

Newsletter of the

The ACJS Critical Criminal Justice Section

Issue: February 2012

SECTION OFFICERS

Chair, Barbara Sims

Vice Chair, David Barlow

Secretary-Treasurer, Stacy Moak

Immediate Past President, Robert Bohm

Executive Counselors:

Frank Afflito

Peter Kraska

Christopher Sharp



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Let me begin by saying how honored I am to be serving as Chair of the Critical Criminal Justice Section of ACJS. However, the leadership of the section is in the good hands of the entire Executive Board: David Barlow, Vice Chair; Stacy Moak, Secretary-Treasurer; Bob Bohm, Immediate Past President; and our three Executive Counselors, Frank Afflito, Pete Kraska, and Chris Sharp. Also, Josh Klein has agreed to serve as Editor with Kathy Bennett as Assistant Editor of our section's online newsletter. By now you should have seen the call for submissions (jklein@iona.edu). Let's make this a successful newsletter and fully participate in this effort. All of these roles are important. I hope that many of you will consider serving in any one of these roles as we continue to grow the section. It is important that we work as a group to get the message out to the ACJS membership that we are here. One

Join the Section, or Renew Your
Membership

Either by visiting the ACJS website (acjs.org) or contact Cathy Barth at manager@acjs.org.



way we can do that is to improve our web presence, a task that is ongoing and on which I am working with Cathy Barth in the national office. Another way is to simply encourage our critical criminal justice colleagues and students to join. Membership dues are the sole avenue source for us at this time. We can move into fundraising activities once we have a solid foundation under us, but it has been my experience that as good as they can be, groups don't seem to get as much bang for the buck as is hoped for when it comes to such efforts (e.g., t-shirt sales). Too, if we do not take care of those section membership dues, the system will automatically drop us. Your participation in the section is vitally important to maintain a healthy revenue stream while ensuring that the voices of critical criminal justice scholars are in the mix.

You should know that the section is financially sound. This is thanks to the previous efforts of our leadership team. Thus, we are able to hold a great reception at the upcoming annual meeting. You have received notices about this via email communications and you all are encouraged to attend. In case you missed those emails, the reception will be held on Friday, 3/16, from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in Liberty, 8th floor of the conference hotel. If you have not done so already, please RSVP to Grace Monjardo at gim5039@psu.edu.

As part of this newsletter, and also sent out to you previously, you will see a list of panels and other events that I thought might be of interest to critical criminal justice folks. If I have left any of your good work off the list you have my sincere apologies. Please feel free to send that to me and I will send it out on our listerv. It looks like we will have a real presence at this conference, which is important for many reasons. Let's support President Lisa Barlow by actively participating in this meeting. We are proud that she is a member of this section!

In closing, we have come a long way when it comes to settling on a vision and direction for this section. Some of you may recall the meeting when we talked about changing our

name from the *Critical Criminology* Section to the *Critical Criminal Justice* Section. The membership approved that change and for many reasons. I am relying heavily here on the words of Pete Kraska (thanks Pete!) because I think he best summarized what we are/should be about. Critical criminal justice scholars approach not only the "why of *crime*, but the why of *criminal justice*." We try to make sense of modern-day efforts intended to control crime and so-called criminals that ignore the larger picture of why we are engaged in these efforts in the first place. As Pete has pointed out, it is much more interesting to try to "make sense theoretically of the war on drugs than to explain the why of drug use."

Onwards to NYC!

Barb Sims, Chair

Critical Criminal Justice Section of ACJS

**Annual Meeting
Panels/Events of Interest**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

Panel: Examining the Roles of Gender and Sex in Conceptualizations and Corrections

8:00 AM Brecht, 4th Floor

Panel: Attitudes Regarding Interpersonal Violence

8:00 AM Chelsea, 7th Floor

Panel: Capital Punishment: Mitigation Issues

8:00 AM Barrymore, 9th Floor

Panel: Cutting Edge Corrections: Institutional Management Issues

9:30 AM Hart, 4th Floor

Panel: Capital Punishment and Modern Culture: The Times They Are A-Changin'

9:30 AM Chelsea, 7th Floor

Panel: Restorative Justice: Applications Within Institutional Settings

9:30 AM Soho, 7th Floor

Roundtable: Immigrants and the Criminal Justice System

9:30 AM Gotham, 7th Floor

Panel: Assessing Governmental Influence, Power, and Force

9:30 AM Astor Ballroom, 7th Floor

Feature Roundtable: Examining Reentry in the Context of Sustainable Justice

2:00 PM Wilder, 4th Floor

Panel: An LGBTQ Discussion of Other Genders: Sexual Minority Victims

2:00 PM Brecht, 4th Floor

Panel: Ideological Shifts in Justice Across the Ocean

2:00 PM Olmstead, 7th Floor

Panel: Undocumented/Unaccompanied Immigrants and the Criminal Justice System

2:00 PM Gotham, 7th Floor

Open Seminar: Publishing in Criminology/Criminal Justice Journals

2:00 PM Astor Ballroom, 7th Floor

Panel: Capital Punishment: Theoretical and Philosophical Issues

2:00 PM Cantor, 9th Floor

Panel: Examining Power to Shape the Social Construction of Crime

3:30 PM Hart, 4th Floor

Panel: Etiology of Crime

3:30 PM Juilliard, 5th Floor

ACJS Presidential Plenary: Sustainable Justice in Practice –Delancey Street in San Francisco

3:30 PM Barrymore, 9th Floor

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

Panel: Current Issues, Public Perceptions, & Prevention Initiatives in White-Collar Crime

8:00 AM Duffy, 7th Floor

Panel: Capital Punishment: Endgame Issues

8:00 AM Barrymore, 9th Floor

Panel: Prosecution & Racial Justice: Findings and Lessons Learned from Analyzing Prosecutors' Discretionary Decisions

9:30 AM Odets, 4th Floor

Feature Panel: Annual Review of the Supreme Court's Term

9:30 AM Chelsea, 7th Floor

Panel: Capital Punishment: Systemic Issues

9:30 AM Barrymore, 9th Floor

ACJS Keynote Address- TBD

11:00 AM Westside 1, 5th Floor

Author Meets Critics: After the Crime: The Power of Restorative Justice Dialogues Between Victims and Violent Offenders by Susan Miller

12:30 PM Brecht, 4th Floor

Feature Roundtable: Guiding our Blinded Justice: Preventing Wrongful Convictions

12:30 PM Chelsea, 7th Floor

Round Table: Defense-Initiated Victim Outreach Following 9-11: The Trial of Zacharias Moussaqui

12:30 PM Cantor, 9th Floor

ACJS Presidential Plenary – TBD

2:00 PM Hart, 4th Floor

Feature Roundtable: The Future of Capital Punishment in the United States

2:00 PM Chelsea, 7th Floor

Panel: The Death Penalty: Contemporary Issues

2:00 PM Soho, 7th Floor

ACJS Presidential Plenary – TBD

3:30 PM Westside 1, 5th Floor

Panel: Exceptions to 4th Amendment Search and Seizure Requirements

3:30 PM Ziegfeld, 4th Floor

Panel: Examining the Nature and State of White-Collar Crime

3:30 PM Olmstead, 7th Floor

Panel: Emerging Issues in Criminological Theory

3:30 PM Gotham, 7th Floor

Panel: Theories on Criminal Justice Culture, Policy, and Practice

3:30 PM Gramercy, 7th Floor

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

Roundtable: Critical Criminal Justice in the 21st Century

8:00 AM Olmstead, 7th Floor

ACJS Presidential Address

12:45 PM Sky Lobby, 16th Floor

Feature Panel: Peacemaking, Cultural, and Critical Race Theories I

2:00 PM O'Neill, 4th Floor

Panel: Innocence and Human Rights on the International Scene

3:30 PM Soho, 7th Floor



SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2012

Essays, Op-Eds, Etc.

Panel: Death Penalty Attitudes and Opinions

8:00 AM Jolson, 9th Floor

Panel: Death Penalty

9:30 AM Hart, 4th Floor

Panel: Capital Sentencing Issues

9:30 AM Cantor, 9th Floor

Panel: Issues in Inequality, Economic Conditions and Genetics, Cyberfeminist Communities, and the Electronic Criminal Record

11:00 AM Wilder, 4th Floor



SECTION MEETINGS

Critical Criminal Justice Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 2012,
2:00 – 3:15 PM, Liberty, 8th floor

Critical Criminal Justice General Business Meeting and Reception

Friday, March 16, 2012,
5:00 – 6:30 PM, Liberty, 8th Floor

A Few Thoughts about Public Opinion, Crime, and Justice

By Josh Klein

Welcome to our ACJS Critical Criminology Section newsletter, the first in a while, and the first I contributed to as editor! I am excited, having (relatively) recently joined the section, to be our section's new newsletter editor. Like you, I look forward the upcoming 2012 ACJS meeting, and our section's participation.

I will use my public platform here to briefly "think out loud" about a current research interest. My purpose is a selfish one -- to trigger (pardon the crime pun) a discussion to gather ideas, and to build a network of like-minded colleagues. I think we need criminologists and criminal justice researchers/professionals (critical and otherwise) to more deeply examine public opinion about threats and safety, security and insecurity. I include here all levels, from personal to global, from physical to symbolic. If anyone is interested in discussing this topic further, please contact me at jklein@iona.edu or (914) 563-9873. Maybe we can meet during the annual meeting.

This is obviously a wide topic, and I think an underestimated one. There has been a steady trickle of research on this over the years. It seems to me that researchers need to be more interested in, and more creative about, examining and theorizing this topic. I'll list a few random ideas to give you an idea of what I'm aiming at. As crime, criminal justice, terrorism, and many other things change, the roles of public opinion and culture seem to be changing, even arguably increasing in importance. I think public opinion and culture are more important because we are living through de-legitimation of authorities, as well as increasing polarization of mass and elite security and criminal justice politics.

The de-legitimation is visible in the public's fading confidence in institutions, the increasing portion of the population who think the country is "on the wrong track," and so on. That's not to mention that suddenly, the phrase "occupy _____" is probably giving some powerful people bad dreams these days.

The polarization involves some members of the public seemingly displaying more attitudes and behaviors like apathy, authoritarianism, activism, and egalitarianism. For example, some of my students seem unimpressed with the need for protecting the rights of the accused, or are resistant to the idea that treatment can be more effective than punishment for reducing crime. On the other hand, I have students who have visited Occupy Wall St., express awareness of race, class, and gender inequalities, and are skeptical of authorities.

The point is that public opinion, though it is dominated by elites and media, seems to be a waking giant, possibly a mixed blessing for the cause of increasing peace and justice. As a scholar of public opinion, ideology, and power, I am curious: How does all this affect the individual? How does he or she imagine/perceive threats? Security problems? Security policy and solutions? How do ideology and culture influence these matters?

General Announcements

Critical Criminal Justice Scholar Award

Intent of the Award:

This award will honor a person for distinguished accomplishments that represent issues related to critical criminal justice through scholarship, teaching, or service across the most recent two-year period.

Responsible Committee:

The Critical Criminal Justice Section Executive Board shall establish a Critical Criminal Justice Scholar Competition Committee (Committee) of no less than three members. The Committee

will be responsible for working with the Executive Board on the call for nominations and will then review all submissions and select a winner. It will, upon making a decision about the winner, notify the Section's Executive Board of its selection. The Board will then notify the winner.

Eligibility:

Nominees for this award need not be a member of ACJS or the Critical Criminal Justice Section at the time of the nomination. It is expected, however, that award winners will, upon notification of having been selected for the award, become a member of ACJS and a member of the Critical Criminal Justice Section. He or she should provide evidence of quality scholarship (primarily through publications in quality outlets), excellence teaching on matters that symbolize critical criminal justice, or service/outreach to the community or academy that has had a direct impact on local citizens, criminal justice agencies, etc. Thus, this award is broad in scope such that nominees can have engaged in critical criminal justice scholarship, teaching, or service.

Award:

Winners of this award will be recognized at the Section meeting each year (attached to the ACJS annual meeting), will receive a plaque, and all efforts will be made to sufficiently showcase the work of winners (e.g. in the Section newsletter, posted on its website, etc.).

Critical Criminal Justice Section's Outstanding Student Paper Award

This award is to provide recognition of a student (either undergraduate or graduate) who produces an outstanding paper on an issue associated with critical criminal justice and to provide the award winner with a travel stipend intended to be used for attending and presenting at the annual ACJS meeting. Unfortunately, we received no submissions this year. Please visit our website for full details of this award, and we encourage submissions for next year!

Worldwide Women's Criminal Justice Network

www.wcjn.org



The Women's Criminal Justice Network (www.wcjn.org) is seeking information about women who have been wrongfully convicted, or convicted by

tangential connection to crimes committed by male acquaintances, i.e., guilt by association. Please send info to: Michael H. Fox
wcjn.org@gmail.com

Section Member Research and Publications

For future newsletters, please send submissions to the newsletter editors!

A Critical Criminal Justice Crossword!

Across

2. A kind of crime consisting of harm or lawbreaking by state and corporation together
6. Unauthorized by or inconsistent with the constitution
7. A type of criminological approach to international crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, torture, genocide and other gross human rights violations
9. When a state, government or citizen holds a person
10. Kept from knowledge or view

Down

1. Extreme form of aggression
3. Persons empowered by the state to enforce the law, protect property, and limit civil disorder
4. Impairment of integrity, virtue, or moral principle
5. Infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure
8. A person learned in the law

