



**CRITICAL  
CRIMINOLOGIST  
SPOTLIGHT**  
DR. DAVID  
RODRIGUEZ  
GOYES



**CRITICAL BOOK  
SPOTLIGHT**  
DR. SARA SALMAN



**GRADUATE  
STUDENT PAPER  
AWARD**  
DYLAN SEARS



**GRADUATE  
STUDENT PAPER  
AWARD**  
DIEGO TABOADA

## THE CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGIST: SPOTLIGHT



## Message from the DCCSJ Executive Board

Dear DCCSJ Members,

On behalf of the Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice Executive Committee, we're delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter. As we continue our collective work to advance critical perspectives in criminology, this issue shines a special spotlight on our 2024 DCCSJ Award Winners—individuals whose scholarship, service, and activism exemplify the spirit and mission of our division. We are proud to celebrate their accomplishments and ongoing contributions to the field.

We also take a moment to honor and reflect on the life and legacy of Vincenzo Ruggiero, a towering figure in critical criminology whose work challenged and inspired generations. His influence on our field is lasting, and this tribute is a small token of our deep respect and appreciation.

As your elected executives, we're excited for what's ahead and grateful to be part of this vibrant and engaged community. Thank you for all you do to keep critical criminology relevant, rigorous, and rooted in justice.

In solidarity,

Emily Troshynski (Chair-Elect), Ashley Farmer (Vice-Chair-Elect), Kaitlyn Selman  
(Secretary/Treasurer-Elect) Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice

## Message from the Communications Director

Dear DCCSJ Members,

Over the next several months, we will be doing some much-needed updates to the DCCSJ website as well as improving the breadth and depth of our archive of past newsletters. Please stay tuned for more on these and other developments, which will help improve the accessibility and user-friendliness of the division's website and its extensive archive of interviews, articles, and other documents.

Also, a sincere and humble thank you to all the 2024 award recipients. Once again, we congratulate their efforts and look forward to featuring future award winners whose research and ideas continue to push the criminological envelope.

In solidarity,

Nicholas Walrath (Communications Director), Jessica Morgan (Communications Team Member)

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# Vincenzo Ruggiero: In Praise of a Most Un-Ordinary Criminologist

Elliott P. Currie

I didn't have the good fortune to actually know Vincenzo Ruggiero—except by reputation. A lot of really good friends of mine in the criminology business often brought him and his work up in conversation, always favorably, often with a kind of reverence. I'm sorry that it's too late to get to know him.

I did, however, get to know some of his work, and something of how he approached the job of being a criminologist. Maybe needless to say, Vincenzo's way of doing criminology wasn't the usual one. Vincenzo was a unique figure in this field—one whose most important distinction, to me, was his willingness to fearlessly challenge the self-imposed boundaries that professional criminology tends to create for itself, and that it all too often imposes on young scholars just starting out in this business—and to do that boundary-busting work on a very high level. For reasons I'll get back to in a moment, I think that quality is both rare and essential, maybe never more so than right now.

My take on Vincenzo's work comes mainly from his final book—*Keywords in Criminology*. For reasons that I can't exactly remember, I was asked to write a cover blurb for this book—which of course turned out to be his last. So, I took on that job and dove into the book without all that much familiarity with the rest of his work. It was an astonishing experience, actually. I'd really never seen or read anything quite like it. Still haven't.

You know, the publisher's brief description of this work at the beginning of the book makes it sound much more ordinary and much more mainstream than it actually is. It pitches *Keywords in Criminology* as a sort of natural companion volume to mainstream criminology textbooks and touts it as a useful

supplemental text in criminology courses. Well, I don't think that's likely to happen, at least not often. *Keywords* is too far off the beaten path, too much the product of a wide-ranging mind that's really, really impatient with the constraints of professional criminology as we know it. The publisher's discussion also describes the many individual sections of the book—the keywords--as if they were in fact central concepts in the field that students need to know about and that Vincenzo is going to describe pithily and succinctly—almost like a sort of upscale Cliff's Notes for aspiring criminologists in a hurry.

But if anybody's looking for that kind of book, they're not going to find it here. A few of the keywords that Vincenzo takes on are indeed ones that are pervasive and even fundamental the traditional field: he's got a section on "anomie", for example, he's got one on "victims", he's got one on "organized crime", one on "Lombroso." But then there are headings that it's safe to say few people in the criminology business would recognize as part of what they teach or write about, or that they learned about in their own training: "Sun Tzu and Business." "Excrements." "Fallism." "Silence." So contrary to what the publisher says, Vincenzo's "keywords" are not an assemblage of central, consensual concepts in criminology that he's going to explain to eager or confused students. They are a kind of intervention, taken together, which really do something like the opposite—they serve as what are often highly original jumping-off places in the service of expanding our criminological consciousness—showing us how we might think about old ideas in new ways and entertain some other ideas that are altogether new.

My favorite example of this in the book—my favorite keyword discussion—is one titled "Prevention and Degrowth." It illustrates a pattern in the way Vincenzo presents his ideas in this book—the way he has a sort of subversive and even sneaky way of using what seem at first to be unusual terms or unusual combinations of terms that don't immediately fit into the normal lexicon of criminology as levers to quietly pry open some really very fundamental issues that indeed do have powerful relevance for criminology, and beyond it.

I doubt that many criminologists have put together those two ideas—prevention and “degrowth”—together, and I doubt that most criminologists go out and teach about this connection in their introductory courses. So what is Vincenzo trying to do with this highly idiosyncratic juxtaposition of these two concepts? Well, after a somewhat opaque and circuitous process, Vincenzo’s point in putting these ideas together turns out to be very significant and, I think, quite compelling. The argument works like this:

There’s a lot of criminological research evidence, and also a lot of theory, that links a growth-oriented, profit-seeking cultural and social order to various kinds of crime. That’s in good part because that kind of social order generates a particularly extreme and painful kind of inequality---one in which, as Vincenzo puts it, wealth is “within view but not within reach.” Vincenzo says we know this is a predictable breeding ground for all kinds of crime—whether it’s the crimes of frustrated poor people or the crimes of greedy and unshackled rich people. Vincenzo then says well, you know, some people since at least the 1970s have proposed alternative economic models that reject the pathologies of an excessive focus on growth and material gain for its own sake and instead focus on achieving a more sustaining social and human balance.

That alternative idea, which is often called “degrowth”, stands, Vincenzo says, “for the progressive decline of conspicuous goods as the core of self-identification, of consumption as the way of finding one’s place in the world.” And to the extent that it does that, he argues, it also can be expected to be a logical and highly effective form of crime prevention at the “macro” level.

He acknowledges that most criminology doesn’t think that way about crime prevention, mostly focusing on more ‘micro’ strategies—from situational crime prevention to ever more sophisticated forms of surveillance. “Most criminology texts,” he points out sort of wryly, “find radical change unattractive as a

guiding principle.” Against that entrenched social and intellectual timidity, Vincenzo says that real crime prevention has to involve “political, economic, and cultural changes” that generate what he calls “innovation and changes in our everyday mode of living”—in this case, a deliberate effort to shift, on the level of the social order as a whole, away from our deeply entrenched commitment to growth and increasingly mindless consumption.

He's surely not the first or only writer to make that link, but the way he makes it is both original and ultimately, I think, convincing. It really does make us think differently about crime prevention than most criminologists usually do—I suspect even most of us who think of ourselves as engaging in critical or alternative criminology of some sort. Much less those more clearly in the mainstream of the field—to the extent that there still is such a thing.

I came away from *Keywords in Criminology* thinking to myself, *who does this?* Can I think of anybody else in our business who writes in such a complex, original, often indirect style about issues that you may never have thought were live ones in your field—and made you think that maybe they should be? And I couldn't think of anybody.

And that troubled me. I think we need people who do actually write, and think, like that. Now mind you, this isn't an easy read. It's challenging, it forces you to pause very often and think about what you've just read: you're sometimes puzzled by where his argument is going until close to the end of some of his headings. And some of it's actually pretty esoteric.

But I also found it tremendously refreshing to see somebody really stretching themselves and stretching *us*—bending or even plowing right through the usual boundaries of the discipline—or any discipline: reaching back into an astonishing array of past writers, then quickly jumping back to recent ones.

Browse the index and you'll encounter Thomas Aquinas, Aristotle, Heraclitus, Walter Benjamin, Nietzsche, Plotinus, Don Quixote, a couple of Shakespeare plays, and on and on. Vincenzo was clearly a guy who read widely and who knew something—knew a lot—about the western intellectual and cultural tradition and could wield that knowledge with what looked like ease, at least from the outside.

I don't think, perhaps needless to say, that we're regularly nurturing that kind of knowledge—much less that kind of intellectual boldness—in our training of criminologists today. If anything, we often, at least in many places, seem to be moving back toward a very insular and parochial vision of what we want our students, and our future colleagues, to know. I sometimes fear that we're seeing a sort of creep toward a kind of academic experience that minimizes broad intellectual exploration or immersion in a rich and complex history of ideas that can be relevant to the most basic questions about crime and punishment—and training our students instead to concentrate on a handful of supposedly canonical works and to write for a relative handful of professional journals that probably wouldn't know what to do with writing like *this* if it hit them right in the face.

But if we go too far in that direction, our capacity to comprehend the strange and fraught world we live in stops making progress: our tools for achieving that understanding of the critical problems that threaten us dry up in the context of a lack of supports or incentives for those scholars who are ready and able to create new tools. Clearly, Vincenzo never stopped doing that kind of work: and that's a blessing. But if we want to see more people who can deploy that same kind of creativity and healthy carelessness about boundaries, we need to create a supportive infrastructure in which they can thrive. We need to have their backs.

# Good Food, Great Wine, and Unforgettable Conversations: A Tribute to Vincenzo Ruggiero (1951–2024)

Jeffrey Ian Ross

It is an honor to pay tribute to Vincenzo Ruggiero, an esteemed professor and criminologist at Middlesex University, who passed away earlier this year.

Not only was Vincenzo a colleague, but he was also my friend.

I'm not sure when I first met Vincenzo, but I was introduced to his scholarship shortly after earning my doctorate.

I was drawn to his work because it explored issues that resonated deeply with me. Vincenzo had an impressive command of political science, sociology, criminology, and criminal justice, focusing on political crime—especially crimes of the powerful—and corrections.

His work, especially *Understanding Political Violence: A Criminological Approach* (2006), *Penal Abolitionism* (2010), and *Power and Crime* (2017), has significantly impacted the field and my scholarship.

Vincenzo's scholarship was meticulous, rigorous, thoughtful, and provocative. It is an excellent example of the type of articles, chapters, and books that shape our thinking and future scholarship.

Vincenzo had a rich history, full of meaningful experiences that predated his career as an academic. During the 1970s, he was “involved in penal reform campaigns [in Italy]. In 1976, he founded a bi-annual paper on prison issues, coordinating a network involving prisoners, their families, and reform activists, and in 1977 established a new publisher – ‘Senza Galere’ (‘Without Prisons’) – later renamed ‘Ruggiero Edizioni’.

The press mainly published fiction and poetry; all authors were prisoners serving a sentence or ex-prisoners. As Vincenzo himself suggested—drawing on Nigel South’s insights—this was an early example of ‘Convict Criminology’ (South, 2024), a field I co-founded three decades ago."

These works are a testament to his ability to combine his practical work and politics with his scholarship.

My relationship with Vincenzo deepened when I served as co-chair (2013-2015) and later chair (2015-2017) of the American Society of Criminology (ASC)'s Division of Critical Criminology, which was later renamed the Division of Critical Criminology and Social Justice. During this time, we regularly discussed the state of the discipline, the division itself, the quality of scholarship being produced, and areas for improvement.

For the past decade, Vincenzo and I shared meals at nearly every ASC meeting, sometimes joined by colleagues and friends. These dinners, always accompanied by excellent red wine, were filled with wide-ranging and profound discussions.

And if dinner wasn't on the agenda, we often found ourselves at a relaxed wine bar or restaurant late into the evening, enjoying a late-night bottle together. I got to know him better during these conversations and in these contexts.

One particularly memorable experience outside of academia was in July 2015, when Vincenzo invited my wife and me to his home in Ghizzano, Italy. Nestled in the hills of a picturesque Tuscan town, we had the pleasure of meeting his partner, Cynthia, and hearing about their daughter, Lucia, whom they adored.

We enjoyed a delightful dinner at an exquisite restaurant in an outdoor setting. There, we savored plates of food prepared with locally sourced ingredients, paired with superb Tuscan wines.

After Cynthia returned to London, the three of us visited the nearby town of Volterra, sharing lunch. In the evening, we all attended an opera in Peccioli, performed at an amphitheater with rows of seats carved out of a mountainside. In addition to spending a few days at Vincenzo's house, we witnessed his culinary skills and tasted the food he prepared. One evening, he graciously cooked pasta topped with a wonderful homemade tomato sauce.

Our relationship continued beyond Ghizzano. We would continue to hang out at ASC conferences, including the Division of Critical Criminology and Social Justice socials.

In addition to his sharp mind, I saw a wry sense of humor. With the exception of me periodically misspelling his last name, which I did on a handful of occasions, rarely did I see Vincenzo pissed. Although he often appeared to play cards close to his chest, his heart was always in the right place.

We knew many people in common, and it is clear that Vincenzo touched the lives of those who knew him well. His passing is a profound loss—not only to criminology and criminal justice but also to the many people who knew, admired, and loved him.

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# Remembering Vincenzo Ruggiero: A Few Criminological and Personal Reflections

Walter S. DeKeseredy

My first exposure to Vincenzo Ruggiero was through reading his contribution to an intellectually stimulating anthology crafted by Jock Young and Roger Matthews. Published in 1992 and titled *Rethinking Criminology: The Realist Debate*, this collection features writings produced by some of the world's leading proponents of left realism. The central premise of this variant of critical criminological thought is that those who were then labelled "radical criminologists" (who left realists term "left idealists") ignored victimization within the working class in favor of studying the crimes of the elite and occasionally romanticizing the working-class criminal. Still to this day, left realists like me and Elliott Currie call for a recognition that street crime is "real" and not a moral panic created by elite opinion makers. The lack of progressive socialist and feminist alternatives, they argue, allows right-wing politicians to use the "law and order" issue to obtain ideological support for a social order detrimental to the disenfranchised and the construction of a much more progressive society.

Not surprising to anyone who was well acquainted with him, Vincenzo's offering to the above book, titled "Realist Criminology: A Critique," did not take the "party line," and he declared that left realism dovetails too much with orthodox criminology by ignoring power structures and capitalism's contribution to crime. As a "card-carrying" left realist, I have some problems with Vincenzo's critique, but I will always be impressed by what Jock Young (2011) would define as his "criminological imagination." A few years later, Jock introduced me to Vincenzo at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), and throughout this event I became awe-struck with his keen insight into a wide range of topics of central importance to critical criminologists. Also, I found his analysis of the relationship between power and crime so progressively important that I asked him to add his 2015

scholarly monograph *Power and Crime* to my book series *New Directions in Critical Criminology* (published by Routledge). As Jock would say, this is a “firecracker” of a book, one that reflects Vincenzo’s dynamic interdisciplinary approach to understanding crime, law, and social control. In this book and in his other writings, including his last monograph *Keywords in Criminology: A Cultural Dictionary* (published by Routledge in 2025), he demonstrates that criminology is not an intellectually independent discipline and should adopt insights from other fields.

Admittedly, I did not read all his work, but I still learned much from him, and most of my lessons took place outside the ASC conference center smoking cigarettes with him. We were among the few attendees who engaged in what many would now consider an unhealthy deviant practice, but every puff was worth it. I always walked away from our smoking sessions eager to purchase a new book or read a new journal article recommended by Vincenzo. It is an understatement to claim he was a wealth of critical criminological knowledge.

Vincenzo was a giant in our field, and he embodied an academic culture that has sadly disappeared in this era of Donald Trump and Elon Musk. For example, folks like Vincenzo, me, and my colleagues who also wrote tributes to Vincenzo (Elliott P. Currie, Jeffrey Ian Ross, and Nigel South), are examples of criminologists who were strongly encouraged by our professors to produce scholarly materials that met the highest academic standards and to read voraciously. Further, we recognized the importance of writing a traditional Ph.D. dissertation because doing so facilitated the publication of cutting-edge books like those written by Vincenzo. Unfortunately, too many doctoral students substitute the book-length thesis with the “three paper” option today. Justified by many as beneficial for the current highly competitive job market, this route precludes the development of a broader, in-depth grasp of a subject matter because comprehensive reviews of background information like those done by Vincenzo are typically not essential.

Developing a three-paper dissertation often entails crafting a *scoping review*, which is now seen by many scholars today as “original gold standard research.” Scoping reviews are syntheses of how

research is conducted in a particular area or field. However, it is my experience that many Ph.D. students overlook or ignore important sources such as those recommended to me by Vincenzo, Elliott Currie and others who sensitized me to exciting new directions in criminology. Instead, they only examine the most recent publications that appear in mainstream journals that deliberately omit critical scholarship. Further, scoping reviews are mainly exploratory/descriptive and not explanatory/analytical (Khalil et al., 2021). In the words of Capozzi (2024), unlike a meticulous literature review found in the writings of Vincenzo, in a traditional dissertation, or an in-depth review of the extant empirical and theoretical work in one's field, "there is no rigorous critical appraisal" (p. 1). Further, there is mounting evidence that many studies cited in scoping and *systematic reviews* are fabricated and falsified (DeKeseredy, 2025; Else, 2024). Systematic reviews, too, are now in fashion and are written to synthesize numerous studies on a specific topic and extract a broader conclusion (Capozzi, 2024).

With the emphasis now on writing three-paper dissertations and doing scoping reviews, the academy now graduates a large cohort of scholars who lack critical thinking skills like those of Vincenzo, write papers missing deep analysis and offer little more than superficial insights (Tricco et al., 2018), and who produce atheoretical scholarship characterized by what C. Wright Mills (1959) referred to as *abstracted empiricism* (e.g., research divorced from theory). For instance, in a recent issue of the journal *Critical Criminology* (see Ip et al., 2004), Ping Lam Ip, Andrea DeKeseredy, and I report the results of a study designed to examine the types of theories of, and theoretically informed explanations for, sexual victimization/perpetration in colleges and universities that were published in peer-reviewed journals from 2013 to 2022. The sample consists of 292 articles in 10 violence-related periodicals listed in the Social Sciences Citation Index, and sexual assault was the dependent variable in all the studies presented in them. Ninety-seven percent of the studies are purely quantitative, 44% are simply empirical studies with no theoretical frameworks, and a theory informed 56%. As expected, in this present academic culture, our analyses found that of the articles guided by theories, 68% were guided by individualistic-positivistic perspectives that prioritize micro and individualistic factors. In comparison, only 30% were

guided by feminist theories that give precedence to patriarchy and masculinity. Our study shows that the current state of social scientific knowledge about sexual assault in institutions of higher learning is haunted and possessed by a methodological conservatism that is reluctant to accept, in the tradition of Vincenzo's research, alternative modes of inquiry consisting of creative and reflexive imagination.

There is another thing missing from today's university/college culture that Vincenzo always brought to the table – a heartfelt appreciation of international academic contributions. This is especially true in the United States. A few years ago, for example, at the beginning of a departmental faculty meeting, I briefly talked about the innovative work appearing in the *Canadian Review of Sociology*, the official journal of the Canadian Sociological Association. Educated at a "Big Ten Conference" U.S. school, one of my colleagues promptly responded by rudely dismissing the quality of this periodical and said, "The only journals that count are the *American Journal of Sociology*, the *American Sociological Review*, and *Social Forces*." To repeat something Jock Young once publicly said at a session featured at the 1999 ASC conference, "God help us if that is your level of analysis!" Also, no wonder many critical criminologists now prefer the European Society of Criminology conference over the ASC convention. Variety is, indeed, the spice of life, something Vincenzo knew all too well.

In an interview with Jeff Ferrell and Keith Hayward (2014), Jock talked about the importance of bringing zest back into one's criminological work. Vincenzo also recognized this and always approached any work he did with passion, excitement, and rigor. I took much inspiration from Vincenzo and I am thankful for all the intellectual gifts he gave us. If you have not done so, I strongly encourage you to read as many of his scholarly offerings as you can because you, like me and others who had the pleasure of knowing Vincenzo, will develop new visions of crime, deviance, and social control. Vincenzo never claimed to "know best" (Cohen, 1975) but he certainly knew how to think critically about crime.

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# Memories of Vincenzo Ruggiero as 'Renaissance Man' of criminology

Nigel South

In the Foreword to what was to be his final book – a hugely original and scholarly study called *Keywords in Criminology: A cultural dictionary* (Routledge, 2024) - Vincenzo wrote that:

“By deviating from our road we make discoveries, we have happy encounters. But of course, we have to accept a bit of confusion rather than aiming at definitive clarity: ambiguity is welcome.”

These are the words of a true enquirer, open to different ideas and new directions, and suspicious of those who, without any sense of doubt, claim certainty. And he had a related view about the need for his field – or fields – of study to be open, permeable, curious and unconstrained:

“Criminology ... contains legal, philosophical, economic, political notions and even fictional constructions. Students, therefore, will be advised to complement criminology readings with readings from other areas, including classical and contemporary literature.”

Whether many students or indeed many well-established academics could ever match Vincenzo's own breadth of reading and knowledge is, I think, doubtful but he was never anything other than generous, democratic and fun in the way he showed and shared his learning.

Vincenzo enjoyed travel, culture and intellectual exchange. He was at home around the world, but particularly in the city, where he was a connoisseur of the culture of the streets – whether in Fitzrovia and Soho in London, Paris, Bologna or New York. Enviably, seemingly without effort, he brought style to

everything he did. Some years ago, interviewed in London by *The Big Issue* – an ‘alternative’ press magazine run by a charity for the homeless - he was photographed wearing a simple white fisherman’s jumper – and he made that jumper look so *cool*. And, of course, no one else could wear a raincoat like Vincenzo.

He was an intellectual flaneur who could gently stroll through literature, politics, economics, history, languages and art, all of which he would draw into original and stimulating essays, books, lectures and wonderful conversations over food and wine. For Vincenzo, part of the joy of travel was meeting new and old friends but also making *connections*. Indeed, the combination of connecting and talking was his primary research methodology. At a conference at John Jay College, NYC, in the late 1990s he presented on Albanian drug dealing in Italy, a tricky subject to investigate and so I asked about the methodology. Perhaps there was some sociological embellishment and acknowledgement of the value of secondary sources, but the substance of his answer was that he ‘just talked to people’. And he was very good at it, which perhaps was connected to his journalistic roots. Vincenzo always understood the need to speak *outside and beyond* the academy – and the importance of being able to teach something but also believing there is always an opportunity to learn something.

He was a prodigious reader, with an aesthetic eye and appreciation of art and the visual, which (as his daughter, Lucia, told me) he extended to selecting the cover designs of his books (if he could persuade the publisher). I worked with Vincenzo on several projects that involved writing together and we also did a little bit of consultancy for a government funded project that had obviously been costed at ‘commercial’ rather than ‘academic’ rates and we couldn’t believe what some ‘consultants’ must be earning on a regular basis for relatively little work. Among the papers and books that we worked on were some that remind me of other old friends no longer with us, such as *The New European Criminology* (Routledge,

1998), co-edited with the late, great Ian Taylor, and with a perfect cover, 'Interior Chamber with Stairway', by Piranesi, chosen by Vincenzo who obtained permission from the British Library for its use. The 1995 book, *EuroDrugs* (UCL Press), was interesting to do – a process of getting to know each other as we mailed 'floppy disks' to each other by post and occasionally met up at a London pub or Italian restaurant. But a collaboration of the late 1990s was much more the kind of intellectually exciting event that might be expected of working with Vincenzo.

We were due to present a paper at the British Society of Criminology on drug markets as 'bazaars' of the city but for some reason I can no longer remember, Vincenzo was going to be unable to attend so I wrote an early draft to deliver in our panel. It went ok and I probably tweaked it and then sent it off to Vincenzo. It was a decent paper, drawing on the *Eurodrugs* book and our thinking about illegal labour markets in the hidden economy of the city. Of course, when - in due course - Vincenzo returned the paper, it was transformed and far more adventurous and provocative, now including references to the opium use of Baudelaire and to analogies with the 'hidden worlds' behind the barricades of revolutionary Paris! (for anyone interested, see: Ruggiero and South (1997) 'The late-modern city as a bazaar: drug markets, illegal enterprise and 'the barricades'', *British Journal of Sociology*, 48, 1).

Years later, I remember us walking beside the busy A41 road towards Middlesex University at Hendon in north London, and talking about the pollution suffered by all living in the city. I was getting Vincenzo interested in the idea of a 'green criminology' and the problems of the planet and by the end of the walk and conversation we had agreed to prepare a paper on waste crime for the 2009 ASC, developing it into a discussion of waste and 'dirty collar' crime. But it was easy for him to embrace this direction for he had already been a pioneer of sorts in his impressive survey of *Crime in Literature* (2003) where, taking a sociological eye to various works of fiction, he had examined Herman Melville's 'Moby Dick' and drawn attention to crimes of "accumulation, the exploitation of nature, power and hierarchy".

Vincenzo's achievements represented a career spent in 'praxis', in the sense of engaging in "reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it" – in politics and activism, writing and publishing (including enabling others to publish), and research and teaching. He was a fantastic speaker, eloquent, humorous, provocative, and a stimulating and inspiring thesis supervisor. Vincenzo loved to talk but also to write - to set down ideas and engage with his peers and students and in doing so he was astonishingly productive. He also spoke and published in Italian, French and English (with his work being translated into German, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Lithuanian, Turkish, Serbian and Mandarin Chinese).

I finish with one of my fondest memories for reasons that will be obvious. In 1994 we were preparing *EuroDrugs* and I remember us meeting up at the library of the old Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence in London, standing in the alleyway outside (because Vincenzo would have wanted a cigarette). And we talked with enthusiasm, not about the book but about a completely different challenge – babies. Lucia, daughter to Cynthia and Vincenzo, is about one year older than our son Daniel and the ways in which life had changed became a recurrent topic for all the years after. He was, as Lucia has said, an incredible father, and a loving partner to Cynthia. He was also an incredible friend, and we miss him.

[some more detail about Vincenzo's life can be found in these obituaries from Cynthia and myself:

<https://www.britsoccrim.org/vincenzo-ruggiero-obituary/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2024/mar/24/vincenzo-ruggiero-obituary>

## Critical Criminologist Spotlight: Dr. David Rodríguez Goyes



I was born in Bogotá, Colombia, in 1987 to a working-class family. My formative years shaped much of the scholarship I later developed. In Colombia, the late 1980s and early 1990s were marked by the violence exerted by drug trafficking organisations, including Pablo Escobar's Medellín Cartel, and by state and imperial armed forces under the excuse of the War on Drugs. My early memories include a pervasive fear of bombs and the non-stop images and sounds of violence on television (and real life). Despite the money brought about by drug trafficking, the country remained as unequal as it has been since colonisation. My father a civil engineer, my mother an economist, meritocracy a myth, they had spells of unemployment during which they instilled in us the wisdom of what matters in life: not conspicuous consumption but satisfying fundamental needs. Our home was a place of love even in times of economic scarcity.

In the 1990s and 2000s, crossfire among guerrilla groups, paramilitary forces, and the army—all part of the decades-long Colombian internal armed conflict—replaced the drug wars as the most visible violence in the country. However, correlated as they are, internal armed conflict and drug wars coexisted and reinforced each other (as they still do). With the backdrop of war and some of the world's highest levels of violence, I was admitted to the National University of Colombia, the largest public university in the country, to study law. Some of my peers—brilliant minds in unique ways—abandoned their studies soon after for lack of resources. Five years later, with a law license in my hands, I started defending people on trial for criminal charges—often youngsters apprehended with small amounts of marihuana. Judges napped as I held elaborated appeals, as the fate of the youth had been determined even before they were born by the imperial War on Drugs impositions. The so-called criminal 'justice' system legitimised the injustices, oppression, and selectivity of the law.

After finishing postgraduate studies in criminal law and a master's in sociology, I joined the Colombian peace process in 2013 as a rapporteur for the United Nations. The team interviewed both victims and perpetrators across the country. (These categories often converged in the same person). Environmental devastation, broken and scarred lives, and evidence of the inequality of violence that harms the most vulnerable, laid in front of my eyes as I traversed the country. Brothers and sisters fought each other, divided and antagonised by the power games played by the elites in the pursuit of profit. After two years of working on the peace process and witnessing first-hand the atrocities humans are capable of committing, my body and mind said enough. Some days I lie on the floor, unable to stand up. (Years later, I took up the topic of vicarious trauma for criminologists in the book chapter *Dreams and Nightmares: Interviewing participants who have experienced trauma*, co-authored with Mari Todd-Kvam in 2023).

Two mentors, whom I met at the 2013 Oslo meeting of the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control, inspired me to keep going. Ragnhild Sollund, a pioneer and relentless champion of

animal rights and non-speciesist criminology, guided me during my first criminological fieldwork in animal rehabilitation centres. Nigel South, one of the most generous criminologists I have ever met, with an encyclopaedic knowledge and sensitivity for injustice, offered me guidance as I published my first articles. Belonging gives meaning and purpose to human lives; adequate mentorship illuminates new paths whenever all doors seem closed. But mentorship does not come exclusively from elders; it comes from whomever can illuminate new paths and provide inspiration. And in 2018, I met a new set of mentors: a group of Indigenous students—Angie Cuchimba, Mireya Astroina, Tatiana Ñeñetofe, and Pablo Ramos—who opened new ways of seeing for me. With them, we published some of the most insightful articles in my track record (special mention to *An Incorporeal Disease: COVID-19, social trauma, and health injustice in four Colombian Indigenous communities*, 2023, also with Nigel South).

Inspired by the Latin American Liberation Criminology, within which scholars such as Rosa del Olmo and Raúl Zaffaroni had already developed a critical criminology from the periphery in the 1970s, I joined the ranks of global critical criminologists in 2014. Critical criminology identifies social structures and institutions as the origin of crime and conflict. Unequal class, gender, and ‘race’ or ethnic relations are underscored as the major sources of crime—an inequality that could be seen as a crime in itself and that cascades into criminal law-defined delinquency. But only in the 2000s did Western critical criminologists start including unequal global structures, hierarchies of human value, and unfair treatment based on nationality as part of the unjust social structures they studied. Drawing on my Latin American intellectual roots, I focused on the unfairness of the world system. My goal was to conceptualise how the legacies of the Fifteenth-century colonisation of the Americas and its reverberations in Africa, Asia, and Oceania influenced today’s criminality. My main contribution being the simple insight that the colonial encounter that took place almost five centuries ago in the Americas incepted a world with an unequal distribution of economic, political, epistemological, and aesthetic capital between the colonisers and the colonised (also called ‘global North’ and global ‘South’ or ‘centre’ and ‘periphery’), which allows, even today, the exploitation of the South at the hands of the North, and

which perpetuates a context of widespread structural injustice in the periphery within which many people live and are pushed to executing violent and street crimes.

Oslo became my new home from 2015 onwards, with new mentors, friends, and co-authors, including Katja Franko (mother of global criminology) and Sveinung Sandberg (scripter of narrative criminology). At the Department of Criminology and Sociology of Law of the University of Oslo, I have developed my scholarship for the past decade, in the fields of green criminology and Southern criminology (with the book *Southern Green Criminology*, Emerald, 2019); global criminology (book *Victimhood, Memory, and Consumerism: Profiting from Pablo*, with Katja Franko, Oxford University Press, 2023); life-course criminology (book *Toward a Global Life-Course Criminology: Flickering Lives in Latin America* with Sveinung Sandberg, Oxford University Press, 2026) and Indigenous criminology (edited book *The Palgrave Handbook of Indigenous People, Crime and Harm*, with Angie Cuchimba, 2026).

As my colleague Heidi Mork Lomell likes to remind us, it is impossible to predict the future. As I often retort, we can identify trends in the past and project them ahead. And as Sveinung Sandberg adds, how we tell our story becomes the script that guides further action. If the story I here told, and how I told it, is to guide my guesses for the future while recognising its uncertainty, my next intellectual steps will be based on three principles: First, a commitment to social and ecological justice. Brazilian pedagogue Paulo Freire taught us that the most important human gift is our capacity to think critically; Heidegger classified death into three types, among which demise happens when we fall into everydayness and stop reflecting critically and instead follow the masses; Nietzsche invited us to stop adoring external gods, waiting for them to save us, and rather use our talents in living our lives. A commitment to social and ecological justice means putting my critical thought at the service of debunking the dynamics that create suffering. Second, an unrelentless search for new routes of thought and intellectual activity. Scholars live privileged lives; often all too privileged. Publishing grants us high standards of living, but the world does not need publications at an industrial and capitalist pace, nor for the sake of career advancement and

ego building; it needs new ideas and fresh views useful in reducing suffering. Instead of repetition that borders on redundancy, we should seek inspiration in unexpected places (which often entails engaging in collaborative work) to create new tools against injustice. Third, an embracement of critical optimism. Criminologists' trade entails identifying the sources of suffering, pain, and injustice, which we often call 'crime', and trying to understand them. A further challenge resides in transforming our knowledge and awareness into wisdom by going beyond analysing and deconstructing sources of harm to offer alternatives for possible futures.

## Critical Book Spotlight: Dr. Sara Salman



Please tell us about yourself and what you are currently working on.

I am a criminologist at Victoria University of Wellington Te Herenga Waka, New Zealand. I received my PhD at the City University of New York under the supervision of Jock Young and Stanley Aronowitz. As a scholar, I am interested in questions of power, violence, belonging and exclusion. My scholarly interest is shaped by my experiences of displacement. I study structural and political violence. I am interested in acute and slow forms of violence and the way they construct and destroy human life.

I am currently studying the discursive framing of marginalized groups as “problem groups” in New Zealand, and the subsequent political exclusion and failure to protect marginalized communities from harm. Case studies include the terrorist attacks of March 15 which targeted two mosques in Christchurch as well as Cyclone Gabrielle which hit New Zealand in 2023. The project developed out of my work on the connections between state and non-state forms of violence.

How does your research expand our understanding in the field of critical criminology?

The loss of place and the destruction of communal life are violent experiences which are underpinned by colonializing political and economic interventions. For me, critical criminology is well suited to understand such significant social phenomena because of its focus on power.

Critical criminology has evolved over the last two decades, experiencing cultural, gendered and southern reflexive turns. My work considers these moments of self-reflection while incorporating existential questions of self and social other, as well as dehumanization and othering. As such, I am taking up Jock Young's call to explore notions of psychosocial existential angst that may allow us to understand not only the experience of marginalization but the unfolding of marginalizing, how and why people engage in othering.

Answering these questions opens possibilities for resisting forces of harm and building solidarities across groups. In my work, I found that interpersonal expressions of hostility against those on the margins often reflected a social schema that had been saturated with false narratives of invincibility and false promises, to borrow Stanley Aronowitz's term, of meritocracy under capitalism. As such, the hostile social expressions of destruction, the desire to punish and be vindictive, appear to be connected to a fractured social world where one's sense of security and grounding in the world are faint. Without the material and symbolic anchors that make individuals and social groups solidarities may fray. The fractures are easily exploited, as we see right now. As people become increasingly insecure, their experiences are politically explained to them in false terms: others, women, LGBTQ, migrants bear the blame of the collapse of the structural sources of material and symbolic security. But the turn to punishing others is not inevitable and so our task as critical criminologists is to shed light on moments of anguish and moments of resistance.

[Can you tell us a little bit about your mentors and perhaps why you find mentorship important?](#)

Mentors reflect our possibilities and potentialities back to us. In intersectional terms, for me, feeling like I do not belong in carried through to the university. In New Zealand, I have found the welcoming guidance of Māori women scholars to be a sustaining force. Feeling unmoored particularly in the aftermath of 9/11 and March 15 in New Zealand, I found nurturing connections with Tracey McIntosh and Joanna Kidman. Through challenging neo/coloniality in their work and everyday life, they invited me to think of belonging as resistance. Yet perhaps the biggest impact on my orientation as a scholar came from my mentors in graduate school. In New York, Jock Young and Stanley Aronowitz have shown me the joy and the courage that come from asking big questions. Both Jock and Stanley troubled taken-for-granted concepts and encouraged their students to pursue mischief in order to push social theory forward. They spoke so fluently and critically about fickle western notions of civility and also insisted on the importance of upholding universal dignity in life and in death, and as such insisted on a scholarship that speaks truth to power. But I also wouldn't be here if it weren't for Lynn Chancer and Jayne Mooney. Lynn and Jayne provide invaluable guidance on precisely how to ask big questions and how to be courageous as a woman in the academy. Lynn and Jayne created intellectual paths for women in ways that would not have been possible by Jock and Stanley simply because they inhabited the world as men. Being in that intellectual space made New York home for me.

### What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I felt a lot of joy last year winning the Jock Young book award. Jock, more than any other perhaps, has left the biggest impact on me as a scholar. I wanted him to see my work out in the world and to talk to him about it. Winning an award that carries his name made me feel that he would have liked the book, that it would have made him smile. I am also proud because of the tremendous support the book has garnered. I stuck with it and despite being afraid I continued to work on it, and I appreciate the support of colleagues whose work I value very much. I was nervous writing about the anguish of families whose privilege is often taken for granted and whose suffering is often neglected. I wanted to tell a full story

that protected people's dignity while also uncovering uncomfortable truths. Ignoring these kinds of stories, I believe, has prevented us from fully understanding historical moments such as the one we find ourselves now.

[Is there anything else you would like to tell us?](#)

I think I am saying this to myself as much as I am to everybody else: Today, the world appears bleak, but another world is possible through solidarity and courage.

## Graduate Student Paper Award: Dylan Sears



Dylan Sears is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at Kansas State University. His research interests are broad but can generally be attributed to his longstanding interest in studying race and ethnicity in the United States. He draws from several perspectives, but his research typically focuses on race and ethnicity, cultural criminology, and comparative-historical methods. He received his MA in Sociology from Kansas State University in 2022 and his master's thesis explored the phenomenon of "white vigilante violence" using Kyle Rittenhouse and the discourse surrounding him as a case study. Before beginning his MA, Dylan worked for the AmeriCorps non-profit City Year, where he taught 7th grade math and provided classroom and student support in a low-income school district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He received his BA in Sociology at Oklahoma State University where he emphasized Applied Sociology and focused many of his studies around race and ethnicity. He loves teaching and is always attempting to develop creative, new, engaging, and accessible forms of classroom instruction designed to open students' eyes (particularly students not in the social sciences) to the external, social forces that exert pressure on us in our daily lives.

### What I'm Working On:

While I always have several projects in-process, I am currently working on getting my doctoral dissertation off the ground. Focused on a city which I grew up thirty-minutes north of and spent much of my undergrad and post-undergrad time in, my dissertation explores the violence of gentrification in the city of Tulsa, Oklahoma, with an emphasis on its Greenwood district (also known as Black Wall Street) which was destroyed in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. Greenwood is now the site of an ongoing urban revitalization project, with extensive funding injections, new developments, and a host of media productions found within the city, all centered on the 1921 episode of racial violence. To explore this practice, I employ a mix of Foucauldian "genealogical" methods and ethnography while also drawing from literature on dark tourism, gentrification, and hauntology. My hope is to contribute to literature that links the ideas of hauntology, to the material social reality of the city.

### How my Research Contributes to Critical Criminology:

My hope is that my research contributes to trends in critical scholarship that I admire: specifically, drawing from beyond the bounds of one's discipline. While my research is structured by and draws primarily from my longstanding interests in race and stratification and thus finds its basis foundationally in my discipline of sociology, limiting myself only to works within the sociological "canon" can only constrain my horizons and the horizons of sociology proper. To account for this, I draw frequently from history, American Studies, and Cultural Studies as I build my literature base; I find that by including research from other disciplines, I can hone my own perspective and add more tools to my "theoretical toolkit." In short, I hope if nothing else that my contributions continue the trend of critical scholarship drawing broadly from distinct fields on similar concepts or phenomena, rather than within the limited boundaries of sociology or criminology. I practice this as sociology and criminology do not exist in vacuums, and the developments of other fields can further hone our perspectives while allowing us to contribute a sociological mode of analysis to the discussion.

### A Note on Mentorship:

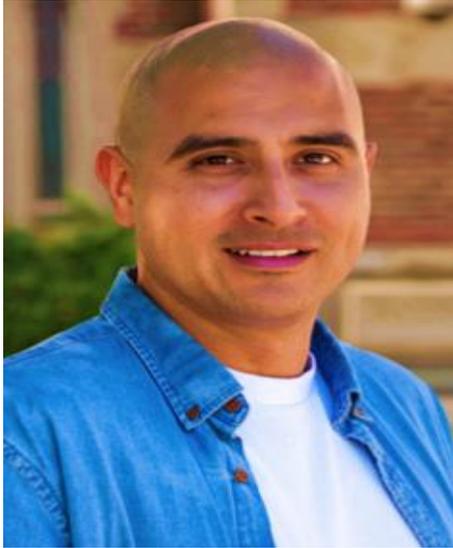
I have had the privilege of interacting with many excellent scholars across criminology, sociology, and anthropology in my time here at Kansas State University. Two faculty members come to mind when thinking about mentorship I have received here. Dr. Travis Linnemann has served as my faculty advisor since the first year of my MA and has been invaluable in my academic development. When conducting my research, he has always encouraged me to read broadly, rather than limiting myself within the boundaries of my discipline or sub-discipline. He has also been instrumental in the development of my writing style and practices. While there is always room to grow, I credit my writing abilities and my critical evaluative skills to his mentorship. Dr. Corina Medley has also been influential in my academic development here at K-State. I was her teaching assistant twice as an MA, she was a grader for both of my preliminary exams, and she is a member of both my thesis and dissertation committee. Her critical

eye and encyclopedic knowledge of social research methods always offer critical insights into the shortcomings and holes in my research projects. Additionally, her feedback on my written work is always detailed, insightful, and sufficiently critical. These two scholars represent what I think is most important about mentorship in the academic context: encouraging creative and rigorous scholarly investigation, adopting clear writing practices and sensible structure, and offering constructive, critical feedback that assists one making their work the best it can be.

#### What is Next for Me:

I am currently preparing my dissertation proposal with the goal of formally beginning my research this summer. Once I have completed my dissertation, I aim to pursue a faculty position at a university so I can continue both conducting research and teaching. I believe I have much to contribute in both of these areas, and I am excited to pursue these next steps!

## Graduate Student Paper Award: Diego Taboada



Diego Taboada is a PhD candidate in sociology with a concentration in criminology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK). He received his BA in sociology from the UTK and his MS degree in criminology and criminal justice from California State University, Long Beach. He also earned a second MS degree in geography from UTK. His work is rooted in the carceral geographies and racial capitalism literature and centers around issues of race, place, carcerality, and the urban political economy. His work takes a mixed approach and is critical in orientation, interdisciplinary, and brings into conversation the writing, theories, and concepts of criminologists, sociologists, abolitionists, critical police scholars, and urban geographers to uncover law enforcement's function in society—protecting profits and property at the expense of poor and racialized people. His writing has been published in *Race and Class*, *Social Inquiry*, and *Critical Criminology*.

Please tell us about yourself.

I have taught courses on criminology, criminal justice, and research methods. I am an avid sports fan who enjoys reading, writing, exercising, and spending time with my wife Courtney and daughter Sophia.

What you are currently working on.

Currently, I am working on finishing my dissertation. The dissertation, tentatively titled “Pentriification”, seeks to uncover the ways in which carceral power melds with the urban process under racial capitalism and to understand how it materializes and functions in Inglewood, California, a gentrifying South-L.A. neighborhood. The dissertation is the culmination of most of what I’ve been learning about and researching throughout my graduate studies.

Quantitatively, part of the project leverages GIS data to map and draw statistical associations between a variety of gentrification-related variables and broken windows policing at the neighborhood level. This research, which forms a part of his dissertation, is currently under review with *Critical Criminology*.

Using newspaper articles as source material and existing case studies on prison development, the qualitative component of the dissertation seeks to understand the political and economic rationales that were used to legitimize stadium construction in Inglewood and to draw parallels with those used to justify prison construction elsewhere. By placing stadium and prison development in direct relation to one another, the dissertation analyzes the material and ideological powers that compel communities to accept these projects as economic development solutions, demonstrating how they are both products of racism, abandonment, social reproduction, anti-state state-building, extraction, exploitation, expropriation, and profit and accumulation.

Along with his dissertation research, my current research agenda also includes a project that uses publicly available data on gentrification and police shooting from the LAPD and LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) to investigate the complex interplay between police violence and urban revitalization in Los Angeles. In another research paper, I juxtapose "collateral carcerality" —the so-called "collateral consequences" of incarceration—and police murder to challenge conventional understandings of the collateral consequences of incarceration and prompt a rethinking of what constitutes state killing.

[Can you tell us a little bit about your mentors and perhaps why you find mentorship important?](#)

I have been incredibly fortunate to have wonderful mentors during my graduate career. Dr. Kasey Henricks, for example, was invaluable for guiding me through the publication process, for research collaboration, for offering essential advice on framing my own projects, and for always being available for questions on quantitative research issues. Beyond his academic support, I have truly appreciated being able to build a personal relationship with Kasey, a truly solid person.

Dr. Lois Presser is another person I simply cannot say enough good things about. She is genuinely one of the kindest people I have ever met, consistently available and ALWAYS willing to help wherever she can.

She truly is the cornerstone of our department and a beacon for graduate students. Her guidance was instrumental in my decision to even attend graduate school in the first place, and I am profoundly grateful for her support and keen insights.

Having experienced this level of guidance and support firsthand, I find mentorship to be absolutely crucial. Graduate programs can often feel overwhelming, anxiety-inducing, and can lead to feelings of insecurity. Knowing that you have dedicated people supporting you through those challenges makes an enormous difference in navigating the journey successfully. Recognizing how transformative that support was for me personally and professionally, I hope to one day be able to provide similar guidance and encouragement to future students, passing on the invaluable support that was so generously provided to me by both Henricks and Presser.

#### What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

The accomplishment I am most proud of is finishing my PhD while simultaneously being a good dad and husband and fulfilling all of my familial responsibilities as best as I could. This is because, coming from a background where simply graduating high school felt like an improbable feat, the very idea of completing a PhD was something I honestly never thought was within reach. What makes this my greatest accomplishment is not just the academic achievement itself but successfully navigating the immense demands of UTK's program without sacrificing my commitment to being present and supportive for my family. Achieving that level of academic success against the odds while also maintaining those crucial family roles feels like the ultimate demonstration of overcoming those initial limitations, and that dual success is why I am most proud of it.

#### What is next for you?

I anticipate spending much of the next several months securing a job in academia, while also focusing on continuing to build my teaching portfolio and publication record.

## Lifetime Achievement Award



**Dr. Onwubiko Agozino**

Dr. Agozino has been described as a “liberationist sociologist who privileges a critical Africana-centered scholar-activist paradigm” and is well-known for his contributions and passionate support of critical criminology over the last three decades.

Dr. Agozino was born in Awgu, Enugu State, Nigeria, where he witnessed the genocide in Biafra (1967-1970), about which he writes in his 2019 book “Humanifesto of the Decolonization of Criminology and Justice.” In 2003 Dr. Agozino produced perhaps his most acclaimed work “*Counter-Colonial Criminology: A Critique of Imperialist Reason*” in which he addressed the Global North’s domination of criminology leading, in part, to the discipline’s theoretical and methodological underdevelopment. As a group of his nominators commented, Dr. Agozino’s “body of work is nothing less than extraordinary with his impact immeasurable. Biko has worked tirelessly to challenge the Global North’s dominance of the discipline, exposing its colonial roots while always confronting structural inequality and oppression.”

In recognition of this tireless commitment to the values and principles of our division, which includes his many years of mentorship and pedagogy to scores of students, we present Dr. Agozino with the most prestigious award of our division.

**Committee Chair:** Dr. David Brotherton, Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** honors an individual’s sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and/or service in the field of critical criminology.

## Book of the Year Award



**Dr. Sara Salman**

*The Shaming State* offers a useful and insightful critique of the modern “welfare” state and the attendant ideologies and discourses of individualism as linked to punishment and vulnerability. This book also stretches the very boundaries of so-called critical criminology in productive ways, with *The Shaming State’s* contribution, in part, being putting on full display the psychic economy of punishment that seems built into the welfare logics and policies of a neoliberal state.

This book offers a brilliant contribution to the extent that it illustrates how major pervasive ideologies in American culture—namely, individualism, personal responsibility, and the American Dream—concretely negatively impact the lives of those in need of help. This in itself is a valuable notion for critical criminology. In examining two very different groups facing dire circumstances and needing to avail themselves of government assistance, Dr. Salma’s book helps support the notion that withholding and shaming is truly a mechanism baked into the state. The concept of the Shaming State is a powerful contribution in itself; the book embodies the true spirit of critical criminology.

Please join me in recognizing Dr. Sara Salma’s work by awarding her this year’s Jock Young Criminological Imagination Book Award.

The **Critical Criminology Book Award** is intended to recognize and publicize a recent book published within the last 2 years that best serves to further the goals of the DCC by providing an outstanding example of an effort to highlight relevant research, topics, frameworks, theories, etc. The book can be sole or co-authored, edited or co-edited. Textbooks are disqualified.

## Critical Criminologist of the Year Award



**Dr. David Rodriguez Goyes**

Dr. Goyes' research focuses on globalization and crime, environmental conflicts, colonization, and imperialism, with published works in *Critical Criminology*, *Theoretical Criminology*, and the *British Journal of Criminology*. Dr. Goyes has been the co-editor of several special issues of academic journals, including an issue for *Justice, Power, and Resistance* that charts the development and innovations of criminological research in Latin America. Dr. Goyes also directly contributed to the 2016 Peace Accord between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia by serving as a rapporteur; he regularly works with fellow activist scholars to advocate for Indigenous communities. Colleagues who nominated Dr. Goyes highlighted the profound impact of his work as an early career scholar, writing, "The personal qualities that have supported him in reaching so far in such a short time span are his academic curiosity, his passion, and his desire to use his scholarship to help make a better world. It cannot be emphasized too much how impressive he has been in already playing such an important role in bringing together scholars from different continents and genuinely contributing to the reorientation of the criminological compass."

Please join me in recognizing Dr. Goyes' by awarding him this year's Critical Criminologist of the Year Award.

**Committee Chair:** Dr. Miltonette Craig, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University

The **Critical Criminologist of the Year Award** honors an early-to-mid-career individual's distinguished accomplishments that have symbolized the spirit of the DCC in some form of scholarship, teaching, and/or service in recent years

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## Praxis Award



**Dr. Jennifer Ortiz**

The award committee recognized her work with organizations such as Beyond the Bars, Big Brother, Big Sister of Kentuckiana, Freed From Within, and the Louisville Metro Jail Reentry Workbook Program. Dr. Ortiz has worked tirelessly to help individuals who have been disenfranchised and has advocated for their behalf. Additionally, Dr. Ortiz serves as President of the New Albany Indiana Human Rights Commission, which seeks "to uphold equal opportunity for education, employment and housing for all New Albany residents while also weighing all general human rights complaints."

Given the totality of her record, we wish to recognize Dr. Jennifer Ortiz's work by awarding her this year's Praxis Award.

The **DCC Praxis Award** recognizes an individual whose professional accomplishments have increased the quality of justice for groups that have experienced class, ethnic, gender, racial and sexual disparities in policing and punishment. The DCC Praxis Award honors unique achievements in activism, commitment, persuasion, scholarship, service and teaching in areas that have made a significant impact on the quality of justice for underserved, underrepresented, and otherwise marginalized populations.

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## Teaching Award



**Dr. Sarah Rogers**

Given Sarah's interactive and engaging teaching style, her creation of the course *Queer Criminology*, and her helping found the first chapter of *Take Back the Night* at the University of South Carolina (USC), *Reclaim Carolina*, Dr. Rogers has made a clear contribution to the teaching of critical criminology. She has proven to truly care about her students' engagement with the world around them in a way that is critical and socially just.

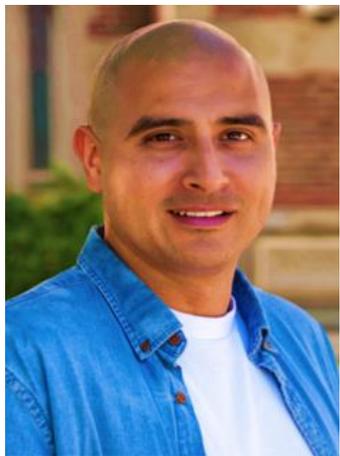
Please join me in recognizing Dr. Sarah Rogers by awarding her this year's Teaching Award.

**Committee Chair:** Dr. Kevin Revier, Assistant Professor of Criminology, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, State University of New York at Cortland.

The **Teaching Award** recognizes contributions that have made a significant impact on the teaching of critical criminology at the local, state, regional, national, or international level. These contributions may include:

- exemplary classroom teaching and/or student engagement activities
- leadership and innovation in teaching developments such as the preparation of teaching and curriculum-related materials and publications
- contributions to the scholarship on teaching and learning
- contributions to the enhancement of teaching within state, regional or national associations

## 2024 Graduate Student Paper Awards



**Diego Taboada**



**Dylan Sears**

**This year, the 2024 Graduate Student Paper Award is presented to two wonderful graduate students, Diego Taboada and Dylan Sears.**

In no particular order, the first co-winner we are honoring tonight is **Diego Taboada**, a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Department of Sociology.

We would like to recognize Diego for his paper entitled, “Fixing Broken Windows or Racial Capitalism’s Fixers: Policing, Displacement, and Gentrification in One of California’s Last Black Enclaves.” This creative and well-written paper engages with literature from critical geography, criminology, and sociology as it explores the connection between policing practices and gentrification in Inglewood, CA. Drawing upon open-sourced data as well as data on arrests and urban redevelopment, this study uses spatial analysis to show how urban development activity was the most consistent predictor of arrests in Inglewood during the year 2018. Ultimately, this theoretically engaged quantitative study argues that policing practice is more about assuring profit and securing private property rather than crime control.

The second co-winner is **Dylan Sears**, a graduate student at Kansas State University, Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work. Dylan’s paper entitled “Good Kid, Mad City” explores the political meaning of Kyle Rittenhouse. While engaging with important concepts from American studies, sociology, and criminology, this creative and timely paper analyzes news and social media coverage surrounding the Rittenhouse shooting and subsequent trials. While liberal and conservative media outlets differed in how they framed, presented, and judged Rittenhouse, important overlaps also existed. In particular, Sears argues that the notion of ‘self-preservation,’ a core idea in American political discourse, can help us to understand the legitimation, defense, and rise in the celebrity of Rittenhouse in the years following the shooting.

**Committee Chair:** Dr. Randy Myers, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice Division, and Program Chair, School of Social Work & Criminal Justice

## 2024 Undergraduate Student Paper Award



**The 2024 Undergraduate Paper Award is Brenna Jones, a graduate student in the Department of Criminal Justice at Illinois State University**

**[with Brian Pitman, Assistant Professor within the Department of Government, Criminology, and Sociology at Lander University]**

Brenna Jones' paper is not only timely and important but also addresses the global housing crisis—a problem that extends far beyond Maine, the US, or even North America, affecting many countries worldwide. The paper offers a nuanced and thorough examination of stigmatization's role in securing long-term housing, emphasizing how capitalism significantly

contributes to the ongoing crisis. The methods section of this undergraduate paper is exceptionally detailed, and the data collection and analysis are both rigorously executed.

Overall, this paper is an outstanding contribution to the field, clearly engaging with critical theory. Moreover, Brenna Jones' academic trajectory demonstrates initiative, leadership, creativity, and self-motivation. Her ability to tackle complex social issues with intellectual rigor is reflected in this work, making her and this paper deserving recipients of this year's Undergraduate Paper Award.

Committee Chair: Dr. Chris Brewer, Assistant Professor in Criminal Justice Sciences, Illinois State University

## 2024 DCCSJ Awards Ceremony – San Francisco, CA









## What We Are Reading

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

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### *Negotiating Subversive Adaptation in Morocco: Navigating Borders, Migration Dynamics and Authoritarian Realities*

By Michela Lovato and Sofia Stimmatini

#### ABSTRACT

Drawing on the framework of solidarity studies, this article examines how solidarity actors negotiate spaces for dissent under heightened repression in Morocco, where a stringent border regime operates within an authoritarian political landscape marked by pervasive surveillance and internal control. How do counter-border actors deal with internal repression? What strategies do they employ? Based on ethnographic participatory research and interviews, we examine how counter-border activists negotiate their space to challenge border regimes while operating within the confines of an authoritarian context. Rather than directly challenging the overarching authoritarian system, activists strategically focus on protesting about specific issues while acknowledging and navigating broader political contexts. We define this strategy as “subversive adaptation.” This research contributes to wider discussions on activism, authoritarianism, and border politics, underscoring the complexities of resistance within repressive regimes.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-025-09826-3>

### *Punishing Pregnancy Loss: Miscarriage Criminalization as an Embodied Carceral Practice*

By Robin O’Hanlon

#### ABSTRACT

The persecution of Brittany Watts, a 34-year-old Black Ohio woman arrested in September 2023 after experiencing a miscarriage, is emblematic of pregnancy loss criminalization as an embodied carceral practice. In the United States, the expansion of “fetal personhood” laws, coupled with a desire to punish imperfect pregnancies, have coalesced to produce policies and practices which actively police and criminalize pregnancy loss. The carceral regime of fetal personhood is further reinforced by medical paternalism and surveillance. I argue that the policies and practices which police pregnancy loss are rooted in a series of carceral logics, which are in turn reinforced by race and class hierarchies which disproportionately impact Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income women. By using Watts’ case as a

focal point, this paper contributes to our understanding of how the racialized and gendered carceral logics of miscarriage criminalization emerge, operate, and intersect.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-025-09818-3>

## *The Digital Infrastructures of Illegal Border Crossings: Solidarity Actors and Networks in the Arabic and Persian Speaking Virtual Spheres*

By Ismail Oubad and Rassa Ghaffari

### ABSTRACT

This article explores overlooked strategies and self-determination practices among Iranian, Afghans and Moroccan citizens planning irregular migration to Europe. While the migration studies literature often focuses on state use of digital technology for border surveillance, its role in facilitating unauthorized crossings is emerging. Through digital ethnography on Arabic- and Persian-speaking virtual platforms where people discuss European border crossings, this paper challenges conventional perspectives on smugglers and solidarity within these networks. It reveals a nuanced moral economy of smuggling, displaying migrants' agency and tactical decision-making within the broader framework of migration autonomy theory.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-025-09824-5>

## *Fighting Back, Moving Forward: Refugee Women's Agency in Stories of Resistance and Resilience*

By Gabriela Mesquita Borges

### ABSTRACT

This study introduces a novel framework for understanding refugee agency, focusing on the experiences of refugee women in three distinct stages and contexts: in countries of asylum, during forced migration, and in asylum. The research, based on 24 in-depth, semi-structured interviews with refugee women from the Middle East and Africa residing in Portugal, challenges traditional views that emphasize refugees' efforts to change their circumstances. Instead, it proposes conceptualizing refugee women's agency as twofold: as emancipatory resistance against oppressive structures and as resilience, an adaptive ability to navigate these constraints. The aim of this study is to provide a deeper understanding of how refugee women actively confront and challenge oppressive structures, advocating for an emancipatory approach that transcends conventional analyses. At the same time, it highlights the resourcefulness and creative strategies employed by these women to adapt and survive within these structures, thus redefining resilience. Key findings from the interviews reveal that refugee women employ various forms of resistance to oppressive conditions while simultaneously demonstrating remarkable resilience through adaptive strategies. This dual perspective enriches academic discourse by offering a more comprehensive understanding of refugee agency. Furthermore, it provides practical insights for policymakers and

humanitarian practitioners, helping them to better support and empower refugee women in their daily lives.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-025-09815-6>

## *Cumulative Disadvantages in the Brazilian Criminal Justice System: Is Pretrial Detention a Source of Racial Disparities?*

By Vitor S. Goncalves, Ludmila M. L. Ribeiro, and Livia B. Lages

### ABSTRACT

Different studies have examined racial disparities in the criminal justice system. Empirical examinations indicate that pretrial detention is a critical source of cumulative disadvantage in the United States. However, few studies have been undertaken in Latin America, where racial bias and pretrial detention remain understudied. This study utilized primary data collected from cases presented at Custody Hearings in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, employing logistic regression and path analysis. The findings indicate that while race does not have a direct effect on conviction decisions, it exerts an indirect effect through pretrial detention. Specifically, Afro-Brazilians face higher odds of pretrial detention compared to their white counterparts, which subsequently increases their odds of being convicted. Implications concerning racial disadvantages in the Brazilian criminal justice system are discussed.

To access full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-024-09811-2>