

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324953105>

The Relationship between Mental Illness and Criminality: A Review. ACJS Today, 43(5), 6–10.

Preprint · November 2017

CITATIONS

0

READS

1,651

1 author:



Tracy Ann Tully

City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College

4 PUBLICATIONS 17 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Walters, G. D., & Urban, H. (2014). Age of Substance Use Onset as a Predictor of Early Adult Substance Dependence and Offending in Male and Female Delinquents Simple and Mediated Moderation. *Journal of Drug Issues*, 44(4), 442–456. [View project](#)

ACJS *Today*

Official Newsletter of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Is the Criminal Justice or Criminology Master's Degree Necessary?

Tracy G. Crump, Saint Xavier University

The criminal justice discipline has been described as a utopian preparation for churning out law enforcement officers. As such, many believe the production of police officers is its main purpose. However, this is a common misconception. Although becoming a police officer is the goal for some students, it is hardly the case for the vast majority of those seeking a degree in criminal justice or criminology. If we include youth who engage in delinquent or criminal behavior, the criminal justice system has four overarching branches: law enforcement, the courts/judiciary/legal system, corrections, and the juvenile justice system. In many jurisdictions, the requirement to become a police officer is typically between 30 and 60 college credit hours—in *any* discipline. Upon meeting that threshold, individuals are eligible to apply for entry-level law enforcement

positions. Upon securing employment as a police officer, to advance in law enforcement, in most jurisdictions, the “time-in-rank system” requires that before moving up the administrative ladder, an officer must spend a certain amount of time in the next lowest rank and then pass an in-house test to move to the next rank. The major implication of “time-in-rank” is that those seeking only advancement in their respective careers need not obtain an advanced college degree. However, many do not just seek advancement within the ranks of law enforcement personnel and, instead, desire other advancement opportunities that require additional higher education—such as the master's degree in criminal justice or criminology.

For those *not* seeking entry into the ranks of police personnel or advancement as a law enforcement

officer, numerous opportunities are sought. For starters, the criminal justice discipline is interdisciplinary; it crosses sectors such as sociology, psychology, medicine, biology, education, law, computer science, and business and seeks to shed light on inequalities that exist in these areas/spaces through empirical research with the goal of addressing deficiencies and providing redress for those negatively impacted. Criminologists thrive on examining traditional hegemonic, patriarchal conditions and exposing inaccurate beliefs about crime, criminality, and victimization that have been disseminated (in some cases, for centuries) based on flawed understandings by calling upon multiple perspectives, such as Marxist, classical, biosocial, feminist, individual, political economy, structural, or critical theory.

Criminologists do not simply identify people who engage in “antisocial” behavior in order to punish them. Criminologists understand communities lacking public and human services have underfunded, under-resourced, and overcrowded classrooms; have broken community-police relations; have insufficient housing opportunities; have inadequate job opportunities that provide a living wage; have substandard healthcare options; and lack municipal, state, and federal reinvestment and will, therefore, have higher rates of crime and victimization. Knowing this, criminologists seek to create, identify, and provide resources to address the problems. Criminologists understand it is unhelpful to study the problems ad nauseam without offering substantive, meaningful, and comprehensive resources. Providing those resources is our goal, *not* simply churning out cops. In contrast, criminologists frequently examine the etiology of crime and criminal behavior, trauma and

victimization, and pain and suffering within existing structures of racial/ethnic, class, and status/social inequities to understand the intersection with law and punishment, which, consequently, further perpetuates inequality and disenfranchisement.

Those with advanced degrees in criminal justice or criminology seek to develop comprehensive approaches to address the underlying issues that have led to contemporary violence and victimization—*not* to just police bodies. Criminologists understand that adopting far-reaching approaches, however, will require accountability from all stakeholders involved. This is why advanced criminal justice graduates are well situated to address contemporary needs because from the beginning of criminal justice studies, students are trained to cross disciplines to assist in identifying problems and developing solutions. Criminologists view crime not as an isolated act, but as a product of oppression, disenfranchisement, and trauma—sometimes systemic. Criminologists see the suffering of those without resources—including women, children, minorities, and those living on the margins—as being exacerbated by those with social capital and power who have the means but are unwilling to help relieve the anguish and sometimes perpetuate problems. Criminologists consider the conflict that this reality brings and take into consideration the contextual factors to critique the *entire system* and all its actors. Criminologists seek to fight for the political and social freedom and equality that this country promises (civil rights). Criminologists fight for fair behavior and treatment when it comes to distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges that exist within a society (social justice). Criminologists understand that before the community can begin to heal, everyone must engage in self-evaluation to assess

contributing factors to the current state of affairs, and everyone must make a commitment to do his or her part to address the issues. So criminologists provide the “mirror,” the assessment/evaluation, the critique, and the tools to identify challenges and add to the interagency effort to address these issues.

Therefore, the graduate degree in criminal justice or criminology is necessary, as criminologists will channel the knowledge garnered from their studies of multiple disciplines to address issues of poverty; lack of public and human services; underfunded, under-resourced, and overcrowded classrooms; community policing; housing disparities; inadequate occupational opportunities; insufficient educational systems; healthcare/mental health schemes that do not provide quality healthcare for all; addressing the needs of communities in transition; providing effective and efficient treatment and rehabilitation programs to those referred to/leaving the criminal justice or juvenile justice systems; making sure members of ethnic/cultural communities are participating in law enforcement agencies’ community and crime prevention programs to allow their concerns to be represented; making sure law enforcement agencies’ hiring and promotional practices have been evaluated to see whether they recognize knowledge and skills related to community policing, especially with ethnic/cultural, racial, and LGBT communities; providing law enforcement agencies’ in-service training programs that address the issue of diversity and multicultural or race relations training programs; addressing abuses of power permeating the system, including police abuse of power, corruption, and brutality; and promoting best practices in policing. Criminologists are not simply passive entities here to produce the next generation of police personnel; instead, criminologists have the duty to challenge *any structure* that inflicts suffering on others, to allow each person negatively impacted to achieve redress.

To some, achieving these ideals may be “overrated or unnecessary”; however, to others, achieving these rights is the only hope they have to enjoy the life, liberty, and property interests adopted by way of the United States Constitution and touted by those depicting the abundant prosperity available in the nation. It is why the criminal justice and criminology niche is not the advancement of law enforcement but, instead, is the advancement of social justice for all. As such, an advanced degree program in criminal justice or criminology is desirable. There are thousands of criminal justice and criminology students enrolled in programs around the United States. Although some of these students may find a career among the ranks of law enforcement personnel, most of them will not. Most of them will find solace in using the skills they have learned in activism, counseling, law, business, education, computer science, and research. As criminal justice graduate students, many of my peers and I desired the latter of these paths, not the former. In this moment, institutions that offer master’s degrees in criminal justice or criminology have the unique opportunity to embrace a graduate program that has the potential, with the proper institutional support, to provide much-needed supports to the nation

Dr. Tracy G. Crump is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of African American Studies at Saint Xavier University. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology, Law, and Justice from the University of Illinois at Chicago, her J.D. from The John Marshall Law School (Chicago), and her LL.M. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law.



Washington Update

Tom Culligan, The Brimley Group and CJRA Consultant

With less than two weeks before the expiration of government funding under the current “Continuing Resolution,” Congress turned its attention to reaching an agreement on overall funding levels that would allow for a final FY 2018 Omnibus spending bill before the end of the year. House and Senate leadership are meeting with the President to discuss possible agreements that would allow for the Appropriations Committees to negotiate the final bill, which funds Justice Department programs and research. However, there are a number of issues related to taxes, immigration, and other political matters that may complicate efforts to reach an agreement.

The Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) has been advocating to maintain the FY2017 boost in research funding provided to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and National Institute of Justice (NIJ), which was the first significant increase to both agencies in several years. Currently, the Senate Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) Appropriations bill continues the FY 2017 funding with \$45.5 million for BJS and \$39.5 million for NIJ, while the House-passed CJS bill reduces funding for the agencies by \$1 million each. Fortunately, both the House and Senate funding levels are significantly higher than the President’s FY 2018 Budget Request, which would cut \$8 million from these agencies.

The White House has continued efforts to fill key posts at the Justice Department. Last week, the President announced his intent to appoint Jeffrey Anderson to serve as Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Anderson previously worked in the Department of Health and Human Services on health reform and innovation, and was a fellow at the Hudson Institute (a Washington think tank). Other recent appointments to senior DOJ positions include David Muhlhausen as Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and Jon Adler as Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). Muhlhausen previously served as a fellow at the Heritage Foundation and Adler previously served as president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association.

On Capitol Hill, the House Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing with Attorney General Sessions, which largely focused on the ongoing Mueller investigation but also covered criminal justice reform and other issues. This week, longtime Ranking Member of the Committee, Rep. John Conyers, announced that he would step down from his committee post during a Congressional ethics investigation into his conduct with former staff. The committee's chairman, Rep. Bob Goodlatte, also recently announced his retirement from the House of Representatives at the end of this Congress, marking a significant change in Committee leadership on both sides of the aisle over the next year.

ACJS 2018 Annual Conference

“So What? Understanding What It All Means”

**February 13–17, 2018
Hilton New Orleans Riverside
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Host Hotel:

Hilton New Orleans Riverside
2 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
Main Phone: 504-561-0500



*A view of the skyline of New Orleans as seen from the French Quarter.
This work was released into the public domain by Gonk.*

Meeting Information: <http://www.acjs.org/page/2018AnnualMeetin>

The Relationship between Mental Illness and Criminality: A Review

Tracy A. Tully, University of New Haven

Abstract

Mental illness is a growing societal concern, impacting more than 20% of the American population. Although mental illness is treatable, as a country we find many cases in which it is left untreated due to low income, lack of resources, or lack of support. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (2017), mental disorders are the leading cause of disability (lost years of productive life) in North America, Europe, and, increasingly, in the world, usually striking individuals in the prime of their lives. Even more disturbing is the increasing number of mentally ill individuals in the American prison system. Research suggests that people with mental illness are overrepresented in the criminal justice system by rates of two to four times the general population. The purpose of this brief research synthesis is to examine the prevalence of and connection between mental illness and criminal offending and to examine alternative explanations for the increased number of mentally ill individuals within the criminal justice system.

A mental disorder is generally defined as a psychological syndrome or behavioral pattern that is associated with subjective distress and/or objective impairment (American Psychological Association, 2013). It is estimated that persons with serious mental illness are 1.5 times as likely to be incarcerated as to be hospitalized for treatment of their psychiatric disorder (Al-Rousan, Rubenstein, Sieleni, Deol, & Wallace, 2017; Morgan, Fisher, Duan, Mandracchia, & Murray, 2010; Torrey, Zdanowicz, Kennard, Lamb, Eslinger, Biasotti, & Fuller, 2014), making the area of mental health a palpable concern for criminal justice officials.

The presence of mentally ill individuals within our prison system is not a new phenomenon; rather, it is one that has been continuously growing over the years. Deinstitutionalization, a movement that began mostly in the early 1970s as a result of budget cuts, released a large number of mentally ill patients back into the community. This release left

many patients homeless, increasing their rates of incarceration mainly due to the lack of community care made available.

Rates of mental illness are increasing far quicker in the United States than in any other country in the world (World Health Organization, 2017). In a recent survey of the prevalence of mental illness in more than 60,000 adults in 14 countries, the United States was higher for depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and substance abuse compared to all other countries (WHO, 2017). The U.S. rate was substantially higher (27%) than that of any other country measured, including other industrialized nations such as Belgium, which showed a 12% illness rate. The increased number of diagnoses could be another reason for increased rates of mentally ill in prison: the more prevalent in society, the more likely they are to be represented in the criminal justice system.

Theoretical causations of crime have also been used to explain the increased prevalence of the mentally ill in prisons. Halleck (1971) stated illness and criminality should be viewed as patterns of behavior characteristic of the same person, lending itself to a linear model in which criminality is determined by the illness. He goes on to discuss his connection between mental illness and criminality by addressing the idea of reasonableness. Halleck believes that reasonableness is demonstrated through adherence to the law, acceptable life goals, and appropriate behavior—qualities that are often lacking in the mentally ill as well as in the criminally deviant. If both groups can be deemed unreasonable, there must be a connection (to what extent is unknown) between the two. According to this idea, incarceration is a necessary method of punishment for those who suffer from mental illness, as their behavior is not easily controlled through other means.

Whether due to deinstitutionalization, theoretical trends, fluctuation in crime rates, or increased rates of mental illness diagnoses, there is an underlying theme in the literature: mental illness and criminality are related. Although the extent of this relationship varies, it is something that is cause for concern as the number of mentally ill offenders continues to increase. The following is a short review of the literature on this topic.

Bennett, Ogloff, Mullen, Thomas, Wallace, and Short (2011) examined the relationship between committing homicide, the presence of schizophrenia, and substance abuse. The study employed a data linkage design, using contacts recorded on two statewide databases, one of which recorded public mental health services contacts and the second of which recorded contacts with the

police. The estimated rates of schizophrenia disorders, substance abuse, and criminal convictions found among a population of 435 homicide offenders were contrasted with estimated rates in two composite comparison samples. Results indicated of the 435 offenders, 38 (8.7%) had been diagnosed with a schizophrenia disorder; those who were diagnosed were 13 times more likely to commit homicide compared to those in the general population. Rates of substance abuse were also significantly higher among homicide offenders with schizophrenia disorders (39.5%) than among both the general population (26.1%) and those with schizophrenia but without substance abuse (8.9%).

Thompson, Wilson, and Robinson (2009) examined the hypothesis that rates of substance misuse and violence are similar between male patients admitted to secure psychiatric care and their age-matched male siblings. Forty-two consecutive male admissions and 18 of their male siblings were interviewed to determine rates of mental illness, violence, and past substance use. Both groups showed high rates of substance misuse and offending. However, rates were higher among patients, suggesting (1) their substance misuse and violence cannot all be explained by familial factors alone, and (2) those with psychiatric histories (specifically conduct disorders) combined with substance use are at an increased risk for violence.

Van Dorn, Volavka, and Johnson (2011) examined the role between mental illness and violence using data from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC). Results indicated those with severe mental illness (SMI), such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder, were significantly more likely to be violent, irrespective of substance abuse

(S/A), compared to those with no mental or substance use disorders. Those with comorbid mental and substance use disorders had the highest risk of violence. Those in the SMI and S/A group had the highest rate of violence (9.41%), followed by those with other mental illness (e.g., personality disorders) and S/A (7.19%), SMI alone (2.88%), S/A alone (2.49%), and other only mental illnesses (1.43%). The comparison group (i.e., those with no disorders) had a rate of violence of 0.83%.

Although a short review, the link between violence (crime) and mental illness is well established within the literature (Peterson, Skeem, Kennealy, Bray, & Zvonkovic, 2014; Prins, Skeem, Mauro, & Link, 2015; Skeem, Winter, Kennealy, Loudon, & Tatar, 2014; Swanson, Robertson, Frisman, Norko, Lin, Swartz, & Cook, 2013). Despite this connection, many academics feel it is not the mental illness causing violence and consequently increasing incarceration rates; rather, it is the stigmatization, homelessness, and lack of mental health resources available to prevent such occurrences.

According to the National Institute of Justice (2017), the mentally ill are challenged by the stereotypes and prejudice that result from misconceptions about mental illness. Social psychologists explain the impact of stigma is twofold: public stigma, the reaction that the general population has to people with mental illness, and self-stigma, the prejudice that people with mental illness turn against themselves (Corrigan & Watson, 2002). One common misconception about those with mental illness is they are dangerous and, therefore, should be kept out of communities (e.g., incarcerated; Corrigan & Watson, 2002). Pescosolido and colleagues (2000) surveyed the American public (N = 1,444) using standardized

vignettes to assess their views of mental illness and treatment approaches. Respondents rated schizophrenics (60.9%) and those with major depression (33.3%) as being significantly more likely to do something violent to others compared to those without mental illness (Stuart, 2003).

Fischer, Shinn, Shrout, and Tsemberis (2008) argue vagrancy to be one of the main causes of increased incarceration rates of the mentally ill. Their study examines the relationship between homelessness, mental illness, and two types of criminal offenses: nonviolent and violent crimes. Participants (N = 207) were interviewed at 9 time points over 4 years, to assess whether changes in homelessness status and symptom severity predicted changes in criminal activity over time. Results indicate homelessness, both on streets and in shelters, and psychological symptom severity predicted increases in crime. Additional findings indicate many unmedicated mentally ill persons find themselves living on the streets, due to disease symptomology (disorganization, etc.) or lack of familial support. As a result, those mentally ill vagrants are more likely to be arrested for nuisance offenses, substance abuse-related offenses, and subsistence-related offenses such as trespassing (Fisher et. al., 2008), as opposed to violent offenses.

Arguably, there are several systemic barriers to accessing mental health care in the United States, for example, (1) lack of insurance or inadequate insurance, (2) lack of available treatment providers, (3) lack of available treatment types (inpatient treatment, individual therapy, intensive community services), and (4) insufficient finances to cover costs (e.g., co-pays). According to Mental Health America (2017), 14.7% (more than 6.3 million) of adults with a mental illness remain uninsured each

year, 55.8% of adults with mental illness received no treatment this past fiscal year, and for those seeking treatment, 20.1% report unmet treatment needs. Research shows that mental health treatment is successful at reducing crime and recidivism, yet we continue to put offenders with mental disorders in prisons for complex reasons, including our society's views (discussed above) toward mental illness (Byron, 2014).

Research indicates a correlation between mental illness and criminality, specifically observed through high incarceration rates. The presence of certain illnesses (schizophrenia, substance abuse, etc.) and their link to criminality is a reoccurring theme throughout the review. Although limited, there is much to be said about the impact of mental illness, specifically severe mental illness, on criminal offending. With that said, it is also important to consider alternative explanations for higher rates of incarceration, such as stigmatization, homelessness, and limited access to health care.

References

- Al-Rousan, T., Rubenstein, L., Sieleni, B., Deol, H., & Wallace, R. B. (2017). Inside the nation's largest mental health institution: A prevalence study in a state prison system. *BMC Public Health*, 17(1), 342.
- American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: Author.
- Bennett, D. J., Ogloff, J. P., Mullen, P. E., Thomas, S. M., Wallace, C. C., & Short, T. T. (2011). Schizophrenia disorders, substance abuse and prior offending in a sequential series of 435 homicides. *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 124(3), 226–233.
- Byron, R. (2014). *Criminals need mental health care: Psychiatric treatment is far better than imprisonment for reducing recidivism*. Retrieved <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/criminal-s-need-mental-health-care>
- Corrigan, P. W., & Watson A. C. (2002). Understanding the impact of stigma on people with mental illness. *World Psychiatry*, 1(1), 16–20.
- Fischer, S. N., Shinn, M., Shrout, P., & Tsemberis, S. (2008). Homelessness, mental illness, and criminal activity: Examining patterns over time. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 42(3–4), 251–265.
- Halleck, S. L. (1971). *Psychiatry and the dilemmas of crime: A study of causes, punishment, and treatment*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Mental Health America. (2017). *Mental health in America: Access to care data*. Retrieved from <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/issues/mental-health-america-access-care-data>
- Morgan, R. D., Fisher, W. H., Duan, N., Mandracchia, J. T., & Murray, D. (2010). Prevalence of criminal thinking among state prison inmates with serious mental illness. *Law and Human Behavior*, 34(4), 324–336.
- Munker, R. (2006). Review of “Schizophrenia and Crime.” *Nordic Journal of Psychiatry*, 60(1), 67–68.
- National Alliance on Mental Illness. (2017). *Facing the facts*. Retrieved from <http://il.nami.org/facts.html>
- National Institute of Justice. (2017). *NIJ home page*.

Retrieved from

<https://www.nij.gov/Pages/welcome.aspx>

Pescosolido, B. A., Monahan, J., Link, B. G., Stueve, A., & Kikuzawa, S. (2000). The public's view of the competence, dangerousness, and need for legal coercion of persons with mental health problems. *American Journal of Public Health*, 89(9), 1339–1345.

Peterson, J. K., Skeem, J., Kennealy, P., Bray, B., & Zvonkovic, A. (2014). How often and how consistently do symptoms directly precede criminal behavior among offenders with mental illness? *Law and Human Behavior*, 38(5), 439.

Prins, S. J., Skeem, J. L., Mauro, C., & Link, B. G. (2015). Criminogenic factors, psychotic symptoms, and incident arrests among people with serious mental illnesses under intensive outpatient treatment. *Law and Human Behavior*, 39(2), 177.

Skeem, J. L., Winter, E., Kennealy, P. J., Loudon, J. E., & Tatar II, J. R. (2014). Offenders with mental illness have criminogenic needs, too: Toward recidivism reduction. *Law and Human Behavior*, 38(3), 212.

Stuart, H. (2003). Violence and mental illness: An overview. *World Psychiatry*, 2(2), 121–124.

Swanson, J. W., Robertson, A. G., Frisman, L. K., Norko, M. A., Lin, H. J., Swartz, M. S., & Cook, P. J. (2013). Preventing gun violence involving people with serious mental illness. In D. W. Webster & J. S. Vernick (Eds.), *Reducing gun violence in America: Informing policy with evidence and analysis* (pp. 33–51). Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Thomson, L., Wilson, J., & Robinson, L. (2009). Predictors of violence in mental illness: The role of substance abuse and associated factors. *Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 20(6), 919–927.

Torrey, E. F., Zdanowicz, M. T., Kennard, A. D., Lamb, H. R., Eslinger, D. F., Biasotti, M. C., & Fuller, D. A. (2014). *The treatment of persons with mental illness in prisons and jails: A state survey*. Arlington, VA: Treatment Advocacy Center and National Sheriff's Association.

Van Dorn, R., Volavka, J., & Johnson, N. (2012). Mental disorder and violence: Is there a relationship beyond substance use? *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*, 47(3), 487–503.

World Health Organization. (2017). *Mental health: Evidence and research*. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/mental_health/en/

Tracy A. Tully has been an adjunct professor at City University of New York (CUNY) since 2010. She received a Master's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2006 and a Master's Degree in School Psychology from St. John's University in 2010. She is currently working on her PhD in Criminal Justice at the University of New Haven.



December 5, 2017

ACJS National Criminal Justice Month Awards

Dear ACJS Member:

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' National Criminal Justice Month Committee is accepting nominations for awards in recognition of National Criminal Justice Month events. Three plaques will be awarded to academic departments, schools, colleges, and/or universities for National Criminal Justice Month celebrations that focus on education and community engagement, as well as an overall program of the year award. Efforts will be made to highlight the award winners on the ACJS website as well as in ACJS Today. The deadline to submit nominations has been extended to December 10, 2017. For more information on National Criminal Justice Month and the awards, please contact Jessica Craig at Jessica.Craig@unt.edu or visit: <http://www.acjs.org/page/NationalCJMonth>

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 68th Annual Meeting, to be held August 10-12, 2018, at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA. This year's theme selected by President Luis A. Fernandez is [*Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems*](#). The submission deadline is January 31, 2018. SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. If you are involved in scholarship or action in pursuit of a just society nationally or internationally, you belong in the SSSP. You will meet others engaged in research to find the causes and consequences of social problems, as well as others seeking to apply existing scholarship to the formulation of social policies. Contact: sssp@utk.edu. For more information, visit https://www.sssp1.org/2018_Call_for_Papers.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting, August 10-12, 2018, Philadelphia, PA. The program theme selected by President Luis A. Fernandez is [*Abolitionist Approaches to Social Problems*](#). SSSP is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical, scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. Contact: sssp@utk.edu. For more information, visit https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/713/2018_Annual_Meeting/.

FUNDING

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is soliciting applications for the [*2018 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship*](#). Persons identified as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian-American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) from one of the aforementioned groups, accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences are invited to apply for the \$15,000 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship. Two students will be funded. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 1, 2018. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 15, 2018. All applicants must be a current member when applying. With the exception of DACA students, who are also eligible, applicants must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Contact: Dr. Ana Muñiz, Chair, Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee at anamuniz@uci.edu. For more information, visit https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/261/Racial/Ethnic_Minority_Graduate_Fellowship/.

COMPETITIONS

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is pleased to announce the [*2018 Student Paper Competitions and Outstanding Scholarship Awards*](#). In order to be considered for any of the Student Paper Competitions, applicants are required to submit their papers through the Annual Meeting Call for Papers, https://www.sssp1.org/2018_Call_for_Papers by January 31, 2018. This will ensure that winning papers are both designated and included in the program. Please note that students may only submit to one division and that each division has its own deadline and submission process. For more information, visit <https://www.sssp1.org/file/2018/2018SPC.pdf>.

Job Announcement

The newly-forming New York State Youth Justice Institute (the Institute), based in the University at Albany's School of Criminal Justice, is seeking a dynamic, proven leader for the inaugural position of Executive Director (ED). The Institute is being formed to be responsive to local and state partners engaging in reform and improvement of New York State's system of youth justice. The ED, under the direction of the Executive Committee, will be responsible for the formation and development of the Institute, and for creating an institute that will enhance outcomes for youth, families and public safety.

Responsibilities: The ED will be responsible for the development and overall management of the Youth Justice Institute. The ED will strategically lead a team of staff, identify and oversee the work of external consultants, create seamless relationships with partners at the University of Albany, the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services and the New York Office of Children and Family Services. In collaboration with these partners the ED will create and execute the overall work-plan for the Institute and engage in strategic identification of gaps and trends that further the goal of evidence-based youth justice practice in New York State. The ED will also be responsible for promoting the national visibility and reputation of the Institute and will play a key role in securing additional external funding resources to sustain and expand the work of the Institute over time.

The ideal candidate will have a national and broad-based perspective on youth justice policy, including familiarity with evidence-based and promising practices in the fields of primary prevention, diversion, alternatives, risk/needs assessments, services or reentry.

Requirements:

Minimum Qualifications:

- Master's degree, (Ph.D. preferred), from a college or university accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or internationally recognized accrediting organization
- At least 10 years total experience; at least 5 years of successive managerial and/or executive experience in the field of juvenile justice, child welfare or social welfare, preferably in government, academia or the non-profit sectors
- Proven track record of fund-raising and successful grant writing
- Applicant must address in their application their ability to work with a culturally diverse population.

For full requirements and/or to apply for the position please go to: “web address”

Salary and Benefits:

The ED will be an employee of the University of Albany and receive a full benefit package through the State of New York. Salary will be commensurate with experience

NIJ Funds Graduate Student Research

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) made four new awards in 2017 under the Graduate Research Fellowship, Social and Behavioral Sciences, totaling \$127,749 for graduate students working towards advancing NIJ's mission. The fellowship awards provide support for 12 months to accredited universities for research on crime, violence, and other criminal justice-related topics.

Awarded topics include:

- Quantifying Gang Locations: A systematic test of validity using a partial test of Messick's Unified Perspective; Temple University
- Officers' and Community Members' Evaluations of Police-Civilian Interactions; CUNY Research Foundation, John Jay College
- Stop Snitching or Keep Talking? Civilian Information Provision to the Baltimore Police; Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- A Post-Conviction Mentality: Prosecutorial Assistance as a Pathway to Exoneration; Rutgers University, Newark

[See all award descriptions, awardees, and dollar amounts.](#)

[Sign up to get email notices when NIJ releases GRF and other funding solicitations.](#)



CRIME & JUSTICE RESEARCH ALLIANCE

Board Members

Nancy La Vigne, PhD (Chair)
Director, Justice Policy Center
The Urban Institute

Paul Elam Jr., PhD
President
Public Policy Associates, Inc.

Natasha Frost, PhD
Associate Dean of Graduate
Studies and Associate Professor,
School of Criminology & Criminal
Justice
Northeastern University

Marlyn J. Jones, PhD
Professor, Division of Criminal
Justice
California State University,
Sacramento

David L. Myers, PhD
Professor and Director,
Criminal Justice PhD Program
University of New Haven

Richard Rosenfeld, PhD
Professor of Criminology and
Criminal Justice
University of Missouri - St. Louis

Christy Visser, PhD
Professor of Sociology and
Criminal Justice
University of Delaware

Peter Wood, PhD
Professor of Sociology and
Criminology
Eastern Michigan University

John Worrall, PhD
Professor of Criminology
University of Texas at Dallas

As you continue to stay informed about the latest news and events relating to crime and criminal justice topics, we encourage you to review the monthly newsletter from the Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA).

As you may know, CJRA is a centralized resource of authoritative experts and scholarly studies created to provide policy makers, practitioners, and the public with direct access to relevant research on crime and criminal justice issues. Formed in 2015, CJRA is a collaborative partnership between the nation's two leading criminal justice scholar associations, ACJS and the American Society of Criminology (ASC).

CJRA lobbies for federal funding for crime and justice research, while facilitating access to evidence-based research by its experts through its website (<http://crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org/>), proactive media outreach, and advocacy on the hill. The website provides a list of experts who are willing to talk to policy makers and the media as well as abstracts of policy-relevant research.

As part of its outreach efforts, the Alliance publishes a monthly newsletter (<http://crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org/news/>), which includes the following categories:

Introduction

The introductory article of the newsletter highlights recent or upcoming events, trending issues, and messages from the chair of CJRA. This section provides an overview of the recent focus and efforts of the Alliance and briefly summarizes timely information.

Washington Update

For the latest news and information about what is happening on the hill, check out the Washington Update. The CJRA government relations consultant provides an overview of the current funding for crime and criminal justice research as well as explanations of the events taking place in our nation's capital.

Expert Q&A

Each month, the CJRA communications consultant works with a CJRA expert to share his or her research findings with national media outlets. The expert Q&A provides a link to the article that was promoted as well as a one-on-one interview with the lead author about the impact of the findings.

In the News

The news section of the newsletter highlights a few of the news articles secured by the CJRA communications consultant on behalf of CJRA experts from that month.

www.crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org

Justice Quarterly Publications Promoted by CJRA in 2017

Each month, the Crime & Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) highlights and promotes research published by members of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the American Society of Criminology. During 2017, the following studies from *Justice Quarterly* were featured by CJRA:

May 2017

“Cut from the Same Cloth? A Comparative Study of Domestic Extremists and Gang Members in the United States”

David Pyrooz, Gary LaFree, Scott Decker and Patrick James

<http://mailchi.mp/28a416bd7cc7/cjra-newsletter-may-2017>

<http://crimeandjusticeresearchalliance.org/research/domestic-extremists-gang-members-u-s/>

<https://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/05/18/domestic-terrorists-gang-members-have-little-common-study-shows>

July 2017

“A Time Series Analysis of Terrorism: Intervention, Displacement, and Diffusion of Benefits”

Henda Hsu, Bob Edward Vasquez and David McDowall

<http://mailchi.mp/a0b2c3df3c6d/cjra-newsletter-august-2017>

September 2017

“Officer Race, Role Orientation, and Cynicism toward Citizens”

Jacinta Gau and Eugene Paoline

<http://mailchi.mp/ceab5fe6ba46/cjra-newsletter-september-2017>

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/10/13/latino-and-black-cops-are-less-cynical-than-white-ones-study-claims/>

<https://thecrimereport.org/2017/10/13/want-friendlier-cops-hire-more-blacks-and-latinos-says-study/>

November 2017

“A Life Course Analysis of Homeless Shelter Use among the Formerly Incarcerated”

Brianna Remster

Justice Quarterly Review

Call for Papers

Jeffery Ulmer, the *JQ Review* Editor, is pleased to invite submissions for the 2018 *JQ Review* issue: *Prosecutorial Discretion: Processes and Outcomes*. We invite manuscripts that examine topics such as:

- Prosecutors' interactions and relations with police
- Prosecutorial charging decisions
- Prosecutors and plea bargaining, including charge bargaining, sentencing bargaining, fact bargaining, and other dimensions
- Prosecutors' discretion around pursuing mandatory minimums
- Prosecutors' relations with the broader court community
- Disparities in prosecutorial decisions and outcomes
- Prosecutorial accountability and decision visibility
- Prosecutors and the death penalty



We will consider theoretical as well as empirical papers, and we welcome quantitative, qualitative, and multimethod research. All submissions will be subject to peer review and are due no later than **March 31th, 2018**. Please submit manuscripts through [JQ's Scholar One submission site](#), following the *Justice Quarterly* [Instructions for authors](#). In your cover letter please note that your submission is specifically for the *Justice Quarterly Review* issue, so that it is assigned to the Review Editor. If you have questions, please submit them to Jeffery Ulmer by email at jtu100@psu.edu. For more information about *Justice Quarterly*, please visit www.tandfonline.com/rjqy.



University of New Haven



The University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences is one of the largest and most academically diverse colleges of criminal justice in the United States. Founded in the late 1950s as one of the first ten academic programs in criminal justice, the college now supports nearly 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PH.D.

Doctoral study in the Henry C. Lee College embraces experiential education through a variety of research and scholarly opportunities associated with the broad range of interdisciplinary programs, faculty, and research centers within the college. The University of New Haven criminal justice doctoral program features:

- Full and part-time options
- Over 30 full-time faculty members specializing in criminology, law enforcement, victimology, national security, forensic psychology, corrections, juvenile justice, and law and public policy
- Teaching fellowships, scholarships, and graduate assistantships for qualified students
- Individualized instruction and mentoring
- Strong relationships with public and private organizations offering opportunities to develop data sources and research projects

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, M.S.

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice combines high-level academics with a professional orientation. Upon completion, students will be prepared to begin or enhance their careers in criminal justice, or to pursue doctoral education. Curriculum offers courses covering policing, corrections, criminal justice policy, and victim issues. The University of New Haven criminal justice master's program features:

- 100% online or on ground format
- Full and part-time options
- Ability to complete program in less than two years
- Thesis option for students planning to pursue a doctoral degree
- Faculty with academic and professional credentials

University of Maryland Eastern Shore Department of

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Preparing for a **just** society through research and practice



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE

Join us and pursue a
**Master's Degree
in Criminal Justice**
with concentrations in
Criminology and Research
Law Enforcement and Courts
Corrections and Delinquency Prevention

ACJS Today

Editor: **David Myers, PhD**
 Professor and PhD Program Director
 University of New Haven
 300 Boston Post Rd. West Haven, CT
 06516
 Phone: 203.479.4883
dmyers@newhaven.edu

Historian: **Mitchel P. Roth, PhD**
 Sam Houston State University
 College of Criminal Justice
 P.O. Box 2296
 Huntsville, TX 77341
 Phone: 936.294.1649
icc_mpr@shsu.edu

ACJS National Office

Executive Director: John L. Worrall
worrall@utdallas.edu

Association Manager: Cathy L. Barth
manager@acjs.org

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 P. O. Box 960
 Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Office Location:
 7339 Hanover Parkway, Suite A
 Greenbelt, MD 20768-0960
 Tel.: (301) 446-6300; (800) 757-ACJS (2257)
 Fax: (301) 446-2819
 Website: <http://www.acjs.org>

ACJS Today Publication Schedule

January
 March
 May
 September
 November

Copyright © 2017 by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. All rights reserved. Distributed to all current members of ACJS.

Submission Deadlines

December 15th
 February 15th
 April 15th
 August 15th
 October 15th

The editor will use his discretion to accept, reject or postpone manuscripts.

Article Guidelines

Articles may vary in writing style (i.e., tone) and length. Articles should be relevant to the field of criminal justice, criminology, law, sociology, or related curriculum and interesting to our readership. Please include your name, affiliation, and e-mail address, which will be used as your biographical information. **Submission of an article to the editor of *ACJS Today* implies that the article has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under submission to another publication.**

Photos: jpeg or gif

Text format: Microsoft Word, RTF, TXT, or ASCII

Citation Style: APA 6th Edition

ACJS 2017 – 2018 Executive Board

President

Nicole Leeper Piquero
University of Texas at Dallas
Program in Criminology
800 West Campbell Road
Richardson, TX 75080
972-883-2485
npiquero@utdallas.edu

1st Vice President

Faith Lutze
Washington State University
Criminal Justice Program
P.O. Box 644872
Pullman, WA 99164
509-335-2272
lutze@mail.wsu.edu

2nd Vice President

Prabha Unnithan
Colorado State University
Department of Sociology
200 West Lake Street
Fort Collins, CO 80523
970-491-6615
prabha.unnithan@colostate.edu

Immediate Past President

Lorenzo M. Boyd
University of Maryland - Eastern Shore
Department of Criminal Justice
Associate Professor & Department Chair
3032 Richard Hazel Hall
Princess Anne, MD 21853
410-651-8482
lmboyd1@umes.edu

Treasurer

Marlyn J. Jones
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6085
916-278-7048
marlyn@csus.edu

Secretary

Heather L. Pfeifer
University of Baltimore
1420 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-837-5292
hpfeifer@ubalt.edu

Trustees-At-Large:

Peter J. Benekos
Mercyhurst University
Erie, PA 16546
814-572-7842
pbenekos@mercyhurst.edu

Ashley Blackburn
Department of Criminal Justice
University of Houston – Downtown
One Main Street, C-340M
Houston, TX 77002
713-222-5326
blackburna@uhd.edu

Bitna Kim
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
411 North Walk
Wilson Hall Room 112
Indiana, PA 15705
724-357-5976
bitna.kim@iup.edu

Regional Trustees:

Region 1—Northeast

Aimee "May" Delaney
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
Worcester State University
Department of Criminal Justice
486 Chandler Street
Worcester, MA 01602
(508) 929-8421
adelaney@worcester.edu

Region 2—Southern

Leah Daigle
Georgia State University
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
140 Decatur Street
1227 Urban Life Building
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-413-1037
ldaigle@gsu.edu

Region 3—Midwest

Victoria Simpson Beck
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Department of Criminal Justice
421 Clow Faculty, 800 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901-8655
(920) 424-7094
beckv@uwosh.edu

Region 4—Southwest

Camille Gibson
Prairie View A&M University
PO Box 519, MS 2600
Prairie View, TX 77446
936-261-5234
cbgibson@pvamu.edu

Region 5—Western

Ricky S. Gutierrez
Division of Criminal Justice
California State University, Sacramento
6000 J. Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6085
916-278-5094
rickyg@csus.edu

National Office Staff:

Executive Director

John L. Worrall
University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road, GR 31
Richardson, TX 75080
972-883-4893
worrall@utdallas.edu

Executive Director Emeritus

Mittie D. Southerland
1525 State Route 2151
Melber, KY 42069
270-674-5697

Association Manager

Cathy L. Barth
P.O. Box 960
Greenbelt, MD 20768-0960
301-446-6300
800-757-2257
301-446-2819 (fax)
manager@acjs.org

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
ACJS Today
P.O. Box 960
Greenbelt, Maryland 20768-0960