

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

GREETINGS TO ALL!!! I hope that you had a great winter break, and that your Winter Quarter is off to a good start. CJRC is poised for a stimulating and productive term. First, we are looking forward to four very interesting seminars. These are noted below. Please join us for as many as you can, all of them if possible. Note that Dr. Lindgren will speak with us this week about gun ownership and use in the U.S. So, we will see you all Friday morning.

The new year has also brought some new faces to CJRC. Bob Henry (masters candidate in Geography) has joined, as a graduate research associate, Peterson, Krivo, Donnermeyer, and Ackerman's project on Crime in Ohio. Bob's skills in spatial analysis will be a real asset to the project and the Center. Lori Muccino also joins us as a part-time graduate administrative associate. Lori is a masters candidate in Sociology, but the masters will be her second advanced degree; she has already earned a law degree and worked in the legal profession. Lori will assist us with a host of administrative responsibilities, and in the process, will help us develop or improve our systems. WELCOME ABOARD BOB AND LORI!!!

Looking ahead to Spring Quarter, please mark April 22, 2002 on your calendars for our Reckless Lecture. Professor David Harris (University of Toledo), an expert on profiling in criminal justice, will give the 2002 Reckless Lecture. Look for additional information about this upcoming event in future newsletters.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please mark the following dates for CJRC's 2001-2002 Seminar Series on your calendar. All talks will be held in Journalism Room 106 (the Hall of Fame Room) from 9:00-10:30 a.m. The Hall of Fame Room is next door to the Journalism Library.

Friday, January 18th. James Lindgren, Professor of Law, Northwestern University, "Counting Guns: Understanding and Misunderstanding the History of Gun Ownership and Gun Use in the United States."

Friday, February 1st. Khalilah Brown-Dean, PhD Candidate in Political Science, OSU, "One Lens, Different Views: Felony Disenfranchisement Laws and Black Political Strength."

Friday February 15th. Sharon Davies, Professor of Law, OSU, "Ethnic Profiling in the Wake of 9/11: The Use of Race and Ethnicity in Criminal Investigations."

Friday, March 8th. Patricia White, Program Director of Sociology, National Science Foundation Informal session. Dr. White will also give a brownbag talk in 385 Bricker Hall later that day from 12:30-1:30 (more information to follow on Dr. White's visit).

WHAT CENTER PARTICIPANTS ARE DOING

Congratulations to:

Gwendolyn Cartledge, who received a 4-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, to study instructional and behavioral interventions to reduce the disciplinary and special education (programs for students with behavior disorders) referrals of youth

at the greatest risk with an emphasis on African American males. The grant is entitled Culturally Responsive Instruction for African American Males: Reducing Disciplinary and SED Referrals.

Ruth Peterson, who was inducted as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology. Those designated as Fellows within ASC are recognized for their scholarly contributions to criminology and distinction in the discipline.

María Vélez, who has accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Sociology at the University of Iowa. María will be an assistant professor at Iowa starting in Autumn 2002.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

The Campbell Collaboration announces its Second Annual Campbell Collaboration Colloquium “Joining the Disciplines to Improve Public Policy: The Role of Research and Systematic Reviews”. The aim of the colloquium is to help develop mechanisms for bringing people from different disciplines together in the preparation of high quality systematic reviews on social and behavioral interventions and programs. It will be held at The University of Pennsylvania on February 21-22, 2002. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Dorothy de Moya
The Campbell Collaboration Secretariat
<http://campbell.gse.upenn.edu>
ddemoya@erols.com
tel: 215 848-5489

The Law and Society Association is pleased to announce the Sixteenth Annual Graduate Student Workshop on the “Reach of Law in a Changing World: Repression, Regulation, and Resistance” on May 28th and 29th in Vancouver, Canada, immediately preceding the 2002 Joint Meetings of the Law and Society Association and the Canadian Law and Society Association. The program will consist of panel presentations, seminar sessions, and informal discussions over shared meals to provide a forum for networking with faculty who write in the field, and to promote dialogue among graduate students and faculty participants about students’ individual research projects. About 40 students will be selected to participate in the Workshop, with the Law and Society Association offering a reimbursement to help offset travel costs (receipts required) of up to \$300. Applications must be received by March 1, 2001. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and a three page letter describing their dissertation or other research interests, their current status in graduate school, and how they might benefit from attending the Workshop. Electronic submission of materials is encouraged. Send files to ganter@lawandsociety.org, subject line: GW 2002. Or by postal mail, send seven unstapled copies to:

Professor Mariana Valverde, Chair, 2002 Graduate Student Workshop, Law and Society Association, 205 Hampshire House, University of Massachusetts, 131 County Circle, Amherst, MA 01003-9257.

The 15th Annual Training Conference of the Correctional Accreditation Managers Association will be held in Columbus, Ohio on May 4-7, 2002. The theme of the conference is “Exploring Excellence in Corrections.” Panel topics will include accreditation procedures, the impact of correctional standards and accreditation in view of the Prison Litigation Reform Act, and correctional litigation and accredited programs. The Correctional Accreditation Association of Ohio (CAAO) is serving as the sponsoring agency for the 2002 CAMA Conference. The cost of advanced registrations will be \$85.00 per person

with a \$100 per person on-site registration. Room reservations at the Hilton Hotel must be made by April 12, 2002 and will be \$119 for single or double occupancy. For more information, contact Julie Riley, SPPM graduate student and CAAO Executive Board Member at riley.15@osu.edu or 614-877-2306, ext. 366.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Proposals are sought for the research conference on Treating Addictions in Special Populations: Research Confronts Reality. This conference is sponsored by the State University of New York at Binghamton and Broome Community College. This national multi-disciplinary forum is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2002 in Binghamton, New York. Researchers, educators, policy-makers, practitioners, service-providers and students are invited to submit proposals addressing the multidimensional treatment issues that have emerged for individuals of special populations affected by substance-related disorders and process addictions. Workshop, research paper, and poster presentation formats that focus on research studies, public policy development, and/or clinical practice and services will be reviewed. Contact information is as follows:

School of Education & Human Development
Binghamton University
Academic B-130
P.O. Box 6000
Binghamton, New York 13902-6000
607-777-4447
<http://sehd.binghamton.edu/pdr/index.htm>

The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice. The Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice announces a special issue that will explore recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the administration of criminal justice. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2002. Articles are invited on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to, recent search and seizure decisions, corrections law, administration of the death penalty, and the interpretation of federal statutes. Contributors can examine one case, or a series of cases. All article submissions will be subject to blind peer review. Persons interested in submitting an article should contact the special issue editor at the address below:

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1910 University Drive
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Access to Justice. The Journal of Law & Social Challenges is soliciting articles for a special volume on "Access to Justice". Papers can include topics such as the provision of legal services at all levels, the availability of judicial remedies, financial and structural barriers, the impact of alternative dispute resolution, and judicial and legislative challenges. For more information, contact:

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FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

National Consortium on Violence Research (NCOVR) Fellowships.

The deadline is February 1, 2002. The purpose of the NCOVR fellowships is to involve young scholars (at the pre-doctoral, post-doctoral, and new faculty level) in interdisciplinary research on issues of interpersonal violence by helping young violence researchers establish formative working relations with senior scholars from a diversity of disciplines. To that end, each fellow is assigned an NCOVR mentor who is from a different discipline than that of the fellow's graduate work. The mentor will help the fellow improve research skills, including writing proposals, conducting the research, and publishing results. In addition, NCOVR will help the fellows to meet and work with other researchers who are involved in the fellow's area of interest. To integrate these new scholars into the violence research community, all fellows will attend NCOVR's annual June Summer Workshop and the annual November ASC meeting at NCOVR's expense. Fellows will also be given a modest budget to cover expenses to attend other NCOVR workshops, other professional meetings, to meet with mentors located at other universities, to cover out-of-pocket research costs, or to attend the ICPSR summer program. Please go to the NCOVR website for more information and application materials: www.ncovr.heinz.cmu.edu.

2002 ASC Fellowship for Ethnic Minorities.

The deadline is March 1, 2002. The fellowships are designed to encourage African American, Asian American, Latino, and Native American students to enter the field of criminology and criminal justice. The recipients of the fellowships must be accepted into a program of doctoral studies. Generally three (3), \$6,000 fellowships are awarded each year. For further information, please go to the website: <http://www.asc41.com/minorfel.htm>

2002 ASC Gene Carte Student Paper Competition.

The deadline is April 15, 2002. These awards are given to recognize outstanding scholarly work of students. For further information, please check out the website: <http://www.asc41.com/cartesp.html>.

FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENT

Brian Kowalski
Department of Sociology
The Ohio State University

Brian Kowalski is a first year Ph.D. student in Sociology. He received his M.A. in Sociology last year from The Ohio State University. He obtained his B.A. in Psychology and Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton in 1999.

Brian's research interests are in three areas. First, Brian is generally interested in issues related to criminal justice policy and has spent considerable effort investigating the factors that lead to inmate recidivism. Specifically, his master's thesis, advised by Paul Bellair (Sociology), examines the impact of community characteristics such as employment opportunities and disadvantage on the likelihood of recidivism for 1,687 Ohio parolees and post-release control releasees. Brian received permission from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) to use data from the Community Corrections Information Sample. These data are ideal for the project because they include current home addresses for released parolees in 1999. With this address information, Brian linked parolees to their corresponding census tract in order to capture local neighborhood conditions such as structural disadvantage and employment opportunities. Brian also collected personal and criminal histories from inmate information records. These data also are ideal because they include important offender characteristics such as age, type of offense, prior criminal history, marital status and level of education. Using both census tract and offender level information, Brian conducted multi-level analyses assessing the role of community conditions on recidivism while adjusting for important parolee characteristics. Findings indicate that neighborhood disadvantage is strongly related to the likelihood of recidivism. In fact, the hazard rate increased by 28 percent for every one unit change in disadvantage. For Brian this finding highlights the importance of neighborhood structure, particularly disadvantage, in shaping offender outcomes. During the next year, Brian plans to conduct a two year follow up so that he can study the likelihood of multiple failures (i.e., recidivating multiple times) and collect more offender information such as the type of correctional facility the inmate was incarcerated (e.g., minimum versus maximum security).

An important component of Brian's research agenda is to inform public policy debates about contemporary criminal justice issues. Regarding recidivism, he hopes his findings will show policy makers that the current strategy of releasing inmates without taking into consideration neighborhood economic conditions is misguided. He feels that the creation of job training programs within disadvantaged communities, for instance, would provide the kind of assistance needed for the successful reentry of inmates. Another solution could include, for example, shifting parole officer responsibility from a supervisory one to a focus on skill-building and treatment for inmates. Because Brian is utilizing data from the ODRC he will have the opportunity in the coming months to share his findings and policy implications with ODRC administrators.

A second research interest involves applying the strain perspective to female delinquent activity. In a current project, Brian and Lisa Leitz (Sociology) are investigating the role of economic-, familial-, and school-related strain in the explanation of fighting by girls in middle school. In a recent paper, Brian and Lisa investigate whether fighting operates as an alternative avenue for respect when girls cannot obtain respect through conventional ways. Their analysis is based on qualitative observations and in-depth interviews of fifteen adolescent girls participating in a mentorship program. This paper has been submitted for publication consideration in a special issue of the Journal of Contemporary Ethnography. This special issues focuses on Gender, Crime and (In)Justice.

In the future, Brian plans to further develop a third interest which focuses on the media's representation of race and crime and race and the criminal justice system. For instance, he is interesting in investigating how the media may influence white racial attitudes about African Americans within the context of crime and criminal justice. In addition, he is interested in newspaper coverage of death penalty cases.

Brian also enjoys teaching at OSU. He has taught Criminology both as an independent instructor and recitation leader. In his Criminology course Brian takes a sociological approach and brings in issues of economic and racial inequality so that students examine criminology with structural and

sociological lenses. He has also graded for Criminology and the Community class. This quarter he is a teaching associate for Multivariate Statistics (Sociology 649).

During his spare time, Brian is an avid ultimate frisbee player and also enjoys traveling.

CREDITS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Thanks to all of you who sent your 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 María Vélez at velez.17@osu.edu. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send María your email address.