



NEWSLETTER 18:1 SPRING 2008

Division of Critical Criminology
American Society of Criminology

The Critical Criminologist

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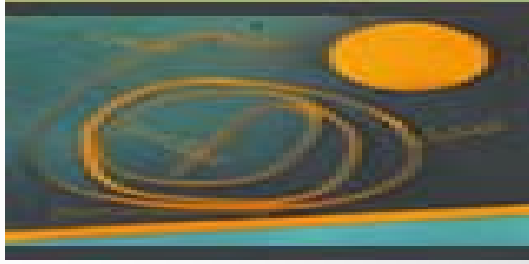
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Note from the Editors:

Please begin submitting materials for the Summer/Fall Edition. Trust us, we know how to beg—we just hate to. Also, we would love to continue to submit photographs and or cartoons—please send them in to us.

Thanks,

Dawn and Christopher



The Critical Criminologist
Spring 2008

Walter S. DeKeseredy, Ph.D
Submitted to the American Society of Criminology

April 4, 2008

**ANNUAL REPORT ON
THE DIVISION ON CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY**

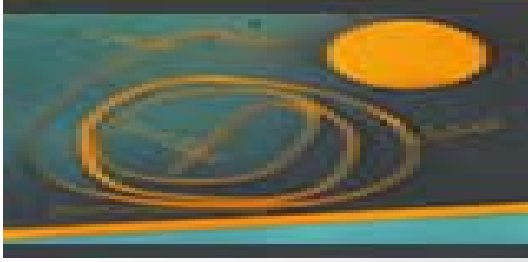
INTRODUCTION

There is ample evidence that critical criminology is much stronger than it was when Ian Taylor, Paul Walton, and Jock Young published their path-breaking book *The New Criminology: For a Social Theory of Deviance* in 1973. For example, the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) Division on Critical Criminology (DCC) has 304 members (as of March 17, 2008), many of whom are based at schools, government agencies, and other institutions outside of the U.S. Moreover, with aid of 30 thirty editorial board members from around the world and the Spring Publishing Company, the DCC publishes *Critical Criminology: An Editorial Journal*, and the DCC publishes a quarterly electronic newsletter titled *The Critical Criminologist*. A website maintained by Ken Mentor (www.critcrim.org) is also an important source of information for DCC members and others interested in empirical, theoretical, and political work done by critical criminologists.

The DCC is one of only five divisions of the ASC and overlaps with three of the ASC's strongest divisions: the Division on Women and Crime, the Division of International Criminology, and the Division on People of Color and Crime. The main objective of this report, then, is to provide the ASC with an overview of DCC activities that have occurred during the past year.

NEW DCC EXECUTIVE BOARD

The DCC's new Executive Board includes the individuals listed below. All of them were elected during of articles downloaded from its site. Moreover, Springer personnel continue to express much satisfaction with the quality of the manuscripts published and the competence of the Editorial staff.



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October 2007 and serve in their respective capacity for a 2-year term. Thus, each officer during this cycle serves from November 2007 until November 2009.

Chair

Walter S. DeKeseredy, Ph.D.
Faculty of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
2000 Simcoe Street North
Oshawa, Ontario
Canada L1H 7K4
Walter.dekeseredy@uoit.ca

Vice Chair

Barbara Perry, Ph.D.
Faculty of Criminology, Justice and Policy Studies
University of Ontario Institute of Technology
2000 Simcoe Street North
Oshawa, Ontario
Canada L1H 7K4
Barbara.perry@uoit.ca

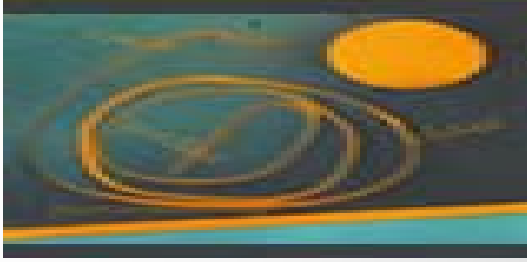
Secretary/Treasurer

Donna Killingbeck, Ph.D.
Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI
U.S.A. 48197
dkillingb@emich.edu

Executive Officers

David Kauzlarich, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Box 1455
Edwardsville, IL 62026
dkauzla@siue.edu

Gregg Barak, Ph.D.
Dept. of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, MI
U.S.A. 48197
gbarak@emich.edu



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Ronald C Kramer, PhD.
Director of Criminal Justice
WMU
1903 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5257
269-387-5284 (Ph)
ronald.kramer@wmich.edu

Past Chair

Bruce Arrigo, Ph.D.
Dept. of Criminal Justice
UNC Charlotte
9021 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC
U.S.A. 28223-001
barrigo@email.uncc.edu
Term of office ending date: November 2009

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL DATA

As of January 28, 2008, the DCC had \$2,636. This figure will increase markedly in the next few years because members have agreed to raise membership dues for all non-students. Note that students are not required to pay for their subscription to *Critical Criminology* and I assume that this policy will remain in place for a long time.

DIVISION AWARDS

Each year at the annual meetings of the ASC, the DCC gives several awards to members who have made important contributions to their field. The 2007 award winners are as follows:

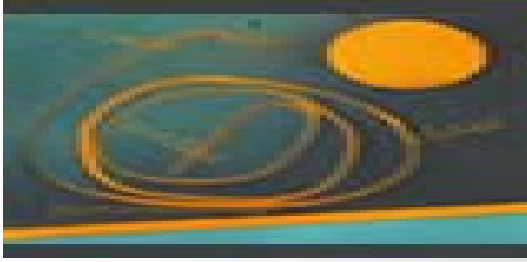
Undergraduate Student Paper Award (1st place): Carrie George, Northeastern University.

Undergraduate Student Paper Award (2nd place): Holly Pelvin, University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

Graduate Student Paper Award: Ashley Demyan, University of California, Irvine.

Critical Criminologist of the Year Award: Barbara Perry, University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Gregg Barak, Eastern Michigan University.



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STATUS OF CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY: AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

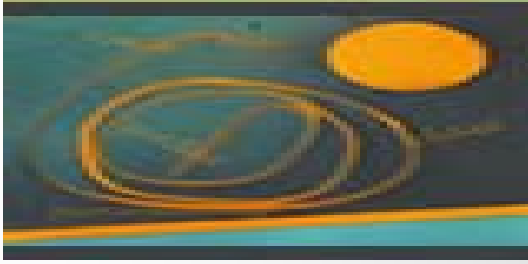
Critical Criminology is based at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology's (UOIT) Faculty of Criminology, Justice and Police Studies. Dr. Shahid Alvi is the Editor-in-Chief and UOIT gives him ample office space and a student assistant to help him perform his duties. Dr. Mark Israel is the Pacific Rim Editor and Joanna Goodey is the European Editor, and they have helped increase the visibility of the journal and its subscription list.

The journal is widely read and cited, and Springer officials continue to be pleased with the large number of articles downloaded from its site. Moreover, Springer personnel continue to express much satisfaction with the quality of the manuscripts published and the competence of the Editorial staff.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The DCC intends to increase its visibility and membership. Further, more discussions and meetings about the DCC's relationship with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Section on Critical Criminology are scheduled and the outcome of these exchanges will be shared with the DCC Executive. To be expected, DCC members will also be very active at the 2008 annual meetings of the ASC. Most members will present papers, chair panel sessions, and/or be involved in other important conference activities. Moreover, the DCC will host another social event at the conference and all members of the ASC are warmly invited to attend.

The DCC is, by no means, a parochial group. Most of the members belong to other ASC Divisions and publish in a wide variety of refereed journals, including those deemed by many people to be "mainstream" or liberal. Consider, too, that DCC members routinely serve on the editorial boards of major journals such as *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, and *Crime and Delinquency*. Certainly, DCC members are key parts of the broader academic criminological community.



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DCC MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

We were way to productive –so the lists are in author alphabetical order—articles are arranged by area. Be sure to scroll until the end. As they say “Deres sum good chit here”

PS –If your publications do not appear—it is not because we did not want to include them –only that you did not submit them to us.

Arena, M. P., and Arrigo, B. A. (2006) *The Terrorist Identity: Explaining the Terrorist Threat*. NY: New York University Press.

Arrigo, B.A., and Williams, C.R. (Eds.). (2006). *Philosophy, Crime, and Criminology*. Urbana and Chicago, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2006.

Arrigo, B. A., and Milovanovic, D. (2008). *Revolution in Penology: On Constitutive Theory and Practice*. New York, NY: Rowman & Littlefield.

Arrigo, B.A. (2006) *Criminal Behavior: A Systems Approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Barak, G. (2008). *Criminology: An Integrated Approach*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Barak, G. (2007). *Battlefield: Criminal Justice-- A Two-Volume Encyclopedia*. Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, General Editor.

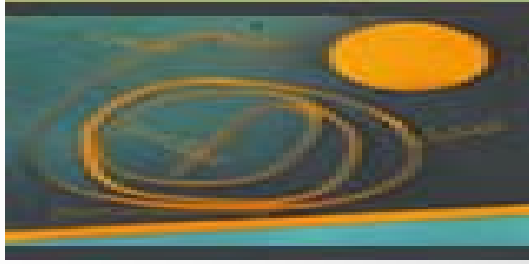
_____ (2007). *Violence, Conflict and World Order: Critical Conversations on State-Sanctioned Justice*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Barak, G. Paul Leighton and Jeanne Flavin (2006). *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: The Social Realities of Justice in America*. 2nd edition. New York: Rowman and Littlefield.

Barlow, H. and David Kauzlarich. (2008, June) *Introduction to Criminology*, 9th edition. Rowman and Littlefield.

Chesney-Lind, M and Katherine Irwin. (2007). *Beyond Bad Girls: Gender, Violence and Hype*. Florence KY: Taylor and Francis Books: Routledge Press.

DeKeseredy, W.S., & Perry, B. (Eds.) (2006). *Advancing critical criminology: Theory and application*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.



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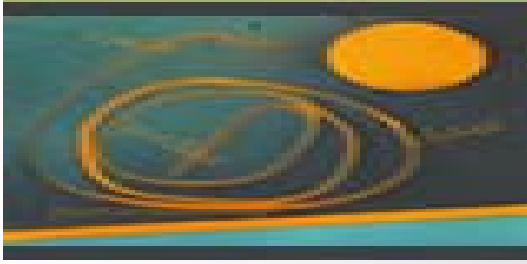
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- Ferrell, J. (2006). *Empire of Scrounge*. New York: New York University Press.
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- Purcell, C. E., and Arrigo, B. A. (2006). *The Psychology of Lust Murder: Paraphilia, Sexual Killing, and Serial Homicide*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier/Academic Press, 2006.
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- Rothe, D and Christopher W. Mullins. (2006). *The International Criminal Court: Symbolic Gestures and the Generation of Global Social Control*. Lexington Publishers.
- Schaffner, L. (2006). *Girls in Trouble with the Law*. Rutgers University Press.
- Williams, C. R., and Arrigo, B. A. (2008). *Ethics, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Convict Criminology

- Hogan, Richard G., and Stephen C. Richards. 2006. "Private Prison Problems." *The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*. University of Ottawa Press, Vol. 15, 1: 53-64.
- Murphy, Daniel S., Charles M. Terry, Greg Newbold, and Stephen C. Richards. 2007. "A Convict Criminology Perspective on Women Guarding Men." *Justice Policy Journal*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1-36.
- Richards, Stephen C., Chris D. Rose, and Susan O. Reed. 2006. "Inviting Convicts To College: Prison and University Partnerships." In *The State of Corrections: 2005 Proceedings ACA Annual Conferences*. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association. pp. 171-180.



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Crimes of Globalization

Rothe, D, Christopher W. Mullins, and Stephan Muzzatti (2006). "Crime on the High Seas: Crimes of Globalization and the Sinking of the Senegalese Ferry Le Joola". *Critical Criminology: an International Journal*. Vol.14: 2: 159-180.

Rothe, Dawn L., Christopher W. Mullins and Kent Sandstrom. (2008). "The Rwandan Genocide: International Finance Policies and Human Rights". *Social Justice*. Vol. 35, No. 3.

Cultural Criminology

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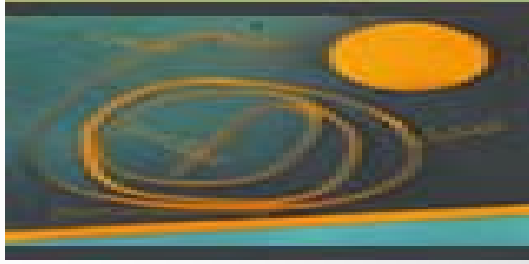
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Beth Messner, Arthur Jipson, Paul J. Becker; and Byers, Bryan. 2007 (Fall). "The Hardest Hate: A Sociological Analysis of Country Hate Music," *Popular Music and Society*. 30;4(October): 513-532.

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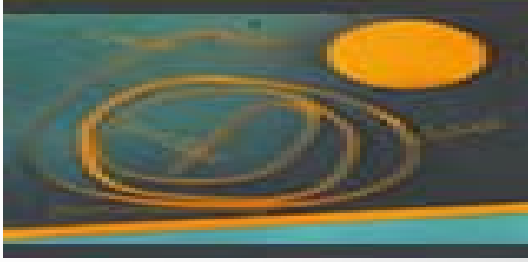
Jipson, Art. 2007 (Fall). "Introduction to the Special Issue: Influence of Hate Rock," *Popular Music and Society* special issue on Hate Rock. 30;4 (October): 449-453.

Shon, P., and Arrigo, B.A. (2006) Reality-based TV and police-citizen encounters: The intertextual construction and situated meaning of mental illness-as-punishment". *Punishment & Society: The International Journal of Penology*, 8(1): 59-85.



Gender—Feminist Criminology/Masculinity Criminology

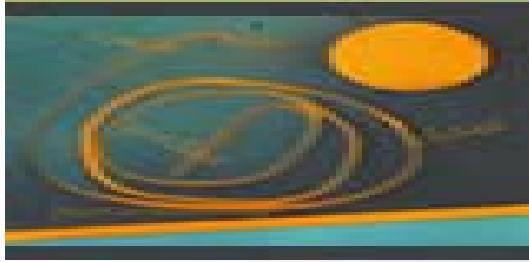
- Block, C.R., & DeKeseredy, W.S. (2007). "Forced sex and leaving intimate relationships: Results of the Chicago Women's Health Risk Study". *Women's Health and Urban Life*, 6, 6-23.
- Brown, Lyn. M. Chesney-Lind, and Nan Stein. (2007). "Patriarchy Matters: Toward a Gendered Theory of Teen Violence and Victimization." *Violence Against Women*. Vol. 13, No. 12, pp. 1249-1273. An earlier version of this article appeared in the Wellesley Centers for Women, Working Paper Series. 2004. No. 417.
- Chesney-Lind, M. Merry Morash and Tia Stevens. 2007 "Girls' Troubles, Girls' Delinquency, and Gender Responsive Programming: A Review. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology*. Forthcoming.
- Chesney-Lind, M, Merry Morash and Katherine Irwin. (2007). "Policing Girlhood? Relational Aggression and Violence Prevention." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*. Vol. 5:3, pp. 328-345.
- Chesney-Lind, M, Scott Okamoto, and Katherine Irwin. (2005) "Thoughts on Feminist Mentoring: Experiences of Faculty Members from Two Generations in the Academy." *Critical Criminology* 14: 1-21.
- Chesney-Lind, M. (2006). "Patriarchy, Crime and Justice: Feminist Criminology in an Era of Backlash. *Feminist Criminology*. Vol. 1, No. 1: 6-26.
- Chesney-Lind, M and Mickey Eliason. (2006)."From Invisible to Incurable: The Demonization of Marginalized Women and Girls." *Crime, Media and Culture*. Vol. 2, No. 1: 29-48.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., Schwartz, M.D., & Alvi, S. (in press 2008). "Which women are more likely to be abused? Public Housing, Cohabitation and Separated/Divorced Women". *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law, and Society*.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., & Schwartz, M.D. (in press 2008). "Separation/divorce sexual assault in rural Ohio: Survivors' perceptions of collective efficacy". *Journal of Prevention and Intervention in the Community*.



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- DeKeseredy, W.S., Donnermyer, J., Schwartz, M.D., Tunnell, K., & Hall, M. (2007). "Thinking critically about rural gender relations: Toward a rural masculinity/male peer Support model of separation/divorce sexual assault". *Critical Criminology*, 15, 295-311.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., Schwartz, M.D., Fagen, D., & Hall, M. (2006). "Separation/divorce sexual assault: The contribution of male peer support". *Feminist Criminology*, 1, 228-250.
- DeKeseredy, W.S. (2006). "Future directions". *Violence Against Women*, 12, 1078-1085.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., Alvi, S., & Schwartz, M.D. (2006). "An Economic Exclusion/Male Peer Support Model Looks at 'Wedfare' and Woman Abuse". *Critical Criminology*, 14, 23-41.
- DeKeseredy, W.S., & Joseph, C. (2006). "Separation/Divorce Sexual Assault in Rural Ohio: Preliminary Results of an Exploratory Study". *Violence Against Women*, 12, 301-311.
- Gavazzi, S. M., Yarcheck., C. M., & Chesney-Lind, M. (2006). "Global Risk Indicators and the Role of Gender in a Juvenile Detention Sample." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. Vol 33, No 4 (August): 1-16.
- Mayeda, David, Lisa Pasko, and Meda Chesney-Lind. 2006. "You got to do so much to actually make it": *Gender, Ethnicity, and Samoan Youth in Hawaii*. **AAPI Nexus**. Vol. 4: 2 (Summer/Fall), pp. 69-94.
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PUBS CONTINUED

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Altheide, David and Michael J. Coyle. (2006). "Smart on Crime: The

Arrigo, B. A. and Bullock, J. L. (in press 2008). "The psychological effects of solitary confinement on prisoners in supermax units: Reviewing what we know and recommending what should change". *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.

Arrigo, B.A, and Barrett, L. (in press 2008). "Philosophical criminology and complex systems science: Towards a critical theory of justice". *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*.

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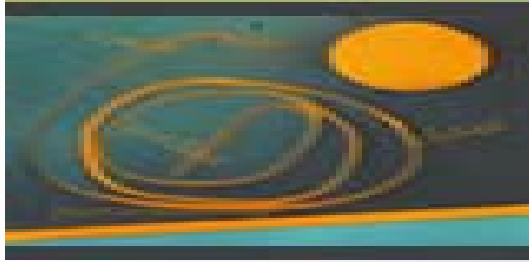
Arrigo, B. A. (in press 2008). "Crime, justice, and the under-laborer: On the criminology of the shadow and the search for disciplinary legitimacy and identity". *Justice Quarterly*, 25 (2).

Arrigo, B. A. and Takahashi, Y. (in press 2008) "Theorizing community reentry for male incarcerates and confined mothers: Lessons Learned from housing the homeless". *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 46(1/2).

Becker, Paul, Arthur Jipson, and Bryan Byers. (2008). "The Creation of Hate-Crime Legislation in Three Neighboring States: Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio," *The Criminal Law Bulletin*. 44;2.

Bell, J.G, Clow, K.A, & Ricciardelli, R. (2008). "Causes of wrongful conviction: Looking at student knowledge". *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 19(1), 75-96.

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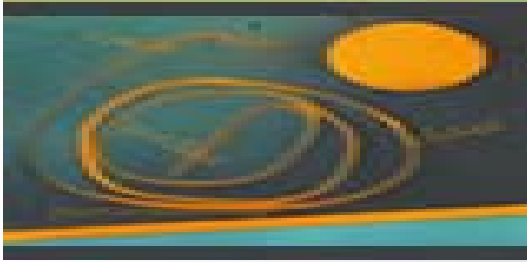
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PUBS CONTINUED

- DeKeseredy, W.S. (in press 2008). "Canadian crime control in the new millennium: The Influence of neo-conservative U.S. policies and practices." *Police Practice and Research*.
- Jipson, A. (2003). "The Post-September 11th Era: Interpretations of Security and Civil Liberties in the Political Margins of the Left and Right," *Journal of the Institute of Justice & International Studies*. 3: 40-52.
- Kaetterhenry, R. J., Kuhns, J. B., and Arrigo, B. A. (2007). "Marijuana legislation: A public policy perspective." *International Journal of Crime, Criminal Justice and Law*, 1(2): 171-185.
- Laughlin, J. S., Arrigo, B. A., Blevins, K., and Coston, C. (in press 2008). "Incarcerated mothers and child visitation: A law, social science, and policy perspective." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 19(3).
- Pardue, A., and Arrigo, B. A. (in press 2008) "Power, anger, and sadistic rapists: Towards a differentiated model of offender personality". *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.
- Sanford, S., and Arrigo, B. A. (2007). "Policing and psychopathy: The case of Robert Philip Hanssen". *Journal of Forensic Psychology Practice*, 7(3): 1-31.
- Telsevaara, T. V. T., and Arrigo, B. A. (2006). "DNA evidence in rape cases and the Debbie Smith Act: Forensic practice and criminal justice implications". *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 50(5): 487-505, 2006.
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State Crime

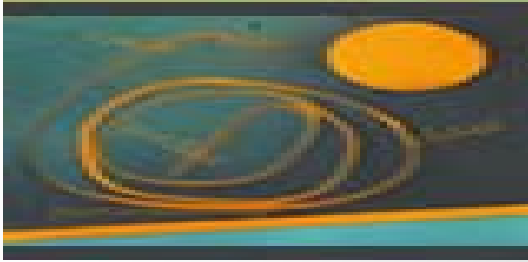
- Kauzlarich, D. (2007) "Seeing War as Criminal: Peace Activist Views and Critical Criminology." *Contemporary Justice Review* 10(1), 67-85.
- Matthews, R. and David Kauzlarich (2007) "State Crimes and State Harms: A Tale of Two Definitional Frameworks." *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 48: 43-55.



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PUBS CONTINUED

- Mullins, C.W. and Dawn L. Rothe. (2008). "Gold, Diamonds and Blood: International State-Corporate Crime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo". *Contemporary Justice Review*.
- Mullins, C. and Dawn L. Rothe. (2007). "The Forgotten Ones". *Critical Criminology*. Vol. 15 No.2: 135-158.
- Ross, J. and Dawn L. Rothe. "The Ironies of Controlling State Crime". *International Sociology of Law*. Vol.36, No.3.
- Ross, J.I. and Dawn L. Rothe. (2007). "Swimming Upstream" Teaching State Crime to Students at an American University". *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Vol. 18 No.3: 460-475.
- Rothe, D., Ronald Kramer and Christopher W. Mullins. (2008). "Torture, Impunity, and Open Legal Spaces: Abu Ghraib and International Controls". *Contemporary Justice Review*. Forthcoming.
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- Rothe, D. and Christopher W. Mullins. (2007). "Darfur and the Politicalization of International Law: Genocide or Crimes Against Humanity." *Humanity and Society*. Vol.31 No.1: 83-107.
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RENDERING THE 'HOOD: EXPLORING THE MYTHOLOGY OF A CRIMINALIZED
SPACE IN NORTH-WEST TORONTO

By Chris Richardson, Graduate Student at Brock University

The article entitled “Where boundary issues turn deadly” was written by *The Globe and Mail* reporter Joe Friesen (2007). It was published shortly after the shooting death of Jordan Manners in North-West Toronto. The article was not about the killing of Manners. Instead, it was about the public space where the killing occurred: Jane-Finch. It is a place with which many Canadian readers are familiar, particularly, Southern Ontarians who generally associate this space with violence, crime and death.

The article was written by a reporter who spent three months in Jane-Finch after the so-called “summer of the gun” in 2005. Friesen, who wrote a total of 16 stories about the area and its residents between April and July of 2006, returned to the neighbourhood in June of 2007 after Manners was killed. Friesen (2007, p. A16) points out that the killing was “remarkable only because [the shooting] happened at school.” With this as his frame, Friesen attempts to re-map the area as it pertains to gangs. In effect, he does explicitly what many articles have done and continue to do implicitly: render the area understandable to outsiders as a criminal space and one in which the Other—in this case, Jane-Finch residents—need to be explained by someone who enters the area and renders it explainable.

It is for this reason that I analyse the text as a poignant example of the kind of knowledge maps the dominant news media are constructing. In doing so, I follow Barthes’ model of

mythology. Just as Barthes takes Saussures' concept of the linguistic sign and adds to it a "metalanguage," I use the article, both written and in its visual form, as a signifier of an underlying meaning or allusion. Barthes (1972, p. 117) speaks of myth as having a double function: "it points out and it notifies, it makes us understand something and it imposes it on us." This is what Friesen's article does by pointing out facts, which are true in themselves, but simultaneously impose an understanding of Jane-Finch that is predicated upon previously-constructed stories that have since reified the area in a particular way.

I also utilize Said for a theoretical understanding of this spatial construct. *Orientalism* may not have been originally theorized with a place like Jane-Finch in mind, however, as Said (p. xvii) wrote in his 2003 preface, *Orientalism* "is about culture, ideas, history and power, rather than Middle Eastern politics." These spaces are human constructions. They are comprised of man-made knowledge that has been extended to geography. With this framework in mind, the space known as "Jane-Finch," just like the Orient, is a place that exists not in pure reality but in the political construction of reality that is a product of ideology, history and power.

Analysis

As early as the headline, we see that a place is being referred to; a place where things are "deadly." Since the story is in "Canada's national newspaper," as *The Globe and Mail's* tagline suggests, one can assume we are discussing an important issue for Canadians. Seemingly, the problem is that Canadian inner-cities, as we are often told by newspapers, are falling into violence and degradation. And so the first myth signified as early as the headline is the problem of urban decay.

After identifying this problem and isolating it to a space, one has to wonder what pur-

pose a story like this has. One purpose may be what authors such as Cohen and Young (1973) and Stuart Hall et al. (1978) have suggested: violence sells. More specifically, street crimes involving youth and violence are often judged to be most newsworthy among journalists. We must also consider the ideological domination over the area. Said (2003, p. 32) writes that “to have such knowledge of [an object] is to dominate it, to have authority over it.” He also contends that “authority here means for ‘us’ to deny autonomy to ‘it’—the Oriental county—since we know it and it exists, in a sense, *as* we know it.” Friesen’s article establishes that there is a problem: bullets are flying in North-West Toronto and young men are dying. And then, through the logic of Orientalist thought, Friesen comes to explain the problem, thus gaining an authority over it.

Here, it is useful to look at how Friesen presents himself in the article. Near the beginning, he states “last year, I spent three months writing about Toronto’s Jane-Finch neighbourhood [...] after Jordan’s shooting death, I returned” (Friesen, 2007, p. A16). In this paragraph, he goes on to establish an expertise, ostensibly proving why he should be the one writing this story. Unlike many journalists, Friesen frequently makes use of the first-person pronoun. He also refers to the victim as “Jordan” instead of following the common journalistic practice of referring to the subject by his last name. This technique helps to illustrate that Friesen is well-established in the area. Friesen, here, posits himself in the same way Said writes Orientalists relied on an idea of expertise to be able to make claims to truth. Said (2003, p. 222) describes these experts as translators of a “barely intelligible civilization” who “sympathetically” portray, and “inwardly grasp” the place and its people. These experts are also frequently used to justify government policy. Here, it is interesting to note that I have found at least two recent reports from the City of Toronto and from the United Way that rely, at least in part, on stories written

by Friesen. This demonstrates that the article in question, regardless of the author's intentions, is being used to justify political decisions involving Jane-Finch.

After establishing his expertise, Friesen then presents his findings and implicit recommendations. These can be found summarized in the subheading of the article: "With the map redrawn by gangs [...] access to vital youth programs is blocked for those who need them most" (Friesen, 2007, p. A16). This sentence needs to be examined closely. To begin, the problem of "deadly" streets has been established. The finding is that the solution is already in place—"vital youth programs" already exist, according to the article. The problem is that "gangs" have redrawn the map and that access is "blocked" by the very group of people who need to attend these programs. This, however, is not the fault of anyone outside of Jane-Finch, Friesen seems to say. Instead, it is due to a "self-imposed segregation." In a way, the problem is solved—at least for the casual reader. Jane-Finch is "deadly." But there are programs in place. The problem is that these programs are not being attended. And this is a problem self-imposed by the native Jane-Finch residents, who are unwilling to work within the structure of the "programs." This finding, however, is based upon underlying assumptions grounded in three myths alluded to in the story: the savage foreigner, the broken family, and the American gang.

The first myth is that of the savage foreigner. Jane-Finch is presented as a foreign place, full of foreign citizens, thus de-emphasizing the "Canadian" aspect to the problem and focusing on its Otherness. As Said has noted, Orientalists never wrote with the intention of being read by the Oriental, likewise, Jane-Finch residents are not the intended readers: they are positioned as the Other whom "we" are reading about. Friesen (2007, p. A16) writes that the south side of Finch Avenue "might as well be in another country." The phrase illuminates an underlying assumption in Friesen's article. In explaining "how the 'hood came to be," Friesen makes refer-

ence to Somalians, Caribbean immigrants, Sierra Leone, Ghana and refers to experimentation in urban planning that led to the “opening up of Canada’s immigration policy to non-whites.”

When referring to these immigrants, the myth of the uncivilized Other seems to be on the cusp of many sentences. Whether describing the ritual of placing coins on gravestones or the casual manner in which two boys “just met on the plane from Sierra Leone,” Friesen’s article conjures images of the savage Other who lacks the knowledge and manners to be a proper Canadian and is therefore in need of being taught.

The second myth within the article, predicated upon the first, is that of the broken family. In one part of the story, Friesen (2007, p. A16) quotes a boy as saying “he’s not my real cousin anyway.” Shortly afterward, Friesen describes a girl who arrives at a basketball game with “a woman in her 40s” who may or may not be the girl’s mother. The older woman then accuses a boy of “abandoning the pregnant mother of his child” to which the boy reacts sceptically. Finally, when dealing with a boy named “Ice,” Friesen writes, “unlike most of his friends, Ice lives with both of his parents.” In this way, it seems Friesen is attributing the boy’s higher morals to his position within a nuclear family. It is important to note, however, that nowhere am I claiming that Friesen is reporting poorly or different than other reporters. As Muzzatti and Featherstone (2007, p. 44) write, “while reporters do not make up facts, they do select facts.” It is precisely the “facts” Friesen chooses relating to the families of these young men that bathe the story in a heavily-constructed myth. With this discourse, the article builds upon the myth of the broken family and wanton sexuality of the Other as a main factor in this problem of urban decay.

The third myth is that of the American gang. As Friesen (2007, p. A16) points out early in the article, most northern Jane-Finch residents “consider themselves Bloods, an identity bor-

rowed from the gang wars of Los Angeles.” Thus, Canadian readers are instantly made to picture gun-crazed Los Angeles gangs with red and blue bandanas. Recall that during the 1990’s, the Blood-Crips war was made into a sensationalized media story, receiving attention from major news stations and teen-targeted programming including MTV. In a 1989 *Harper’s* article, Leon Bing (p. 51) writes of the mediated Blood-Crips war saying that “it would be hard to write a morality play more likely to strike terror into the hearts of the middle-class.” By referring to this already-sensational media construct, stereotypical images of infamous hip-hop icons such as Tupac, Suge Knight and Snoop Dogg, to name just a few, are all instantly alluded to within this article. Friesen doesn’t need to mention these figures to conjure their mythology. Such moral panics as drive-by shootings, muggings and carjackings, which were all major focuses of the media, are easily rekindled in the readers’ imaginations and/or associated memories.

These myth-based constructs are further cemented in the article with the map on page A16 (Friesen, 2007). Here the reader is presented with visual proof that these mythical gangs have overtaken a section of the city. The newspaper uses a satellite image of the community and indicates each gang’s territory by superimposing their names onto the image. These references to an already established idea of gang territoriality is exactly the kind of dialectic reinforcement Said (2003, p. 94) speaks of when he mentions how “the experiences of readers in reality are determined by what they have read, and this in turn influences writers to take up subjects defined in advance by readers’ experiences.” Thus, Friesen is seeing what he has already read about. And by writing these observations for the newspaper, he is further influencing what others will see. Most important in this instance is that *The Globe and Mail* takes the legacy, perceived or real, of the Bloods and Crips and gives it an empirical value by literally mapping the area and defining where it exists. In superimposing this map on the city, he effectually ignores

the significant population of non-gang residents in these areas and the reader is left with a monolithic group of criminals occupying this space.

Mythic constructs such as the uncivilized Other, the sanctity of the nuclear family and the gang wars of the early '90s are used to explain Jane-Finch. The article, as an example of the dominant news media's practice, renders Jane-Finch a criminal space. And through this explanation of a seemingly-chaotic situation, the space is subordinated intellectually much like the Orient was subordinated by the Orientalist.

Mainstream newspapers continue to attempt a cartography of problem spaces in order to sell the sensational and subordinate the locality. There is no simple way to challenge this power. There are, however, strategies of resistance. One such strategy, with which I would like to conclude, is exposing the mythology that is used to render these spaces explainable. Mainstream news media will generally not fabricate facts. Thus, no battle can be won in challenging the words on a page. Where the battle must take place is in the realm of exposing myth and myth-making. Confronting these allusions within "objective" news stories disturbs the structure of knowledge and power. And it is here that marginalized communities can attempt a re-appropriation of their mediated space.

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NOTES: The article was chosen because of the credible reputation of the newspaper, the recent publication date and the detailed focus on the space Canadians have come to know as “Jane-Finch.” I am aware that analysing one text cannot be taken to represent the entire “knowledge” of the area. However, considering this paper’s length, I think it is valuable to consider this one text as indicative of the quality of reporting done in mainstream North American journalism. *The Globe and Mail* is the most-read daily newspaper in Canada and likely the only newspaper readers outside of Toronto gain knowledge about Jane-Finch

Though this urban area may be in a state of disrepair, the idea that all low-income, urban areas are decaying, crime-ridden cesspools is not the focus of this story because urban decay is presented as natural. This myth, which may contain elements of truth, negates the historic, economic and social factors that affect such situations and, instead, Jane-Finch takes on the properties of a pre-fabricated myth.

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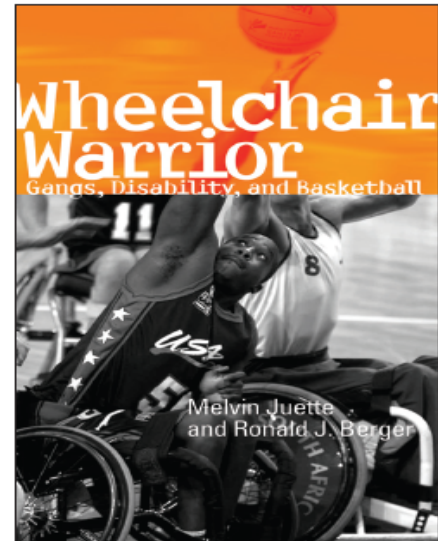
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