



**CRITICAL
CRIMINOLOGIST
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. MILTONETTE
CRAIG



**CRITICAL
ISSUE
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. DAVID
BROTHERTON



**CRITICAL BOOK
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. ROBERT
WEIDE



**CRITICAL
TEACHING
SPOTLIGHT**
DR. KEVIN REVIER



**GRADUATE
STUDENT
SPOTLIGHT**
MONICA PONS-
HERNANDEZ

THE CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGIST: SPOTLIGHT



Member Newsletter | Vol. 30 | Issue 3

Message from the DCCSJ Executive Board

Dear DCCSJ Members,

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the ASC meeting in Philadelphia. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter where we celebrate the 2023 Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice Award winners. The DCCSJ is home to a diverse group of scholars, practitioners, and activists and we value the contributions of all.

It has truly been an honor and a pleasure to serve the membership of the DCCSJ and we look forward to supporting the new executive board as they lead us into the future.

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Message from the Communications Team

Dear DCCSJ Members,

We are thrilled to share the most recent issue of the newsletter, which highlights the 2023 DCCSJ award winners.

First, Dr. David Brotherton kicks off the newsletter via the Critical Issue Spotlight. He is the recipient of the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award, which honors an individual's sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and/or service in the field of critical criminology. Following is Dr. Robert D. Weide, who is featured in the Critical Book Spotlight. His book titled "Divide & Conquer: Race, Gangs, Identity, and Conflict" is the winner of this year's Critical Criminology Book Award and the 2023 Frank Tannenbaum Outstanding Book Award, American Society of Criminology's Division of Convict Criminology. In his contribution piece, Dr. Weide provides readers with insight into the contents of his book, which can be found at: <https://tupress.temple.edu/books/divide-amp-conquer>

Dr. Revier's contribution piece titled "Art for Justice Is Teaching for Justice" can be found under the Critical Teaching Spotlight. Dr. Revier is the recipient of the 2023 DCCSJ Teaching Award, which recognizes contributions that have made a significant impact on the teaching of critical criminology at the local, state, regional, national, or international level. Lastly, Mònica Pons-Hernandez, as this year's recipient of the Graduate Student Paper Award, is featured in the Graduate Student Spotlight. The issue concludes with a section on What We Are Reading, which features articles most recently published in the Journal of Critical Criminology.

We are eternally grateful to our contributors for their continued help and support.

Thank you.

Alexa Bejinariu, *Communications Director*

Nicholas Walrath, *Communications Team Member*

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Critical Criminologist Spotlight: Dr. Miltonette Craig

Miltonette Olivia Craig is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and the Research Coordinator for the Crime Victims' Institute at Sam Houston State University. She completed her J.D. at Georgia State University and her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Her research examines race(-ism) across sociolegal institutions, such as racial disparities in traffic stops, protest responses, and excessive use of force by police. Her research also uses an intersectional lens to examine violence against women and disparate criminal legal responses for women of color. She is the co-editor of *Justice and Legitimacy in Policing: Transforming the Institution* (Routledge), and has contributed to discussions on police reform in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and *Illinois Public Radio*.



Like many others nationwide and globally, I saw the protests of summer 2020 as a substantive manner to amplify the decades-long demand for police reform. I wanted to believe that a(nother) killing by police—one that was revoltingly vivid—would be a(nother) catalyst for the humanization of marginalized people. After millions viewed the images and footage of George Floyd's murder, and the investigative reports revealed the reckless disregard during a no-knock warrant intrusion that ended Breonna Taylor's life, I thought there would be no further denials that policing is a brutal institution that must be changed. But then the news reports and social media shares of the shootings, beatings, and killings of Black Americans kept flooding in month after month. Rayshard. Daunte. Patrick. Tyre. Ta'Kiya. Each name is added to a somber, tragic list. But to what end?

Like many other "bleeding hearts" post-summer 2020, I started to look inward. Maybe my protesting isn't enough, my research isn't enough, my teaching isn't enough, my volunteering isn't enough, my donations aren't enough, and my cries and screams just aren't enough. Over the past several months, I have thought—more often than expected—that I am not in the right place to contribute to the world that we all should be able to live in. This existentialism gets louder with each name that's added to that list. Deeper in my introspection is less about passivity and more about contributing to harm. What if my work is part of the problem? I think back to an article written by my colleague Dr. Rahsaan Mahadeo, "Are Sociology Departments Cop Shops?" As Dr. Mahadeo explains, the juxtaposition of engaging in critical work but also earning a degree from the same sociology department from which Thomas Lane and Alexander Kueng (two of the four former officers convicted after George Floyd's murder) earned their degrees is sobering. It is beyond difficult to come to the realization that we all, as professors, may be complicit in the maintenance of a damaging institution. How could we make sense of the next news story if it included one of the young people who sat in our classrooms? I posed that same question to a dear friend of mine, and she walked me very gently and pointedly through this particular existential crisis. While trying to talk my emotions off the proverbial ledge, she expressed how my work in academia, though seemingly distal to justice and reform efforts, nevertheless can have, will have, and does have a purpose. She said, "Your class lessons and discussions will influence that future officer to be

wiser when interacting with members of the community, and push that future prosecutor in the direction of integrity when making charging decisions.” After a few hours of effort, I finally began absorbing her message.

Although I may never entirely absolve myself (and other academics) from the potential to reify injustice by virtue of being in this discipline, I also know that we can continuously push back against the status quo. We can decolonize our syllabi and discard stigmatizing language when discussing groups and individuals villainized, ostracized, and victimized by the criminal legal and capitalist systems. We can spark meaningful discomfort when articulating the harm that comes from the abuse of power and discretion, and encourage our students to view their roles as practitioners in ways that can assuage inequities—even if that makes them unpopular and makes their jobs that much harder. We can also assertively push our colleagues to think of race and SES as more than variables. There are actual people, lives, and livelihoods embedded in those datasets, and their existence doesn’t improve simply because the results are statistically significant. We must move our work from behind the paywalls and ivory towers and beyond academic conferences and audiences. The individuals we “examine” rarely get to hear about how our work (and funding) can contribute to the well-being of their families and communities. We must consistently seek their involvement in the production of empirical knowledge rather than repeatedly taking their stories and experiences and benefiting from their suffering. The only aim we should all have now in our discipline is to counter the harm inflicted by our discipline.

In the meantime, #AssignBannedBooks, #EmbraceEmpathy, #SupportMinorityOwnedBusinesses, #ElevateBIPOCVoices, remember that #DEI is not a bad word, and always #RageAgainstTheMachine.

Critical Issue Spotlight: Dr. David Brotherton



David C. Brotherton is Professor of Sociology, Urban Education and Criminal Justice at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Dr. Brotherton's research on gangs, deportation and social resistance spans more than three decades. Currently he is Principal Investigator of the Social Change and Transgressive Studies Project at John Jay College and of the New York City Deportation Pipeline Project funded by the National Science Foundation. Brotherton is the author, co-author or co-editor of 12 books and more than fifty articles and chapters and the founding editor of the book series "Studies in Transgression" at Temple University Press. He has received grants from public and private sources including the Guggenheim, Spencer, W.T. Grant and National Science foundations, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Institute for Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. He has also been a scientific advisor to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior. In 2011, he was named Critical Criminologist of the Year and in 2015 he received the Praxis Award from the Division of Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology and is the Co-Editor of the International Journal of Critical Criminology. Currently, Dr. Brotherton's research focuses on the rising violence in Ecuador, the deportation regime and credible messenger interventions in New York City, and solidarity routes of migrants entering the European Union. He has also served as an expert witness in more than 150 deportation and criminal justice cases. Dr. Brotherton's books include: "International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies" (Routledge 2021), "Immigration Policy in the Age of Punishment" (Columbia 2018), "Youth Street Gangs: Critical Perspectives" (Routledge 2015), "Banished to the Homeland: Dominican Deportees and their Stories of Exile," (Columbia 2011), "The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City Gang," (Columbia 2004) and "What's Love Got to Do With it: Transformative Mentoring and the Credible Messenger" (Temple forthcoming).

When I first came to this country in 1981, wandering lost up State Street in Santa Barbara late at night with my worldly possessions in one suitcase, little did I think that I'd still be in this land some 42 years later receiving this recognition of a life's work from my colleagues and comrades. It is remarkable where a life-long commitment to social change can take us and the different forms it may take and its various contexts. One good thing about coming from a background of relative adversity is that you don't take life's opportunities for granted and when combined with a deepening consciousness of exploitation and the need to make history not just watch it then the world can become a place of endless challenges to disrupt the status quo.

I come from a neck of the woods known as the "East End" where Jack London wrote his ethnographic commentary called "People of the Abyss." I guess somewhere along the line I must have gotten into post-abyssal thinking and decided that I wasn't going to abide the tendency towards fatalism that often stunts the development of so many young minds born into similar (and much worse) conditions as myself. Both my parents left school at 14 raising me, a 5th generation "cockney." But the history of my community was pretty much hidden from me at school and all I knew about my fellow "abyssians" came from older family members and primarily from my mother.

In films we were presented as stupid but cheerful, often playing privates in the British army, selling newspapers on street corners or small-time crooks and/or confidence tricksters. In contrast my father had multiple trades and worked with his hands all his life as a wire worker and sheet metal worker. My

mother raised three children during World War Two then me in the 50's while taking care of our little shop on Commercial Road, Stepney and finishing her working days as a telephonist for the Post Office. Three generations back my family was filled with suffragette activists who worked with the legendary Sylvia Pankhurst, had members who founded the British Communist Party in 1919 and the Independent Labor Party a bit earlier. This conflict between who we were and our widely-held stereotype I began to realize was an entrenched form of social elision and I suppose much of my life henceforth has been an attempt to undo and mitigate this form of social harm that has had such a perverse impact on our collective consciousness.

After I left school at 18, I didn't join my fellow school mates who went off to college but instead

started work in what is referred to here as "blue collar." To me it was just getting a paycheck and what my dad used to call "doing something useful." I started out working in a warehouse where I would mind numbingly search for screws and nails for customers. Then it was a brick-making company where I drove a fork-lift and one day pulled the wrong lever, sending tons of bricks through the roof leading to my dismissal. And finally, I worked a lathe in a factory making cast-iron machines that ground meat from which the British often make pies. This last job was where my consciousness accelerated in leaps and bounds, announcing that I'd moved on from post-abyssal thinking to action.

It all went down one day when the foreman told me I couldn't start work and that the plant manager wanted to see me. The other young guys working alongside me were looking at me intensely, all of them understanding what was about to go down. On entering the manager's office with the foreman tailing me, I said,

"I was told you wanted to see me."

"Yes," he said, "here's your cards. Your employment has ended."

He proceeded to tell me I'd been late a few times too many, which was complete nonsense. I decided to respond in kind.

"I know why you've fired me. It's because I started a union here. We have loads of young workers who want to do something about this place."

I then picked up my cards (these are insurance documents you need to get unemployment money) and threw them back in his direction.

"Well, you can stick my cards up your arse! We're going to continue to organize and we'll bring your factory to a standstill!"

With that I walked out with now two foreman on either side and was led through the front gate, which they promptly closed.

Later that morning I returned to the factory after getting permission from the union to stage a walk out and got in through the delivery area at the back. Within about 15 minutes we had amassed about 30 young workers, formed picket lines at both entrances and started to turn away all the trucks with their deliveries of raw materials. Within two days the factory had indeed come to a standstill with now 50

workers on strike and on the fifth day the company caved. Effectively the management agreed to all our demands of higher pay, more holidays, better work conditions, more accountability of our piece-work production and took all the workers back without reprisals. One year later the factory was 100% union and a closed shop. But I was now gone moving on to bigger and better things at Ford Tractor Company with its 5,000 line workers. It was another six years before I entered the world of university and where I could finally study and learn what social elision does to us and how we can counter it social scientifically, ideologically and through making trouble.

After entering the University of York in England I studied Politics and wrote plays and acted in street theater. In my first year (1980) I won an exchange scholarship to the University of California, which is how I ended up as described in the first paragraph. While there for a year I became close to two important critical scholars and mentors: Richard Flacks in Sociology and Cedric Robinson in Political Science. Intellectually I was on a roll and I never stopped.

My life's work has been massively influenced by these early experiences. How to study people in the margins and develop knowledge with them that helps in our emancipation not our individual careers and subjugation. How to think about the world in terms of its potential and contradictoriness and not just its empiricist imagined semblance. How to develop a praxis of criminology in Jock Young's image and call out those practitioners always skating on thin ice. As I write these lines imperialist-funded bombs are falling on Gaza, my brothers and sisters are crossing borders but also drowning in their thousands, U.S. prisons still bulge with the surplus classes while the fat cats build their temples ever higher in the sky and the environment screams to stop the addiction to capitalism. How on earth can you avoid doing criminology critically?

I want to thank the committee who made this decision to honor my efforts and to the many members of this division who have lent their support over the years. And to the young members entering our profession and bringing their enthusiasm to the tasks ahead, never let anyone give you your cards. You have permission to quote me.

Love and Solidarity to all,

Dave

Critical Book Spotlight: Robert D. Weide



Robert D. Weide is Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles. He earned his PhD in Sociology from New York University in 2015. Robert is a critical criminologist who has written about gang criminalization, inmate organizations, graffiti art, and racial conflict.

His 2022 book, *Divide & Conquer: Race, Gangs, Identity, and Conflict* (Temple University Press), won the 2023 *Jock Young Criminological Imagination Book of the Year Award* from the Division of Critical Criminology and Social Justice, and the 2023 *Frank Tannenbaum Outstanding Book Award* from the Division of Convict Criminology.

Robert is the Founder of and Faculty Advisor for the Project Rebound program for formerly incarcerated students at Cal State LA, serves as an expert witness in criminal and immigration cases involving gang allegations, and works in gang intervention with local non-profit organizations like Homeboy Industries, 2nd Call, and the Southern California Ceasefire Coalition, as well as directly with gang members in communities throughout Los Angeles.

Tell us about yourself and your research interests.

I grew up on the Westside of Los Angeles during the peak years of gang activity and violent crime in the 1980s and 1990s and it had a dramatic impact on my life being associated with gangs and graffiti crews from a young age and throughout my teens and twenties. As a result of my experiences, my research interests revolve around issues of gang criminalization, racial conflict, gang members in prison, and the graffiti subculture. I spend all my time with gang members and the formerly incarcerated, on campus, at local non-profits, and in our community, and I am a dedicated public servant and advocate on behalf of these deeply marginalized, criminalized, and demonized populations in our society.

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

Divide & Conquer: Race, Gangs, Identity, and Conflict employs a long durée participant-observer case study of racialized gang conflict in Los Angeles in order to analyze and critique the role that the race concept, and particularly its modern iteration, identity politics, plays by turning indigent communities of color against one another, thereby undermining their potential solidarity. The book presents an economic determinist analysis of racial capitalism, which argues that the race concept, racial nationalism, and contemporary identity politics, exist to serve a critical role in the capitalist economy as a vehicle for labor management and social control by division of labor populations by race, that is internalized and reproduced by its victims. The book assembles a wide range of critiques of racial nationalism and identity politics from the left, citing sources as varied as 19th century anarchist revolutionaries, 20th century Black Panther Party leaders, and 21st century Left academics.

After presenting a thick description of the cultural boundaries of racialized identity, the bias and bigotry that results from the racial worldview, and thick descriptions of multiple cases of racialized gang conflicts in Los Angeles, the book concludes by reminding readers and gang members alike of the everyday boundary crossing that occurs in their own communities and their potential for pan-racial solidarity. The penultimate chapter provides a deeply detailed insider account of how the 2011 and 2013 prison hunger strikes in California prisons led to a peace treaty and vow of solidarity between the four principal inmate organizations in California prisons, the Aryan Brotherhood, the Black Guerilla Family, the Mexican Mafia, and the Nuestra Familia, and how that example inspired a peace treaty between two of the largest African American and Latino gangs in Los Angeles, Florencia 13 and the East Coast Crips, demonstrating the pivotal role gang members and gang leaders play in mitigating, rather than an exacerbating gang violence.

What inspired you to explore this topic?

When I was a child racialized gang conflict consumed my community and many others like mine across Los Angeles. As I recount in the opening to the book, when I was in high school a friend of mine was murdered on his way to school as a result of a racialized gang conflict that continues to this day. While I had many friends who succumbed to violence when I was growing up, this particular murder stuck with me for many years after as racial animosity and gang rivalries poisoned our lives and our communities. It wasn't until I was in graduate school that I started to come to terms with what we had collectively experienced and to understand the historical foundations and theoretical frameworks that had informed our lives and deaths. It was then that I realized we had been divided and conquered. When I had that epiphany, I embarked on the decade long ethnography that ultimately became this book.

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

That we – not the white race, the black race, the brown race, or any other – we as the human race are facing a dire intersection of calamities of runaway wealth stratification, the resurgence of fascist governments around the world, world war, and ultimately, the collapse of the ecology of the planet, which threaten life as we know it. All are the inevitable outcome of the three pillars of our society: capitalism, the race concept, and nationalism. The most marginalized, the most criminalized, the most demonized members of our society – gang members and the incarcerated – have perhaps the most potential to threaten a social revolution, if they can only realize that they are pointing their animosity in the wrong direction – at each other.

What is next for you?

I'm currently working on short and long term projects that include a critique of the moral panic yellow journalism published by the Los Angeles Times on the Mexican Mafia that poisons the jury pool and the public perception of what gangs are and how they operate, to be followed much later by a long durée study of how RICO and the Kingpin Strategy are used as a counter-insurgency strategy to neuter any potential existential threat that gang members could pose to the status quo by dismantling any structure that emerges in our communities and in the prisons, and by fostering conflict among and between those who might otherwise pose a threat to the status quo.

Critical Teaching Spotlight: Dr. Kevin Revier



Kevin Revier is an assistant professor of criminology at Arcadia University. He is working on his book, *Policing Pain: Opioids, Crisis, and a Shifting Drug War*, which will be published by New York University Press.

Art For Justice Is Teaching For Justice

I arrived at my Wrongful Convictions & Exonerations class at Arcadia University, located in Glenside, PA. Ann Marie Kirk, director of non-profit Art For Justice (artforjustice.org), has set up paintings in the front of the room, created by people who are incarcerated – all of whom have fought for decades to claim they’ve been wrongfully convicted.

Art is a “a way to give a voice to people who don’t have an opportunity for a voice,” Ann Marie tells us. “You behold the painting. It’s not for entertainment. If you really are present, you come into the painting and bring who you are.”

She holds up “Life in PA” by artist and Art For Justice co-founder, Charles “Zafir” Lawson. Zafir looks at us in the painting—he is a Black man in a prison jumpsuit, sitting on an electric chair with his left arm strapped in. The chair’s cap hovers overhead, the PA state symbol haunting the background. He appears defiant.

Next is “Legal Quagmire” by Daniel Gwynn. Gwynn transports us to a courtroom, where we see another Black man in prison wear, now facing a white judge. The judge is distant, a small yet powerful figure. Mountains of white forms stamped “DENIED” collapse around him; the floor sucks him in. “It looks like he is trapped in some sort of bureaucratic nonsense,” a student comments.

“Fracture” is by Eddie Ramirez and consists of duplicates of his face cut into pieces, like shards of glass. The word “FRACTURE” is written in graffiti-style lettering. “How many of us feel fractured sometimes?” Ann Marie asks, and we nod. “Wrongful Conviction,” by Rene Angel Ortiz, evokes a similar emotion, as it consists of scattered faces with yellow paint strokes throughout.

Ann Marie shares a final painting, now by George Lopez. It is another courtroom scene. He stands in front of the judge with the prosecutor at his side. He looks at her, trusting and vulnerable, as she tosses evidence into a trash bin. The defense attorney lounges at the witness stand, with text reading. “The defense rests, your Honor.” The judge looks as though he is nodding off, too. The scales of justice sit beside him, one side weighed down by a bundle of cash.

Each of these artists speak of elements of wrongful convictions regularly discussed in class: of coerced confessions, inadequate defense, false guilty pleas, and prosecutorial and police misconduct. Yet, they become alive in the art—a way to engage with the real impact of the criminal legal process.

We had two visitors to go. First is Muti Ajamu-Osagboro, who had been released merely four months after serving, as he recounts, “forty-two years, two months, three weeks, eight days, twelve hours, fourteen years, and thirty-two seconds.” Muti explains his case: he was with a group of friends looking for a party. On the way, two decided to rob a local grocery store, and the owner was accidentally shot and killed. One of the men testified against everyone for a deal with the prosecutor, sealing Muti’s fate. He lost much while incarcerated: his mother, father, and older sister passed away, and his niece was shot.

But he kept his freedom at the forefront of his mind. He stayed focused and vigilant, “In spite of whatever it is you’re going through in your personal life or your professional life or your academic life, if you stay focused and be vigilant, you can surmount all of that.” Art offered him strength, it “helped save my life. It became a vehicle, not just to keep my mind sharp, but also to communicate with people outside that 40-foot wall or that double military razor wire fence.”

Ann Marie’s phone rings—it is our second speaker, Zafir, calling from SCI Phoenix, a prison roughly a thirty-minute drive away; he is behind the walls and fences that divide us. He talks of racial bias and systemic injustice—“Phoenix State Correctional Institution, this phone call is subject to reporting,” a robotic voice chimes in. He continues, that at 17-years-old he was coerced to confess to a crime he did not commit with no parent or lawyer present. He speaks of art in prison, “And if you look at it, you look deeply. Hopefully you’ll see the pain that I go through, the joy that I have and the hope I have.” He seeks to give back and inspire—“You have one minute left,” the voice interrupts before we applaud and sign off.

Muti picks up from there. He discusses activism, including drawing attention to the U.S. practice of sentencing “children to die in prison”; he is particular about language, that the legal designation of “life without parole” doesn’t cut it. While incarcerated, he read, learned law, and helped others. He tells of those who also supported him, particularly his wife, whom he married in prison. “Love,” he confirms, “is the most powerful force on the planet.” I am reminded of George Jackson (1990, 3) writing, “Revolution should be love inspired.”

Muti speaks of conceptual imprisonment, a kind of incarceration we all carry with us, “And a lot of us carry our prisons around with us. Never been to prison a day in your life, but you a prisoner because you carry a prison with you and you’re the warden too. You won’t even parole yourself,” he laughs. “You can let them go. But that requires you to face what’s going on in the inside. If you can address what’s going on in the inside, then the outside becomes a lot more clear.”

We need to face what’s on the inside, of ourselves, of prisons, and of all the institutions that divide us. And this is not just about wrongful convictions, but all the ways the carceral system dehumanizes and disrupts. As Muti stated, “It would be good for you to just get involved whatever, whatever you think the fight is right now.” While students had sat through lectures, debated, discussed, watched documentaries, listened to podcasts, read news articles, and reviewed legal cases, it is these moments that pull us together. Indeed, art continues the fight – whatever it is right now – while acting as a valuable, and all too threatened, resource that demonstrates struggle, strength, and resilience.

In this spirit, I think of Gwynn's, "Phoenix: Rise of the Incarcerated," which depicts the mythological phoenix rising from flames—and barbed wire—with bright skies ahead.

References

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Critical Graduate Student Spotlight: Mònica Pons-Hernandez



Mònica Pons-Hernández (she/her/hers) is a PhD candidate at the University Rovira i Virgili (Spain) where she is also a member of the Tarragona Centre for Environmental Law Studies (CEDAT), the Territory, Citizenship, and Sustainability Research Group, and the Research Institute in Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Transition (IU-RESCAT). Before undertaking her PhD studies at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Mònica worked as a Research Assistant at Northumbria University (UK), conducting research on green criminology and illegal markets. She holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of Barcelona and a master's (MSc)

in Transnational Crime, Justice and Security from the University of Glasgow. Mònica is interested in researching green criminology—specifically, the illegal trade in wildlife, and crimes of the powerful. Mònica's PhD thesis focuses on the illegal trade of European eels in Spain, with a particular focus on the role of culture in enabling the trade in its legal and illegal dimensions. Steaming from her PhD on the illegal trade in European eels, in 2022, Mònica received the Young Researcher Award from the Spanish Society of Criminological Research (SEIC) and, in 2023, she received the Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASC Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice and the Student Paper Award from the ASC Division in International Criminology.

What are you currently working on?

I am currently working on my dissertation on glass eel trafficking, which I hope to complete by June 2024. I am also a researcher for TRANSNATURE, a project funded by Biodiversa+ (the European Biodiversity Partnership), aimed at identifying and studying successful examples of transboundary biodiversity conservation (see <https://www.biodiversa.eu/2023/04/19/transnature/>).

Who has influenced your career?

In my (relatively) short academic career, I have been fortunate to have worked with a number of supportive researchers and scholars. First and foremost has been Dr. Tanya Wyatt (formerly of Northumbria University and now a Lead Researcher at the Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)). Tanya has been an exceptional mentor and friend, trusting me and giving me the opportunity to learn from and with her. Most importantly, she has given me the confidence and drive to build my own research agenda and develop my own interests and ideas. In addition to Dr Wyatt, other notable figures have played pivotal roles in shaping my career trajectory: Dr Julie Berg (University of Glasgow), Dr Avi Brisman (Eastern Kentucky University), Dr Rita Faria (University of Porto), Dr Maria Marquès (Universitat Rovira i Virgili), Dr Nerea Marteache (California State University, San Bernardino), the soon-to-be Dr Guillem Rubio (University of Edinburgh), and my beloved dog (Frodo), have all left indelible marks on my professional development. I am eternally grateful to each of them for their guidance and influence.

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

Green criminology initially captivated me through its unique intersection of environmental issues and criminological perspectives. The field's focus on examining crimes and harms against the environment resonated with my ingrained interest in environmental protection and preservation. My engagement with critical criminology evolved during my time at the Scottish Centre for Crime & Justice Research (SCCJR) at the University of Glasgow as I sought a more comprehensive understanding of the social, political, and economic dimensions of crime. Critical criminology, in general, has appealed to me for its emphasis on challenging mainstream theoretical perspectives and questioning established power structures within the criminal (in)justice system. As I delved deeper into critical criminological literature and discourse, the interconnectedness of social, political and economic issues with broader ecological injustices became increasingly apparent. In essence, my attraction to green criminology was a natural extension of my engagement with critical criminology, driven by a desire to explore the intersections between environmental harm and the structural forces that contribute to and perpetuate harmful conduct, more broadly.

What are your research interests?

My primary research focus lies within the realm of green criminology, with a particular emphasis on the illegal wildlife trade and other wildlife crimes. In addition to my dedication to green criminology, I am also interested in the study of crimes of the powerful, specifically the dynamics of state-corporate crimes. The convergence of these two research interests—green criminology and crimes of the powerful—served as a catalyst for my first single-authored publication, “Power(ful) Connections: Exploring the Revolving Doors Phenomenon as a Form of State-Corporate Crime,” in *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*. In it, I explore how revolving door movements between the fossil fuel industry and the Spanish government contribute to social and economic instability, and cause and perpetuate climate change through climate inaction.

What has been the biggest challenge for you during your graduate career so far?

Thus far, the most significant hurdle in my graduate career has been securing funding for my research endeavors. I have faced a series of rejections in the pursuit of financial support for my research and writing. Navigating this landscape has proven to be challenging, but it has also been enriching as it has required resilience, persistence, and a commitment to my research objectives and career path. In addition, English is my third language (after Catalan and Spanish). As a non-native English-speaker, I have had to negotiate how to express my ideas and arguments in an academic environment dominated by the English language. Nevertheless, I have viewed this as an opportunity for personal and intellectual growth, pushing myself to enhance my language proficiency and ensuring that my ideas can be communicated effectively and understood within an international academic community. In essence, the dual challenge of securing research funding and navigating a linguistic barrier has been a test of both my determination and adaptability during my graduate journey. Overcoming these obstacles has not only fortified my commitment to my research but has also contributed significantly to my overall academic and professional development.

What are your goals upon graduating from your program?

Upon successfully completing my PhD program, my primary goal is to secure a position at an academic institution—hopefully, one that will encourage and support my research interests.

What are some of your favorite academic publications? Why?

Because of my interest in green criminology and crimes of the powerful, one of my favorite texts is Tanya Wyatt's *Wildlife Trafficking: A Deconstruction of the Crimes, the Victims and the Offenders*. I love this book because it provides a nuanced, well-written and thought-provoking analysis of wildlife trafficking. I strongly recommend it to anyone interested in the topic. Given my research draws on the intersection of green crime and culture, I have also enjoyed Avi Brisman and Nigel South's *Green Cultural Criminology: Constructions of Environmental Harm, Consumerism, and Resistance to Ecocide*. In addition, Rob White's *Advanced Introduction to Applied Green Criminology* has inspired me to pay attention to the applicability of my research and how it can contribute to society as a whole. Finally, in other disciplines, I have been fascinated by Eva Meijer's book *When Animals Speak: Towards and Interspecies Democracy*, which has inspired me to move beyond traditional qualitative methods to explore ways in which I could give voice to non-human animals within my research.

In terms of my interest in crimes of the powerful, I have especially enjoyed and been impacted by Raymond Michalowski and Ronald Kramer's *State-corporate Crime: Wrongdoing at the Intersection of Business and Government*. This work has been instrumental in informing my understanding of the complex connections between powerful entities and criminal activities, influencing the conceptual framework of my own research. David Whyte's *Ecocide: Kill the Corporation Before It Kills Us* has helped shape my perspective on state and corporate power and its role in perpetuating environmental crimes, and has served as a model for how to combine my two research interests. Overall, these publications serve as ongoing sources of inspiration and guidance, impacting my research endeavors on a daily basis.

Recipients of the 2023 DCCSJ Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. David Brotherton

David C. Brotherton is Professor of Sociology, Urban Education and Criminal Justice at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Dr. Brotherton's research on gangs, deportation and social resistance spans more than three decades. Currently he is Principal Investigator of the Social Change and Transgressive Studies Project at John Jay College and of the New York City Deportation Pipeline Project funded by the National Science Foundation. Brotherton is the author, co-author or co-editor of 12 books and more than fifty articles and chapters and the founding editor of the book series "Studies in Transgression" at Temple University Press. He has received grants from public and private sources including the Guggenheim, Spencer, W.T. Grant and National Science foundations, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Institute for Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. He has also been a scientific advisor to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior. In 2011, he was named Critical Criminologist of the Year and in 2015 he received the Praxis Award from the Division of Critical Criminology of the American Society of Criminology and is the Co-Editor of the International Journal of Critical Criminology. Currently, Dr. Brotherton's research focuses on the rising violence in Ecuador, the deportation regime and credible messenger interventions in New York City, and solidarity routes of migrants entering the European Union. He has also served as an expert witness in more than 150 deportation and criminal justice cases. Dr. Brotherton's books include: "International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies" (Routledge 2021), "Immigration Policy in the Age of Punishment" (Columbia 2018), "Youth Street Gangs: Critical Perspectives" (Routledge 2015), "Banished to the Homeland: Dominican Deportees and their Stories of Exile," (Columbia 2011), "The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City Gang," (Columbia 2004) and "What's Love Got to Do With it: Transformative Mentoring and the Credible Messenger" (Temple forthcoming).

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. Robert Weide

Robert D. Weide is Associate Professor of Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles. He earned his PhD in Sociology from New York University in 2015. Robert is a critical criminologist who has written about gang criminalization, inmate organizations, graffiti art, and racial conflict.

His 2022 book, *Divide & Conquer: Race, Gangs, Identity, and Conflict* (Temple University Press), won the 2023 *Jock Young Criminological Imagination Book of the Year Award* from the Division of Critical Criminology and Social Justice, and the 2023 *Frank Tannenbaum Outstanding Book Award* from the Division of Convict Criminology.

Robert is the Founder of and Faculty Advisor for the Project Rebound program for formerly incarcerated students at Cal State LA, serves as an expert witness in criminal and immigration cases involving gang allegations, and works in gang intervention with local non-profit organizations like Homeboy Industries, 2nd Call, and the Southern California Ceasefire Coalition, as well as directly with gang members in communities throughout Los Angeles.

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.

Teaching Award



Dr. Kevin Revier

Kevin Revier is an assistant professor of criminology at Arcadia University. He is working on his book, *Policing Pain: Opioids, Crisis, and a Shifting Drug War*, which will be published by New York University Press.

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

Graduate Student Paper of the Year Award



Mònica Pons-Hernandez

"Missing the trees for the forest"? An analysis of the harms to European eels caused by their trafficking and trade.

Mònica Pons-Hernández (she/her/hers) is a PhD candidate at the University Rovira i Virgili (Spain) where she is also a member of the Tarragona Centre for Environmental Law Studies (CEDAT), the Territory, Citizenship, and Sustainability Research Group, and the Research Institute in Sustainability, Climate Change and Energy Transition (IU-RESCAT). Before undertaking her PhD studies at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Mònica worked as a Research Assistant at Northumbria University (UK), conducting research on green criminology and illegal markets. She holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of Barcelona and a master's (MSc) in Transnational Crime, Justice and Security from the University of Glasgow. Mònica is interested in researching green criminology—specifically, the illegal trade in wildlife, and crimes of the powerful. Mònica's PhD thesis focuses on the illegal trade of European eels in Spain, with a particular focus on the role of culture in enabling the trade in its legal and illegal dimensions. Steaming from her PhD on the illegal trade in European eels, in 2022, Mònica received the Young Researcher Award from the Spanish Society of Criminological Research (SEIC) and, in 2023, she received the Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASC Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice and the Student Paper Award from the ASC Division in International Criminology.

The **Graduate Student Paper Award** recognizes and honors outstanding theoretical or empirical critical criminological scholarship by a graduate student.

What We Are Reading

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

Teen Courts as Alternative Justice? Teens' Carceral Habitus and the Reproduction of Social Inequality

By Sarah Gaby & Amy M. Magnus.

Abstract

Teen courts are one branch of a specialized, “alternative” justice system that promises a pathway out of the criminal justice system. Teen courts center teens as both defendants and arbiters of justice, which attempts to turn the traditional juvenile justice system on its head. Yet, these purportedly alternative justice initiatives are inextricably tied to and shaped by youths’ carceral habitus, their philosophies of justice, and social inequality. Using observational and interview data, we analyze two teen courts in the eastern United States to understand the philosophies of justice at play in these settings and the outcomes yielded in practice. Our analysis indicates that while these courts have some promising aspects, they also suffer from detriments similar to those in traditional court systems. We find that teen courts vary in punitiveness, struggle to provide rehabilitation or restorative justice, and reproduce and institutionalize racial and socioeconomic inequalities. This reality impacts youths’ lives in tangible ways, including the long-lasting mark of their criminal record, their normalization of hyper-punitiveness, and leads to the reproduction of social inequality. From our findings, we offer recommendations to reduce the criminalization of youth in schools and communities and urge a transformation from punishment-oriented courts toward opportunity-oriented programs.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-023-09729-1>

Harms and the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Political Ecology, Green Criminology and the European Eel

By Laura Gutierrez & Rosaleen Duffy

Abstract

This paper integrates political ecology and green criminology to examine the critical endangerment of the European eel. Using a harms-based approach, our research suggests that the identification of organised crime networks as the central perpetrators of illegal wildlife trade (IWT) and of IWT itself as the main threat to eels, neglects a myriad of practices—many of which are related to legal businesses and activities—that significantly contribute to the endangerment of the species. We suggest that, in order to

better protect the European eel, we need more holistic conservation measures that go beyond a focus on fisheries and IWT.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-023-09734-4>

Flexible Labor and Political Competition: Understanding Women's Race-Specific Incarceration Rates

By Pavel V. Vasiliev

Abstract

This paper paves the way for empirically valid mid-range theories of punishment by testing Wacquant's (2009, 2010) economic grand narrative against alternative political explanations emphasizing state inter-party competition and public electoral pressure. Hierarchical multivariate linear models are employed to simultaneously analyze state-level incarceration rates for Black and White women in the U.S. between 1981 and 2010 as a function of welfare spending, economic and political factors, and specific criminal justice policies. Results suggest that economic, political, and legal dynamics matter differently for Black and White women's incarceration rates. Specifically, flexible, on-demand labor is associated with increased incarceration rates for both Black and White women, suggesting the coexistence of laissez-faire economic policies and increased social control. However, inter-party competition in the context of Democratic dominance amplifies incarceration rates for Black women only, suggesting that Black women do not experience equally the liberalizing effect of competitive politics afforded to White women.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-023-09713-9>

Dan Canon: Pleading Out: How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class

By Brianna M. Ovalle

Basic Books, New York, 2022, V + 324pp, ISBN: 978-1-541-674677 (HB), 978-1-541-674684 (eBook)

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-023-09723-7>

How Far does Prison Punishment Extend? Re-entry Processes in the Digitalised Society

By Gudrun Brottveit & Elisabeth Fransson

Abstract

This article questions how far punishment extends in a digitalised society, focusing on the complexities in relation to prison release and re-entry processes for people who have served a long prison sentence. Drawing on Gilles Deleuze's concept of "societies of control" and Nils Christie's concepts of "dense and loose societies," the article discusses re-entry within the context of the Norwegian digitalised society. Through person-centred, multi-site fieldwork, the analysis identifies three types of complexities regarding re-entry processes. The first is how small and unforeseen events can reset the time of release from prison. The second is how digital gatekeepers in public welfare services create obstacles in the re-entry process. The third is how the possibility of online tracking and monitoring provides new forms of social control and pain after release, which creates an environment where a person's criminal past affects his or her everyday life. This article challenges binary scientific understandings between the inside and the outside of prison and provides insights into the processes of how digital punishment and new forms of control occur in digitalised society. In this way, the article analytically contributes to the discussion of how the normative demand of being a free person after completing sentences in Norwegian criminal policy has been further complicated in a digitalised society.

To access the full article, please visit: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-023-09722-8>
