

**STARBUCKS AND THE SHERATON:
AN ANALYSIS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 2007 ACJS
MEETING IN SEATTLE**

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Introduction

The purpose of this study is to compare the kinds of papers that were presented at the 2007 ACJS conference in Seattle, Washington, with the kinds of papers that were presented five years earlier at the 2002 ACJS conference in Anaheim, California. This study was undertaken in an effort to replicate and expand on an interesting line of inquiry raised by Dr. Matt Robinson (2002), who used the ACJS conference program to categorize papers scheduled for presentation at the 2002 ACJS meeting

into 18 different topic areas. According to Robinson, the goal of his research was, "to provide the membership with a rough state of the discipline based on the papers scheduled for presentation" at the annual meeting (2002: 1). In terms of organizational analysis, we believe that comparative research like this is an incredibly useful undertaking insofar as it may help point out where our discipline was five years ago, where it is today, and where it may be headed in the coming years. Beyond simply replicat-



ing Robinson's work, we sought to build on it by asking, "So, what (if anything) has changed over the past five years?"

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you have had a productive year, are enjoying your summer, and have ACJS in your plans for next year. Special kudos go out to Ron Hunter, Richard Tewksbury, his staff of volunteers, members of this past year's program committee, Cathy Barth, Mittie Southerland, and all those who made the Cincinnati conference a success. Ron, you are a hard act to follow. It is a team effort and we want you to know that we appreciate your efforts.

First, let me say what an honor it is to serve you as president of ACJS. In my 5 years on the executive board I have witnessed the organization become more financially stable, purchase and pay for a national office, establish and maintain our web page, create the position of executive director, hire an executive director, establish an academic review and certification process, certify the first academic criminal justice program in the nation, and among numerous other accomplishments, grow the membership. There are now 2,423 ACJS members.

We have continued to improve our conference delivery, worked many of the bugs out of the online conference registration process, and will continue to provide LCD projectors for use with laptops for conference presentations. Remember overhead projectors will not be available so bring your laptops if you want to take advantage of this amenity. If you experience problems at the conference please don't hesitate to let me, the AJCS Manager, Executive Director, or a board member know. We need and value your input. Our contact information is on the ACJS web page and on the last page of ACJS Today.

At last count there were 1,397 attendees and almost 400 academic institutions represented at the annual conference. Conference attendance in Cincinnati reflects the hard work of the

many volunteers both at the conference and through the years. Our reputation is largely based on our conference and our journals. Our conferences are only as good as our participants. Please remember to let us know if you can't make a panel, especially if you are the chair. I would also like to challenge panel participants to provide their chair with a copy of the paper being presented. For some this is a novel idea but that was our custom in years past and I would like to see that tradition re-established. In today's digital world, secured copies can be sent to panel chairs via email. Give it some consideration and the board members know what you think. For those of you who have been carrying on this tradition – thank you.

At this point in the evolution of ACJS, the academy is involved in sustaining several special initiatives. These include developing an international presence, reviewing and certifying academic programs, providing development seminars, and mentoring students. Following up on the efforts of Ron Hunter, three ad hoc committees were established by the executive board: Employment Exchange Committee, Chair, Julie Kunselman; Diplomat in Justice Studies, Chair, Michael Brown; and Journal Issues, Chair, John Worrall.

ACJS will continue its tradition of providing opportunities for students to participate in the program. Over the years student enrollment has increased steadily providing evidence of the role our members play in mentoring the next generation. Doctoral students, you are the future of the organization. Don't forget to take advantage of the special offer for one year of free membership. For more information contact the national office or go to the membership information page at http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167_671_2920.cfm.

I can't describe to you how excited I am about the upcoming Boston conference. As Dick Bennett said more than once during the year of his presidency, "Boston is a Great Town!" We are back at the Marriott Copley. We have been there twice before and had great conferences. Program Chair Barbara Sims is making special plans for you. In Boston, we will continue to provide free employment exchange and meal opportunities for students. We are expecting free wireless access on several floors of the hotel and yes, Jeff and Craig, there is a great meeting space in the bar!

The success we are experiencing today is the work of many that have come before us. While I have great pride in our organization, I am most proud of our diversity. Great effort was taken this year to assemble standing, ad hoc, and program committees that are geographically, racially and gender diverse. This is your organization and we need your help. Let us know what you are thinking and get involved. Be a part of the solution and don't forget to register for Boston!!

Wes Johnson

ACJS President

Continued from page 1

Review of the Literature

Despite the ritual and rhythmic nature of the annual academic conference, little scholarly attention has been dedicated to understanding what actually goes on there and what inferences can be drawn about our discipline from the types of research presented at those meetings. We base this conclusion on our efforts to locate and read all of the research on academic conferences, especially those studies dedicated to criminal justice conferences. Surprisingly, we were able to locate only a handful of published articles on this topic; those studies generally fell into one of five categories:

- Studies on the extent of “no-shows” (e.g., individuals who submit abstracts, have papers accepted for presentation, but then fail to show up at their scheduled presentation time [Hale, Austin, Firey, and Smykla 1999]);
- Studies on ACJS members’ experiences and perceptions of the annual conference (Mueller, Giacomazzi, and Wada 2004);
- Papers on conference etiquette (Friedrichs 1982);
- Papers on the nightmares of conference planning (Mooney, 1992); and
- Humorous anecdotes about the secret pleasures of academic

conferences (e.g., the social component, “free” travel, staying in good hotels, sightseeing, etc. [Kolmerten, 2000; Cohen 1997]).

To our knowledge, Robinson (2002, 2004) is one of the few academics (the others being Doerner, Hunter, and Dantzker 2004) who has used conference presentations as a means of understanding where we are as a discipline. For example, in 2004, Robinson gathered and analyzed the types of papers presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association meetings over a period of six years (1998-2003). This study described the types of research topics that were evidently popular at the time and which were not. It also pointed to attendance figures and speculated on why particular conference venues were heavily attended, and why others were not. In an earlier work, Robinson (2002) reviewed and categorized the kinds of papers that were presented at the 2002 annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Anaheim, California. Beyond simply classifying the papers scheduled for presentation, Robinson’s aim was to point out what we (the ACJS membership) discussed and what we ignored as a means of demonstrating where we were as a discipline (in 2002) and where we might be headed. We feel this type of research, were it conducted on a more regular basis, could help to point out: 1) some of the over- and under-studied areas in the field

of criminal justice; 2) progress made in our understanding of complex social problems; 3) what is currently “hot” and what is not in terms of publication potential, and 4) where our discipline is (or may be) headed in terms of theory building and policy analysis. As such, we attempted to model our study after Robinson’s (2002) work, and we attempted to replicate his methodology as closely as possible.

The basic thrust of this research project was to count and categorize the types of papers scheduled for presentation at the 2007 ACJS conference in Seattle, and to compare them with the number and types of papers presented five years earlier at the 2002 conference in Anaheim. We began this project with few assumptions about what we might find. However, we did make one minor assumption and that was an expectation that there would be more papers dedicated to issues of terrorism and/or international security in 2007 than were presented in 2002. As you may recall, paper abstracts for the Anaheim conference were due about five weeks after the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001. Unless you had already conducted research on terrorism, or had a canned presentation ready to go, odds are you missed the opportunity to present on a “hot topic.” However, five years later,

with the backing of government research dollars and major policy initiatives such as the Patriot Act and the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, we expected many more papers on terrorism and terrorism-related issues to be presented at the Seattle conference.

Methods

This research was surprisingly simple to conduct given that our colleague, Dr. Craig Hemmens, was the 2007 ACJS Program Chair. All electronic abstracts for papers, posters and roundtables were forwarded to him in October 2006, and he made available to us a preliminary copy of the program several months prior to the actual conference. Two of the three authors read and categorized the electronic abstracts of papers. Poster sessions, roundtables and workshops were tallied and grouped into a separate category.

Paper abstracts were further subdivided by topic areas such as policing, corrections, and juvenile justice. In assigning papers to particular panels, every effort was made to keep like topics together. This was accomplished by reading each abstract and making a judgment about the explicit or implicit dependent variable in the study. In other words, papers were assigned to the delinquency category if the dependent variable in the study sought to explain

delinquency. Of course, it was not always possible to determine the exact nature of the research based on a 100 word abstract. In these ambiguous situations, we followed Robinson's lead and "used [our best] judgment" (Robinson, 2002: 3).

The preliminary copy of the program (with 414 events/panels) turned out to be very similar to the final product that was distributed at the conference in Seattle. It did not, however, include loose-leaf addendums that inevitably get added later to accommodate last-minute submissions/cancellations.¹ One other caveat is in order here: our analysis focuses only on those papers, posters, workshops and roundtables that were *scheduled* for presentation at the Seattle conference. But, based on the previous literature, it is safe to assume that at least some presenters failed to appear.

According to Hale, Austin, Firey, and Smykla (1997), 14 percent of panel chairs and discussants failed to appear at their scheduled time and place at the 1997 ACJS conference in Louisville, Kentucky. This study also found that at least one presenter was absent at about 40 percent of the panels at the Louisville conference. Mueller, Giacomazzi, and Wada (2004) also noted that

¹ On comparing the preliminary program with the final product distributed at the conference, 18 papers were cancelled, and four were added, for a net loss of 14 papers from our original sample of 1,099.

no-shows were a problem at the 2003 ACJS conference in Boston. However, because our research was conducted well before the 2007 ACJS conference in Seattle, it was not possible to determine the extent of no-shows at this conference. Nevertheless, based only on electronic submissions, it would appear that the 2007 ACJS conference was one of the more heavily attended conferences in recent memory. That said, given the travel time and expense to ACJS members on the east coast and other unforeseen contingencies, the Seattle conference might also have suffered from a high rate of no-shows, but this not the focus of this research.

Findings

A total of 1,099 papers, 52 roundtables, 43 posters, and 11 workshops appear in the final version of the 2007 ACJS program. Once again, these figures do not account for last-minute additions/cancellations. Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the number and percentage of papers dedicated to each topic area.

TABLE 1: Page 8

Like the 2002 conference, papers on *types of crime* (e.g., sex crimes, violent crimes, drug crimes) accounted for the largest number of papers presented (22 percent) at the 2007 conference.

The next most popular categories were papers on policing (15.3 percent), juvenile justice (11.3 percent), corrections (10 percent), courts and law (9.6 percent), and terrorism (7 percent).

Once papers were assigned to a particular category, they were further subcategorized by their specific topic. For example, under the heading of *policing*, we separated papers into subcategories such as: operational issues/use of force; administration; technology; and community/private policing. Subcategories for each paper type are represented in Tables 2-12 (media was not subcategorized). Table 13 shows the number of scheduled roundtables, posters, and workshops.

TABLES 2 - 13: Page 8-9

Analysis

On the simplest level, our findings are relatively similar to those uncovered by Robinson (2002). The category entitled *types of crime* was the dominant category representing slightly over 22 percent of the total number of papers presented. The *types of crime* category differed slightly from Robinson (2002) in that his single largest category was violent crime, in which he classified terrorism related issues. In our analysis, *terrorism* was a topic that was large enough to warrant its own category. In the *types of crime* category we found international

crime to be the single largest category comprising some 23 percent of the *types of crime* total. Robinson (2002) found that papers on violent crime represented almost 55 percent of this category; we found that only 15.2 percent of the papers in the *types of crime* category were dedicated to issues of violent crime.

Papers presented on *policing* issues decreased from 20 percent in 2002 to 15.3 percent in 2007; however the total number of policing papers increased from 140 in 2002 to 168 in 2007. This may serve as an indicator of the overall growth of the field while interest in policing has remained relatively unchanged since 2002. The percentage drop in the *policing* category may represent growth in other areas and not necessarily a decline in the interest of policing. Robinson (2002) found that issues relating to police administration represented only 14 percent of the total policing category. Our data shows that police administration represented almost 37 percent of the total, an increase of 23 percent over 2002. A possible explanation for this increase is the rising interest in the bureaucratic structures of police departments and their compatibility with popular trends in policing.

The number of *juvenile justice* papers quintupled from 29 in 2002 to 124 in 2007. In 2002, *juvenile justice* related

topics represented only 4 percent of the total number of papers presented; in 2007 they represented 11.3 percent of the total. We chose to categorize school violence in the juvenile justice category; Robinson (2002) placed it in the *types of crime* category. Nevertheless, were we to follow Robinson's lead by categorizing school crime into *types of crime*, our *juvenile justice* category would still represent a 4.3 percent increase of the total for this category over 2002.

Papers dedicated to *corrections* changed little between 2002 and 2007 (99 in 2002, 110 in 2007). In 2002 papers on corrections represented 14 percent of the total; in 2007 these papers represented about 10 percent of the total number of conference papers.

In 2002, Robinson found that 51 papers (or about 7 percent of the total) were dedicated to the issue of *courts and law*. In our analysis, we found 105 such papers representing some 9.6 percent of the total.

Robinson (2002) found that 32 papers presented at the conference in Anaheim were dedicated to issues of *terrorism or national security*. In 2007, we found that some 77 papers were dedicated to these topics. As a percentage, terrorism and national security-related issues constituted 4.5 and 7 percent of the papers presented at the 2002 and

2007 conferences, respectively. This finding was somewhat expected given the events of September 11th, 2001, and the subsequent increase in scholarly interest and research dollars directed at terror-related issues. However, we did expect to see a slightly larger increase.

The *criminal justice education* category had a similar number of papers (69 in 2002, 71 in 2007), but this topic, as a percentage of papers presented, dropped from 10 percent in 2002 to 6.5 percent of the total in 2007. Of particular interest was the decrease in the number of papers written on distance learning. Our findings indicate that the number of papers written on distance learning decreased by half, from 23 in 2002 to 12 in 2007. This finding suggests that distance learning may have become an accepted fact rather than the technological novelty it was five years earlier.

The remaining paper categories in our analysis (e.g., criminological theory, research methods, media, race and gender, and technology and forensics) showed little change in the number of papers presented or their respective proportions of the total between 2002 and 2007. It should be noted that we did not precisely emulate all of Robinson's categories in our analysis. We specifically re-categorized or collapsed vague and/or small categories noted by Robinson, such as crime prevention, justice,

comparative criminal justice, crime analysis/mapping, ethics, public opinion, mental health/illness, and his so-dubbed *other* category. This deviation may have been significant insofar as those papers represented 66 (or about 9 percent) of Robinson's 2002 total. Whether these categories would have represented a similar proportion of our total is unknown.

In sum, these data point up several interesting findings. First, the Seattle conference in 2007 ($n = 1099$) attracted more paper submissions than the 2002 conference in Anaheim ($n = 705$). This increase in conference attendees was expected to result in greater diversity of papers and issues discussed. Surprisingly, however, we find little change in the proportion of papers dedicated to most major issues in criminal justice. That is, aside from a notable increase in the sheer volume of papers presented, the proportion of papers dedicated to issues such as types of crime, policing, juvenile justice, corrections, etc., stayed remarkably similar between 2002 and 2007. Although there was a clear increase in the number of papers dedicated to issues of terrorism and national security, this increase was not as large as we anticipated.

Conclusion

Given that criminal justice is an academic discipline still in its infancy, some

variation in the ideas and theories that are researched and presented will occur. It is interesting to note, however, that our topics of interest do appear to be affected by the changing winds of society, specifically regarding recent international political developments.

It is also entirely possible that the changes we observed are due to chance, or possibly reflect the popularity/unpopularity of the conference venue. Seattle is fairly isolated from the majority of universities with research-productive criminal justice programs, many of which are located in the eastern United States. The growth that we have seen in the field may have been tempered and appear smaller than it actually is due to travel restrictions and difficulty in attending the conference for academics and students alike who may be too far away from Seattle.

Future researchers would do well to expand the depth of this study to more than just paper topics but paper substance as well. Discovering which papers contain original research or some form of data analysis and which do not would help establish not only the size and scope of our field but the quality of academic research that is being conducted as well. Research of this nature can be extremely useful if criminal justice academics wish to further establish the field as a bona fide discipline within

the larger social science community. But presenting research is only one aspect of the professional conference.

Cohen (1997) posits numerous potential functions for the academic conferences of all fields. Firstly, he makes note of the “expressive” functions of conferences, which are mostly centered on the social aspect of conference life. These include all of the factors that make conferences akin to a mini-vacation such as travel, dining, socializing and sightseeing.

The instrumental functions according to Cohen (1997) are advancing your own individual academic career through networking and vita building. Another important function he points out is increasing academic knowledge within the field. Cohen (1997) critically retorts that this second function often plays no part in conference life. We disagree with this final quip. Though we do not deny the social and professional purposes of conferences, we believe that research presented at the annual conference can be used as a barometer of the state of the discipline. It can also be used to infer the future directions of the field.

This study sought to measure whether the criminal justice discipline had heeded the advice of Robinson (2002), and revisited sub-disciplines and areas of research that were largely being ig-

nored. Given the analysis of the data we can confidently say that barring few exceptions the majority of the presenters have remained devoted to topics and areas of research that have traditionally interested them. As a field we continue to present on topics that are very similar to what we were presenting five years earlier. It would appear that we have been remarkably impervious to the scholarly critique of Robinson (2002), who noted five years ago that we present far more frequently on issues of violent crime than we do on issues of property crime. Property crimes are far more common than violent crimes and represent significant monetary losses each year, but are seldom discussed in the academic literature because they fail to follow the mantra of *if it bleeds, it leads*.

There is little doubt that Robinson (2002), would have not been surprised with these findings, given his contention that our interests and research continue to strengthen myths about crime. A reevaluation of problem areas within the criminal justice system could lead to relevant research on areas that, as a field, we continue to neglect.

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Table 1. Totals for Paper Categories

Topic	Number	Percentage
Type of Crime	243	22.1%
Policing	168	15.3%
Juvenile Justice	124	11.3%
Corrections	110	10.0%
Courts & Law	105	9.6%
Terrorism	77	7.0%
Criminal Justice Education	71	6.5%
Criminological Theory	59	5.4%
Research Methods	46	4.2%
Race & Gender	39	3.5%
Media	29	2.6%
Technology & Forensics	28	2.5%
	1099	100%

Table 2. Subcategories of Types of Crime

Topic	Number	Percentage
International and Comparative	56	23.0%
Sex Crime	46	18.9%
Violent/Hate Crime	37	15.2%
Domestic Violence	29	11.9%
White-Collar/Organized	27	11.1%
Drug Crimes	26	10.7%
Environmental/Property	22	9.1%
	243	100%

Table 3. Subcategories of Policing

Topic	Number	Percentage
Police Administration	62	36.9%
Operational Issues/Use of Force	52	31.0%
Community/Private Policing	30	17.9%
International Policing	15	8.9%
Police Technology	9	5.4%
	168	100%

Table 4. Subcategories of Juvenile Justice

Topic	Number	Percentage
Juvenile Justice	63	50.8%
Schools and Crime	32	25.8%
Delinquency/Gangs	29	23.4%
	124	100%

Table 5. Subcategories of Corrections

Topic	Number	Percentage
Institutional Corrections	49	44.5%
Community Corrections	26	23.6%
Prisoner Reentry	22	20.0%
Jails	13	11.8%
	110	100%

Table 6. Subcategories of Courts and Law

Topic	Number	Percentage
Law and Legal Issues	38	36.2%
Courts and Sentencing	35	33.3%
Death Penalty	23	21.9%
Drug Courts	9	8.6%
	105	100%



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Table 7. Subcategories of Terrorism

Topic	Number	Percentage
Terror and Transnational Crime	61	79.2%
Security and Intelligence	16	20.8%
	77	100%

Table 8. Subcategories of Criminal Justice Education

Topic	Number	Percentage
Criminal Justice Education/Training	47	66.2%
Distance Learning and Technology	12	16.9%
Faculty Development	12	16.9%
	71	100%

Table 9. Subcategories of Criminological Theory

Topic	Number	Percentage
Victimology	17	28.8%
Biocriminology	8	13.6%
Control	7	11.9%
Critical/Feminist	7	11.9%
Learning	6	10.2%
Restorative	6	10.2%
Strain	6	10.2%
Life Course	2	3.4%
	59	100%

Table 10. Subcategories of Research Methods

Topic	Number	Percentage
Program Evaluation	21	45.7%
CJ Planning and Policy	9	19.6%
Qualitative	8	17.4%
Quantitative	8	17.4%
	46	100%

Table 11. Subcategories of Race and Gender

Topic	Number	Percentage
Gender	20	51.3%
Race and Ethnicity	19	48.7%
	39	100%

Table 11. Subcategories of Race and Gender

Topic	Number	Percentage
Gender	20	51.3%
Race and Ethnicity	19	48.7%
	39	100%

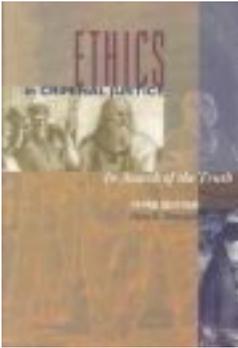
Table 12. Subcategories of Forensics and Technology

Topic	Number	Percentage
Forensics	15	53.6%
Technology	13	46.4%
	28	100%

Table 13. Posters, Workshops and Roundtables

	Number	Percentage
Roundtables	52	49.0%
Posters	43	40.6%
Workshops	11	10.4%
	106	100%

BOOK REVIEW



Souryal, S. S. (2007). *Ethics in Criminal Justice: In Search of the Truth, 4th ed.* Lexis Nexis.

Submitted by:

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Ethics in Criminal Justice: In Search of the Truth offers an immense amount of information on not only the basic foundations of ethics and morality, but actual applications of ethical theory and moral-based thinking to real life criminal justice issues and situations that the criminal justice student will likely encounter in his or her career. The author carefully details each step of this thorough examination of criminal justice ethics in 14 well-designed chapters. Included throughout the text are very helpful tools for the reader including review questions, key terms, and “What You Will Learn from this Chapter” summaries. The inclusion of exhibits, particularly the one appearing in chapter 1 titled “Profile

of the Ethical Person” by psychologist Abraham Maslow offers the reader very notable external contributions to the study of ethics, which in turn, enhance the structure of the text itself. Additionally, the use of quotes by historic figures such as Aristotle, Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Friedrich Nietzsche, to name only a few, at the beginning of the chapters offers the reader a moment to reflect on the subject material.

The progression of the chapters throughout the text is truly unique. The book begins with “A Tour of the Ethics Hall of Fame” which introduces the reader to the basics of ethical thinking including; knowledge, reasoning, virtue, intellect, truth, reality, morality, consequences, utilitarianism, and determinism. Joined with the introduction of historic figures, or as the author puts it, “pioneers,” including Socrates and Plato, and more modern philosophers including Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, this introduction flows smoothly as the reader is able to associate particular ethical thinking with historic individuals.

Moving forward to the next section, the book advances the initial discussion by providing detailed definitions as well as categories of ethics (Normative and Metaethics for example). While

presenting definitions of ethical and philosophical terms and reasoning can be a difficult task, the author cleverly overcomes this barrier by presenting applications of the subject material. In this case, introducing case studies of two individuals; Captain Alex Balian, Commanding Officer of the Vietnam-era Navy ship *USS Dubuque*, and Lieutenant Yuval Lotem of the Israeli Army Reserve. These two case studies offer opposing ethical dilemmas. Captain Balian refused to rescue stranded civilians in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War. Conversely, Lieutenant Yuval Lotem refused to perform his military duties at a prison that contained captured Palestinians. Although both of these individuals were punished for their actions, the book expands on their case studies by examining their decisions in light of the ethical concepts introduced in the previous sections. Both of these cases offer real-life examples of ethical decision making, or lack thereof. More importantly, these examples reflect similar ethical decision making that occurs on a daily basis in the criminal justice system.

The following section introduces the concepts of natural law, religion, and most importantly, the ethics of both the constitution as well as law. This section

BOOK REVIEW

introduces the following portions of the text, which as the chapters advance, covers many pertinent criminal justice ethical issues. This includes issues in criminal justice management, corruption, lying, prejudice, and racism. Throughout these sections, the author incorporates additional case studies that hallmark ethical decision making. One example is the case of FBI Agent Coleen Rowley who, in a memo to FBI Director Robert Mueller, criticized FBI management in wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The story of Agent Rowley serves as a prime example of an ethically-minded individual who sacrificed her distinguished career to bring to light "bureaucratic inability to serve perfectly when national interests are so seriously imperiled" (221). The author not only presents Rowley's story, but reproduces the famous memo to the Director and, in keeping with the style of the text, relates her ethical decision making to notable philosophical pioneers including Immanuel Kant. As the book continues, the author presents ethical and moral issues present in three levels of criminal justice administration; the police, corrections, and parole and probation. Each one of these sections presents very in-depth ethical and moral discussions unique to each level of justice. As such, the future criminal justice practitioner would benefit

greatly from carefully reading and outlining these sections.

Overall, the text presents a very thorough examination of the study of ethics as it relates to the world of criminal justice. In addition to the smooth progression of the chapters, and a meticulously detailed table of contents and index, the inclusion of entire sections detailing the lives and contributions of philosophical and ethical pioneers offers the reader a well-rounded presentation of the subject material. It can undoubtedly be used as a primary text by both undergraduates as well as graduate students taking a criminal justice ethics course. Additionally, its use should be strongly considered by instructors of general ethics and philosophy courses as a supplemental text as its general contents can be applied to other disciplines other than criminal justice. Also, the use of the incorporated ancillary materials (i.e. review questions, key terms, and pre-chapter summaries) contributes to a pedagogically well-rounded text as well as an enjoyable reading experience.

Although the text covers a lot of subject ground, one possible addition that the author may wish to take into consideration is the adding of a separate chapter discussing the issue of terrorism and ethics. There are many ethical

and moral dilemmas present in dealing with terrorism. This includes issues concerning privacy, battling terrorism in a democracy, and issues of torture and confinement of prisoners without due process of law, to name a mere few. The reader would greatly benefit from such a chapter that examines each issue in light of ethical and moral principles already covered throughout the text. In sum, due to its exhaustive format, *Ethics in Criminal Justice: In Search of the Truth* ranks among the most thorough of criminal justice ethics texts available to criminal justice and social science students today.

For more information on submitting a book review go to :

www.acjs.org/pubs/167_6663516.cfm

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ANATOMY OF A PH.D. PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

The production of doctorate degrees in criminology/criminal justice (CCJ) in the United States extends back at least half a century. The Florida State University (FSU) College of Criminology & Criminal Justice, which opened its doors in 1958, claims to be the nation's oldest Ph.D. program in the discipline. Since that time, other universities have established advanced graduate curricula, bringing the current number of CCJ doctoral-granting institutions in this country to 32 (Frost & Clear, 2007). Half of these programs are newcomers, having blossomed during the 1990s or later (Frost & Clear, 2007). The Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology & Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ, 2007) projects that the roster of Ph.D. programs will continue to expand over the next few years.

Despite the proliferation of elite CCJ programs, relatively little is known about them. The literature is replete with outcome evaluations that investigate

such topics as program rankings, faculty productivity, alumni publications, citation counts, authorship patterns, and the like. What is conspicuously absent, even though Flanagan (1990) broached this issue some seventeen years ago, is a detailed process analysis which examines the inner workings of CCJ graduate education. While a few exceptions do exist (McKee, Mallory, & Campbell, 2001; Reisig & DeJong, 2005; Stack & Kelley, 2002), they are confined to just the master's level. Although Frost and Clear (2007) provide information about CCJ doctoral students, these data are summed across responding schools and are presented in aggregate format. As a result, readers are left wondering exactly how many doctoral students enter specific CCJ programs, how many leave with degrees in hand, where and when attendees are vulnerable to quitting their academic forays, and how long it takes successful matriculates to emerge from their doctoral cocoons.

To be fair, the limited availability of information regarding graduate attrition and how long it takes to earn a Ph.D. is not peculiar to CCJ. Most graduate institutions do not track enrollment and drop-out figures, frustrating efforts to monitor attrition (Council of Graduate Schools, 2004). Available estimates are that business and law school programs experience an annual 10% attrition,

compared with loss rates of 50% or more in the social sciences (Breneman, 1977; Johnson, Green, & Kluever, 2000; Stock, Finegan, & Siegfried, 2006). It takes about six years to obtain the doctorate in economics (Siegfried & Stock, 2001; Stock & Siegfried, 2006) and even longer in other fields (Maher, Ford, & Thompson, 2004). Where CCJ fits into this picture is not known.

Given this backdrop, the current report tracks a cohort of 70 doctoral students who entered the FSU CCJ Ph.D. program during the 1991–2000 academic years. The emphasis is on establishing the level of student attrition, identifying the points or stages at which attrition occurs, and pinpointing the actual length of time it takes to navigate the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The FSU CCJ doctoral program follows a fairly typical sequence of stages from start to finish. Upon admission into the program, students register for a combination of mandatory and elective courses. There is also a residency requirement. In other words, students must complete 24 hours of course-work within twelve consecutive calendar months and emerge with at least a "B" average.

The next stage entails sitting for the comprehensive qualifying examinations.

FSU doctoral students are tested in three areas: theory, research methods and statistics, and a substantive topic of choice. The theory portion is devised, read, and graded by a standing committee of five faculty members. The research methods and statistics section is also created and assessed by a different five-person faculty committee. Both examinations are administered in 8-hour blocks twice a year, once during the fall semester and again in the spring term. Students who fail either the theory or the research and methods sections must retake those exams. A second retake is automatically granted, while a third sitting comes at the committee's discretion. Failure to pass either or both portions results in dismissal from the program.

Students who have completed both sections are eligible to advance to the substantive area portion. The substantive examination is administered and graded by the student's three-person doctoral committee. Successful completion of the substantive area portion finishes the comprehensive examination process and ushers students into Ph.D. candidacy.

Candidacy means that a student can initiate formal work on a dissertation. This period involves preparing and submitting a research proposal to

the supervising committee for approval, securing human subjects approval if necessary, carrying out the study, and defending the dissertation at a formal hearing. There is a five-year statute of limitations. In other words, navigating all these steps within five years leads to the conferral of the doctoral degree. Students who do not complete the program within this window must complete the qualifying exams again.

THE STUDY GROUP

The target group consists of all 70 graduate students who enrolled in the FSU doctoral CCJ program between the 1991–92 and the 2000–01 academic years. While the purpose of this paper is simply to describe the FSU program rather than perform an inferential study, an overview of this cohort reveals that 54% ($n = 38$) were male, 70% ($n = 49$) were white, 89% ($n = 62$) were U.S. citizens, and 47% ($n = 33$) had earned a master's degree at FSU. In terms of GRE scores, the study group mean was 1057 ($s.d. = 205$) and the median was a 1070 score. The range extended from a minimum value of 550 to a maximum score of 1520. As far as age is concerned, the average entrant was almost 29-years-old ($s.d. = 7$), with a median value of 27.

OUTCOME MEASURES

The first measure of interest for this paper is attrition. Attrition refers to whether the graduate student effort to obtain the doctoral degree was a success. As the first panel in Table 1 shows, there is a 36% loss rate from the entire program. In other words, 25 of the 70 enrollees did not complete the doctoral program and left without earning the advanced degree. The table also provides a snapshot of attrition at each program juncture. The majority of the departures occur during the coursework phase. A quarter of the enrollees were unable to negotiate passage out of this segment. Virtually every student who made it to the comprehensive examination stage survived the testing. These data, though, do not show such internal variations as how many students passed on the first attempt, repeated all sections, or had to take one part of the preliminary examinations over until they cleared this hurdle. The last panel of the table indicates that admission into candidacy does not mean that successful completion of the dissertation is a foregone conclusion. A quarter of the unsuccessful graduate students faltered at this point.

TABLE 1: Page 18

While these attrition data are revealing, they leave some important aspects

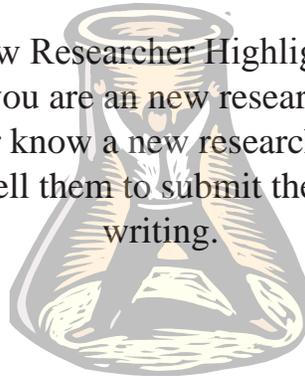
begging for answers. For example, one might wonder whether the screening criteria employed during the admission phase are valid if the bulk of the attrition takes place during the course-work phase. An alternative view is that the weeding-out process is extremely inefficient if attendees languish and depart only after they have burrowed deeply into the program. In other words, the College has expended scarce resources grooming prospective criminologists/criminal justices and has yet to churn out a finished "widget" despite its investment. Perhaps one way to shed more light on these and other issues is to look at how long students need to complete particular features of the program and when the drop-outs exit.

Table 2 displays time-to-completion or the number of semesters that successful students spend to traverse the program. All in all, at least six years usually transpire before a doctoral student walks down the commencement aisle to be hooded. The average graduate student concludes course-work in about two years (mean = 6.30 semesters). Negotiating the comprehensive examinations (mean = 5.29 semesters) consumes the same amount of time as proposing, writing, and defending a dissertation (mean = 5.31 semesters).

TABLE 2: Page 18

CALL FOR ARTICLES

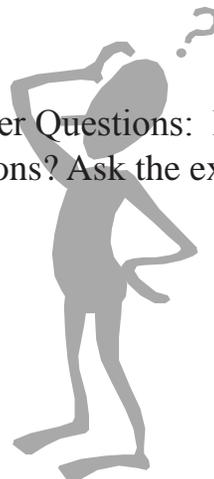
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Table 3 contains parallel information for unsuccessful graduate students. The average non-achiever consumes five years before quitting the program. In contrast to their flourishing counterparts, thwarted students spend twice as much time in the course-work phase and log, on average, four years of course enrollment before leaving. Those members who do complete their course work and move to the comprehensive examination portion of the program remain in this segment for about two-and-a-half years before relinquishing their aspirations for an advanced degree. Students that are admitted into candidacy, but do not complete the dissertation requirements, flounder for two years or so before they eventually desist.

TABLE 3: Page 19

DISCUSSION

While the tidbits gleaned from the FSU data are informative, the findings exist in a vacuum. One simply does not know whether these results exemplify a “best,” an “average,” or a “worst practices” program. Similarly, the aggregate numbers shared by Frost and Clear (2007), while certainly an important contribution, lack sufficient attention to detail to be of much use here. In short, the knowledge accrued about doctoral education is more sensitizing than definitive. Even more disturbing is that we still do

not know the most appropriate avenues to pursue and what benefits/risks these directions carry.

Our discipline is facing a critical juncture in regards to graduate education. We have been in the business of conferring doctoral degrees for fifty years now and have come to a cross-road. We still do not know what works and what does not work in the production of doctorates. Despite having knighted thousands of Ph.D.s and waylaying more aspirants in the pipelines, the field lacks a clear sense of what are “best practices” in doctoral education. For instance, what goals anchor admissions criteria? Do programs that employ more stringent entrance criteria graduate more capable professionals? What is the purpose behind qualifying exams and what roles do they place in the acquisition of knowledge? What institutional practices (i.e., types of and levels of funding, dissertation support, teaching opportunities, duration of enrollment, and so forth) enhance the retention of desirable prospects and which administrative habits yield diminishing returns? In short, the efficiency of these various approaches has not been established.

On top of this nagging inability to handle basic queries, the discipline recently suffered an affront when the National Research Council (NRC) opted

not to recognize CCJ as a “mature” field. More to the point, CCJ did not produce a sufficient number of doctoral recipients over the past few years to satisfy rock-bottom NRC requirements (Frost & Clear, 2007, p. 37). However, Frost and Clear (2007, p. 47) dismiss this shortcoming as merely a near-miss and confidently forecast that “[w]ith 32 programs currently admitting doctoral students, it is likely that the emerging discipline of criminology and criminal justice will soon reach NRC criteria.” They do not offer any prescriptions for how to harvest a bumper crop of new doctorates. Instead, their advice appears to be that we should stand by idly, twiddle our collective thumbs, and wait for natural growth to unfurl itself—hardly a leadership posture. The bottom line is that nobody knows if the optimal solution is to create more doctoral programs, fine-tune existing programs, or undertake deep structural renovations.

Although the ADPCCJ has been dormant for years, it is now in the process of resurrecting itself and assuming an overseer role. We would urge the ADPCCJ to take a much more proactive stance in that capacity. Specifically, the ADPCCJ would do well to institute a monitoring system that procures some very basic information, on a program-by-program basis, in order to distill what are “best practices” for Ph.D. programs.

Sponsoring a cogent tracking system on all 32 doctoral campuses might be a step in the right direction, as opposed to standing by, watching which way the wind blows, trying to decipher what happened, and then deciding whether it was fortuitous.

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TABLE 1

Attrition by Segment in the FSU Ph.D. Program

Program Segment Completed	Entire Program		Course Work		Comprehensive Examinations		Dissertation	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Yes	45	64	53	76	51	96	45	88
No	25	36	17	24	2	4	6	12
Total	70	100	70	100	53	100	51	100

TABLE 2

Time-to-Completion by Program Segment in the FSU Ph.D. Program

Number of Semesters	Entire Program		Course Work		Comprehensive Examinations		Dissertation	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
0 – 3	0	0	6	11	19	37	14	31
4 – 6	0	0	22	42	16	31	21	47
7 – 9	0	0	21	40	10	20	5	11
10 – 12	4	9	3	6	3	6	4	9
13 – 15	15	33	0	0	0	0	1	2
16+	26	58	1	2	3	6	0	0
Total	45	100	53	101	51	100	45	100
Mean	18.36		6.30		5.29		5.31	
<i>s.d.</i>	5.49		3.10		4.26		2.61	
Median	16.00		6.33		4.00		5.00	

TABLE 3

Time-to-Failure by Program Segment in the FSU Ph.D. Program

Number of Semesters	Entire Program		Course Work		Comprehensive Examinations		Dissertation	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
0 – 3	2	8	2	12	2	25	2	33
4 – 6	2	8	2	12	1	13	2	33
7 – 9	4	16	3	18	3	38	0	0
10 – 12	1	4	1	6	2	25	0	0
13 – 15	4	16	3	18	0	0	2	33
16+	12	48	6	35	0	0	0	0
Total	25	100	17	101	8	101	6	99
Mean	14.52		12.22		7.42		7.17	
<i>s.d.</i>	7.74		7.29		3.65		5.71	
Median	14.67		13.33		8.67		4.75	

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Texas-San Antonio is proud to announce the addition of three accomplished Assistant Professors to its faculty in the Fall 2008: Dr. Richard Hartley (University of Nebraska-Omaha-2005), and recent Ph.D. graduates from the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Marie Tillyer and Dr. Rob Tillyer.



ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING JOURNAL OF QUANTITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY

Following a successful editorship under David McDowall, a selection committee, in consultation with Springer Publishing, named James Lynch (John Jay College of Criminal Justice) and Alex R. Piquero (University of Maryland College Park) as the new co-editors of the Journal of Quantitative Criminology effective June 1, 2008. Under their co-editorship, all manuscript submissions must be submitted to the Journal's Editorial Manager site at: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/joqc>.



The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Criminal Justice at Virginia State University is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Mokerrom Hossain to Professor.

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Call for Participants

Proposal for the 90th Anniversary of the Police Strikes in the United Kingdom and Boston, August and September, 1919, at the ACJS Conference in Boston, March 10-14, 2009.

The annual ACJS conference is in Boston this coming year. 2009 will also be the 90th anniversary of two labor strikes that are significant historical events and cornerstones in Policing. Labor dispute between the Police officers and their employers, in both countries, was nothing new. Labor unrest for a variety of reason had been a reality for the “Modern Police” almost since their inception. What is different about the period of the First World War and immediately following it was the economic and social pressures that the Police, on both sides of the Atlantic, found themselves under.

Much has been written about the foundation of the “Modern Police” by Sir Robert Peel, its spread throughout the Western World and the changes it under went in the United States. These strikes (actually three August, 1918, July, 1919, UK and September, 1919, Boston), were to bring radical changes on the Police Services of both countries and continue to have their effects felt today.

I have proposed to ACJS, as part of our annual conference, a panel, or two, to mark this anniversary, especially since our meeting is in Boston. The Theme could well be titled, ***Police Strikes of the Early Twentieth Century and their effects on the Officers, Departments and the Public***. As part of this, we are issuing this Call for Participants in this project. This call will look at the historical development of these forces, both in the United States and the United Kingdom and the situation that these officers found themselves in as WW1 came to a conclusion. Additionally, what were the outcomes of the strikes to both the officers and the Departments, the winner and losers? Indeed the then Governor Coolidge used the Boston Strike and his famous comment about “no right to strike”, to propel himself into the Presidency of the United States.

Of great interest is the final outcome to the Departments and its officers was the divergent outcome in these Strikes. The UK was given a “Policemen’s Charter”, the Desborough Report and the Police Act of 1919, assuring universal standards of employment and eventually a centralized police service for the entire country. In the US, the “Localness” of the various jurisdictions was reinforced and no national organization or force would emerge, even till today, to speak for the police.

My proposal could be expanded to include papers on the strikes in both counties and/or the various forces in the United Kingdom that took part in the strike of 1919. I would be happy to discuss these issues with anyone who is interested in this project. I can be reached at 212 237 8403 or jking@jjay.cuny.edu. Thank you; look forward to seeing you in Boston.

Joseph F. King



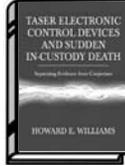
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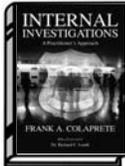
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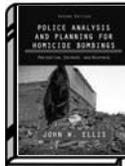
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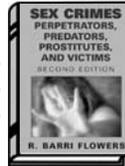


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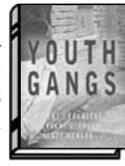
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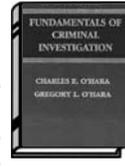
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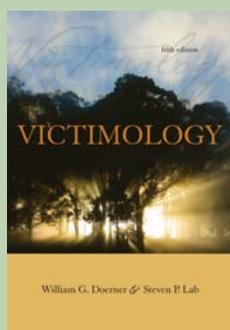
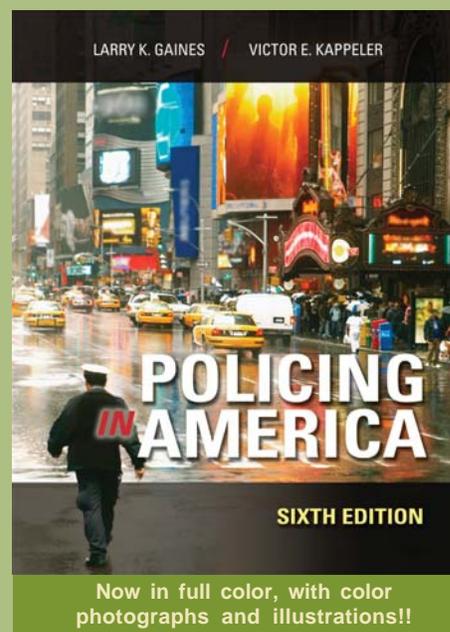
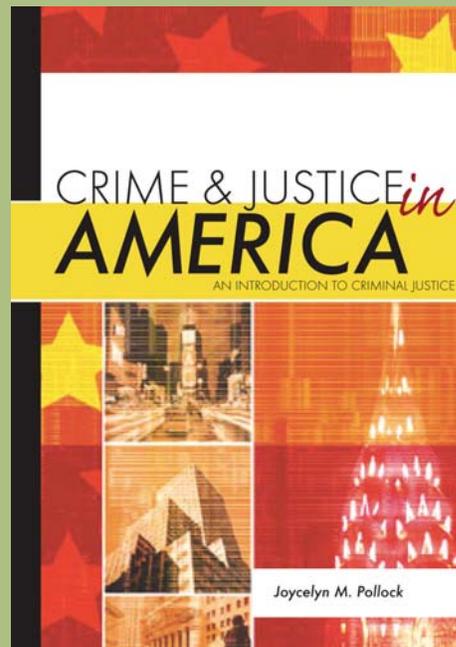
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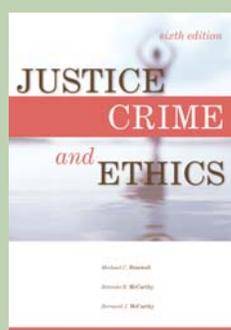
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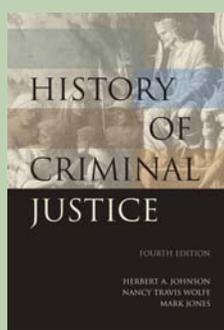
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