

58TH ACJS ANNUAL MEETING
REFORMING AND TRANSFORMING CRIMINAL JUSTICE
VIRTUAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2021

***All Sessions are listed in Eastern Standard Time**

11:00am – 12:00pm

Plenary: Yusef Salaam

Reforming Criminal Justice Panels

April 14, 2021, 12:15pm -1:30pm

Panel Title: School Shootings and Public Attitudes on Gun Regulation

(Chair) Joseph DeLeeuw, j-deleeuw@onu.edu; Ohio Northern University

Title: *Paper Presentation*

Class is in Session - An Examination of the Lessons Learned in the Aftermath of Gun Violence at Schools

(Author) Hallie Renee Woods, h-woods.1@onu.edu; Ohio Northern University

(Author) Joseph DeLeeuw, j-deleeuw@onu.edu; Ohio Northern University

Abstract

As a result of the increasing number of school shootings over the past 25 years, there is a growing body of school administrators that have faced the challenges of recovering from these incidents. Our project examines the lessons learned by school administrators in the aftermath of school shootings. Our project focuses on the responses of schools following these incidents, the changes made to existing plans, and the new measures implemented to prevent, or mitigate the damage done by, future incidents.

Title: *Paper Presentation*

School Shooting Outcomes: A Conjunctive Analysis of Incident Characteristics

(Author) Hailey Green, h-green.1@onu.edu; Ohio Northern University

(Author) Joseph DeLeeuw, j-deleeuw@onu.edu; Ohio Northern University

Abstract

This project utilizes existing open source data to examine the incident level characteristics and outcomes of school shooting incidents. Our project employs conjunctive analysis to identify and examine the dominant configurations of incident level characteristics and likely outcomes. The analysis of these configurations could help to inform law enforcement and school administrators as they work to prevent and respond to school shooting incidents.

Title: *Paper Presentation*

Identity and the Racialized Politics of Violence in Gun Regulation Policy Preferences

(Author) Xavier Medina Vidal, dxmedina@uark.edu; University of Arkansas

(Author) Rocio A Paez, rapaez@uark.edu; University of Arkansas

(Author) Todd G. Shields, tshield@uark.edu; University of Arkansas

Abstract

In this study we examine how attitudes about race, as well as ethno-racial identities, influence support for various gun regulation policies. Drawing on the Racial Resentment and identity politics literature, we argue that attitudes about gun control are not simply driven by ideological, partisan, or demographic factors, but are often influenced by attitudes about race and identity, and region. Methods: Using data from a 2016 national survey of White, African American, and Hispanic/LatinX respondents, along with a comparable southern sample, we test for the effects of ethno-racial identity, Racial Resentment, evaluations of the Black Lives Matter movement, and feelings about African Americans on individuals' attitudes about background checks and banning assault weapons. Using the 2016 American National Election Study, we test the generalizability of these findings in the presence of additional controls. Results: Overall, we find that attitudes about race, ethno-racial identities, and in some cases regional variations, help explain support for gun regulation policies.

Panel Title: Reforming Judicial Practice II

April 14, 2021, 12:15pm -1:30pm

Title: *Paper Presentation*

Factually Innocent Defendants Who Confessed: Understanding False Confessions Through Records of Exonerees

(Chair) Annabelle Frazier, afrazier@publiccounsel.net; The Committee for Public Counsel Services

(Author) Annabelle Frazier, afrazier@publiccounsel.net; The Committee for Public Counsel Services

(Author) Abigail Hannah Allman, abigail.allman@snhu.edu; Southern New Hampshire University

Abstract

Confession evidence is particularly damning. Despite the increased use of false confession expertise, both the public and jurists continue to perceive confessions as strong evidence of factual guilt. However, data from the National Registry of Exonerations (NRE) tells a different story. Using NRE data on 2490 exonerations, we conducted public records research to assess predictors of confession (N = 303) among exonerees, including individual vulnerabilities (mental health, substance use, and cognitive impairment) and interrogation issues. Through these data, we also evaluated defendants' efforts to challenge confession evidence, demonstrating very low success rates, even when evidence of blatant coercion was presented.

Title: *Paper Presentation*

Pre-trial Civil Commitment of Criminal Defendants: Systemic Problems and Alternatives

(Author) Annabelle Frazier, afrazier@publiccounsel.net; The Committee for Public Counsel Services

(Author) Isabella Callahan, isabella.callahan@snhu.edu; Southern New Hampshire University

Abstract

Competency to stand trial (CST), dangerousness, and criminal responsibility (CR) statutes were developed to address the needs of defendants with serious mental

health needs. Due to growing recognition of the interplay between mental health and incarceration, these statutes increasingly utilized within the criminal legal system, leading to significant increases in pre-trial commitment of criminal defendants. However, pre-trial commitment has significantly fewer procedural safeguards, putting already vulnerable defendants in a cycle of confinement similar to incarceration. The authors review case law and research findings on pre-trial commitment of criminal defendants, highlighting consequences of civil commitment and discussing promising alternatives to commitment.

Title: *Paper Presentation: What's coming for the death penalty?*

(Author) Paul R Gormley, prgormley@gmail.com; Lynn University

Abstract

America's view of capital punishment shifts with each botched execution or high-profile criminal atrocity. Within these shifts, there is a trend away from the death penalty as a punishment for serious crimes. While America waits to see if this trend continues or shifts back, we have a societal & legal obligation to ensure that the executions that do occur satisfy the text and Supreme Court holdings of the Eighth Amendment. What is the next form of execution and will it be any better than current options?

April 14, 2021, 12:15pm -1:30pm

Roundtable Title: Is the Harm Happiness? A Vision for Integrating Positive Criminology/Psychology and Restorative Justice

(Chair) Jeremy Olson, jao@psu.edu; Penn State University

Restorative justice philosophers often see a state of human existence where stakeholders can live peacefully, morally, and justly among each other. They argue that crime is a harm to stakeholders and to this state of existence. Separately, research and thinking in the field of positive criminology/psychology suggest that there are about ten universal human goods that, when obtained, can lead to high level of life satisfaction for people. This roundtable will offer thoughts on viewing the restorative justice state of peaceful, moral, and just living as stakeholders' attainment of life satisfaction and about how doing so might help reduce harms.

(Session Organizer) Jeremy Olson, jao@psu.edu; Penn State University

(Moderator) Jeremy Olson, jao@psu.edu; Penn State University

(Discussant) Jeremy Olson, jao@psu.edu; Penn State University
(Discussant) Rebeca S. Sarver, rsarver@elmira.edu; Elmira College
(Discussant) Tyler Klienbach, tjk5689@psu.edu; Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre
(Discussant) Brad Killian, btk5155@psu.edu; Penn State University, Wilkes-Barre

Author Meets Critics

April 14, 2021, 12:15pm – 2:15pm

Hands Up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America

Book site: <https://nyupress.org/9781479874415/hands-up-dont-shoot/>

Author: Jennifer Cobbina (Michigan State University) cobbina@msu.edu

Moderator: Kareem Jordan (American University) jordan@american.edu

Critic: Kareem Jordan (American University) jordan@american.edu

Critic: Catherine Kaukinen (University of Central Florida) Catherine.Kaukinen@ucf.edu

Critic: Patricia Warren (Florida State University) pwarren@fsu.edu

Critic: Jacinta Gau (University of Central Florida) Jacinta.Gau@ucf.edu

Abstract

This Author Meets Critics panel will feature Dr. Jennifer Cobbina's book "Hands Up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America." Dr. Cobbina's work will be used to facilitate a discussion among the panelists about the relationship between race, policing, and citizen responses to police brutality.

Evolution of the Juvenile Court

Book site: <https://nyupress.org/9781479895694/>

Author: Barry Feld (University of Minnesota) feldx001@umn.edu

Moderator: Daniel Mears (Florida State University) dmears@fsu.edu
Critic: Daniel Mears (Florida State University) dmears@fsu.edu
Critic: Steven N Zane (Florida State University) szane@fsu.edu
Critic: Jennifer H. Peck (University of Central Florida) Jennifer.Peck@ucf.edu
Critic: Alex Piquero (University of Miami & Monash University)
axp1954@miami.edu

Abstract

This Author Meets Critics panel will feature Dr. Barry Feld's book "Evolution of the Juvenile Court." Dr. Feld's work will be used to facilitate a discussion among the panelists about juvenile justice reform.

April 14, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Panel Title: Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System

(Chair) Eman Tadros, emantadros@gmail.com; Governors State University

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Collaborative healthcare in incarcerated settings

(Author) Eman Tadros, emantadros@gmail.com; Governors State University

(Author) Melani Barbini, barbini.m@husky.neu.edu, Northeastern University

Abstract

Sub-optimal health status, existing healthcare disparities, and fragmented healthcare delivery among incarcerated populations are concerning and warrant redress. This article highlights the need for and discusses the benefits of collaboration between healthcare professionals in incarcerated settings. The roles of primary care health professionals, pharmacists, and medical family therapists (MedFTs) in correctional facilities are outlined. Through integrated healthcare models, enhanced communication, improved continuity of care, and holistic treatment plans, existing gaps in healthcare delivery in correctional facilities can be filled. By working together and assuming nontraditional roles, medical professionals can help improve health outcomes of offenders. Collaborative healthcare models in incarcerated settings can elevate public health in a cost-effective, yet positive manner.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Colors of Crime: Examining Racial Inequalities to Understand Offending

(**Author**) Lori L. Hall, lorihall@usf.edu; University of South Florida

Abstract

Vast research exists which analyzes crime along the lines of race. However, racial inequalities as a contributor to crime reveals greater understanding to the relationship between crime and race. The criminal justice system has responded to the vast research on race and crime with race-based crime tactics and strategies. The war of drugs has proved to be directed largely at black and brown communities while paying little attention to growing racial inequalities that contribute to offending by individuals of color. This research explores racial inequality in ten U.S. states and its relationship to crime using data from the National Incident Based Reporting System, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census and the National Center for Education Statistics.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

The Effect of Cannabis Legalization on the Arrests of Women

(**Author**) Mikala Meize, mikala.ewert@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Mary K. Stohr, mary.stohr@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Brittany Solensten, brittany.solensten@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Dale Willits, dale.willits@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) David Makin, dmakin@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Craig Hemmens, craig_hemmens@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Nicholas P. Lovrich, n.lovrich@wsu.edu; Washington State University

(**Author**) Duane Stanton, duane.stanton@wsu.edu; Washington State University

Abstract

The War on Drugs over the last 40 years has had the unintentional effect of increasing the arrest rates for women. Most of these arrests are for low-level offenses, often involving cannabis. However, with several states legalizing cannabis, it is important to examine trends in arrests for women. We examine monthly cannabis arrest rates in Colorado from January 2010 through December 2016 using an interrupted time series approach. Results document an immediate

statistically significant and sizable drop in cannabis-related arrests at the point of legalization for females of all groups; however, racial disparities persist.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Urban Black Fathers' Beliefs on where to Reallocate Criminal Justice Funds in the Community

(Author) Abigail Henson, abigail.henson@asu.edu; Arizona State University

(Author) Jessica M. Rosenthal, jmrosent@asu.edu; Arizona State University

Abstract

The recent deaths of Arbery, Taylor, and Floyd have reignited a collective cry for criminal justice transformation. This conversation promotes investing criminal justice funds into community resources, such as mental health services and schools. While justice reinvestment is an important step in addressing marginalization and systemic violence, stakeholders often make assumptions about community needs without including community members' viewpoints. This study draws from interviews with urban Black fathers exploring participants' views on community needs for their children. The fathers specifically called for family activities in their community, mentorship programs, educational/vocational programming, and safe outdoor spaces. Policy implications are considered.

Panel Title: Reforming Juvenile Justice

April 14, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:45pm

(Chair) Melanie Taylor, mtaylor44@csu.edu; California State University, Bakersfield

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Preparing for Release: Experiences and Perspectives of Juvenile Lifers as They Prepare to Reenter Society

(Author) Melanie Taylor, mtaylor44@csu.edu; California State University, Bakersfield

Abstract

Following the 2016 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, over 2,000 prisoners serving sentences of life without parole for offenses they

committed as juveniles were required to be resentenced or granted a parole hearing. Following these hearings, reports have emerged about the challenges to meet the requirements for parole release and barriers to success upon reentry. To illuminate this issue, juvenile lifers with the potential to be released were surveyed. The current study examines responses from 123 juvenile lifers on their reentry preparation and their plans and expectations for reentry. Findings and policy implications will be discussed.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

School Discipline Effects on Perceived Climate and Safety Among Students: A Multilevel Analysis

(**Author**) Erica Bower, enbower@odu.edu; Old Dominion University

Abstract

Though delinquency and violence have been steadily decreasing in American schools, research suggests that the use of discipline has not followed the same downward trend. This raises questions as to why schools are continually deploying certain discipline practices if rates of student misbehavior are not increasing. This study, a multilevel longitudinal analysis of the National Educational Longitudinal Study of 1988, investigates the effects of school discipline on student perceptions of school climate and safety among a sample of approximately 8,000 students in 700 schools. Key findings and policy implications will be discussed.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Who should be at the table and what should be on the plate: Juvenile justice reform in the heartland

(**Author**) April Terry, anterry2@fhsu.edu; Fort Hays State University

(**Author**) L. Susan Williams, lswilli@ksu.edu; Kansas State University

(**Author**) Mari-Esther Edwards, mariedwards09@ksu.edu; Kansas State University

(**Author**) Kelli Grant, kelli522@ksu.edu; Kansas State University

Abstract

In 2016, Kansas passed a comprehensive juvenile justice reform bill in response to increased incarceration of youth coupled with declining juvenile crime rates. In 2018, Our Town Our Kids—a K-State juvenile justice collaboration—developed and implemented a strategic community partnership to evaluate local strengths and challenges in addressing needs for at-risk youth. Relying on observation and interviews with more than 100 stakeholders, including justice-involved youths, our research uncovers multiple reform bill oversights. The study reframes juvenile

justice reforms to overcome gender blindness, acknowledge unique requirements for rural communities, and raise awareness of needs for special populations.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Disproportionate Minority Contact at Arrest in the Natural State

(**Author**) Dennis Williams, dennis.williams@uafs.edu; University of Arkansas: Fort Smith

(**Author**) Paul Kroutter, pkrouutter@cox.net; University of Arkansas: Fort Smith (retired)

Abstract

This paper looks at arrest data from the state of Arkansas and Sebastian County, Arkansas to examine disproportionate minority contact (DMC) among juveniles. Sebastian County is of interest because it is one of four counties identified by the state of Arkansas where DMC is “traditionally high”. We will also examine trends in DMC from 2016-2019 for the arrest data in Sebastian County. We will also examine the availability of data on DMC at other stages in the criminal justice system and what strategies have been undertaken in Arkansas in order to reduce DMC.

April 14, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Panel Title: Beyond Open Data: How Communities Can Use Data to Define

(**Chair**) Daniela Gilbert; dgilbert@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Problems and Change the Scope of Policing

(**Session Organizer**) Daniel O. Bodah, dbodah@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

Abstract

Researchers from the Vera Institute of Justice Policing Program report on recent projects exploring the use of open police data as a tool for communities to change how public safety is defined and produced.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Centering Community in Police Research

(Author) Mary Fleck, mfleck@vera.org, Vera Institute of Justice

Abstract

Academic researchers, think tanks, and civic engagement coders have all become fascinated with the public availability of police administrative datasets, aka “open data.” But communities most impacted by criminal enforcement often do not know about these resources. Communities also may lack the technical capacity to use open police data to obtain meaningful insights into their problems and needs related to police activity. We will give an overview of our emerging approach to centering the voices of people impacted by the criminal legal system in the Vera Institute’s data-oriented work. Rapid responses to the pandemic and civil rights uprising show how principles of race equity and inclusion can guide a realignment toward using our data analysis to uplift the voices of those with lived experience of the flaws in the system of criminal enforcement.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

What Policing Costs: A Look at Spending in America's Biggest Cities

(Author) Sandra van den Heuvel, svandenheuvel@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

Abstract

The police arrest someone every three seconds in the United States. More than 80 percent of all arrests nationwide are for low-level, nonviolent offenses. Yet the cost of U.S. policing is a staggering \$115 billion per year. Communities and activists have begun calling for changes that treat public safety within a public health approach, including by shifting funds from police to more appropriate first responders for calls involving mental health or substance abuse crises, minor nuisance activity, and other low-level incidents.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Reducing the Ring: 911 and Community-Based Alternatives to Enforcement

(Author) Frankie Wunschel, fwunschel@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

(Author) Aaron Stagoff-Belfort, abelfort@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

Abstract

About 240 million 911 calls are made each year. Few of these calls have anything to do with violent crime in progress. We present the results of an evaluation of 911 data from multiple cities that reveals the challenges and opportunities for reducing unnecessary police response. Our findings reveal opportunities to improve the 911

call classification system generally, while simultaneously providing an overview of non-enforcement approaches with promise for reducing overall 911 call volume and sending community-based non-police responders when police would be unnecessary or counterproductive.

Title (*Paper Presentation*)

Trading Places: What Has Changed and What Has Stayed the Same in U.S. Arrest Trends

(Author) Daniel O. Bodah, dbodah@vera.org; Vera Institute of Justice

Abstract

Americans are accustomed to imagining major cities as crime-ridden and suburbs as a refuge from the chaos of big city life. But data from Vera's Arrest Trends project shows that in recent years arrest rates in suburban cities have exceeded those in principal cities. An analysis of these trends by crime type and geographical region reveals how suburban cities have been passed by when it comes to the reductions of enforcement in principal cities. Building on analysis of variation in arrest rates across geography and crime type, newly-added demographic data show how arrest disparities have also evolved across time and place.

April 14, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Roundtable Title: High Utilizers and the Intercept 0: How to Avoid the Criminal Justice System

(Chair) Michelle Lynn Riske-Morris; mlr17@case.edu; Case Western Reserve University

The Sequential Intercept Model focuses on services that avert interaction with the criminal justice system for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). For high utilizers of mental health services, attention should be directed at how programs can work together to successfully address their needs. This presentation will examine an array of community-based responses developed in one large urban midwestern county to assist individuals with SMI at Intercept Zero. The focus of this research is to work with police and behavioral health providers to divert high utilizers from involvement with the criminal justice system. An assessment was conducted to surface the major themes characterizing the responsiveness of the system in meeting clients' and their families' needs. The focus was on identifying

gaps in existing services and impediments to cross-agency collaboration. While cross-agency collaboration has been identified as a means to address service gaps, little has been done to specifically examine Intercept Zero barriers and strategies for better serving clients with SMI. This presentation will highlight challenges and solutions to address Intercept Zero service provision and fragmentation with this revolving and difficult to engage clinical population.

Session Organizer: Michelle Lynn Riske-Morris; mlr17@case.edu; Case Western Reserve University

(Moderator) David Hussey, dxh@case.edu; Case Western Reserve University

(Discussant) Karen Flynn, kcf16@case.edu; Case Western Reserve University

April 14, 2021, 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Roundtable Title: The Need for Police Reform in the Caribbean: Regional Activism Post-George Floyd

(Chair) Sherill Morris; sherill.morris@mvsu.edu; Mississippi Valley State University

In the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd, an African American in the United States protests against police violence occurred in various parts of the world where Blacks experience police misconduct and corruption. The Caribbean was one such region. This panel offers a discussion of the similarities and differences in the police-citizen conflicts in the Caribbean versus the United States. Further, it presents suggestions for improving the experiences with and perceptions of police throughout the Caribbean regardless of gender, skin color, or economic circumstances.

Session Organizer: Sherill Morris; sherill.morris@mvsu.edu; Mississippi Valley State University

(Moderator) Sherill Veen Morris-Francis, sherill.morris@mvsu.edu; Mississippi Valley State University

(Discussant) Camille Gibson, cbgibson@pvamu.edu; Prairie View A&M University

(Discussant) Lorna E. Grant, lgrant@ncsu.edu; North Carolina Central University

(Discussant) Marika Dawkins, marika.dawkins@utrgv.edu; The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

(Discussant) Rhoden-Trader Jacqueline, jrhoden-trader@coppin.edu; Coppin State University

4:00pm – 5:30pm

2021 Awards Presentation; Closing Message by ACJS President Cassia Spohn; Bruce Smith Award Winner Speaker Presentation, Christopher Schreck, Rochester Institute of Technology

5:30pm – 6:00pm

2021 ACJS General Business Meeting