Confronting Progressive Retreatism and Minimalism: The Role of a New Left Realist Approach." *Critical Criminology* (OnlineFirst).

DeKeseredy, W.S., & Rennson, C.M. (2013). "Comparing Female Victims of Male Perpetrated Separation/Divorce Assault Across Geographical Regions: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey." *International Journal for Crime and Justice*, 2, 65-81.

Donnermeyer, J.F., & DeKeseredy, W.S. (2014). *Rural Criminology*. London: Routledge.

DeKeseredy, W.S., & Schwartz, M.D. (2013). *Male Peer Support and Violence Against Women: The History and Verification of a Theory*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.



Dana Haynie (Professor, Sociology; Director, CJRC – OSU) is the 2013 Chair of the Crime, Law and Deviance Section of the American Sociological Association. In addition, she has two new

articles co-authored with OSU alumnus Dr. Brian Soller (Assistant Professor, Sociology – University of New Mexico) and OSU sociologist Kristi Williams:

Haynie, Dana L., Brian Soller, and Kristi Williams. "Anticipating Early Fatality: Individual, Peer, and School Level Fatality and Adolescent Risky Behaviors." Forthcoming in *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Soller, Brian and Dana L. Haynie. "Structuring the Future: Social Networks, Anticipated Life Events, and Adolescent Sexual Behavior." Forthcoming in *Sociological Inquiry*.

Creola Johnson (Professor, Moritz College of Law – OSU) has a forthcoming book entitled *Is a Law Degree Still Worth the Price? It Depends on What the Law School Has to Offer You* (Carolina Academic Press). The book is slated for release in October 2013.



James Moore III (Associate Professor, Physical Activity and Educational Services – OSU) gave a presentation entitled "Counseling and Teaching Strategies for Nurturing Resiliency among African American Male Students," at Vanderbilt University during the Peabody Professional



Institute, June 3-7, 2013. In addition, Dr. Moore is slated to serve as a member of the Partnership Circle for Boys and Young Men of Color, organized for the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) in Washington DC. The Partnership Circle is an outlet for policy organizations, advocacy groups and researchers to discuss opportunities to influence policy in improving health, employment, and education outcomes.

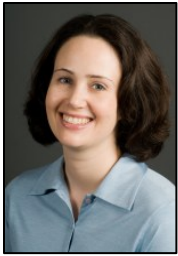
Townsend Price-Spratlen (Associate Professor, Sociology – OSU) presented findings from his book, *Reconstructing Rage: Transformative Reentry in the Era of Mass Incarceration*.



The talk took place on September 17th at the Hale Black Cultural Center at OSU, and was sponsored by the Todd A. Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male.



Randolph Roth (Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, History – OSU) was invited to serve as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Roundtable on Understanding Crime Trends in America.



Heather Schoenfeld (Assistant Professor, Legal Studies and Education – Northwestern University) is now an Assistant Professor of Legal Studies and Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, having left her position as Associate Professor in the OSU Department of Sociology this summer. We are sad to see our wonderful colleague leave Columbus, but we wish her the best of luck in this new endeavor.

Terrell Strayhorn (Associate Professor, Higher Education – OSU) was highlighted in the September 2013 issue of *the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* as one of “Six African Americans Taking on New Roles in Higher Education.” This is due to Dr. Strayhorn’s recent appointment as director of the Center for Inclusion, Diversity and Academic Success (IDEAS) at Ohio State. Terrell also authored his latest book titled *Theoretical Frameworks in College Student Research*, which was just published by University Press of America/Rowman & Littlefield (2013). The book serves as a tool or guide for using theory and theoretical frameworks appropriately in research on college student populations. Strayhorn illustrates the role that theory plays on all aspects of research (e.g., question formation, methods, analysis) using his own published studies as examples. Back cover endorsements praises the book’s practicality, research base, and organization.



Jason Whitesel (Ph.D. alumnus, OSU; Professor, Social Sciences – Seminole State College) has a new article entitled “*Normalizing Desire: Stigma and the Carnavalesque in Gay Bigmen’s Cultural Practices.*” The piece appears in the September 2013 issue of *Men and Masculinities*, and was co-authored with Dr. Amy Shuman (Folklore Studies – OSU).



Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

Global Crime is calling for submissions for a special issue on transnational organized crime and terrorism – The guest editors for this issue are Helena Carrapico (University of Dundee), Daniela Irrera (University of Catania) and Bill Tupman (University of Exeter). In recent years, the United Nations and European institutions have recurrently underlined their growing concern towards the threat posed by potential and existing collusions between organized criminals and terrorist groups. The European Parliament and Europol, in particular, have recently alerted to the degree of dangerousness that both organized crime and terrorism currently represent in the world, highlighting that the cooperation or merger between these two phenomena is of urgent contemporary interest. Academic literature in this area, however, remains scarce and characterized not only by a degree of skepticism, but also by a lack of interdisciplinarity. Bearing in mind this gap in the literature, the guest editors of the Special Issue wish to contribute to this field of expertise by gathering a number of interdisciplinary case-studies that will engage with the concept of crime-terror nexus. The guest editors therefore welcome articles aiming at: enriching the empirical knowledge on the nature of the crime-terror nexus and its evolution throughout the world; exploring the impact of the nexus within different economic, political and societal contexts; and expanding on its theoretical conceptualization. **The deadline for the submission of articles is November 15, 2013.** Authors are encouraged to contact the guest editors with early expressions of interest. Please contact Helena Carrapico through the following e-mail address: helena.carrapico@eui.eu.

International Criminal Justice Review invites submissions for a special issue, “Advancing Integrated Theories with the use of International and Cross-National Samples” – Edited by Dr. Lisa R. Muftić, the goal of this special issue is to disseminate new and innovative research that explores the efficacy of integrated criminological theories via theoretical tests that rely on the use of international or cross-national samples. Manuscripts are welcome from diverse methodological approaches that focus on empirical assessments of a specific integrated theory (e.g., interactional theory) or integrated approach (e.g., macro-micro theoretical integration). An abstract not to exceed 200 words and a brief biographical sketch must accompany the manuscript. **Submissions should arrive no later than December 1, 2013** 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. Lisa R. Muftić at ICJR.integration@gmail.com.

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 *ICJR* formatting guidelines: <http://icj.sagepub.com/>.

Criminal Justice Review (CJR) invites submissions for a special issue, "Drugs, Crime, & Goldstein's Tripartite Framework"

– The special issue will be guest edited by Dr. Scott Jacques. Almost 30 years ago, Paul Goldstein published a seminal article in which he suggests an elegant and powerful idea, namely that drugs and violence are related in three ways that he termed the psychopharmacological, economic compulsive, and systemic models. Since its debut, this idea has served as a spring board and organizing framework for hundreds if not thousands of studies into the link between drugs and violence and, more broadly, crime. The purpose of this special issue is to review and synthesize what has been learned thus far about the drugs-violence/crime models, and also to carve out original and fruitful paths for further inquiry. Consideration will be given to papers that accomplish one or both of those goals. Submissions will be peer-reviewed. Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages double-spaced excluding tables, figures, and references. An abstract of approximately 200 words and a biographical sketch must accompany the manuscript.

Submissions must arrive no later than December 15, 2013. Authors must send two electronic copies of the manuscript, one full version (with cover page containing the author's name, title, institutional contact information; acknowledgments; grant numbers; and the date, location, and conference at which the manuscript may have been presented), and one blind copy (minus all identifying information) to Dr. Jacques at sjacques1@gsu.edu.

~Featured Article~

An Interview with Heather Washington

by Amanda Kennedy



Last month I had the chance to talk to Dr. Heather Washington, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at State University of New York-Albany. Heather and I discussed her reasons for becoming a criminologist, her graduate school experience, how it is to be a new faculty member, her research, and an exciting recent professional opportunity she had.

To hear Heather tell it, she has a long-held fascination with studying crime. As an undergraduate at West Virginia University (WVU), Heather originally started as a forensic science major. However, this wasn't the ideal area of study for her. "I quickly realized that what I was really interested in understanding was *why* people engage in crime," she stated. Heather became a psychology major, eventually switching to criminology. "This is where I found my 'home'," she explained. When I asked her why criminology was such a precise fit for her interests, Heather said, "Criminology...is the discipline that really allowed me to explore the many facets and nuances of criminal involvement and its causes from biological, to social, to psychological, to familial, to macro level processes." One of Heather's mentors as an undergraduate was Dr. Rachel Woldoff, an alumna of the OSU Sociology program and one of Heather's professors at WVU. Through Rachel's influence and her own academic inclinations, Heather wound up as a graduate student in sociology at OSU.

Heather brought her passion and academic skills to her work as a Ph.D. student here. She was a graduate research associate for two major projects during her studies. Heather was on the research teams for the National Science Foundation-funded project, "Dynamics of Space and Time Use: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences for Crime and Problem Behaviors," and the National Institute on Drug Abuse-funded study, "Spatial Patterns of Social Isolation, Adolescent Marijuana Use, and Co-morbid Sexual/HIV Risk."

Participation in these activities allowed Heather to hone her prowess in quantitative and geographic information systems forms of analyses. Her Ph.D. dissertation, which was chaired by former CJRC Director and Professor Emerita of Sociology Dr. Ruth Peterson, examined the effects of fathers' incarceration on their children's behavioral outcomes. I asked Heather how it was to have Ruth as a mentor. Importantly, Ruth helped Heather realize that any research has to have a compelling story which is clear to the audience. "Working with Ruth was such a rewarding experience. She will give you autonomy and let you make your own mistakes, which can be frustrating. But that process allowed me to have a better handle on who I am as a scholar, and to truly know what my capabilities are. I feel confident figuring things out on my own as a result." In addition, Heather said becoming an affiliate of the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (RDCJN) at Ruth's suggestion was beneficial. "There's so much support and potential for collaboration in the group. You see examples of people who have successfully done academia, which makes you know it's possible for you too."

In the first semester of her second year at SUNY Albany, I asked Heather how her experience has been as a new faculty member. The transition from graduate student to professor has involved a strong lesson about time management. "Ruth used to tell me 'You have a lot of free time as a graduate student, which you won't fully realize until you become an assistant professor.' I didn't fully grasp what her words meant until I stepped into the actual role." Heather is teaching two classes this term, and is finding that the balance of successfully advancing her research agenda, mentoring students, and learning to live and work in a new place is challenging, but achievable. "It's been really great. My colleagues are supportive, and there are so many outstanding undergraduate and graduate students at my school," she said. Heather has really enjoyed teaching as well. "The students are so bright." She is currently instructing a writing-intensive course for undergraduates, and explained that "it's been wonderful to see the progress these students have made during their time in this class." Heather is also teaching her first Ph.D. course, and is assisting her doctoral students in preparing conference-ready projects. In terms of current research, Heather is honing her dissertation work, looking at financial impact, prior quality of relationships, and the effects of parental absence when it comes to children of incarcerated parents, as well as the behavioral repercussions of these children's exposure to domestic violence. "The takeaway message from my dissertation is that there is no one universal effect on children when their parents are incarcerated. All of these families have different stories, different needs.

Because of this, blanketing policies to help these families are not going to be effective," Heather explained.

Heather is also earning recognition for her important research. In August, she was personally invited to be a guest at the White House for a conference entitled "Parental Incarceration in the United States: Bringing Together Research and Policy to Reduce Collateral Costs for Children." The workshop was organized by fellow RDCJN member Dr. John Hagan (John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology and Law at Northwestern University; the American Bar Foundation), and Dr. Holly Foster (Associate Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University). The goal of the event was to congregate scholars and policy makers in order to critically review "life-scope effects of the incarceration of parents on the well-being of children from infancy to adulthood," (quote courtesy of event program). "The experience was amazing. It was wonderful to be around people who were passionate about the same topic and understood the importance of the issue," Heather explained. She appreciated the chance to join with likeminded scholars whose work she had read but had not yet met. "There was a great chance for collaboration on ideas with so many people in the field. We were able to make connections between findings and effective policy implications for how problems can be addressed in the future."

Talking to Heather reminded me that we still miss her here at CJRC, but are proud of her important work as a successful scholar on the rise.

Thanks to Dr. Heather Washington, Dr. Amada Armenta, Dr. Stephanie DiPietro, and Dr. Forrest Stuart for sharing their valuable time and insights for our articles, Dr. Marie Provine for her photos of RDCJN events/SRI participants featured in this issue, 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@cjrc.org). If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send Amanda your e-mail address.
