



Criminal Justice Research Center News



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Featured Article: An Interview with Chris Browning and Beth Boettner

From the Director's Desk



Hi, everyone. We are pleased to be in the beginnings of a productive Autumn semester here at CJRC.

This July we held the largest Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Workshop ever.

In its twelfth year, the event saw over 100 people in attendance! Our workshop theme this year was "Crime and Criminal Justice in Social Context." Dr. Bruce Western from Harvard Kennedy School of Government was our keynote speaker, and he gave a compelling, insightful talk on mass incarceration and the politics of reform. We also held a didactic panel on the second day of the workshop where panelists Jody Miller (Rutgers), Angela Bryant (OSU-Newark), Jennifer Cobbina (Michigan State), Riane Page (OSU student) and Terry Green (SMART Start Council Member-YouthBuild USA) all discussed ways to effectively address the educational needs of criminalized populations. For more information on the event, please see Annie Curie's article highlighting presentations by the Summer Research Institute participants, and her interview with Dr. Western.

On that note, we welcome Annie Curie as our 2014-2015 undergraduate intern for the CJRC Newsletter. She is a senior Arts and Sciences honors student majoring in Political Science and minoring in Economics and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Annie has previously interned with the Parliament of Canada, has written field scripts for the AFL-CIO, and has studied comparative political systems as an exchange student in Lieden, Netherlands. We are impressed by her experiences and abilities, and we are excited that she is part of the CJRC team this year!

We also are pleased about our other new undergraduate interns who recently began work with Dr. Creola Johnson on her predatory lending research: Psychology major Shannon Henry, Criminology major Avion Johnson, and International and Domestic Human Rights: Policy and Analysis major Clayton Sharb.

Further, we have a number of new affiliates at the center. Hollie Nyseth Brehm is in her first year as an Assistant Professor in Sociology, and is doing exciting research on community-level violence in the genocides that occurred in Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Sudan. Our new Sociology graduate student affiliates are Michael Englehart, Evelyn Gertz, Laura De Marco, and Eric LaPlante. We also have new professional school affiliates - Ashley Bailes, current 1L student at Moritz College of Law and an excellent former CJRC undergraduate intern, and Samantha Boch, a M.S. /Ph.D. student in nursing specializing in issues of corrections and chronic stress.

Around the corner is our first talk of the year with Dr. Charis Kubrin of UC Irvine. On September 25th, Charis will share her important research on how rap lyrics are being used as evidence at criminal trials. We hope you can join us. Happy fall term!

--- Dana

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Upcoming Event:

“Art or Confession? Using Rap Lyrics as Evidence in Criminal Trials”

Charis Kubrin, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at University of California at Irvine



Thursday, September 25th, 2014

**12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.
217 Journalism Building
OSU Campus**

devastating effects it can have on defendants. Finally, I consider the elements of rap music that leave it vulnerable to judicial abuse, as well as the artistic, racial, and legal ramifications of using this particular genre of music to put people in jail. I conclude with recommendations for further research in this area, pointing out specific areas where scholarship would most effectively expose what it means to put rap on trial. vulnerable to judicial abuse, as well as the artistic, racial, and legal ramifications of using this particular genre of music to put people in jail. I conclude with recommendations for further research in this area, pointing out specific areas where scholarship would most effectively expose what it means to put rap on trial.

The Speaker

[Charis E. Kubrin](#) is Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and (by courtesy) Sociology at the University of California at Irvine. Professor Kubrin’s research focuses on neighborhoods, race, and violence as central to social disorganization theory. A related line of research examines the intersection of music, culture and social identity, particularly as it applies to hip-hop and minority youth in disadvantaged communities. In 2005, Professor Kubrin received the [Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award](#) from the American Society of Criminology and the Morris Rosenberg Award for Recent Achievement from the District of Columbia Sociological Society. In 2007, she was a visiting fellow at the Centre for Criminology at Oxford University.

Abstract

In criminal proceedings across the U.S., rap music lyrics are being introduced as evidence of a defendant’s guilt. In this talk I draw attention to this disturbing practice, what my co-author Erik Nielson and I call “rap on trial,” and explore its context, describe its elements and contours, and consider its broader significance. I first offer historical context, demonstrating that although the widespread use of rap lyrics in criminal trials may be a relatively recent phenomenon, it resides within a long tradition of antagonism between the legal establishment and hip hop culture, one that can be traced back to hip hop’s earliest roots. I then offer examples of recent cases in which rap music has been used as evidence in trials against amateur rappers, almost all of whom are young men of color, in order to illustrate the specific ways that prosecutors present the music to judges and juries, as well as to highlight the

Upcoming Event:

"Gendering Genocide"

*Adam Jones, Professor of Political Science at
University of British Columbia-Okanagan
Campus*



Wednesday, October 8th, 2014

**12:00 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.
217 Journalism Building
OSU Campus**

Abstract

The study of gender and genocide has become an increasingly prominent theme in the interdisciplinary field of comparative genocide studies. This talk adopts an inclusive approach to gender, considering the role of women and men as targets and perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity. It will also explore the themes of "gendercidal institutions," sexual violence as a genocidal strategy, and the use of gendered motifs in genocidal propaganda.

The Speaker

Adam Jones is Professor of Political Science at University of British Columbia-Okanagan Campus. He is best known for his work in comparative genocide studies. He is author of a leading textbook in the field, *Genocide: A Comprehensive Introduction* (Routledge, 2nd ed., 2010), and author or editor of numerous other works on genocide and crimes against humanity, including *The Scourge of Genocide: Essays and Reflections* (Routledge, 2013). From 2005-07, he was Associate Research Fellow in the Genocide Studies

Program at Yale University. He has given talks and academic presentations on genocide at conferences and seminars in North and South America, Europe, and East Asia. He was senior book review editor of the *Journal of Genocide Research* from 2004 to 2013, when he was commissioned to edit the *Studies in Genocide and Crimes against Humanity* book series for Routledge Publishers.

Speakers' Column

An Overview of the 12th Annual Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network Workshop

by Annie Curie, CJRC Undergraduate Intern

The Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network recently convened for its 12th Annual Workshop held at the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center of the Ohio State University. Scholars from around the nation came together to present and discuss the findings of their research through a series of presentations and Q&A panels. The participants of this conference sought to analyze important issues in criminal justice through deliberation with several didactic and substantive panels. Focus areas of this year's conference included "Racialization and the Criminal Justice System," "Drug Crimes, Social Inequality, and Incarceration Policies," and the overarching theme of the workshop, "Examining Crime and Justice in Social Context."



Dr. Bruce Western (photo courtesy of Harvard)

The keynote speaker of the two-day conference was Dr. Bruce Western, Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy and the Faculty Chair of the Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. His presentation, "Mass Incarceration and a Politics of Reform," addressed the issue of rising incarceration rates in spite of dropping

crime rates. As he discussed this rise, Dr. Western pointed out that part of this is due to long sentences, which have been proven in research to fail as deterrents. Dr. Western also addressed the inequity of incarceration as it impacts undereducated, poor and minority communities far more than affluent, formally educated white communities. In fact, prison time is twice as likely as a four-year degree for African American males, according to a study he cited. Dr. Western also discussed how much of the inequality of imprisonment is “invisible, cumulative, and generational.” However, in his presentation Dr. Western also cited opportunities for positive change in the criminal justice system. His recommendation was to cycle of poverty and incarceration, as well as to combat the stigma faced by those who are or have been incarcerated. He wrapped up his speech with the tale of an American faced with Ethiopian justice. In this story, the American man was tried in Ethiopia, where he experienced a different justice system and its less punitive yet more rehabilitative outcomes. When asked to comment after his presentation, Dr. Western was excited that this was his first time attending the conference. He stressed his admiration for the workshop and his hope that the ideas of these scholars would translate to criminal justice reform.

During this conference, I also spoke with two of the Summer Research Institute (SRI) participants, Dr. Nicole Martorano Van Cleve and Dr. Reuben Miller, about their work. Dr. Van Cleve is currently an Assistant Professor at Temple University’s Criminal Justice Department, though she also has honorary appointments in the Department of Sociology and the Beasley School of Law. Dr. Miller is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work at University of Michigan with a focus on social welfare policy and the urban poor. Each of these scholars presented on the first day of the conference during the SRI panels. Both utilized ethnographic studies to examine issues within different areas of the criminal justice system. Specifically, Dr. Van Cleve focused on the court system in Cook County, Illinois, while Dr. Miller examined the ex-offender reentry programs in Chicago.

Dr. Van Cleve acquired her interest in the racial divisions of the Cook County court system after working as an intern in the State Attorney’s office. This internship provided her with first-hand observations of how the court system had remained racialized in what she calls the current “colorblind era.” The time she spent working in the State Attorney’s office began to serve as a personal ethnographic study of sorts. She utilized her time working in the office as an opportunity to examine its functioning, or often lack thereof. This would later translate for her into a Ph.D. and a book project, the latter of which she presented to this year’s RDCJN Workshop. Her book specifically addresses the way in which the court’s structure influences and perpetuates racialization, even though people perceive



The 2014 Summer Research Institute cohort (L to R – Lallen Johnson Hart, Nicole Martorano Van Cleve, Danny Gascón, Evelyn Patterson, Reuben Miller, Ruth Peterson, Michael Walker, and Patrick Lopez Aguado. Not pictured: Valerie Wright)

it as colorblind. When asked to present evidence of this racialization, she provided examples of instances in which defendants, witnesses, and even victims were segregated and abused. In order to provide her research with legitimacy beyond the collected narratives, Dr. Van Cleve turned to empirical data collected by 130 research assistants. The experiences of these research assistants within the courts varied based on their race, upholding Dr. Van Cleve’s hypothesis that the segregation of the courts is based on race rather than simply a distaste for criminal behavior. A few of the minority research assistants were even mistaken by court officials for defendants, while Caucasian researchers were escorted through the building and allowed certain exclusive comforts. Her recommendation for change is to remove the court system from its isolation by moving it into the city center, thus increasing its accountability. Currently, the Cook County court is a microcosm on the outskirts of the city. Dr. Van Cleve also suggested that judges should be appointed rather than elected as a way to ensure that they are qualified to fairly deliberate cases.

Dr. Miller focused on the other side of imprisonment: prisoner re-entry programs. In his research, he conducted a 36-month-long ethnographic study of Chicago’s reentry programs to see if they achieved their intended purpose of helping ex-offenders begin their lives anew in the community. Many of the programs claim that they can transform lives by educating participants on how to be productive members of society. These programs provide employment readiness programs and education on social skills. Dr. Miller’s findings reflected a couple problems with the program, but also highlighted how these programs could be improved. The first among these dilemmas is that policy makers often make assumptions about the groups of people they aim to help with these programs. These negative assumptions are often internalized by the

participants of the programs, who then consider themselves deviant and may choose to leave the programs. In doing so, these “failed” participants are forced to fend for themselves and have a more difficult time seeking out work. Many find themselves soon incarcerated again. At one point in our conversation, I asked Dr. Miller if he felt that this social institution is something that needs to be changed. He responded affirmatively and provided some examples of positive changes. For instance, the programs could transition from just using cognitive self-help sessions to also providing concrete help such as job assistance. This change has the potential to make the programs a tangible resource that will encourage higher rates of participation and success.

What Center Participants are Doing

Krista Benson (Ph.D. Candidate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies - OSU) has just completed a preliminary research trip to Spokane, Washington with the support of a CJRC Graduate Student Summer Research Grant.



In this trip, she solidified research relationships with local detention center officials, social service providers, and court officials who work with justice-involved youth. These conversations have set the foundation for her dissertation research this year, tentatively entitled "The Kids Who Are(n't) There: Indigenous Youth, Child Removal, and Juvenile Justice," where she will explore the experiences of Native youth who have had contact with the juvenile justice system and the ways that gender, sexuality, and tribal and family connectivity impact their experiences and are impacted by their justice involvement.



Kate Calder (Associate Professor, Statistics - OSU) was named an American Statistical Association Fellow for her excellent contributions to the development of Bayesian statistical methodology, her significant multidisciplinary contributions, her work in spatial crime and spatiotemporal data, her superior teaching and mentoring of graduate students, and her overall service to the profession.

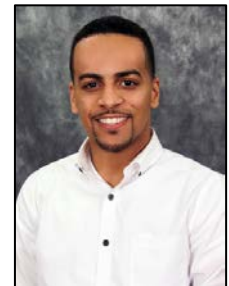
Joshua Dressler (Professor, Moritz College of Law - OSU)

was named a Distinguished University Professor at OSU, which is the university's most prestigious professorial title. The designation is given to faculty who have been with OSU for at least five years and have demonstrated outstanding records in research, teaching and professional service during their appointment.



Robert Greenbaum (Associate Professor, John Glenn School of Public Affairs - OSU) recently co-authored a chapter in an edited volume with his fellow Glenn School colleague, Dr. Stephanie Moulton. The chapter, "Studying Patterns in Housing and Urban Development," appears in *Public Economics in the United States: How the Federal Government Analyzes and Influences the Economy* (Praeger, 2014).

Royel Johnson (Ph.D. Student, Higher Education and Student Affairs - OSU) has accepted a full-time Policy Analyst position at the Center for Higher Education Enterprise (CHEE) at OSU. He is working directly with CJRC faculty affiliate Dr. Terrell Strayhorn (Professor, Higher Education - OSU).



Stephanie Kent (Ph.D. alumna in Sociology - OSU; Associate Professor of Sociology -



Cleveland State University) and Jason Carmichael (Ph.D. alumnus in Sociology - OSU; Associate Professor of Sociology - McGill University) had an article in the June 2014 issue of the *American Journal of Criminal Justice* entitled "[Racial Residential Segregation and Social Control: A Panel Study of the Variation in Police Strength Across U.S. Cities, 1980-2010.](#)"



Marianna Klochko (Associate Professor, Sociology – OSU Marion) presented “Attitudes about Success: Is It Rational to be Dishonest During Economic Transition?” at the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July 17, 2014.

James L. Moore III (Professor, Education and Human Ecology – OSU) recently had his book published by Emerald Group Publishing Limited. The book is entitled *African-American Males in Pre K012 Schools: Informing Research, Policy, and Practice*.



Ruth Peterson (Professor Emerita, Sociology; Former Director of CJRC – OSU) was named President Elect of American Society of Criminology. She will begin her term in 2016.

Sara Schiavone (2014 Undergraduate alumna, Sociology – OSU) was given an award by the OSU Department of Sociology for being an outstanding senior in the major in 2014. Sara has interned with Criminal Justice Research Center twice, assisting Dr. Amy Bonomi with her project on victim recantation in intimate partner violence cases, and working at the Mitigation and Investigation Division at the Ohio Public Defender.



Opportunities, Calls for Papers, and Conferences

The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice is currently soliciting manuscripts for a special issue on prisons and imprisonment. Manuscripts with a variety of foci will be considered for the issue, including examinations of 1) the causes and/or correlates of inmate maladjustment (e.g., mental health problems, crime, and victimization); 2) the responses to or consequences of inmate maladjustment; 3) correctional staff well-being (e.g., stress, safety, morale); 4) the effects of exposure to various prison environments on inmates or staff; and 5) effectiveness of strategies designed to improve inmate and staff well-being. The issue will be guest edited by Benjamin Steiner and John Wooldredge. All submitted manuscripts will be peer reviewed. Manuscripts must be 25 pages or less, double-spaced, and accompanied by an abstract of approximately 100 words. The abstract, references, and all figures and tables are not counted towards the 25 page limit. **Manuscripts should be received no later than December 1, 2015.** Please send two electronic copies of the manuscript, one complete version (with a cover page including the author’s name, title, institutional affiliation with complete address, email and phone contact information, and any acknowledgments with relevant funding information), and one blind copy with all identifying information removed to Benjamin Steiner (bmsteiner@unomaha.edu). Please include "Special Issue of JCCJ" in the subject line.

Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research, an annual series which focuses upon cutting-edge topics in family research around the globe, is seeking manuscript submissions for its 2015 volume. The 2015 volume of *CPFR* will focus on the theme of ‘Violence and Crime in the Family: Patterns, Causes, and Consequences.’ In virtually all societies, crime is an ever-present problem. Although families are often envisioned as a ‘safe haven,’ criminologists and family researchers have found the familial context to be at the core of many forms of crime and violence. This multidisciplinary volume of *CPFR* will address topics such as: child abuse and neglect, spousal violence, marital rape, incarceration and parenting, community crime and family well-being, family life and delinquency, intrafamily violence, familial homicide, sexual abuse, parental kidnapping, and familicide. The 2015 volume will be coedited by Sheila Royo Maxwell of Michigan State University and Sampson Lee Blair of The State University of New York (Buffalo). Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editors (maxwel22@msu.edu and sblair@buffalo.edu), preferably in MS WORD format. Manuscripts should not exceed 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables,

figures, and references). Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in *CPFR*. Manuscripts should adhere to the APA format. Manuscripts should represent previously unpublished work. An abstract of 150-200 words should be included at the beginning of each manuscript. All manuscripts will undergo peer review. **The deadline for initial submissions is January 20, 2015.** Any questions may be directed to the editors.

~Featured Article~

An Interview with Chris Browning and Beth Boettner

by Amanda Kennedy



Dr. Chris Browning

Last week I had the opportunity to interview Dr. Chris Browning, Professor of Sociology and a long time CJRC and Institute for Population Research (IPR) affiliate at OSU, and Dr. Beth Boettner, a Senior Research Associate at IPR. Our discussion centered on the Adolescent Health and Development in Context Project, an interdisciplinary, large-scale probability study unprecedented in its scope and methodological approach. The goal of the project is to understand how social contexts affect mental health and behavioral development during adolescence, and researchers are gathering real-time information on behaviors, moods, and social interaction via GPS data and text messaging using Smartphone-based instruments. Chris and Beth are currently working with a talented team of faculty members from across the university, as well as interviewers at OSU's Center for Human Resource Research (CHRR), in collecting primary data from youths across Franklin County. The project team is also oversampling adolescents from a lower income area of Columbus to better discern ways in which these youth utilize community spaces and resources to promote

their own successful development into adulthood. To support this massive research undertaking, Chris and his co-Principal Investigators Dr. Elizabeth Cooksey (Sociology and CHRR Associate Director), Dr. Kate Calder (Statistics), and Dr. Mei-Po Kwan (Geography, formerly of OSU and now at University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign) were awarded over 4 million dollars in funding from National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the William T. Grant Foundation.

I asked Chris about the origins of the current study. "This project comes out of years' worth of work I did with Ruth Peterson, Laurie Krivo, and Mei-Po Kwan." About a decade ago, Chris, Ruth, Laurie and Mei-Po started the Spatial Crime Working Group (later joined by Kate Calder), initially sponsored by CJRC and eventually funded by the National Science Foundation and NIDA. "We looked at spatial aspects of crime and delinquency with a focus on neighborhoods," Chris said. Together, they worked on a neighborhood segregation project which explored how immediate neighborhoods and surrounding communities might matter in determining criminal activity. They also conducted analyses on the Los Angeles Family and Neighborhood Study (LA FANS) to examine activity space effects on individual-level risky and problem behaviors in adolescents. "That project ended up being fruitful, but we realized the LA FANS data had activity space data which was incomplete," Chris explained. They had data from approximately five different location coordinates per household. "We might have a school, the grocery store, the home of a caregiver, or a healthcare location for the youth, but we didn't have a well-rounded set of actual routine activity spaces which truly characterized the pattern of individuals within the household, particularly for the kids." To help address the incomplete picture offered by this data, Chris, Kate Calder, Elizabeth Cooksey and Mei-Po Kwan submitted simultaneous applications in 2010 to the NIH and the W.T. Grant Foundation to collect this needed information. "We made the argument that neighborhood effects research is crucial for understanding crime and delinquency, but we need to move to the next stage where we are getting a lot more precision in truly understanding such exposures," Chris said.

By September of 2011, the Adolescent Health and Development in Context project was in full swing. Beth was brought on board as the lead Project Manager for the study, though Chris quipped, "The title 'project manager' inadequately captures the full range of responsibilities she actually has to tackle!" Beth said, "I like to think of my job as taking all of the great ideas that live in Chris' mind, and make them into reality." She serves as the liaison between the co-investigators at IPR

and CHRR. Beth is also doing an analysis of the first 150 cases collected to check the sample quality, look for any errors, and assess the data for initial face validity.

Chris explained the design of the data collection for a typical case, a process which occurs over the course of a week. Youths are interviewed with their caregivers in their homes at the beginning of the week, then the youths are given a cell phone. "In carrying that phone everywhere, GPS data is being collected continuously so we can see where they are going." The participants also are sent "mini-surveys" five times a day, including questions about who they are with, where they are, what activities they are engaged in, and how they are feeling. Further, caregivers are asked in a survey to report on their own perceptions of their neighborhoods, including their levels of trust towards their neighbors and whether people are willing to help or intervene to maintain safety in public spaces. In trying to pinpoint aspects of social and physical disorder in neighborhoods, caregivers are also asked to provide detailed information on all of the locations they frequent in the community. "In our first 100 cases, we have over 800 location reports from the caregivers. Ultimately, the amount of spatially referenced data we will have on social processes will be enormous, without even taking into account the kids' accounts of the locations where they spend time," Chris said. Caregivers have also given a positive response to taking part in the study, indicating that they have enjoyed offering their feedback about the places they live.

Finally, we discussed next steps in the study. There are a number of affiliated researchers heading up related sub-projects which have been funded or are in the process of seeking funding. For example, Dr. Jodi Ford, a faculty member in the College of Nursing, received supplemental R21 funding from NIH where nightly saliva and hair samples will be collected from youths participating in the study. "These samples are obtained to capture levels of cortisol, which is a stress hormone. In doing so, we can capture daily variability in cortisol levels to see how certain events over the course of the week affect daily and chronic stress over periods of time. We will also hopefully see how stress plays a role in disadvantaged environments, both as an outcome and a mediator of activity," Chris stated. There is also a social media data collection grant which will be submitted soon, where CJRC Director Dana Haynie, Kate Calder, and Dr. Srinivasan Parthasarathy (Computer Science and Engineering) will see how online behaviors relate to "off-line" behaviors, particularly in terms of drug use. In addition, Dr. Kammi Schmeer (Sociology, IPR affiliate) has a current NIH K01 training grant award examining biomeasures of stress collected in the context of a large-scale social survey. Chris, Baldwin Way and Zhong-Lin Lu (both from Psychology) are also

submitting a grant to collect neuroimaging data, which would involve bringing a subsample of 300-400 youths into the lab to capture brain data which indicates behavioral stressors.

We concluded the interview with Chris stressing the importance of CJRC in making his vision of the project a reality. "None of this could have happened without the help of former CJRC Director Ruth Peterson, and more recently the support and contributions of Dana Haynie. I thank them for their help throughout the many phases of this effort."

Thanks to Dr. Beth Boettner, Dr. Christopher Browning, Dr. Reuben Miller, Dr. Nicole Martorano Van Cleve, and Dr. Bruce Western for sharing their valuable time and insights for our articles, 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.
