



**CRITICAL
CRIMINOLOGIST
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. MELISSA
GUZMAN



**CRITICAL ISSUE
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. KENNETH
SEBASTIAN LEON



**CRITICAL BOOK
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. CHARIS E.
KUBRIN



**CRITICAL
ACTIVISM
SPOTLIGHT**
CHRIS GUERRA



**GRADUATE
STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT**
GRACIELA
PEREZ

THE CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGIST: SPOTLIGHT



Message from the DCCSJ Board

DCCSJ Members,

We hope you find some inspiration in this edition of the newsletter. As we continue to prepare for the upcoming ASC meetings in Chicago we wanted to take some space to acknowledge the work of our many volunteers. Our awards committees are hard at work reviewing and reading nominations. A great big thank you to our committee chairs Kevin Revier, Jayne Mooney, Judah Schept, Jason Williams, Favian Martin and Kaitlyn Selman. While the deadline for the Book Award has passed (we have 16 book nominations!) we urge you to consider making a nomination in the other areas.

We have successfully added more categories to the ASC program selection menu and are excited about the number of submissions. We also let the ASC leadership know our opinions about requiring the “traditional” abstract this year. We heard from many of you and we agree we found it limiting and exclusionary. For this and so many other reasons we encourage you all to consider running for or volunteering in all of the spaces that these decisions are made.

In addition to the exceptional panels that have been scheduled for the conference we have some special events planned for this year that we hope you will attend. First, working with Eddy Green and the Illinois Labor History Society, we are planning a Labor History Tour for Tuesday. Chicago is the perfect place to explore labor history and reinvigorate our dedication to significant labor rights issues. Look for sign up information closer to the conference. Second, we will continue the tradition of hosting our Social and Awards Ceremony on Thursday night and will be acknowledging the 2020 and 2021 awardees.

Nominations for Executive Board positions are now open! Please consider running for one of these positions. To nominate someone or to self-nominate contact the nominations committee: Emily Troshynski and Walter DeKeseredy. Nominations close on July 14, 2021.

Dr. David Brotherton, and Dr. Jayne Mooney, both of *John Jay College of Criminal Justice* and *The Graduate Center /CUNY* have been selected as the next editors of *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*. We are very excited about this and hope you will join us in congratulating and thanking both of these distinguished and dedicated DCCSJ scholars. David and Jayne will work with our current Editor in

The DCCSJ Executive Board



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Chair*



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*Lindsey Upton,
Secretary/Treasurer*

Chief, Dr. Avi Brisman (*Eastern Kentucky University*) to transition by Jan. 1 2022.

As always we are grateful for the hard work and vision of our Communications Team, Alexa Bejinari and Cassandra Boyer. It is no small feat to handle the communications of a division while working on dissertations and both have done a stellar job.

In Solidarity,
Executive Board of the DCCSJ
Donna L. Selman, Ph.D.
Jayne Mooney, Ph.D.
Lindsey Upton, Ph.D.
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Message from the Communications Team

Dear Members of the DCCSJ,

We are excited to present our most recent issue to the Division, which features contributions from Dr. Melissa Guzman, Dr. Kenneth Sebastian León, Dr. Charis E. Kubrin, and doctoral candidates Chris Guerra and Graciela Perez. This issue of the newsletter will focus on *Immigration, Deportation, and the Detention of Immigrants in the Global South*. We are extremely grateful to the contributors who volunteered their time to make this newsletter a success.

Dr. Melissa Guzman, an Assistant Professor in the Latina/Latino Studies Department at San Francisco State University, is featured in the “Critical Criminologist Spotlight.” Dr. Guzman shares what inspired her to research Latinx communities and tells us about the book manuscript she’s been working on, tentatively titled *The Spirit of Carcerality: Latinx Evangelicals and Carceral Control in the 21st Century*.

Next, Dr. Kenneth Sebastian León, assistant professor of Latino and Caribbean Studies and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University is featured in the “Critical Issue Spotlight.” Here, Dr. Sebastian León urges critical criminologists to study “the harms of migration and mobility regimes through a state-corporate crime lens”.

Then, Dr. Charis E. Kubrin, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, and Sociology, is featured in the “Critical Book Spotlight.” She discusses her research path and edited volume, *Punishing Immigrants: Policy, Politics, and Injustice*. Overall, Dr. Kubrin emphasizes that the public perception on the criminality of immigrants is incorrect. Further, public policy regarding immigration is similarly misguided.

Doctoral candidate and Teaching Fellow Chris Guerra from the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University, is featured in the “Critical Activism Spotlight.” Guerra shares how being a child of Mexican-born immigrants has shaped his graduate experience and influenced his teaching methods. Similarly to Dr. Kubrin, Guerra touches on the fact that first-generation immigrants are the least likely to commit crimes in comparison to native born citizens or future generations (e.g., second-generation, third generation, etc.).

Last, Graciela Perez, a doctoral candidate of Criminology in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware, is featured in the “Graduate Student Spotlight.” Her research focuses on the policing and victimization of immigrants. Perez’s dissertation, for instance, is on the bias victimization of Latinx communities in the U.S. The Division congratulates Perez as she joins the Justice Studies Department at James Madison University this upcoming Fall as a tenure-track Assistant Professor!

This issue concludes by detailing award descriptions and the nomination process for the 2021 DCCSJ Awards. Calls for Papers (CFPs), the “What we are Reading” section, and a book announcement are also included here. Importantly, nominations for the 2021 - 2023 Executive Board are due by July 1st.

Our next issue is scheduled to be released in November 2021. If you would like to be a featured contributor or would like to nominate an organization or individual for the DCCSJ newsletter who you think would be a good fit, please email me at boyerc1@unlv.nevada.edu or my colleague Alexa at bejinari@unlv.nevada.edu.

Thank you and best wishes!

- Cassandra Boyer & Alexa Bejinariu

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Critical Criminologist Spotlight: Dr. Melissa Guzman

Dr. Melissa Guzman is currently an Assistant Professor in the Latina/Latino Studies Department at San Francisco State University, where she teaches courses on Racism, Youth and Juvenile Justice, and the experiences of Latinx communities who are impacted by carceral violence. Dr. Guzman has spent the past 10 years observing and documenting how Latinx Protestant churches across Northern and Central California help people navigate, survive, and contest different forms of state violence through their collective religious experiences and spiritual practices. Growing up in West Michigan, Dr. Guzman experienced the psychological, economic, and spiritual effects of state violence as her family navigated life without legal status. In the face of systematic marginalization, Latino Protestant churches became the only places that provided new immigrant families like hers with economic assistance and networks to mitigate the negative consequences of illegality and the threat of deportation. These early experiences continue motivating her to study how racially and economically marginalized communities of color contest different forms of carceral violence through their religious communities and collective spiritual visions. She has published her research across different academic journals, including *International Migration Review*, *Punishment and Society*, and *the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Dr. Guzman is currently working on her first book project, tentatively titled *The Spirit of Carcerality: Latinx Evangelicals and Carceral Control in the 21st Century*, where she will examine how carceral governance institutionally and culturally meshes and mingles together with Latinx religious organizations that provide rehabilitation services to criminalized and stigmatized populations.



Statement

Last week, while preparing to visit my family after almost two years of not traveling due to the COVID-19 pandemic—I found my old *Employment Authorization* card. Unlike “authentic” government-issued employment authorization cards, mine was made in someone’s basement and sloppily laminated with clear plastic. I never had to use this card because my family ended up fixing their legal status but finding this *relic* took me back to the early 2000s, when my father was deported after an ICE raid at the fish-packing plant where he worked. While my family had been able to obtain a travel VISA to *legally* enter the United States from Mexico City, our visa eventually expired after five years and our family’s legal status changed along with the expiration date on those documents.

Fast-Forward to January 2021. I am in a *zoom* conference with professors and scholars with PhDs who study American religion. We all received funding for our respective book projects. During a

casual breakout room, we are asked to discuss the following question: What must happen for your faith in the social contract to be restored after Trump? One of the scholars in the zoom eagerly answered that when Trump was elected, they wanted to leave the US and settle in Germany, where their daughter was earning their doctorate. *She will be my anchor baby!*¹

Hearing *anchor baby* casually uttered by a US-born white citizen with several high degrees from Ivy League academic institutions during a research conference was not surprising. We know that nativist and anti-immigrant sentiment continues to be a necessary and normal part of maintaining and sanctifying white supremacist patriarchal carceral state power. But this *anchor baby* utterance hit me differently that day. I heard it exactly one month after my immigrant mother, father, and grandmother had contracted COVID. My father contracted the virus while working at the largest bread factory in the US—a \$4.2 billion corporation that failed to provide their workers with adequate personal protective equipment during their mandatory 8–12-hour shifts.

What exactly are the benefits and privileges of American citizenship if this country is organized in a way that entire segments of our society are systematically blocked from being healthy, wealthy, and fully alive? The US carceral state produces a “vulnerability to premature death” (Gilmore 2007) that sanctions and normalizes exploitation and violence for economically marginalized Black, Indigenous, and people of color. It is in the context of this social fact that my research asks how Evangelical Christian religious organizations in North America manage, order, and regulate the lives of economically marginalized communities impacted by incarceration, probation, parole, deportation, illegality, and criminalization. Through ethnographic research conducted across four Latinx ethnic congregations located respectively in Fresno, CA and the San Francisco Bay Area, my research contributes to the field of critical criminology by examining the meaning systems, hierarchies, and relationships that emerge at the cultural, ideological, institutional, legal, and political nexus of prisons, criminal justice institutions and religious and faith-based organizations.

One of my proudest accomplishments at the moment is to be working on my first book manuscript, tentatively titled *The Spirit of Carcerality: Latinx Evangelicals and Carceral Control in the 21st Century*. What kind of story about carceral power would emerge if it started with and centered the experiences of Central American migrant women who were forced to leave their homes to survive different forms of sexual and gendered violence; only to have Mexico and its militarized security tentacles and partnerships with the US enable additional sexual and gendered violence during border crossing? What narratives about carceral power would emerge if we centered the experiences of previously incarcerated Chicana women who have nowhere else to seek housing, food, and other reentry and rehabilitation services outside of neighborhood religious organizations? How do collective religious and spiritual practices help communities reimagine a world without carceral violence?

My approach to critical criminology—captured by the questions above—has been and continues to be shaped by my intellectual ancestors and spiritual mentors.

My approach to critical criminology—captured by the questions above—has been and continues to be shaped by my intellectual ancestors and spiritual mentors. I owe my abolitionist spirit to the community-engaged professors across the state universities I have earned degrees from; to the

¹ The phrase *anchor baby* rests on the assumption that people choose to give birth in a particular nation-state to secure citizenship and allow those not born there to take advantage or undeservingly exploit the legal, economic, social, and political benefits of that nation.

community activists at San Francisco State University who have become my students, friends and colleagues; and to my immigrant family who taught me the power of “talking back” as bell hooks wrote. My mentors are people committed to the practice of always “looking back” in order to move forward—because if we don’t remember where we came from and who we are, then how will we be able to figure out where we are going?

I owe my abolitionist spirit to the community-engaged professors across the state universities I have earned degrees from; to the community activists at San Francisco State University who have become my students, friends and colleagues; and to my immigrant family who taught me the power of “talking back” as bell hooks wrote. My mentors are people committed to the practice of always “looking back” in order to move forward—because if we don’t remember where we came from and who we are, then how will we be able to figure out where we are going?

My mentors lovingly and carefully empower me to never stop asking Mariame Kaba’s question: *What can we imagine for ourselves and the world?* “Talking back” to Ivy-league-trained PhDs who use terms like “anchor baby” is necessary because American citizenship is simply not enough to protect people from racialized and gendered labor exploitation that disproportionately exposes them to premature death. I “talk back” because I am no longer afraid to abruptly challenge carceral state violence—even when it emerges during casual interactions that seemingly have no real, lasting consequences.² As *critical criminologists*, I believe our “work” should radically interrogate the *critical* consequences of our academic enterprises. Our institution’s prestige, academic rank, or professional networks should never prevent us from developing intentional commitments to refusing state-sponsored death and suffering against our most vulnerable communities.

Even if it feels like a futile or impossible practice, imagining and building new possibilities in our critical criminological enterprises requires patience and faith that we can have a better world. Beyond our publications and research, critical criminology should be about anchoring ourselves to the ongoing practice of building loving relationships with people who have no other choice but to refuse and challenge carceral power.

Another world can be possible, IS possible, and WILL be possible.

² See Dylan Rodriguez’ reflections on this:
<https://asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/aas-alumni-reflections-professor-dylan-rodriguez->

Critical Issue Spotlight: Dr. Kenneth Sebastian León



Kenneth Sebastian León is an assistant professor of Latino and Caribbean Studies and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University. In this Critical Issue Spotlight, Sebastian celebrates the contributions of critical criminologists in understanding racialized migration controls, and the harms of migration and deportation regimes in the United States and abroad. In addition to understanding the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on immobility regimes, he also argues for a sustained integration of perspectives from state-corporate criminology to further both descriptive and explanatory inquiry into immigration and deportation systems.

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Criminology & Private Profit: The Case of Migrant Detention

Until recently, the Reeves County Detention Complex was the largest *for-profit* detention facility in the world. In September of 2006, a Texas State Congressman began accepting \$10,000 per month as a “consultant fee” to help PNA secure a lucrative contract at Reeves. Within two months, State Congressman Uresti became Texas State Senator Uresti, winning his November race. Together with a local judge (Jimmy Galindo), State Senator Uresti kept receiving a monthly \$10,000 as part of their shared kickback. This practice lasted for over a decade until its discovery in 2017. By June 2018, Uresti was sentenced to 12 years in federal prison for these and other abuses of political office.

The original healthcare contractor, PNA, was a for-profit enterprise. Like many heavily commodified enterprises (e.g., hospital and healthcare systems), mergers and acquisitions are commonplace and part of both maximizing efficiency and profitability. PNA was acquired by Correctional Healthcare Companies which then became part of Correct Care Solutions (CCS) in 2014. As legal filings attest, the kickbacks (to Uresti) continued through every merger and acquisition, calling attention to the relevance of *illicit* monetary flows undergirding for-profit detention.

We know that corporate entities enjoy certain rights and privileges (e.g., freedom of speech). We also know that they *don't* share the same burdens of criminal culpability. Given the criminal prosecution of this Texas state congressman, what happened to the corporation(s) involved? More importantly, were these payments indicative of broader patterns of corruption? CCS has an infamous reputation and has been a defendant in at least 1,395 federal lawsuits since 2003, although the exact number of lawsuits is unknown. At least 28 medical-related deaths have occurred in facilities where CCS is responsible for healthcare.

After the state senator's conviction, CCS merged with a company called Correctional Medical Group under the new name Wellpath. Wellpath is just one of the many private contractors that benefit from

the jail, prison, and migrant detention enterprise today. In New Jersey, they are the medical provider at facilities like the Hudson County Correction Center, one of the largest jails in New Jersey that regularly detains migrants for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This is just one of many instances of the perverse incentives (and occasional prosecutions) involving the booming business of caging human beings in the name of migration control and draconian notions of public safety.

Migrant Detention Research as Criminal Justice Inquiry

If you're still reading this, you are likely to be someone that needs no reminder that the U.S. criminal justice system is less of a "system" and more of a fragmented, decentralized amalgamation of physical infrastructure, employment sectors, and multi-million-dollar industries. We often count bodies and buildings to quantify and compare elements of this system: there are "2.3 million people in 1,833 state prisons, 110 federal prisons, 1,772 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,134 local jails, 218 immigration detention facilities, and 80 Indian Country jails as well as in military prisons, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories." (Prison Policy Initiative, [Web](#)). There is no shortage of eye-popping figures, pie charts, and graphs to *describe* the scope of harmful criminal justice practices. How do you best *explain* them?

There is much to gain, analytically and empirically, by viewing formal social control (which includes migration controls) as state-corporate enterprises (see Barak 2021). These are, after all, public entities (e.g., agencies, departments) that work in tandem with privately funded and privately managed interests. The business of criminal justice is the formal and forcible control of human bodies, and we have specialized terms to capture the wide range of options for how this control is operationalized: arrest; detention; incapacitation; habeas corpus; custody; transfers; inmate processing; release; deportation; removal.

The decision to discuss human souls in terms of *bodies* is a [pedagogical](#) and political decision. As I've written before, human beings are forcibly moved and commodified through institutions that might sound like a paper company supply chain. ICE, for instance, has "for-profit [processing centers](#) and [staging facilities](#) and [cost-benefit analyses](#) of how inefficiently they load their planes with human cargo" (León, 2021b, web).

Studying the harms of migration and mobility regimes through a state-corporate crime lens is highly compatible with pre-existing and multidisciplinary critiques of both immigration policy and more criminologically-focused scholarship on formal social control. A state-corporate crime perspective (e.g., a political economic framework) informs why these practices persist despite clear evidence that they are 1) ineffective in advancing their purported goals (e.g., stopping crime or immigration); and 2) patently inhumane. They persist because they pay (see also Conlon and Hiemstra 2014; Hiemstra and Conlon 2017).

Interventions and Advancements in Critical Criminology

In a recent *Critical Criminology* article, I highlighted the urgency of research on "migration controls and the inter- and intra-national infrastructures that condition how goods, people, and monetary flows move across nation-state boundaries" (León, 2021a, p. 23). Critical criminologists (and social

scientists generally) have been working at this since before I was born, and it's important to celebrate and acknowledge the decades of effort and analysis of these issues (see Calavita 1984; 1989; Portes 1979). More recently, *Critical Criminology* published a special issue on "Critical Engagements with Borders, Racisms, and State Violence" (see Turnbull et al. 2020). The journal *Punishment & Society* had a Special Issue on "Borders, Gender, and Punishment" (Pickering et al. 2014). Oxford University Law School has an entire programmatic and research center dedicated to [Border Criminologies](#). We the crits hold no monopoly on calling attention to the harms and incoherencies of U.S. migration and crime control policy. Articles (and even entire issues and thematic sub-sections) in *Criminology & Public Policy* have unequivocally critiqued programs and policies that target immigrant communities (see Kubrin 2014; Martínez 2008).

Racialized ideologies and political instrumentalism directly contributed to criminalizing Black and Latinx persons in differential ways, but through similar logics: attributing socio-legal stigma and otherness to non-white and marginalized sectors of the population. An example of *how* this occurred includes a recent analysis of aggravated felony deportations and U.S. drug laws by Sarah Tosh (2019).

In short, a wealth of disciplinary perspectives exists on issues of immigration and deportation, and this essay is intended to celebrate the ethos of solidarity in speaking truth to power through our scholarship. Gibney (2013), for instance, has made the compelling case for reconceptualizing removals as forced migrations. Menjivar and Abrego (2012) unequivocally framed immigration law as a form of legal violence, and Golash-Boza and Hondagneu-Sotelo (2013) have empirically documented how deportations function as "gendered racial removal programs" (p. 272). (If there was a way to cite and celebrate everyone, I would ☺). Taken together, though, these perspectives are entirely consistent with – if not part and parcel to – the study of state-corporate power.

Improving the Criminological Gaze on “Latino Immigrants and Crime” Scholarship

We have studied, ad nauseum, whether increased immigration results in increased crime. The evidence is overwhelming, and the answer is no. The question keeps getting asked because there are powerful political forces (and consultants, and office-holders) who stand to benefit from attributing criminality and dangerousness to non-white migrants.

*When criminological research is published on the topic of “immigration and crime”
– it should be on the harms of state-corporate symbiosis in shaping mobility
regimes, and the insidious interests and profit-seeking behavior that undergirds
formal social control.*

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Critical Book Spotlight: Dr. Charis E. Kubrin

Charis E. Kubrin is Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and (by courtesy) Sociology. She is also a member of the Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice- Network. Her research focuses on neighborhood correlates of crime, with an emphasis on race and violent crime. Recent work examines the immigration-crime nexus across neighborhoods and cities, as well as assesses the impact of criminal justice reform on crime rates. Professor Kubrin has received several national awards including the Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology (for outstanding scholarly contributions to the discipline of criminology); the Coramae Richey Mann Award from the Division on People of Color and Crime, the American Society of Criminology (for outstanding contributions of scholarship on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice); and the W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Western Society of Criminology (for significant contributions to racial and ethnic issues in the field of criminology). Most recently she received the Paul Tappan Award from the Western Society of Criminology (for outstanding contributions to the field of criminology). In 2019, she was named a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.



Does immigration cause crime to rise, as public perception and political rhetoric suggest? I have spent the past 15 years trying to answer that question, an effort that has been both rewarding and frustrating. To understand why, it's necessary to go back to the beginning. It's the early 2000s. I'm an Assistant Professor of Sociology at George Washington University. It's the weekend and I'm reading newspapers online when I stumble across an op-ed written by Robert Sampson. The title, "Open Doors Don't Invite Criminals," intrigued me. I started reading. In this op-ed, Sampson argued that criminologists have been "getting it wrong" regarding explanations for the U.S. crime drop. While agreeing that the strong economy of the 1990s, rising incarceration, and better policing strategies mattered some, Sampson suggested scholars had been leaving out a potentially important factor. He suggested this omitted factor was something criminologists (and the public) had overlooked, likely because of an inherent bias. I wondered what could it be? Turns out, Sampson was referring to immigration. His argument was that crime in cities across the U.S. likely decreased during the crime decline because immigration to cities increased during this time period. He based his argument on findings from a large survey he had conducted in Chicago. I emailed to tell him that I liked his op-ed and he responded by saying mine was the only "friendly" email he had received. When I asked what he meant, he forwarded me the hate mail he was receiving. I read each email in disbelief. I was blown away by the extent of skepticism about Sampson's findings but also the nastiness of the comments. The data were speaking for themselves, it just seemed like nobody wanted to listen.

This was even more problematic when I began reviewing the research literature (admittedly, I knew nothing about immigration and crime). I found numerous studies, including dating back to the 1930s, which find that immigrants are less-crime prone than their native-born peers—consistent with Sampson’s claims. Despite this fact, public perception was just the opposite, and my investigation revealed it wasn’t just those responding to Sampson’s op-ed who thought immigrants were more crime-prone. Research on public opinion revealed regardless of time period and immigrant group, public opinion is that immigration and crime are causally linked. I thought well this can’t be the case today—in 2006—in our diverse, multicultural society but just to be sure I checked the General Social Survey, a nationally-representative survey of Americans that asks about their attitudes and behaviors on a variety of social issues. Turns out in their latest round of data collection they asked: “Does more immigrants to this country cause higher crime rates?” Twenty five percent of respondents said this was “very likely” and another 47% said this was “somewhat likely,” resulting in nearly three quarters believing that immigration and crime go hand-in-hand.

The results of my investigation fired me up! I became concerned about how “off” public perception was and how such faulty perceptions may be helping create policies such as Arizona’s SB 1070, popular at the time, which used as their foundation incorrect assumptions about immigrant criminality (SB1070 required local police to question individuals if there’s reason to suspect they’re in the U.S. illegally). I decided right then and there I would research this issue to produce sound empirical studies and more importantly, I would work hard to get the correct message out to others regarding what we know about crime and immigration.

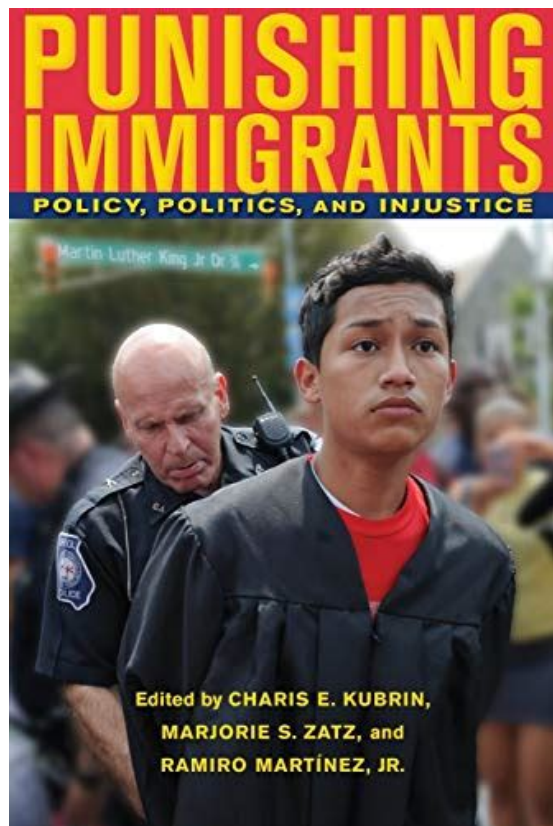
This decision jump-started a line of research that, over the years, has generated nearly two dozen studies on the immigration-crime nexus. I tell you that because what’s astonishing to me is that the findings are remarkably consistent across studies: more immigration equals less crime. Recently, this finding received a critical stamp of approval in the form of a meta-analysis I conducted with Graham Ousey. Examining over 500 findings from more than 50 U.S.-based macro-level studies published between 1994 and 2014, we find that, overall, the immigration-crime association is negative—but very weak. Indeed, while significant negative effects were found to be 2.5 times as common as significant positive effects, null effects were by far the most common result reported.

After publishing the meta-analysis, I crossed a Rubicon. The consistent finding that immigration and crime do not go hand-in-hand and that increases in immigration have led to reductions (not increases) in crime, led to concern over what I perceived as increasingly exclusionary and punitive policy directed at immigrants. For example, it has become harder than ever to obtain U.S. citizenship through legal channels; deportations of immigrants are among the highest ever in U.S. history; there has been a steep rise in laws that criminalize immigrant status, many modeled after SB 1070; there’s been a continued effort to make local officers police immigrants in new and complex ways through 287g partnerships, the Secure Communities Program, and the Criminal Alien Program; and then there’s Trump’s executive orders, the effects of which we are still experiencing today.

I therefore decided to expand my focus from questions about the immigration-crime link to questions about how immigration policies, especially criminal justice policies, impact immigrants, immigrant families, and immigrant communities. My new focus led me to seek out scholars doing important

work in this area, including Marjorie Zatz and Ramiro Martinez. We received funding from the National Science Foundation to bring together scholars from several disciplines—sociology, criminology, law, economics, anthropology—to conduct research to broaden our understanding of immigration-crime link. We held what turned out to be a fruitful two-day workshop. One outgrowth of that workshop is our edited volume, *Punishing Immigrants: Policy, Politics, and Injustice*. In *Punishing Immigrants*, we sought to accomplish 3 tasks: First, we wanted to uncover and identify the unanticipated and hidden consequences of immigration policies and practices both here and abroad. Second, we wanted to illuminate the layered realities of immigrants' lives and describe the varying complexities surrounding immigration and crime, law and victimization emphasizing diversity among immigrants in terms of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, reason for migrating, etc. And third, we aimed to situate these themes within a larger context of immigration and social control, particularly new modes of control in the post 9/11 era. A quick perusal of the book's table of contents reveals a fantastic line-up of scholars doing incredibly important work.

What have I learned on my journey? What to make of all this research? For starters, the assumption that we can tackle the crime problem by enacting harsh and exclusionary policies aimed at immigrants is misguided. Assuming resources directed at crime control operate in a zero-sum context, where, then, should we aim to get the most policy bang for the buck? Decades of research provide insight, and while one could propose many avenues for focus, a broader conclusion is that policy makers must consider both ends of the policy spectrum—prevention as well as punishment. Efforts to alleviate the strains of poverty and unemployment, and to ameliorate inequality more generally would go a long way. This task, no doubt, is onerous, especially compared to the status quo. Yet this is what the data demands.



Critical Activism Spotlight: Chris Guerra

Chris Guerra is a Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Fellow in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. Chris' research interests include immigrant involvement in antisocial behaviors and outcomes, mechanisms of the immigrant-paradox, Life-Course Criminology, cybercrime, and policing issues. He has taught multiple sections of introduction to research methods across various modalities. Chris' dissertation topic focuses on immigrant offending and victimization over time using a longitudinal approach. He holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice, B.A. in Psychology, and M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas. Some of Chris' recent publications have appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology and Deviant Behavior.



Recognizing the Immigrant Experience in Graduate School and Academia

The graduate school experience is undoubtedly challenging. For some, it is an experience that welcomes and indoctrinates students into consuming and producing knowledge. For others, it is an experience to be endured as they seek to balance other facets of life that color how they approach social institutions and their place in them. For students with immigrant backgrounds – that is, predominantly first-generation and second-generation immigrants – that struggle varies greatly for a widely cited qualification: immigrants and immigrant groups are extremely diverse. As a male student who is particularly vocal about being a child of Mexican-born immigrants, my life trajectory should be expected to deviate along certain dimensions from a seemingly similarly situated individual. Despite my own unique characteristics and struggles, I recognize there is an undercurrent that students from immigrant backgrounds feel as they traverse through their respective programs and important milestones. There is a natural notion of ‘yeah, this person gets it’, in which ‘it’ refers to a semblance of adversity we (and our parents/ancestors) have had to overcome to get to our current positions. Here, I share how my background has impacted and guided my approach in the classroom, service, and other scholarly field contributions.

As a student and instructor at an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution, the immigrant experience is understood well by some and not by others. As a student, it was difficult to shake the feeling that I was supposed to be a representative for those who come from similar backgrounds. Yet, when so few graduate students look or relate to you on important aspects of your identity, as having an immigrant-influenced background often does, I had to contend with conflicting feelings of promoting my unique experiences while being mindful that every student in the room is also unique in their own respects. As I transitioned to teaching my own courses, I took the opportunity to try to weave the lessons of immigrant realities into lecture and writing. For instance, when discussing the topic of conceptualization and operationalization in my introduction to research methods course, I use

immigrant generations (first-generation immigrant vs. second and so on) as a key example to demonstrate how to apply these concepts and help students gain insight into why it is important to discern between them. **Still, I recognize that this is not enough.**

In my tenure as a graduate student, my voice regarding the immigrant student experience has evolved. At the beginning of the AY 2020-2021, I was elected President of the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Organization in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Sam Houston State University. I approached the position with extreme caution. As one who has contended with economic adversity and feelings of not belonging to my host country's culture and heritage, I experienced the effects of imposter syndrome and was afraid to be a focal point among students and the department/university administration. Still, I felt like I was in a position where I could make a tangible difference in my local community. During my time, my fellow graduate student officers and I drafted and sent out a Black Lives Matter statement of support to our students and department faculty, created a student accomplishment newsletter, constructed a certificate of professional development, and raised funds for local community organizations. This past year I also had the opportunity to serve on a college committee to promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity. I was one of two graduate students on the committee that also had established professors and others in important administrative roles. As such, I felt empowered to represent students who had come through similar paths and promote these often overlooked experiences. Overall, my service efforts were informally and formally aimed at paying special attention to groups and individuals who may be overlooked in broader institutional contexts. These include Latino/a and immigrant groups who maintain a guiding presence in the way I approach service. **Still, I recognize that this is not enough.**

Finally, criminological research on immigrant-related work is and remains a valuable but underserved. In many ways, much of what has been found is rather intuitive to me. For example, contrary to broader public narratives, first-generation immigrants are the least likely to engage in criminal activity relative to those in later generations (i.e., those born in the U.S.). This 'immigrant paradox' seems to be so widely supported that to many it is now emerging or has emerged as the next major criminological truth. However, prior to reading and writing towards this area, I already *thought* this was the case. My own personal experiences had suggested as much and even in cases where immigrants did offend, I naturally assumed there were mitigating circumstances based on the vulnerability of immigrant statuses (e.g., crimes of need, avoidance of detection). So where does that lead me to now? I seek to contribute to the theoretical and methodological avenues that help explain why this is the case or why it is not in certain circumstances. As I do so, I keep in mind important lessons from scholars like the importance of moving beyond pan-ethnicity, examining the in-between immigrant generational statuses (e.g., 1.5 generation, 2.5 generation), and the crucial notion of legal status. **Still, I recognize that this is not enough.**

I recognize that it is not enough because I realize that my personal background has afforded me some level of privilege that has allowed me to be where I am. As the youngest in my family, I was looked after and encouraged to pursue school. I had the opportunity to take my personal and vicarious experiences and apply them towards empiricism. Moreover, since I was born in the U.S., I enjoy the privileges of American citizenship. There is nothing necessarily 'liminal' about my legality, but the same cannot be said for many in my family, friends, and broader Latino/a and immigrant community. There is more to be done in the field for immigrants and those in proximity to the immigrant reality. As we venture further and further into challenging existing paradigms and trends in the field, I urge everyone to recognize that more can always be done to provide an inviting and inclusive space for students with immigrant and immigrant-adjacent backgrounds. All this in effort that one day, we can hopefully state with confidence that **we have done enough.**

Critical Graduate Student Spotlight: Graciela Perez



Graciela is a doctoral candidate of Criminology in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware, where she also earned her Master of Arts in Criminology. For her undergraduate degrees, Graciela graduated with dual Bachelor of Art degrees in Criminology, Law and Society and Psychology and Social Behavior from the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests broadly focus on social control, race, ethnicity and immigration, with emphasis on the policing and victimization of immigrants. Some of her work from an evaluative study on an Inside Prison Exchange Program has appeared in the Journal of Correctional Education and the Journal of Prison Education. Currently, Graciela is working on her dissertation which examines bias victimization – including police discrimination – of Latinx in the United States and the role of culture specific factors related to their victimization.

Graciela Perez (she/hers/ella)
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
University of Delaware
Email: graciep@udel.edu

What are you currently working on?

I am currently involved in multiple research projects. For example, an ongoing project I began as soon as I was six months into my graduate program started as a pilot evaluation of an Inside Out Prison Exchange Program. Finding that most scholarship on Inside Out primarily focused on reflective and anecdotal evidence, I alongside my mentor, Dr. Chrysanthi Leon, decided to conduct an empirical study on an Inside Out course she was teaching, and I was her teaching assistant. Using a mixed-methods approach to evaluate the course, we developed a pretest and posttest survey with a follow-up interview to assess the effectiveness of the course for both Inside (incarcerated) and Outside (UD) students.

From this research project, I have published two co-authored papers, and additional manuscripts are in progress. For example, one of the papers underway investigates the impact of the course on student's self-efficacy. Engaging both quantitative and qualitative measures of self-efficacy, we find that Inside students demonstrate significant shifts in their self-efficacy from the beginning of the course to the end, while Outside student's self-efficacy remained constant. For many Inside students, there were doubts about their academic performance and capabilities, especially because for many it was their first time taking a college course. However, by the end of the course, despite not knowing their grades, a shift in self-efficacy encouraged their pursuit for a higher education post-release.

Besides that project, I am also currently working on a few papers that stem from my role as a graduate research assistant for a study funded by the National Institute of

Justice that investigates various forms of bias victimization experienced by Latinx across three distinct cities in the United States.

Existing scholarship on victimization has primarily relied on official data that reports statistics on hate crimes, which limits the scope of victimization. By exploring other forms of victimizations – such as harassment, discrimination, threats, stalking and sexual violence – we may be able to address the extent of bias victimization experienced by Latinx to seriously consider and implement safety and protections measures from such violent acts rooted in racism.

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

In a learning environment, I believe education should be a challenging and transformative process for both the student and educator. The transformation in my approach to teaching and overall pedagogy occurred when I was co-facilitator for an Inside Out Prison Exchange course. Facilitating a course with non-traditional college students in an unconventional learning environment (prison), pushed me to think about alternative ways to design accessible assignments and work with students that do not have access to the internet, workspaces, learning tools, and unpredictable schedules. While students were still held accountable for their assignments, there was flexibility with deadlines. I am grateful to have had an opportunity to facilitate an Inside Out Prison Exchange course because it transformed my traditional approach to teaching into one that is compassionate, understanding and flexible to my student's needs. Overall, my goal in the classroom for students is not a passing grade, but deep-rooted knowledge that they can carry, share and apply to their lives. After that course, I was able to apply my new skill sets and pedagogy to my own course on *Problems of Corrections*.

Teaching during a global pandemic and nationwide protests over the execution of Black and Brown bodies, along with the occasional life mishaps made me realize the importance of wellbeing.

Therefore, in my syllabus I made a point about prioritizing wellness and health. Especially at times like this, when we're all facing different challenges while working *through* a global pandemic. I believe it is important as an educator to remain flexible and remind students to not compromise their wellness and health over an assignment. In my class, I made sure to remind students about effective ways to recharge and recenter. Universities and workplaces in general, do not often prioritize mental health or even consider it as a factor in student and faculty performance, so as an educator I want my students to know that I care and support their needs to be a successful scholar.

How did you become engaged with critical criminology specifically?

Although my graduate degree is in Criminology, I am a Sociologist by training. I benefited from a graduate program that offered courses and degrees in both criminology and sociology with students from both backgrounds taking courses together. As such, I have broad training in criminology and research methods/statistics, but the bulk of my research applies sociological frameworks and mixed methods related to the policing and victimization of marginalized communities.

This unique background has pushed me to interrogate traditional criminological scholarship and its fixation on who engages in crime and why, rather than examining who or what defines crimes and the actors and environments set out to criminalize and victimize marginalized communities. For

instance, in preparing for class papers I was baffled to find countless studies on the immigration-crime nexus and very limited scholarship in the field of criminology that focused on how immigrants are criminalized and victimized. My contribution then is through my dissertation which examines various forms of victimization beyond those reported in official reports. While traditional criminologists may observe hate crimes, critical criminologists take a step further to examine other forms of violence that have historically been ignored but are just as impactful and harmful to the victim.

Being critical in the field is about representing the marginalized and seeking social inclusion, equality and human rights.

What are your goals upon graduating from the program?

It was an extremely challenging and bleak job market this year because the global pandemic gave rise to nationwide university hire freezes. Despite these trying times, I am fortunate and thrilled to share that I will be joining the Justice Studies Department at James Madison University this upcoming Fall as a tenure-track Assistant Professor! It is unbelievable to think that one of my biggest goals has been accomplished under unpredictable circumstances. In my new position, I hope to inspire and support students from all walks of life to pursue their goals no matter how big or small. I believe that as educators, we hold a unique and privileged position to democratize knowledge, challenge worldviews and empower change towards a just society.

Nominations for the 2021 - 2023 DCCSJ Executive Board

**Deadline: Nominations should be sent to the committee no later than July 14.
Please email emily.troshynski@unlv.edu & wsdekeseredy@mail.wvu.edu**

<https://divisiononcriticalcriminology.com/about/constitution/>

a. The Chair shall provide executive direction to the Division and shall preside over Division meetings. Further, the Chair serves as Divisional liaison to the ASC Program Chair to ensure representative inclusion of critical criminology panels on each year's program.

The Past-Chair. The Past-Chair will maintain a seat on the Executive Board for two years after their term is ended. The Past-Chair's primary duties will be to provide organizational stability and continuity over time.

b. The Vice Chair shall preside over Division meetings in the Chair's absence, succeed to all duties of the Chair in the event of a vacancy in the office, and carry out such additional tasks as assigned by the Chair.

c. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of meetings and maintain records of the division. The Secretary-Treasurer is the divisional liaison with the Treasurer of the ASC, who will maintain a separate account in the ASC Treasury for the Division, and will make sure the Division is informed of the Division's balance, debts, credits and any financial issues that may arise.

d. Executive Counselors. Three Executive Counselors shall be elected to serve on the Executive Board.

Nominees, elected officers, and appointed officers must be members of the Division in good standing.

The term of office for each incoming officer will begin with the close of the annual meeting following her/his election.

The term of tenure for all Executive Board positions is two years. The Chair, Vice- Chair, Secretary-Treasure and the Executive Counselors may be re-elected for one additional consecutive two-year term. If re-elected for a consecutive term, such officer may not run for re-election of the same office for a period of four years after the end of his/her tenure.

Call for Papers (CFPs)

International Criminology

Editor-in-Chief | **INEKE HAEN MARSHALL, PhD**

Purpose | [International Criminology](#), the newly established peer-reviewed journal of the ASC Division of International Criminology, invites submissions of individual papers or proposals for [thematic issues](#) and symposia. The journal's mission to publish innovative and thought-provoking theoretical, conceptual, empirical and methodological contributions that will enhance and develop the field of international, transnational, comparative and global criminology and criminal justice is evident in Volume 1, Issue 1 (March 2021) "[International Criminology. If Not Now, When?](#)" The journal is interdisciplinary and geographically diverse in terms of subject matter and contributors and welcomes work on a broad array of topics, using rigorous quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research. The journal publishes four issues annually and welcomes scientific articles, policy debates and commentaries, and book reviews.

Contact Editor-in-Chief [Ineke Haen Marshall](#) with any specific questions. For general information, including the composition of the international editorial board and submission guidelines, please go to <https://www.springer.com/journal/43576>

Call for Awards Nominations

Lifetime Achievement Award

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

Nomination process: Typically, someone – or a group of people – submit a letter, along with the CV of the nominee. Multiple letters of support are encouraged but not required.

Award Chair: Jayne Mooney | jjmooney@jjay.cuny.edu

Deadline: Sept 15, 2021

Critical Criminologist of the Year Award

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.

Nomination process: Typically, someone – or a group of people – submit a letter, along with the CV of the nominee. Multiple letters of support are encouraged but not required.

Award Chair: Judah Schept | judah.schept@eku.edu

Deadline: August 20, 2021

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.

Nomination process: Typically, someone – or a group of people – submit a letter, along with the CV of the nominee. Multiple letters of support are encouraged but not required.

Award Chair: Jason Williams | williamsjas@montclair.edu

Deadline: August 1, 2021

Graduate Student Paper Award

The **Graduate Student Paper Award** is intended to recognize the work of early career researchers by honoring papers of outstanding theoretical or empirical critical criminological scholarship. Most importantly, papers must make a scholarly contribution to the broad arena of Critical Criminology. The key is that the paper must have been written by someone when he/she was a graduate student and that he/she must not have already published the piece nor is the piece under consideration with a journal. Papers also must have been written within the last two years. The papers can be sole or co-authored however the graduate/undergraduate student must be first author. In order to further

the careers of critical student scholars, the [DCC Awards Committee](#) may, in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, invite student paper awards winners to publish their papers in *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*.

Nomination process: Nominations for the student paper awards must be submitted electronically and include the student's unpublished paper.

Award Chair: Kaitlyn Selman | kselman@bellarmine.edu
Deadline: Sept 15, 2021

Undergraduate Student Paper Award

The [Undergraduate Student Paper Award](#) recognizes and honors outstanding theoretical or empirical critical criminological scholarship by an undergraduate student. The key is that the paper must have been written by someone when he/she was an undergraduate student and that he/she must not have already published the piece nor is the piece under consideration with a journal. Papers also must have been written within the last two years. The papers can be sole or co-authored however the graduate/undergraduate student must be first author.

Nomination process: Nominations for the student paper awards must be submitted electronically and include the student's unpublished paper. Typically, someone— a faculty member or advisor— submits a letter of support/recommendation, along with the undergraduate paper submitted for the award.

Award Chair: Kaitlyn Selman | kselman@bellarmine.edu
Deadline: Sept 15, 2021

Teaching Award

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

Nomination process: Typically, someone – or a group of people – submit a nomination letter, along with the CV of the nominee. Multiple letters of support are encouraged but not required.

Award Chair: Favian Martin | martinf@arcadia.edu
Deadline: August 20, 2021

What we are Reading

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

Volume 29, March 2021, Issue 1: Special Issue

Centering the Margins: Addressing the Implementation Gap of Critical Criminology

Editor's Introduction to Volume 29

By Avi Brisman.

To access the full article, please visit <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09555-3>

Editor's Introduction to the Special Issue, "Centering the Margins: Addressing the Implementation Gap of Critical Criminology"

By Rita Shah.

To access the full article, please visit <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09560-6>

Latino Criminology: Unfucking Colonial Frameworks in "Latinos and Crime" Scholarship

By Kenneth Sebastian León.

Abstract

To "unfuck" is to correct a situation, or yourself, if necessary, and in a timely manner. There is an enduring need to audit and deconstruct the colonial features of criminological theory and criminal justice practices. To better understand these enduring colonial inheritances, this article offers a forward-looking prospectus on the merits of a Latino criminology and highlights the shared historical and conceptual overlaps between critical criminology and Latino Studies in studying interpersonal harms, racialized social control, and state violence. Compatible with both orthodox and progressive perspectives in criminology and criminal justice scholarship, an emergent and politically reflexive Latino criminology centers the margins by articulating areas of intervention for scholars to improve criminological inquiry and depart—or unfuck ourselves—from the many settler colonial and white supremacist inheritances of our field.

To access the full article, please visit <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09544-y>

Experiences of Trans Scholars in Criminology and Criminal Justice

By Allyn Walker, Jace Valcore, Brodie Evans, and Ash Stephens.

Abstract

Trans individuals experience disproportionately high rates of victimization, discrimination and disparate treatment by the criminal processing system, as well as misrepresentation by the media. The importance and validity of studying transgender people's experiences in the criminal processing system is beginning to be highlighted in criminology and criminal justice (CCJ), while the experiences of trans academics—who are among those leading the push toward the amplification of this line of research—remain largely unexplored. The authors, four transmasculine scholars in CCJ, draw from auto-ethnographic methods to shed light on the experiences of trans scholars within the academy and, in particular, within CCJ. We highlight how being trans has affected our experiences in various capacities as academics. We conclude by presenting suggestions for transgender scholars and their cisgender colleague and administrator allies.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09561-5>

Toward a Critical Criminology of HIV Criminalization

By Andrew Novak.

Abstract

Persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) (hereinafter, "PLHIV") face barriers at each stage of the criminal justice process, including prosecution for non-disclosure of HIV status. Justice institutions reinforce the stigma of HIV, which has perverse consequences for HIV prevention and treatment services. This article takes a critical criminological approach to "HIV criminalization," using the frames of queer criminology and epidemiological criminology to analyze both the punishment of "deviant" sex and the public health consequences of HIV stigma. Finally, this article offers a comprehensive consideration of the criminal justice barriers that PLHIV face in light of current criminological research, providing both mainstream and critical criminologists new insights into the social construction of deviance, legitimacy of institutions, definition of victims, and purposes of punishment.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09557-1>

Targeting Vulnerability with Electronic Location Monitoring: Paternalistic Surveillance and the Distortion of Risk as a Mode of Carceral Expansion

By Krystle Shore.

Abstract

Surveillance practices, both state and non-state in origin, are deployed increasingly to solve social problems beyond the traditional domains of criminal justice and national security, including public health concerns. Although such “protective” forms of surveillance are proffered by the state as beneficial for those under surveillance, they nonetheless retain coercive dimensions in practice and require the labeling of a group as “risky” in order to justify their use. Following Shelley Bielefeld’s (2018) observations about protective state surveillance as a form of paternalism, and Jennifer Musto’s (2016) notion of “carceral protectionism,” this article uses a case study of the electronic monitoring of people with cognitive impairments to identify the carceral features of paternalistic surveillance and to explore how this practice is justified. I make the argument that, specifically through targeted vulnerability and distortions of risk, paternalistic surveillance practices can operate as a mode of carceral expansion.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09558-0>

Carceral Citizenship as Strength: Formerly Incarcerated Activists, Civic Engagement and Criminal Justice Transformation

By Justin M. Smith and Aaron Kinzel.

Abstract

During the era of mass incarceration, a history of felony convictions and imprisonment imposes legal and extra-legal sanctions that strip individuals of rights—what Miller and Alexander (2016) call “carceral citizenship.” Despite the wide-reaching structural constraints that accompany the identity of being formerly incarcerated, many individuals enact their agency with civic engagement to reshape boundaries around individual and collective identity. Building from past convict criminology research (e.g., Ross and Richards 2003), we address the gap of including formerly incarcerated people into policymaking and community organizing around penal system reform. We offer expanded conceptualization of “carceral citizenship” and provide a framework for the transformation of practices that constitute carceral systems. As Goodman and colleagues (2017) demonstrate, the reformation of penal systems is not simply a result of the mechanical swing of a pendulum. Instead, the ongoing contestation between different stakeholders shapes criminal justice. Borrowing foundational theoretical concepts from multiple critical criminology perspectives, we frame the role of “carceral citizenship” within the transformation of the penal system reform.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09538-w>

Exploring the Rhetoric: How State Gender Diversity Laws Address Rights for Gender-Diverse Students

By Emily I. Troshynski and Alexa Bejinariu.

Abstract

In 2017, the Trump Administration withdrew Obama-era civil rights protections for transgender students in public school in the United States (US). Thus, policies regarding the rights and treatment of sex-/gender-diverse persons—primarily gender non-conforming students—were left in the hands of states and school districts. This article begins with a summary of recent changes in US state educational legislation and policies that purport to help protect gender-diverse students. It then analyzes over twenty hours of public comment at community school district meetings, highlighting opposing rhetoric associated with gender diversity via state educational policy reform for one state in the US—Nevada. Understandings of “rights” and of “safety” are at the core of public statements on gender diversity policies. We analyzed these statements to support the argument that social justice-oriented approaches to educational learning environments are key to empowering administrators, educators, students, and communities—both conceptually and practically. Discussions and findings are intended for use in gender diversity policy education, future advocacy, research, and training. We ask: after passing such legislation, how does the state enforce holistic inclusion based on gender identity? We argue that examining strategies initiated by communities, educators, students, parents, and schools to counteract the marginalization of disadvantaged youth might help in this endeavor.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09563-3>

“A Human Being Like Other Victims”: The Media Framing of Trans Homicide in the United States

By Christina DeJong, Karen Holt, Brenna Helm, and Skyler J. Morgan.

Abstract

A growing awareness of violence against LGBTQ+ individuals has led to an increase in media coverage of the homicides of trans people in the United States. Media accounts involve powerful narratives which are subjective, biased, and imbued with meaning. These narratives employ “frames” that impact public perception of populations. Studies have demonstrated differences in the ways that trans victims of homicide are framed compared to cis victims, specifically regarding responsibility for the violence inflicted upon them. Trans victims are more likely to be constructed as “deviants” or criminals who are deserving of or responsible for their own homicides. In addition, these victims are framed as *deceivers* who deliberately obscure their gender modality from offenders, thus facilitating violent retaliation. The present study employs a mixed methods approach to analyze articles published in news media outlets about the twenty-six trans people killed in 2018. Our analysis identified more positive frames than negative frames employed by agents of social control, such as media and law enforcement, that inform narratives surrounding this unique form of violence. Yet, efforts still need to be undertaken to involve trans voices, to humanize those who have lost their lives,

and most importantly, to prevent this violence. This article discusses implications for how these organizations can begin to transform these narratives to describe accurately trans victims of homicide.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09559-z>

The Trifecta of Violence: A Socio-Historical Comparison of Lynching and Violence Against Transgender Women

By Emily Lenning, Sara Brightman, and Carrie L. Buist.

Abstract

This article explores violence against transgender women—from the state control of trans bodies through laws and policies to an apparent increase in transphobic murders in the United States (US). Using a socio-historical comparison to the legacy of racism, racist policies, and lynching in the US, we consider the relationship between hateful rhetoric, state-sanctioned discrimination, such as North Carolina’s Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act (known as “House Bill 2” or “HB2”), and the recently reported uptick in the murders of transgender women of color. Given the feminist backlash and racial threat rhetoric that characterizes the current political landscape, an exploration into this link is crucial to understanding the extreme threats facing transgender women.

To access the full article, please visit:
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09539-9>

Christine Montross: Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration

By Candice Tudor.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-021-09553-5>

Book Announcement

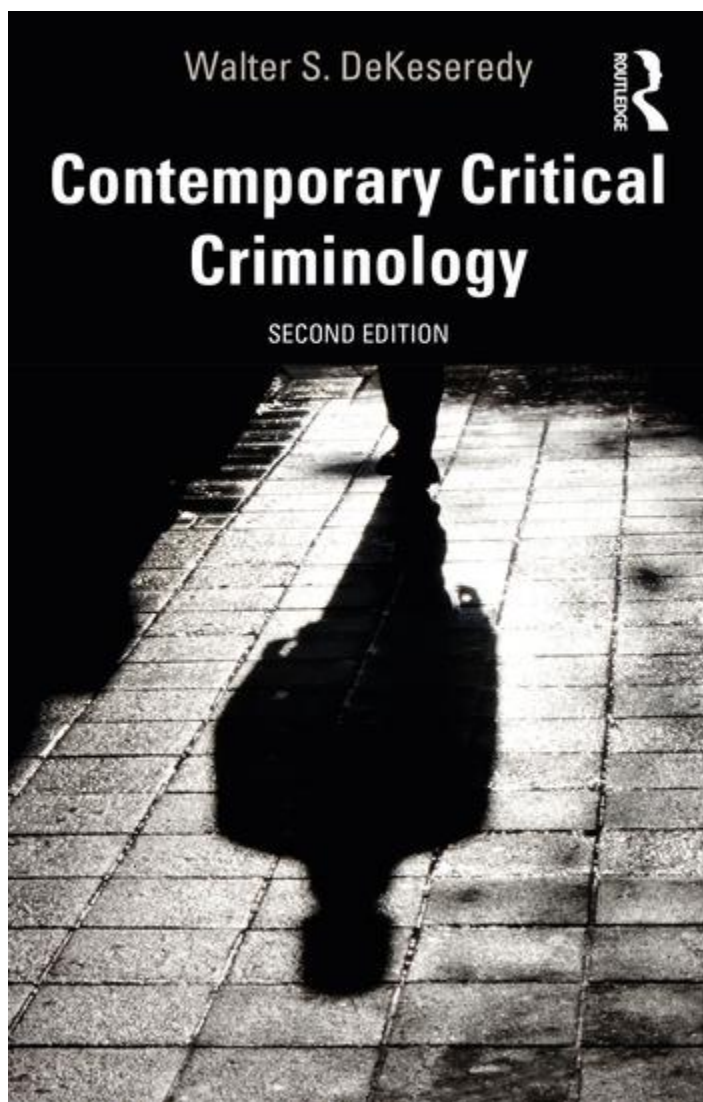
Contemporary Critical Criminology

2nd Edition

By

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Book Description

The concept of critical criminology - that crime and the present-day processes of criminalization are rooted in the core structures of society - is of more relevance today than it has been at any other time.

Written by an internationally renowned scholar, *Contemporary Critical Criminology* introduces the most up-to-date empirical, theoretical, and political contributions made by critical criminologists around the world. In its exploration of this material, the book also challenges the erroneous but widely held notion that the critical criminological project is restricted to mechanically applying theories to substantive topics, or to simply calling for radical political, economic, cultural, and social transformations. Now fully updated and expanded in a new edition, this book offers further coverage of new directions in critical criminology, covering topics such as:

- Green criminology
- Indigenous criminology
- Intersectionality
- Narrative criminology
- Rural critical criminology
- Queer criminology
- Zemiology
- Critical research methods
- Contemporary critical criminological

policies

Written in a clear and direct style, this book is an essential source of reference for both undergraduate and postgraduate students of Criminology, Deviance and Social Control, Criminological Theory, Social Policy, Research Methodology, and Criminal Justice.

Table of Contents

1.What is Critical Criminology 2.Beyond Marxism: Early New Theoretical Directions in Critical Criminology 3.Late Critical Criminologies 4.Contemporary Critical Criminological Research 5.Confronting Crime: Critical Criminological Policies

*Announcement from:

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