



**CRITICAL
CRIMINOLOGIST
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. WALTER
DEKESEREDY



**CRITICAL
ISSUE
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. KATJA
FRANCO



**CRITICAL BOOK
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. YOLANDA
VAZQUEZ



**CRITICAL
ACTIVISM
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. SARAH
KULZER



**CRITICAL
TEACHING
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. HILLARY
MELLINGER



**GRADUATE
STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT**
NICK RODRIGO

THE CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGIST: SPOTLIGHT



Message from the DCCSJ Executive Board

DCCSJ Members,

As we wrap up another summer and prepare to head into fall it seems a good time to take stock. We are in a pivotal moment in history: women's rights to reproductive health are under attack across the country; how will we respond?

Elected officials have failed to protect voting rights; how will we respond? In the U.S., we continue to face weekly mass shootings and violent hateful actions of white supremacists; how will we respond? Police continue to brutalize black and brown people without consequence, how will we respond?

Countries around the world face threats to democracy including the invasion of Ukraine; how will we respond? The ugly and brutal treatment of immigrants continues; how will we respond? Climate change has reached very near the point of no return; how will we respond?

While some progress has been made; the appointment of Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, passage of *some* legislation to address climate and gun safety, more needs to be done, much more.

One thing is certain, the work of critical criminologists is needed now more than ever. The columns included in this newsletter addresses some of these issues and we are looking forward to the work of our colleagues and comrades as we move forward.

We look forward to seeing you all at ASC in November!

DCCSJ Executive Board

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Message from the Communications Team

Dear DCCSJ Members,

We are excited to share our most recent issue of the newsletter, which features contributions from Drs. Walter DeKeseredy, Katja Franco, Yolanda Vazquez, Sarah Kulzer, Hillary Mellinger, and graduate student Nick Rodrigo. This issue of the newsletter will focus on *Refugee Crises, Border Issues, and War in Ukraine*. We are immensely grateful to our contributors for their time and continued support. The newsletter would not be possible without your continued assistance and contribution.

Dr. Walter DeKeseredy, Director of the Research Center on Violence, and Professor of Sociology West Virginia University, starts off the newsletter via the “*Critical Criminologist Spotlight*.” Dr. DeKeseredy details how he became involved and interested in the field of critical criminology. He was recently named an ASC Fellow so please join us in congratulating him on this major accomplishment.

Next, Dr. Katja Franco, Professor of Criminology at the University of Oslo, Norway is featured in the “*Critical Issue Spotlight*.” Her piece discusses the horrific consequences the war in Ukraine has had along with other refugee crises that are currently taking place in Europe. Dr. Franco, thank you for writing such a compelling piece.

Following is Dr. Yolanda Vazquez, Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, who is featured in the “*Critical Book Spotlight*.” In her contribution piece, Dr. Vazquez discusses the contents of her book, describing the criminalization of migration as a “globalized racial project.” She also shares with the readers her future book and research projects. Dr. Vazquez, thank you for giving us an insight into your life.

Dr. Kulzer’s contribution piece titled “*How Do You Say Thank You*” can be found under the “*Critical Activism Spotlight*.” Dr. Kulzer documents her efforts as a volunteer, helping local refugee populations secure important, legal documentation, and so much more. She also discusses the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program and how she became interested in this topic. Dr. Kulzer, thank you for your ongoing support and advocacy efforts.

Next is Dr. Hillary Mellinger, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University. Her contribution piece titled “*Cultivating Awareness in the Classroom: A Critical Pedagogy Approach to Teaching a Criminal Justice Course*” is featured in the “*Critical Teaching Spotlight*.” Dr. Mellinger teaches a special topics, graduate level course – *Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice* – and outlines some of the learning activities she incorporates within her course. Dr. Mellinger, thank you for sharing this information with us. I’m sure many of our readers will find your contribution piece helpful as they are developing or updating their own teaching curriculum.

Nick Rodrigo, who is a Sociology Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Center at CUNY, is featured in the “*Graduate Student Spotlight*.” In his contribution piece, he discusses his dissertation project titled “*Wielding the Border: A Genealogy of US – Mexico Borderland Practice and the Purposes They Serve from Conquest to Today*” along with his forthcoming podcast. Nick, thank you for sharing your research projects with the readers.

Lastly, and as some of you might know, Cassandra has decided to step down from the DCCSJ Team at the beginning of the year. Cassandra, thank you so much for all you have done for the Communications Team, the DCCSJ newsletter, and the division overall. You were instrumental to the success of the newsletter and will definitely be missed.

This issue concludes with a Call for Papers (CFPs), which includes a book series titled “*Young Women’s Carceral Geographies: Abandonment, Trouble, and Mobility.*” The “*What We Are Reading*” section is also included towards the end of the newsletter and features articles recently published in the Journal of Critical Criminology.

Our next issue is scheduled to be released in December 2022. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or nominate a critical scholar, please email us at AscCriticalCrim@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you.

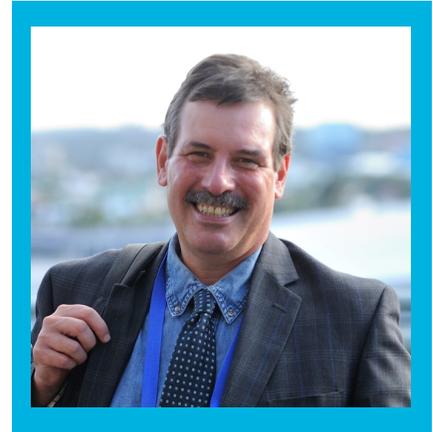
- **Alexa Bejinariu**, *Editor and Communications Committee Chair*

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Critical Criminologist Spotlight: Dr. Walter DeKeseredy

Walter S. DeKeseredy is Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences, Director of the Research Center on Violence, and Professor of Sociology at West Virginia University. He is also Adjunct Professor in Monash University's Gender and Family Violence Prevention Center. DeKeseredy has published 27 books, over 130 scientific journal articles and close to 100 scholarly book chapters on violence against women and other social problems. In 2008, the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma gave him the Linda Saltzman Memorial Intimate Partner Violence Researcher Award. He also jointly received the 2004 Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) Division on Women and Crime and the 2007 inaugural UOIT Research Excellence Award. In 1995, he received the Critical Criminologist of the Year Award from the ASC's Division on Critical Criminology (DCC) and in 2008 the DCC gave him the Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2014, he received the Critical Criminal Justice Scholar Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' (ACJS) Section on Critical Criminal Justice and in 2015, he received the Career Achievement Award from the ASC's Division on Victimology. In 2017, he received the Impact Award from the ACJS's section on Victimology and the Robert Jerrin Book Award from the ASC's Division on Victimology. In 2022, he was named an ASC Fellow.



Some Memories of an Accidental Critical Criminologist

In the early afternoon of May 2, 2022, I received one of the most noteworthy emails of my life. ASC President Dr. Janet Lauritsen reached out to inform me that I was named an ASC Fellow. I was in a state of disbelief and it took nearly 45 minutes for me to grasp that I would be added to such a prestigious list of colleagues who made incredible contributions to interdisciplinary empirical, theoretical, and political understandings of crime, law, and social control. This award speaks to me on many levels and receiving it influenced me to think about how I got to where I am today in professional life. I would like to share some of my precious memories with you.

When I enrolled at York University in 1978, I would have burst into laughter if anyone told me that I would eventually become a critical criminologist and receive the honors bestowed on me over the past 40 years. I went to York simply to get a B.A. in Canadian history, but something happened along the way. During my first year, all the introductory Canadian history courses were totally full and thus, on top of having to take three mandatory general education classes, I took introductory courses in sociology and psychology as electives. The former, to put it bluntly, rocked my world. It was team taught by Michael Lanphier and Thelma McCormack, and they opened my eyes to a world that I had no idea existed. My sociological imagination was ignited and the flames got bigger in each class I attended.

I decided to learn more about sociology the next year and Jim Moore's Personality and Society course was the second most important undergraduate context that helped lead me to my current situation. I became enthralled with experimental social psychology, especially the subfield of altruism and helping behavior. My excitement, spawned in large part by Jim's lectures and assignments, was so intense that I decided that I would, come "hell or high water," become a professor of social psychology. The next academic year, however, changed everything.

In the fall of 1980, I took Dr. Desmond Ellis' conformity and deviance class, which took me on a brand-new intellectual journey. At that time, I knew nothing about Taylor, Walton, and Young's (1973) groundbreaking *The New Criminology: For a Social Theory of Deviance*, but like these innovative scholars, due to Ellis' classes and reading list, I, too, became heavily influenced by American deviance theories crafted in the early to mid 1960s. I enthusiastically read the works of Howard Becker, Albert Cohen, and Richard Cloward and Lloyd Ohlin, and I hungered for more theoretical work that pointed to the influence of broader structural forces on individual behavior. My appetite, not surprisingly, then took me into the world of Robert K. Merton. Experimental social psychology didn't cut it for me anymore, but there are still vestiges of it stored in my brain.

In 1982, I graduated with an honors B.A. in sociology and was admitted into York's graduate program in sociology where I continued to work with Ellis. I didn't cross entirely over to the dark side, but you could have probably then labeled me, as York University sociologist Livy Visano would put it, a "good liberal with critical directions." My M.A. thesis focused on prison suicides in Canada and I found my research to be both rewarding and stimulating. I started the Ph.D. process with the intent of doing more of the same, but the fall of 1986 threw a spanner in the works.

As I note in the first edition of my book *Contemporary Critical Criminology*, I attended the 1986 ASC conference in Atlanta and went to sessions featuring prominent critical criminologists like Meda Chesney-Lind, Kathleen Daly, Susan Caringella, Dorie Klein, Betsy Stanko, Russell and Rebecca Dobash, and Claire Renzetti. I was deeply moved by their passion, research, and critiques of mainstream research, theories, and policies. Their voices set fire to my now ongoing commitment to critical criminology and they offered me much needed alternative ways of interpreting the social world.

Since then, I have done extensive feminist theoretical and empirical work on various types of violence against women and I continue to move in and out of the realm of left realism, which I see as just as important today as it was when it was born in the mid 1980s. As well, as described in Issue 25, Volume 2 of *The Critical Criminologist* and elsewhere, I have been a very active member of the Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice and I have served the DCCSJ in several capacities, including twice being Chair, co-editing this newsletter, and being one of the inaugural co-editors of the journal *Critical Criminology*.

I have not outlined all the steps taken on my voyage, but I assure you that there have been many ups and downs, with the ups, fortunately, outnumbering the downs. Moreover, loving friends and family members who were always there to pick me up when I fell and inspired me to carry on when I wanted to give up, especially when I was publicly attacked by conservative men's organizations in the early 1990s. You folks know who you are and you are constantly in my heart and soul.

Being named a Fellow of the ASC is not just a statement about my academic and political life-course. It is a rare mainstream organizational recognition of the importance of thinking critically about crime, law, and social control.

Some would say, “It’s about time another critical criminologist got this award,” particularly when you consider that the vast majority of ASC Fellows are orthodox social scientists. This is not to say that they are not deserving of recognition for their achievements, but progressive scholars, too, have made an equally important difference and should not be cast to the sidelines of the criminological arena. What also makes being named a Fellow of the ASC special is that I am, to the best of my knowledge, the first Canadian born sociologist to receive this honor. There are U.S. citizens who worked in Canada that are in the community of Fellows (e.g., the late Austin Turk), but I can’t find anyone else in my shoes. Though called the American Society of Criminology, this organization has a dynamic international membership and we should always remember that criminology of all sorts is a global enterprise.

I am deeply grateful to Alexa Bejinariu and Cassandra Boyer for inviting me to share a bit of my oral history as a third-generation critical criminologist. It is my wish (as it is obviously of others) that more progressive colleagues receive the same recognition from the ASC that I did this year and it is incumbent upon all of us connected to the DCCSJ to help achieve this important goal.

**Walter S. DeKeseredy,
Anna Deane Carlson Endowed Chair of Social Sciences,
Director of the Research Center on Violence, and
Professor of Sociology
West Virginia University**



Critical Issue Spotlight: Dr. Katja Franco

*Katja Franko is Professor of Criminology at the University of Oslo, Norway. She has published extensively on globalisation, migration and border control, international police co-operation and the use of advanced information and communication technologies in crime control strategies. Her recent publications include *Globalization and crime* (3rd edition, 2020, Sage) and *The crimmigrant other: Migration and penal power* (2020, Routledge). Her book *Sentencing in the age of information: From Faust to Macintosh* was a joint winner of the Socio-Legal Studies Association Hart Book Prize. In 2015, she was awarded the British Journal of Criminology's Radzinowicz Prize for her article 'Policing humanitarian border-lands: Frontex, human rights and the precariousness of life' (co-authored with Helene O.I. Gundhus).*

Europe's refugee crises, border issues, and war in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine is at the time of writing in its fifth month. In addition to the tragic loss of life and immense material destruction, it has produced the most serious displacement of people within Europe in the post WW2 period. According to the latest data provided by the UNHCR, more than 5.8 million individual refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe. More than 3.6 million of these have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes. Particularly countries closest to the crisis, such as Poland and Germany, have until now born the heaviest burden of this humanitarian catastrophe, although we have seen enormous civil society and public willingness to contribute in most European countries. My own work place, the University of Oslo, has organized a number of academic debates about the situation as well as created several initiatives to enable Ukrainian students and researchers to continue with their studies and research in Norway.

However, when choosing the title of this essay, I thought it was important to use the term 'refugee crises' rather than *a* crisis. Ukraine is not the only refugee crisis taking place at Europe's borders. There are several humanitarian hot spots, and have been for a number of years: the precarious situation in detention centres in Greece, the harsh conditions for migrants in North and West Africa, particularly Libya, Egypt, Ceuta and Mellila, the Channel crossing to the UK, to name just a few. Although equally dire in their humanitarian consequences, these situations have received far less (and a different kind of) media attention than the Ukrainian crisis, as well as quite different policy responses from European member states and the European Union. Since 2011, more than 5.6 million refugees have fled the war in Syria, seeking safety particularly in the neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Their attempts to seek refuge in Europe have been fraught with danger and difficulties. EU countries have in recent years progressively militarized and intensified the policing of their borders making it more difficult to reach its territory and seek asylum. The Mediterranean Sea is by far the most dangerous border area in the world. Since 2014, more than 24.000 migrants have died or gone missing there. In 2021, IOM's Missing Migrants project recorded 2.048 fatalities.

Although these issues might appear at the outset to belong within a humanitarian rather than a criminological framework, they have in recent years inspired a wealth of criminological scholarship. Criminalization and the use of penal power and militarized policing strategies have in Europe, as in the United States, become a preferred mode of state response to unwanted human mobility. These global developments demand a concerted international scholarly attention, not only in terms of research but also in terms of dissemination of research findings to a broader public. In the past ten years, I have been associated with Border Criminologies - an international network of researchers, practitioners, and those who have experienced border control. Much of our work has been focused on running the blog and documenting the growing interconnections between border control and criminal justice. An important objective has also been to highlight the work of younger scholars and scholars from the global South, as well as presenting perspectives from practitioners, activists and migrants themselves. The initiative also highlights the potential for inter-disciplinarity within criminological scholarship.

In addition to forging academic networks and encouraging research collaboration, Border Criminologies has sought to produce material that can be useful for teaching and informative to the general public. For example, in a series of videos 'Explaining immigration detention in Greece' Andriani Fili and her colleagues highlight basic facts about immigration detention and outline recent legislation that affects immigration detention practices in the country as well as document the pervasive violence in the system.

In my own academic work, I have examined how the logic of criminalization and security encourages the framing of migrants and asylum seekers as “crimmigrant others”, not only within the EU but also in countries with a pronounced humanitarian reputation and self-perception such as Norway. Having worked on the issues of criminalization of migration and deportation regimes for more than a decade has at times lead to a rather pessimistic outlook. During the pandemic, I therefore decided to work more practically with these issues and became a Red Cross volunteer in their “refugee friend” initiative. Although the enormous obstacles faced by refugees when trying to establish a new life in Europe are always there, the volunteering has also brought to my attention the positive aspects of refugee reception. The generosity and wish to help that exists within the civil society – despite political discourses that might indicate otherwise - has been particularly pronounced in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine. Also state authorities seem to be veering towards greater hospitality and to be reining in their impulses towards suspicion and control.

What makes state borders close for some groups of refugees yet open for others? Critical voices have cast these differential responses as a question of racial discrimination. Yet, in scholarly terms, we lack research on the topic. Together with my colleague Dorina Damsa I recently published an article arguing for a need to further develop intersectionality perspectives in the context of migration. For example, in addition to ethnicity, race, class and gender, citizenship is an important category that should be taken into account when examining practices of social exclusion of immigrants in Europe. The situation in Ukraine should therefore arouse not only our compassion and humanitarian sentiments, but also our scholarly curiosity. It has given a boost to the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has sent its “largest-ever” team of experts to Ukraine to investigate alleged war crimes. The war will, therefore, have a profound impact on life in Europe, as well as the research agenda of criminological scholarship for years to come.

Critical Book Spotlight: Dr. Yolanda Vazquez

Yolanda Vázquez is Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she teaches criminal procedure, immigration law, and crimmigration. Prior to joining the academic world, Professor Vázquez was a public defender in Chicago and the District of Columbia.

Her research focuses on the way in which migration policies are reshaping the criminal system and its disproportionate impact on Latinos. Her work is recognized both nationally and internationally, publishing across a range of sources, including Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press. She has presented her work both nationally and internationally and currently serves as an Academic Researcher for the University of Oxford's Border Criminologies.

Professor Vázquez is currently visiting at the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. She has also held visiting appointments at the University of Oxford, the University of Houston Law Center, and King's College London. She is currently working on her book, which discusses how crime and migration policies are used as a mechanism of racial subordination against Latinos in the United States.



Tell us a little bit about yourself and your research interests.

I am a professor of law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. I am currently a visiting fellow at the Migration Policy Centre at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, Italy. Prior to academia, I was a public defender in Chicago and the District of Columbia and a migrant farmworker attorney in New Jersey.

My scholarship focuses on the increasing role that criminal laws, policies, and procedures as well as the criminal system and its enforcement are playing in “managing” migration and the consequences that are resulting from this relationship.

Specifically, it focuses on three things: 1). The way that the intertwined relationship between the criminal and immigration system have reshaped the roles of law enforcement and defense attorneys; 2). The manner in which the “criminal alien” has been identified as Latino; and 3) The role that race and racism play in shaping crime and migration policies in the U.S. While these policies are placed in race-neutral terms, migration and crime policies have a disparate impact on people of color. I argue that this is not a reflection of the character of migrants, but a result of policies that have developed as a mechanism of racial subordination.

Can you provide readers with some insight into the contents of the book?

The book was created to address the lack of scholarship in the field of migration and crime policies that analyzed the topic within the framework of race and racism. While an increasing number of scholars across

the globe were researching on the dynamics at play in the growing criminalization of migration, often coined “crimmigration”, very few were exploring this phenomenon within the framework of race and racism and its development as a mechanism of subordination. This book was created to change that.

Therefore, this book put together scholars from various countries to center race and racism as the framework by which it analyzes how criminal justice and migration come together to target, exclude, remove, control and subordinate racialized noncitizens and citizens from societies across the globe within and outside their geographical boundaries. The volume begins with chapters that give a conceptual analysis of race, borders, and social control. The remaining sections explore the concept of race in key locations where the criminal system and migration control intersect, such as policing, courts, and punishment through deportation and detention. Authors explore these in countries such as the Australia, Honduras, Hong Kong, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Western Balkans. It also discusses these issues within roles of gender and religion, although race is its main frame.

By putting race at the center of the analysis, it allows for a deeper understanding and explanation for the growing intersection between criminal systems, their enforcement mechanisms, and migration control that is occurring across the globe. The book was created to help change the way one thinks about these laws and policies and expand the scholarship in this area.

What inspired you to explore this topic?

Prior to academia, I worked as a public defender in the District of Columbia and Chicago as well as a migrant farmworker attorney in New Jersey. My scholarly interest first developed by these experiences. As a public defender in Chicago, I was assigned to courtrooms that oversaw districts that had a large Latino population. During that time, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) were enacted. These two Acts increased the number of crimes that became removable offenses, limited the forms of relief available to migrants in immigration court, and increased enforcement by the criminal system of migrants. I quickly witnessed the impact that these two new Acts had on the criminal justice system and the consequences that flowed from the new laws. As the years went by, it became increasingly pronounced, I saw police, judges, and court personnel become deeply aware of the power they held in the life of a migrant and their family and how it began to reshape the way in which they interacted and controlled migrants.

It also became evident that these policies were enforced in a racially disparate manner. While rhetoric had justified these enforcement policies as racially neutral and targeting migrants who were a danger to national security and public safety, the “criminal alien”, I did not witness that. Instead, I saw the way in which the laws and policies were used to specifically target Latinos. In the way the criminal system’s actors policed, prosecuted, and sentenced.

Finally, as the years went by, I couldn’t help but notice that the development and enforcement of migration and crime policies were emerging across the globe, targeting the most vulnerable populations, separated by issues of race, gender, and religion, framed as deviants, criminals and terrorists. There was a theme that could be connected to legacies of racial oppression. Yet the story wasn’t being told. This is what has inspired me to write about these issues.

If you want readers to take away a key message from the book, what would it be?

The key message that I hope for them to take away is that the criminalization of migration is a globalized racial project. That these policies were not created as a result of a growing deviance or defect in current migrants but were developed in reaction to growing dissatisfaction with the increasing number of migrants who were not identified as white. Legacies of race and racism by prior imperialism, colonialism, etc., remain deeply rooted in these developing laws and researchers and scholars should continue to explore these issues through this framework.

What is next for you?

I will continue exploring migration and crime policies in the United States, but am also expanding my research beyond the geographical boundaries of the United States. By doing this, I hope to accomplish a few things. As a Visiting Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre, I am exploring the impact that race and racism have on the development and enforcement of migration policies in the European Union and its member states, particularly those from African countries, working towards a comparative analysis, which will include the U.S., the U.K., and the E.U. with a couple of its member states. Second, I am writing a book on crime, migration, and racial subordination, which focuses on the historical development of these policies, in the United States, which targeted Latinos and other noncitizens of color. Finally, I want to reframe the consequences of the criminal justice system to include the consequences that happen beyond the geographical borders of the United States. Criminal reform in the United States continues to focus on citizens and communities, families, and individuals within the United States, but migration and crime policies have changed that. Targeting those perceived to be migrants also disproportionately impacts citizens of color. Hopefully, by reframing the narrative to include noncitizens, we can build larger coalitions and move towards reform efforts that help all who are entangled in the criminal system's web.

Critical Activism Spotlight: Dr. Sarah Pedigo Kulzer

Sarah Pedigo Kulzer is an Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Shenandoah University. She received her Ph.D. from Old Dominion University. Her research and teaching interests include state crime, social inequality, and forced migration. Community engagement and scholar-activism inspire her work in the field as well as in the classroom. Refugee resettlement is her passion and she enjoys volunteering with local refugee and SIV populations. Some of her recent publications have appeared in journals such as *The Howard Journal of Crime and Justice* and *Human Rights Review*.



How Do You Say Thank You?

How do you say thank you? This was one of the first questions I asked when I began volunteering with Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders. How does one say thank you for sacrificing your safety, your family, your home, your identity, and even your life? In all honesty, I am not sure the words exist to adequately address the gravity of the situation. However, I am certain of one thing, we have to try.

The Special Immigrant Visa Program

Given my own family history, I have always been interested in issues surrounding migration and inequality. The more I researched, the more I began to make connections between the U.S. immigration system and state crime. Despite growing up under the hegemonic discourses of national security and the War on “Terror,” these connections quickly became undeniable.

I became especially interested in the Special Immigrant Visa Program (SIV) in Iraq and Afghanistan, a program I admittedly had never heard of until beginning my own research. It was specially created for Iraqi and Afghan nationals who provided mission-critical assistance to the U.S. in an attempt to remedy the often-dire situations faced by those who aided the U.S. throughout its illicit War on “Terror.” The program provides eligible applicants with prioritized U.S. admission, resettlement services, and legal permanent residency.

After learning about the program, I began working as a volunteer caseworker at Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC), the local volunteer agency tasked with refugee resettlement within the greater Hampton Roads area. Clients at this particular agency were primarily refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as Afghan SIVs.

A Week in the Life

While any given week at the CCC can be described as busy, some of the most eventful weeks are those which include the arrival of a new client. All client related tasks are broken down into two parts, the pre-arrival and the post-arrival. Each department has their own unique set of tasks and given my position as a volunteer case worker; my tasks were oriented as follows:

Pre-arrival tasks (to be completed the week of arrival):

- Coordinate with the U.S. Tie (if any)

- Identify and secure appropriate housing
- Secure and coordinate furniture donations
- Purchase any home goods not secured via donations
- Set up the furniture in the secured housing
- Shop for, and stock groceries in the secured housing
- Set up utilities for the secured housing
- Collect weather-appropriate clothing donations
- Determine any immediate health requirements of the clients (if any)
- Create Reception and Placement program (R&P) documentation for each person within the case
- Organize transportation to and from the airport

Post-arrival tasks:

- Pick up the clients from the airport
- Conduct a home orientation
- Conduct a cultural orientation
- Apply for a social security card
- Apply for benefits (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid)
- Coordinate medical screenings
- Apply for a mailbox key
- Conduct home visits (24 hour, 30 days, 60 days)
- Assist with opening bank accounts
- Assist with all other general needs of the client

In order to satisfy federal funding requirements, the majority of these tasks must be completed within the first week of arrival. However, given the nature of each task, they often require a great deal of time and effort. Additionally, bureaucratic hurdles exist at each stage of the resettlement process and, rather than becoming less cumbersome as the process unfolds, they often become more complex and time consuming.

Beyond clerical duties, other critical tasks include acting as a liaison for clients as they traverse the Social Security Administration (SSA), various social services appointments, and health screening appointments, as well as smaller tasks such as opening bank accounts and signing lease agreements.

During these interactions my role is to provide transportation, assist in the language barrier between the client and service providers, assist with the completion of forms and documents by explaining in greater detail what the document entails, act as the liaison between the CCC and service providers, and ensure that the overall well-being of the client is being met. I quickly learned that as a volunteer caseworker, I would often be required to play the role of advocate, support person, and translator, despite my lack of fluency in any of the multitude of languages the clients spoke. These roles often prove to be the most challenging.

After moving to the Shenandoah Valley, I quickly connected with Church World Service (CWS), another volunteer agency which recently opened a resettlement office in the area. My engagement with CWS and local refugee populations is currently ongoing, with the overall goal of creating a working partnership between the University, refugees and SIVs, and resettlement organizations.

Never Say No to Tea

When I began working as a volunteer, I quickly learned never to say no to tea. Tea not only represents a way to build relationships with clients, but it also acts as a system of reciprocity. Admittedly, clients give me much more than I can ever repay. The clients I work with in the field welcome me with open arms, despite the often-hostile reception they themselves receive. Their grace and kindness in the face of adversity and their desire to create a better life for not only themselves, but for all those who are struggling, move me to my core and is something we could all learn from.

Yet, the question still remains, how do we say thank you? In all honesty, I am not sure the words exist. However, we have a moral obligation, as scholars, as activists, as educators, and as fellow human beings to treat refugees and SIVs with the respect and dignity they deserve. To make our classrooms and campuses places of action rather than an ivory tower. To share the platform, to listen. And, if we are lucky, we will change our own thinking and welcome our own re-education, one in which the dominant hegemonic discourse represents refugees and SIVs as the valuable members of society that they are.

Critical Teaching Spotlight: Dr. Hillary Allison Mellinger



Dr. Hillary Mellinger is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University. She earned her PhD in Justice, Law and Criminology from American University. Her research interests include the criminalization of migration, asylum policy, the immigration legal profession, and interpretation challenges within the criminal justice system and immigration system. Before pursuing her Ph.D., Dr. Mellinger worked as a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Accredited Representative at the Tahirih Justice Center, a national nonprofit organization that supports immigrant women and girls fleeing gender-based violence through a combination of legal representation, social services and public policy.

In her free time, she enjoys reading young adult books, particularly those that are fantastical or dystopian. She also enjoys exercising and spending time with family. Finally, she has the best furry teaching assistants: a dog named “Razzie” and a cat named “Ju Ju”.

Cultivating Awareness in the Classroom: A Critical Pedagogy Approach to Teaching a Criminal Justice Course

“Multicultural Issues in Criminal Justice” is a required graduate-level course for students in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University. The course catalog has the following, general description for this course: “Critical examination of race, gender, and other diversity and cultural issues within the U.S. criminal justice system.” When I teach this course, I adopt an intersectional lens and encourage students to think about the myriad ways that individuals’ identities interact together to mitigate or compound discrimination.

My syllabus uses the following description: “The words “Equal Justice Under the Law” are inscribed in the entrance to the U.S. Supreme Court building. But does the promise of “equal just under the law” apply to everyone, at all times? If not, for whom and when is this promise upheld?” I ask students the following three questions: How do people’s intersectional identities relate to their experiences with the police, courts, and corrections? Are laws, policies, and processes that purport to be neutral on their face actually neutral in their application? What initiatives, legislation, and policy recommendations have been put forward to remedy disparities in “equal justice”?”

In answering these questions, my goal is to empower students to think about their own lived experiences and others’ experiences, and to critically examine academic scholarship, current events, legislation, and policy proposals. One way I facilitate this is by having students lead two class presentations / discussions on readings and topics from the syllabus. I give students the following instructions: “Please connect the assigned reading(s) for this week’s topic to the contemporary world. For example, you might

connect the reading(s) to current events, or suggest future policy recommendations. You can also draw upon your own professional or personal experiences. If you would like, you can show a YouTube clip, a movie trailer, artwork, or have an in-class activity. This is your chance to apply the reading to the real world, and you have autonomy to do this in a way that is meaningful to you and your future goals.”

My favorite thing about this activity is that it lets students think “outside the box” in ways that are relatively uncommon for graduate courses, which predominantly focus on writing. Although my course does have writing assignments, including memos and a final research paper, my favorite assignment (and students’ favorite, as well, based on their feedback) is the class presentation / discussion. These presentations go beyond summarizing or critiquing the assigned reading(s), which may be an entire book or several academic articles. Students apply the readings to the real world in unique and purposeful ways, and I find that both myself and their peers are often moved by how they choose to express themselves.

For example, in a class on the criminalization of poverty, a student showed photos of “hostile architecture” from various urban landscapes and talked about numerous ordinances against camping and homelessness. Another student focused on how an individual’s preferred spoken language (e.g., English, Spanish, etc.) may influence their access to justice, particularly when legal actors may make assumptions about an individual’s language abilities (e.g., a person who speaks an indigenous language may be presumed to speak Spanish). Yet another student addressed the challenges that incarcerated individuals experience regarding accessibility, such as how correctional facilities often lack resources or infrastructure to appropriately respond to physical or mental disabilities.

In presentations on topics as varied as judicial decision-making, perceptions of policing, and programming options for incarcerated individuals, I was in awe of the meaningful and impactful way that students used poetry, songs, photos, clips / trailers from movies or documentaries, and collages of new articles to vividly illustrate their critiques of the U.S. justice system, broadly defined. I also appreciated that students spoke with me in advance of giving their presentations to ensure that the material they presented was done so in a manner that was respectful and that facilitated the discussion of sensitive topics while making efforts not to (re)traumatize others.

I do not presume that I am the first instructor to assign classroom presentations, and I know that many readers may be wondering what is novel about this assignment and how it invokes critical pedagogy. My response is that, even in 2022, intersectionality is missing from many academic articles and policy proposals; in fact, contemporary media accounts often (though not always) emphasize one aspect of individuals’ identities, such as their race, over others.

This graduate course gave students and me the space, time, and opportunity to more critically engage with existing literature and to ask, “What’s missing? Whose story is not being told?” In the real world, we do not have perfect datasets that capture all aspects of an individual’s identity, and I know that academic studies grapple with these limitations. But in the freedom of the classroom, students and I demanded more of ourselves and of the scholarly and practitioner communities; we thought about what data *should* be collected, how to collect it, and how to elevate the voices that often are insufficiently heard. We were vulnerable with one another, and we did our best to acknowledge our biases (implicit or otherwise) and recognize how they shaped our world views.

In sum, my favorite thing about teaching this course – particularly with graduate students and with the presentation / discussion activity – is that it infuses intersectionality into every single class meeting and assignment, and fosters dialogue that might otherwise not occur. My own intersectional identity and privilege means that I am constantly learning, adapting, and growing as a scholar and as a person. Many students expressed the same.

I felt privileged that together, students and I were able to create a space where we could push the boundaries of existing knowledge, and answer the question I posed in my syllabus: does the promise of “equal just under the law” apply to everyone, at all times? Although the answer to this question is clearly “no,” by adopting a critical and intersectional lens, the presentation / discussion activity gave everyone a greater awareness of the roles that identity, power, and privilege play in addressing social justice issues. In my opinion, sparking awareness and facilitating productive classroom discussions is one of the most important goals of any class, and I believe this activity met that objective.

Critical Graduate Student Spotlight: Nick Rodrigo



Nick Rodrigo is a Sociology PhD candidate in the Graduate Center, CUNY where he is currently writing his PhD thesis titled “Wielding The Border: A genealogy of US-Mexico borderland practices and the purposes they serve from conquest to today”. Nick is a founding member of the Social Anatomy of Deportation Regime at John Jay College, where he has coordinated their public events and research projects since its establishment in 2018. He has written several op-eds and book chapters on the state of US-Mexico borderland violence and the nature of detention and deportation proceedings in the US, as well as producing a podcast on the deportation regime in the US called “They Are Just Deportees”. His forthcoming podcast “These Bordering Scars” will examine the socio-political history of the US-Mexico borderland violence and will be published in the Fall of 2022. Nick also teaches courses on prison/police/border abolition and immigration at John Jay College and leads the qualitative section of a large NSF funded project concerning criminal deportations in New York City. Alongside his research and teaching, Nick has been organizing

in the Palestine liberation, anti-war and migrant rights movement for over ten years in his native UK, Palestine, South Africa and in the US. He currently serves on the board of Families For Freedom, a NYC-based human rights organization by and for families facing and fighting deportation and is a member of the Palestinian led organization Existence is Resistance.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently conducting fieldwork in Tucson, Arizona, for my dissertation titled “Wielding The Border: A genealogy of US-Mexico borderland practices and the purposes they serve from conquest to today”. Through the construction of a robust theoretical lens, archival research, and qualitative investigation in the US borderlands this project aims to trace how the practices of bordering have evolved, and the central purpose they serve to the US state projects of racial capitalism and the expansion of the security state.

A large part of my fieldwork includes participant observations and interviews with humanitarian organizations who are bearing witness to the state sanctioned violence at the border, and I have been conducting water drops with the Tucson Samaritans and Humane Borders – both who provide humanitarian relief along migrant trails, often sites where border crossers die from heat exposure. I have planned interviews with members of these organizations, as well as lawyers, policy makers and border patrol members, to glean the full extent and logic of the militarization of the US-Mexico border.

Whilst in Tuscon I am also accessing the historical archives to at the University of Arizona to locate how specific bordering practices have evolved from conquest of the region from Mexico, to the Indian Wars, Mexican Revolution and subsequent emergence of the US Border Patrol.

Regarding teaching, what classes have you taught and what was your experience like?

I have taught several classes within the City University of New York, including at Queens College, John Jay College and CUNY Law. My flagship course is Crime and Migration, which examines the criminalization of migrant life in the US, through the lens of race, class and gender. I am always compelled by the student's insight on the readings – as CUNY is a school with many migrant or children-of-migrant students – and therefore they see much of the oppressive structures we discuss in their lived experiences. I have also taught classes on Political Sociology, Social Stratification and Sociological Theory. I was honored to receive the John Jay College Sociology department teaching award in 2021 and 2022, which has been a personal highlight of my career, alongside a number of my students being accepted into law school and prestigious graduate school programs. I am excited to be teaching a new course at John Jay this fall titled “Abolition”, where the class will interrogate the history of the abolition movement and apply its principles to prisons, the police, borders, the contemporary school system, and child protection services.

What first attracted you to the field of criminology? How did you become engaged with critical criminology specifically?

For years I had the impression that criminology was a discipline aimed at pathologizing the actions of “deviant” subjects in society, and providing reformist approaches to crime. My PhD supervisor David Brotherton and PhD committee member Jayne Mooney, both well known in the field of critical criminology, introduced me to a different side of the discipline. From their mentorship I came to understand the Left Realist tradition, and the perspective of societal ills emanating from the state's disproportionate and illogical response to the societal construct of “crime” from working class communities. I have been able to build a series of theoretical tools which have enabled me to pick apart the demonization and marginalization of the most disenfranchised members of our society and most importantly, contribute in my own way towards a roadmap for liberation in the classroom and in my organizing efforts.

What are your research interests?

I am interested in the history of border enforcement and the logic its development has for the development of statecraft, I am also passionate about immigration enforcement systems, political violence, policing and critical national security studies. A long-term interest of mine is to compare bordering regimes around the world, particularly as territorial frontiers in the global north harden with their southern neighbors due to climate and conflict induced migration. Critical Criminology has an important role in analyzing and resisting the hardening of borders, as the folk devils and moral panics are often deployed to justify the demonization of the other – a vital discursive precursor to border and immigration control militarization.

What are your current research projects?

I am in the process of converting my dissertation fieldwork into a podcast titled “These Bordering Scars”, which will present my archival and interview data in accessible and novel podcast episodes, presenting the complex insights of the research in an accessible manner.

I am also a lead researcher on an NSF grant lead by Professor Sarah Tosh (Rutgers University -Camden) and Professor David Brotherton (John Jay College/ Graduate Center, CUNY). The project probes the existence of a criminal deportation pipeline in New York City, and the way in which criminal justice policies criminalize migrants and drag them into removal proceedings. I also have several publications in the pipeline, including a journal article examining the interiorization of borderland violence.

What are your goals upon graduating from your program?

I hope to produce a dissertation that has the potential to be converted into a book and a number of public facing materials in order to compel those within academia to investigate more deeply the relationship between bordering violence enacted against migrants and the broader structural violence threatened against citizens. I hope to achieve this goal through a postdoc or tenure track position at research focused university within the US or Europe. My long-term goal is to produce research which compares global bordering regimes in postcolonial contexts, with a specific focus on the US, Israel/Palestine and Australia.

What are some of your favorite academic publications? Why?

“A Critical Theory of Police Power” by Mark Neocleous provides a useful interrogation of the history of policing and its utility to the capitalist mode of production, the abstractness of his theoretical approach means it can be applied to different forms of state violence. I found “The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail” by Jason De Leon to be a heart wrenching and controversial examination of the politics of border enforcement at the US-Mexico frontier. The ethnographic vignettes with border crossers were particularly moving to me, with De Leon deploying interview data and *autohistorias* to present the reader with both the crushing violence of the border and the resilience of the human spirit under such devastating conditions.

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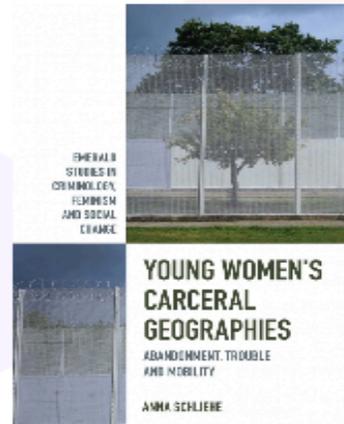
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What We Are Reading

Critical Criminology: The Official Journal of the ASC Division on Critical Criminology and the ACJS Section on Critical Criminology

Volume 30 Issue 2, June 2022

Editorial Introduction

By David Brotherton and Jayne Mooney.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-022-09649-6>

In Defense of Class Struggle

By Laura Bedford.

Abstract

In his article, “In Defense of Resistance,” Ferrell (2019) argues for the importance and centrality of the study of everyday and emergent acts of resistance to unjust power and authority. In my response, I contend that by failing to position contemporary resistance within a coherent theory of the production and reproduction of real life under capitalism, support for free-floating forms of resistance may serve to legitimize and strengthen the status quo, rather than challenge it. Through a Marxist lens, I call for a renewed criminological focus on: (1) the criminogenic nature of capitalism and its structures of exploitation of people and the environment; (2) class struggle and the possibility of a post-capitalist society based on an eco-socialist mode of production; and, (3) the possible consequences of not moving beyond capitalism in the twenty-first century.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09567-z>

Resistance and the Radical Imagination: A Reflection on the Role of the Critical Criminologist in Social Movements

By Laura Naegler.

Abstract

At times of global unrest and the emergence of a wide range of protest movements, recent intra-disciplinary criminological debates on the potentials and limits of resistance suggest a paradoxical trend. Critical criminologists—in particular, those associated with the ultra-realist perspective—have become increasingly skeptical of the idea of “resistance,” itself. In the context of these discussions, scholars have

resorted to dismissing oppositional activities—including social movements and their different forms of protest—that are both intended and recognized as *resistance*. In my contribution to this debate, and in response to Jeff Ferrell’s (2019) article, “In Defense of Resistance,” I provide a critical reflection on the analysis of social movements in both ultra-realist and cultural criminological scholarship. Drawing from my ethnographic research with the (post-)Occupy movement in the United States, I argue that the dismissive reading of social movements’ resistance and the calls for stronger political leadership are the result of a narrow analytical lens applied to movements, their temporalities, and their historical context(s). In addition, I contend that the harsh criticism of social movements by ultra-realists connects to the aim of developing an intellectual leadership concerned with informing social movement practice and strategy “from above.” Here, as I maintain, the theory and practice of militant research, or *militancia de investigación*, as per the Colectivo Situaciones, challenges this understanding of intellectual leadership. The insights provided by radical collective knowledge production in social movements, and their critique of the institutional frameworks of the neoliberal university, allow for a critical reflection on the role of academia in resistance. This critical reflection can generate possibilities for social movements’ knowledge and radical imaginations to influence academic theorizing.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09577-x>

Traversing the Fantasy: Why Leftist Academics Must Abandon the Myth of Organic Resistance and Think Again About the Problems We Face

By Emma Kelly and Simon Winlow.

Abstract

The concept of organic resistance has stood as a cornerstone of critical social science for decades. Countless authors have claimed that minor acts of “transgression” should be interpreted as indicators of a proto-revolutionary drive among the marginalized to fight oppressive power. Here, we argue that critical scholars must jettison such baseless idealism and accept the huge amount of work needed to create within people a desire for genuine change. Post-1968 liberal capitalism has proven itself, time and again, able to integrate dissent and dissatisfaction into its project of continuous self-revolution. To move forward, we must accept a regrettable reality: most marginalized citizens dream not of overthrowing the system, but of achieving a degree of security and success within the system as it stands. If critical criminology is to continue to shed new light upon the huge problems we face, the lives of our most marginalized citizens must be represented with a greater degree of honesty.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09573-1>

Exploring Violent Cosmologies From a “Radical Interactionist” Approach

By Adolfo Ceretti and Lorenzo Natali.

Abstract

This article advances a theoretical perspective on violent crime, using interviews with male prisoners in Italy who had perpetrated violence. By drawing on Athens' (1992, 1997, 2007, 2017) "radical interactionism," we propose the concept of "violent cosmology" in order to counter linear explanations of cause and effect. In an effort to complement narrative criminologists' contributions, we seek to recognize and understand the dimensions of meaning that are accessed by social actors when they prepare and carry out a violent act, exploring the psycho-social processes that animate violent social experiences from the perspectives of perpetrators. Specifically, we suggest that a "radical interactionist" approach, in dialogue with narrative criminology, can help (1) illuminate the sources of perpetrators' narratives; (2) explore the interplay between individuals and social structures; and (3) investigate ambiguities in the narratives of violent actors. Finally, we examine how enhancing the reflexivity of violent actors and recognizing the specificity and integrity of their lives and social experiences is a necessary precondition for understanding violent crime.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09536-y>

Deconstructing the Hustle: Investigating the Meanings of Hustling Within the Carceral State

By Deidre Caputo-Levine.

Abstract

This article describes the ways in which the formerly incarcerated participants understand "hustling" and the "hustle." Based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted at Second Chance, a New York metropolitan area agency that serves formerly incarcerated persons and those who have had police contact, this article attempts to situate "hustling" within the carceral state. "Hustling" has a range of meanings. It is a form of labor performed to acquire material goods—the ability to "hustle" functions as a marker of an approved masculinity. "Hustling" also reflects power relations and can serve as a framework of reference. The participants in the study were routinely "hustled," and they expressed concern that they were being "hustled" in the context of the programming offered at Second Chance. The article concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings for reentry programming.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09540-2>

Living Death at the Intersection of Necropower and Disciplinary Power: A Qualitative Exploration of Racialised and Detained Groups in Australia

By Samantha O'Donnell.

Abstract

This article challenges state-sponsored violence in Australia by exploring the experiences of young Indigenous people in youth detention and refugees in immigration detention in Australia as a form of living death. This article examines how this living death manifests by qualitatively analysing publicly accessible first-hand accounts from Indigenous young people about their experiences of youth

imprisonment and from refugees about their experiences of immigration detention onshore and offshore. The findings suggest that when necropower and disciplinary power intersect four overlapping expressions of violence emerge: structural violence, epistemic violence, physical violence and brutality, and disciplinary violence. It is the complex overlapping of these multiple forms of harm that creates an experience of living death. In privileging the voices of young Indigenous people and refugees, this article also recognises their continued refusal of past and present colonial structures and the associated violence of carceral spaces.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-022-09623-2>

Power(ful) Connections: Exploring the Revolving Doors Phenomenon as a Form of State-Corporate Crime

By Monica Pons-Hernandez.

Abstract

The 'revolving doors' phenomenon is the name given to the movement of individuals from public office to private companies and vice versa. It is believed that this phenomenon impacts the decision-making process to the detriment of the public interest. While it has largely been framed as a corrupt practice, this research seeks to explore it as a form of state-corporate crime by employing the case study of the Spanish government and the fossil fuel industry. The study finds that the explored case of revolving doors causes harm by driving social and economic instability and climate inaction and proposes the creation of a 'state-capture corporate crime'. Overall, the paper highlights the need to broaden the revolving doors and state-corporate crime concepts to allow its inclusion in the criminological agenda.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-022-09626-z>

Rediscovering the Relative Deprivation and Crime Debate: Tracking its Fortunes from Left Realism to the Precariat

By Craig Webber.

Abstract

This article revisits the concept of relative deprivation and asks whether it is still useful for criminology. The article traces the way relative deprivation has been used in the past to understand crime and how it has connections to other, more recent, additions to debates on social justice. I argue that relative deprivation has disappeared even in the place that it had become the key explanation for crime—left realism. In so doing, I explore the resurrection of left realism in criminology—what I refer to as “post-millennial left realism”—first, by those who were associated with it originally, and then with Hall and Winlow’s (2015, 2017) shift in emphasis to what they term “ultra-realism.” I maintain that relative deprivation is still a powerful concept for bridging several related areas that should still be central to the concerns of criminology—in part, because it is still a major concern in popular social science and social psychology. Why has it disappeared in criminology? I present an argument that suggests that the

absence of certain research methods, such as ethnographic and qualitative or small-scale survey methods, has impoverished our understanding of the lived reality of people experiencing the social transformations of a networked, precarious society. The massive polarization and disruption in politics and social discourse, as well as the worldwide economic, public health, and social transformations (ranging from the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter protests to the COVID-19 global pandemic) have demonstrated the continued relevance and analytical power that relative deprivation, in its elaborated form, brings to questions of crime and justice.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09554-4>

Young People, Antisocial Behavior and Unemployment: Toward a Trans-Disciplinary Analysis of Criminalization

By Ross Fergusson.

Abstract

This article considers the diverse use of the concept of criminalization in criminological and socio-legal analyses, the meanings attached to it, and the differentiated modes and manifestations of the processes of criminalization in the United Kingdom. It draws together the contributions of both disciplines (criminology and socio-legal studies) to extend understanding and theorization of the concept of criminalization, and it applies them to antisocial behavior legislation and unemployment policy concerning young people. The article identifies three distinctive modes of criminalization—illegalizing, impelling and imputing—through which the criminalization of targeted young people is realized. The article argues that criminological assessments and theorizations of criminalization and assessments developed in socio-legal studies have largely developed independently. It considers the prospects for a trans-disciplinary approach to criminalization in theory and in practice that would attempt to build on complementarities between the critiques developed by both disciplines, and it identifies possibilities for synthesizing their insights.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09600-1>

“I’ll Choose My Own Way”: Delinquent Girls and Boys in Search of Gender Hegemony

By Armelle Weil

Abstract

This article analyzes juvenile delinquency through the concept of “gender projects.” It argues that delinquency makes the embodiment of specific masculinities and femininities possible, and thereby contributes to “gender achievement” (or “gender accomplishment”). Drawing on in-depth interviews conducted with Swiss juvenile offenders and using Raewyn Connell’s (1987, 1995) notion of “hegemonic masculinity,” this article examines “gender projects” that boys and girls pursue through a variety of offenses and trajectories in the criminal justice system. By inscribing the youth’s delinquent trajectories

in social space and by paying attention to the intersection of power relations they face, this article discusses how delinquency can be a tactic to sustain, produce or overcome gender hegemony.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-022-09607-2>

Child Execution in Iran: Furthering Our Understanding of Child Execution as a Form of Structural Violence

By Nadia Aghtaie and Jo Staines.

Abstract

This article explores how the concepts of *structural violence* and *cultural violence* can explain the institutionalization and normalization of violence in children's lives in Iran, including the use of the death penalty, thereby providing a mechanism through which such violence can be challenged. The paper reflects on how an alternative to execution, the payment of blood money, *diyah*, mitigates but does not eradicate harms caused to child offenders convicted of *Qesas* offenses and how *diyah* is used by Iranian authorities to avoid fulfilling their legal obligations to children who offend. The article argues that eradicating child execution and the payment of blood money is dependent on challenging the *structural violence* that is embedded within Iran's legal structures and it reflects on recent improvements in the legal system.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-022-09605-4>

Data, Damn Lies, and Cannabis Policy: Reefer Madness and the Methodological Crimes of the New Prohibitionists

By Jon Heidt and Johannes Wheeldon.

Abstract

The rapid pace of cannabis legalization in North America has provoked a backlash that is predictable and discouraging. The New Prohibitionists, distinct but related to their predecessors, the Old Prohibitionists, have offered scholarship rife with conceptual errors, methodological flaws, and practical oversights. While their advice would likely hasten that which they seek to decrease, they overlook the costs of returning to practices associated with prohibition. To counter simplistic research interpretations and ill-considered policy, we present a critically informed research program on cannabis and crime based on previous scholarship. Our work is designed to apply replacement discourse and refocus research to withstand the tendency for justice systems to subvert, rather than embrace, reform. Cannabis legalization has been decades in the making and serious questions remain for proponents, opponents, and policymakers. Society, however, will be far worse off if the mistakes of reefer madness are repeated.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09548-8>

“I’ve Got Something to Live for Now”: A Study of Prison Nursery Mothers

By Rebecca Tuxhorn.

Abstract

This study explored the perceptions of incarcerated women, housed in prison nursery units in three states, of the effects of the nursery units on their parenting and well-being, as well as their views on the potential long-term effects on their recidivism. In-depth interviews were conducted with nursery-participant women offenders in Illinois, Indiana, and Nebraska in order (1) to learn more about the women’s experience of giving birth to and raising a child in prison; and (2) to understand their perceptions of how this experience might impact their parental and life choices post-release. The interviews revealed that the women believed the mother–child attachment and bonding while in prison influenced their growth and development in a positive way, and enhanced their mothering abilities. The women also indicated that they felt empowered and more effective in their parenting role due to the gender-responsive nursery programs and that program implementation and design impacted their perspective of program effectiveness. The implications for further policy recommendations are discussed.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09545-x>

Civilizing Space or Criminalizing Place: Using Routine Activities Theory to Better Understand How Legal Hybridity Spatially Regulates “Deviant Populations”

By Matthew Valasik and Jose Torres.

Abstract

The combining of administrative, civil, and criminal law has broadened modern crime control mechanisms and greatly increased the legal authority and discretion of law enforcement officers. Such legal hybridity has contributed specifically to the pervasiveness of spatial regulatory practices (or spatial remedies), such as the use of banishment policies and civil gang injunctions (CGIs), by police in urban centers. While banishment policies and CGIs exemplify the reliance on legal hybridity to manage “deviant” populations spatially, empirical evidence suggests that spatial remedies guided by the theoretical underpinnings of deterrence and broken windows perspectives are not efficacious at predicting observed behavioral changes. We argue for a critical approach to understanding disobedience to spatial remedies, suggesting that routine activities theory is an appropriate framework to expose why these mechanisms fail to generate robust compliance or remedy problem areas.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09537-x>
