DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Faculty Accomplishments
Summer/Fall 2017

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Below is a summary of the recent accomplishments of faculty and students from the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. If you would like more information, please visit us at go.pdx.edu/ccj. Please note, the original order of authorship may not be reflected in the citations provided below. Current and former CCJ students are indicated with an asterisk.

Dr. Kris Henning and Sgt. Greg Stewart (Supervisor of the Crime Analysis Unit at Portland Police Bureau and adjunct instructor at CCJ) participated in a panel entitled “Data and Research: Law Enforcement’s Indispensable Violence Reduction Partner” at the National Summit on Crime Reduction and Public Safety held in Bethesda, MD.

*June 20, 2017*

The Summit, convened by the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ DOJ Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, was created to discuss how we can best support and replicate successful local violent crime reduction efforts across the country. Research and data analysis are critical to shaping policy and increasing understanding of crime problems in local communities. Dr. Henning’s and Sgt. Stewart’s panel addressed law enforcement and academic research partnerships through the examination of several violence reduction strategies and theories. They discussed how research provides proven violence reduction strategies and solutions that can assist law enforcement in focusing on crime prevention and intervention efforts, along with the identification of high-risk offenders, places, and victims. As such, leveraging proven solutions is vital to conducting effective and efficient violence reduction efforts.

Dr. Kris Henning was invited to co-present with Dr. Kim Bernard (DJC) in the Multnomah County Judges Learning Series on Risk Assessments in the Courtroom.

*June 30, 2017 - July 7, 2017*

Dr. Henning’s first presentation, “Risk Assessment 101”, provided foundational knowledge about risk assessment for judges, as well as covered frequently asked questions and myth-busting opportunities. The second presentation, “Risk Tools in Practice: Public Safety Checklist”, introduced the Public Safety Checklist (PSC) and provided assistance to judges in how to locate and interpret PSC scores.

Sgt. Greg Stewart (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty) was inducted into the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame.

*July 2017*

The Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame recognizes innovative law enforcement practitioners who have been central to the implementation of a high quality research program in their agency and also are relentless champions of institutionalizing evidence-based practices. These leaders of evidence-based policing not only help make high-quality police scholarship possible but also advance significant reforms in policing by utilizing science in their decision making. One of Sgt. Stewart’s nominators, Dr. Henning, notes that Stewart “is one of those rare individuals who stays curious, keeps asking the important questions, and is always willing to investigate what can be learned about the practice of law enforcement using social science methods.”
Jason Jones (CCJ adjunct instructor and officer in the Portland Police Bureau) gave two presentations at the 125th Annual APA Convention in Washington, DC with Dr. Robert McKelvain and John Heil, DA entitled “Threat and Compassion: Entering the World of a Police Officer” and “Crisis and Conflict: How Police Patrol Officers Respond”.

August 5, 2017

The first presentation “Threat and Compassion: Entering the World of a Police Officer” showed psychologists how to initiate constructive relationships with local police officers and agencies, including relationship-building strategies and ethical considerations. The second presentation “Crisis and Conflict: How Police Patrol Officers Respond” discussed how police officers are trained to respond to street-level conflicts and crises. The presentation also covered what psychologists can learn from police officers and how they can contribute to their work.

Drs. Ryan M. Labrecque and Christopher Campbell presented their findings of a study “Fairness and Respect in Corrections: Examining the Role of Procedural Justice in Reducing Harm and Disorder in Prison” to the Maine Department of Corrections.

August 31, 2017

The study examined how inmates’ perceptions of fairness, legitimacy of staff, and sense of voice in disciplinary procedures affect the safety and security of a prison. To do this, the authors surveyed inmates in minimum and medium security prisons in Maine, asking about their perceptions of fairness, legitimacy of staff, and sense of voice in disciplinary procedures following misconduct. In addition to asking about perceptions of formal disciplinary processes, this study also inquired about inmate perceptions of informal interactions, such as professionalism of correctional staff. If processes and agents in the correctional facility are indeed seen as fair, legitimate, and provide a voice to the inmates during disciplinary protocols, then theory suggests that this should be associated with a decrease in misconduct. In other words, the way inmates view officers may increase or decrease the safety and security of a prison.

Dr. Ryan M. Labrecque co-authored a Speak Out essay with Dr. Robert Morgan (Texas Tech Univ.), Dr. Paul Gendreau (Univ. of New Brunswick), Taylor Ramler, and Brieann Olafsson entitled “Questioning solitary confinement: Is administrative segregation as bad as alleged?” in the American Correctional Association’s Corrections Today magazine.

September 2017

Much has been written about the potentially harmful effects of administrative segregation (AS). By far, the greatest area of concern involves its purported negative physiological and psychological effects. The collection of studies that are used to support these claims, however, do not paint a complete picture of the effects of AS. In this review, two groups of researchers undertook two independent reviews, in an unplanned systematic replication, to determine what effect AS has on inmates’ physical and mental health functioning, as well as to determine behavioral outcomes (e.g. recidivism). The authors analyze the results of their research and advocate for the development and implementation of best practices in AS to minimize risk and harms where they do occur.

A study led by Dr. Mark Leymon was referenced in an article on The Oregonian entitled “For convicted felons, a career can be a second chance”.

August 30, 2017

The article follows Andre Eddings, 26, who served nine months in the Clark County Jail on felony drug charges and now works as a production assistant supervisor at Dave’s Killer Bread. Three years ago, Dave’s Killer Bread partnered with Dr. Mark Leymon for a study of its workforce, which compared the number of attendance vio-
lations, policy violations or behavioral violations among employees with criminal backgrounds and without. In every category, the employees with criminal convictions performed better than their counterparts. The full text of the article can be found here: [http://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/index.ssf/2017/08/for_convicted_felons_a_career.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/clackamascounty/index.ssf/2017/08/for_convicted_felons_a_career.html)

**Drs. Brian Renauer, Mark Leymon (Harmon), and Christopher Campbell** were awarded The W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars in Race and Crime Research FY17 grant from the National Institute of Justice for their project “Assessing the Impact of Pre-Adjudication Assessment Approaches on Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Oregon”.

**September 2017**

The award for $360,620 will support a two-year examination of the impact of using risk-assessment tools at the pre-trial stages on racial/ethnic disparity in court case outcomes in select Oregon counties. The goal of the study is to improve criminal court capabilities that support judicial decision-making for more reliable and impartial case and public safety outcomes. Since 2014 there are two counties in Oregon (Multnomah and Yamhill) wherein a pre-adjudication assessment (PAA) using a common risk-screening tool (LS/CMI) is being utilized. A study of these two counties provides a unique opportunity for understanding the use of a PAA and its impact on judicial processing and racial/ethnic disparity in sentencing outcomes because both counties have been using the tool for up to two years already, use the same assessment tool, but apply the assessment in different ways. The principal research question is whether the introduction of a PAA into the court-decision-making process has impacted racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing outcomes over time in each county.

**Dr. Chris Carey, Karma Rose Macias** (student in the CCJ Masters of Science program), and research associate Lena Teplinsky, MPH gave a conference presentation entitled “Too Acute for Sub-Acute: Caregiver Perspectives on CSEC in Oregon” at the Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking at University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**September 8, 2017**

The presentation addressed the process of establishing a research agenda for initiatives related to CSEC, and discuss significant findings of three consecutive studies that focused on (1) quantifying the scope of CSEC in the Portland Metro Area, (2) identifying the individual-and macro-level social determinants and pathways that exacerbate risk for, and protect against, sexual exploitation, and (3) investigating opportunities for systems-level intervention based on emerging trends in the data. Specifically, the presenters shared findings from their most recent study (2017) which gathered the perspectives and experiences of foster parents in Oregon who have cared for children, youth and young adult CSEC survivors. National estimates show that between 50-90% of CSEC survivors have a history of involvement in the child welfare system and many have been in foster care (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2015). However, limited research exists on the experience of foster parents caring for CSEC survivors. This study explores the insights and experiences of foster parents who have cared for CSEC survivors to better understand the systemic barriers faced by survivors, foster parents and child welfare agencies in maintaining therapeutic placements, and develop an understanding of best practices for supporting the foster parent/child relationship for CSEC populations. This research was funded in part by the Children's Justice Act.

**Dr. Chris Carey** gave a presentation with Dr. Rowanna Carpenter (University Studies) at the International Association of Service Learning and Civic Engagement’s Conference in Galway, Ireland entitled “Letting Knowledge Serve the City: Examining the Impact of Service Learning and Community Engagement in First-Year Learning Living Communities at Portland State University”.

**September 15, 2017**

This project examines on the impact of service-learning and community engagement in first-year living learning communities at Portland State University. The presenters reported on the last seven years of data measuring various outcomes of student success and explored approaches to service learning and assessment.
Drs. Ryan M. Labrecque and Paula Smith trained a group of correctional officers, case managers, and program facilitators from the Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) and Pathfinders of Oregon on a new cognitive-behavioral treatment program (Free Your Mind) that has since been implemented in the restrictive housing unit of the facility.

September 2017

Dr. Ryan M. Labrecque was awarded a National Institute of Justice New Investigator Grant to conduct a study entitled “Interpersonal Violence and Institutional Misconduct in Jails: An Empirical Analysis of Adverse Events in the Los Angeles County Jail System.”

September 2017

The award for $184,000 will support a study of interpersonal violence and institutional misconduct in the Los Angeles County Jail System in order to better understand and prevent interpersonal violence and institutional misconduct. Particular attention will be paid to identifying inmates at-risk for violence and violent victimization. Dr. Labrecque will analyze 16 years of administrative data to identify trends in adverse events, conduct interviews and focus groups from correctional administrators and staff on past adverse events and any changes in policy or practice to address them.

Dr. Ryan Labrecque published an invited book chapter entitled “Probation in the United States: A Historical and Modern Perspective” in the Handbook of Corrections in the United States, which is edited by Drs. O. Hayden Griffin and Vanessa Woodward.

September 2017

This chapter reviews the historical development of probation in the United States, and highlights how the practice is used in the 21st century. Probation has many advantages over imprisonment, including lower operational costs, increased opportunities for rehabilitation, and reduced risk of criminal socialization. However, there is increasing evidence to suggest probation strategies that focus on compliance monitoring and other law enforcement aspects of supervision are not effective in reducing recidivism, and under some circumstances may even increase it. Finally, this chapter concludes with a review of the status of the emerging efforts to redefine the function of probation in the modern era.

Dr. Mark Leymon (Harmon) joined Kate Gonsalves and Bobbin Singh from the Oregon Justice Resource Center on XRAY.FM’s Group Therapy radio show to discuss the concept of mass incarceration. The broadcast recording can be found here: https://xray.fm/broadcasts/19674

September 25, 2017


October 2017

The textbook provides prospective crime analysts an introduction to the fundamental skills necessary for their profession. This chapter introduces crime analysts to the use of inferential statistics as well as statistical tests which are commonly used in crime analysis.
Dr. Danielle McGurrin wrote a blog post entitled “Why White Collar Crime Studies are Essential for the Criminology and Criminal Justice Major” for the Criminology and Criminal Justice Online website.

October 2017

In the blog post Dr. McGurrin discusses the costs and consequences of white collar crime and explains how criminology and criminal justice majors can structure their studies and skills acquisition for a white collar crime investigation and regulatory career.

Sgt. Greg Stewart (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty) attended the International Association of Chief’s of Police (IACP) conference in Philadelphia, PA as part of the NIJ LEADS scholar program, and participated in the annual Research Advisory Committee meeting. This group advises the IACP on research needs in policing.

October 21-24, 2017

Dr. Kathryn Wuschke was an invited speaker within the PSU School of the Environment Fall Speaker Series focused on Emerging Tools for Investigating Natural and Social Systems. She gave a presentation about her ongoing research with Dr. Kris Henning and Sgt. Greg Stewart entitled “Considering the Impact of Crime Maps on Public Perceptions of Safety”.

October 2017

Drs. Ryan Labrecque and Daniel Mears (Florida State Univ.) had a paper entitled “Prison system vs. critics’ views on the use of restrictive housing: Objective risk classification or ascriptive assignment?” accepted for publication in The Prison Journal.

October 2017

Despite the widespread use of restrictive housing in correctional institutions, little is known about the factors associated with placement in this setting. This study advances two theoretical arguments about the use of this practice. The prison system view argues this housing is essential for institutional order and thus only inmates who pose an objective risk to safety get placed in such housing. By contrast, the critics’ view argues this housing causes adverse effects and disproportionately targets certain inmates based on their ascriptive characteristics, such as their mental health status or race. The results indicate support for both perspectives.

Dr. Chris Carey, Karma Rose Macias* (student in the CCJ Masters of Science program) and research associate Lena Teplinsky, MPH gave a conference presentation entitled “Rules without Relationships = Rebellion. Interviews with Foster Parents of CSEC Survivors” at the National Conference on Juvenile Sex Trafficking in New Orleans, LA.

October 25, 2017

Limited research exists on the experience of foster parents caring for CSEC survivors. Yet national estimates show that 50-90% of CSEC survivors have been in foster care at some point. Indeed, research in Oregon indicates that CSEC survivors have three times the foster care placement rates of non-CSEC populations. Presenters reported on the findings of a Children’s Justice Act funded research grant which interviewed and surveyed foster parents in Oregon who cared for children, youth and young adult survivors. The findings of the research infuse a critical perspective, that of the foster parent, into the discourse around how to best support survivors in foster care, and where improvements can be made. This presentation shared lessons learned and provided recommendations for how to improve the system at multiple entry points: from foster parents, to child welfare workers, social service providers, judges, police, policy makers, researchers, and advocacy groups.
Dr. Chris Carey, Karma Rose Macias* (student in the CCJ Masters of Science program) and Sgt. Molly McDade Hood (Multnomah County Sheriff’s office) gave a conference presentation entitled “Powerful Ink: How Tattoos and Branding Shape the World of Human Trafficking” at the National Conference on Juvenile Sex Trafficking in New Orleans, LA.

October 25, 2017

This study explores the relationship between tattoos and commercial sexual exploitation for both survivors and traffickers. Working with the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, the presenters provided information to help practitioners, law enforcement personnel, advocates, and other stakeholders understand the significance of tattoos and the tattooing in the world of human trafficking. This study analyzes the extent to which certain categories, locations on the body, size, and quantities of tattoos are related to human sex trafficking. Through interviews with law enforcement personnel, survivors, traffickers, and database photographs the authors explored how understanding the meanings and placement of tattoos can aid in developing therapeutic as well as legal and investigative tools for all stakeholders.

Dr. Kris Henning and Sgt. Greg Stewart (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty) organized a campus presentation by Dr. Michael D. White (Arizona State University) on entitled “What We Know and Don’t Know About Police Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs): The Latest in Research, Policy, and Resources”.

November 6, 2017

The event featured Dr. Michael White (Arizona State Univ.), Co-Director of Training and Technical Assistance for the US Department of Justice Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program. Dr. White presented the latest research on the impact of body-worn cameras on officers’ use of force, citizen complaints, and community attitudes toward the police. The session was attended by 20-30 members of local law enforcement agencies and Portland city government, as well as graduate students from CCJ’s Masters of Science degree program.

Drs. Kris Henning and Brian Renauer along with colleagues Dr. Kimberly Kahn (Psychology), Dr. Yves Labissiere (Community Health), Sgt. Renee Mitchell (Sacramento PD), Sgt. Greg Stewart (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty), Christian Peterson, and Sean Sothern (Portland Police Bureau) submitted the final report for their 2014-17 U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative grant.

November 1, 2017

The report summarizes findings from a randomized field experiment, called the Neighborhood Involvement Locations (NI-Loc) program. The police bureau’s Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system was used to front-load 16,200 dispatch calls directing street officers to conduct community engagement patrols (CEPs) in high crime areas. The goal of the program was to improve police-community relations while also deterring crime via additional police presence. Ninety high crime areas were randomly assigned to receive none, two, or four 15-minute supplemental CEPs a day for a three month period. More than 13,000 CEP patrols were successfully delivered. Offense reports, CAD data, resident surveys, officer focus groups, and officer surveys were used to conduct process and outcome evaluations of the NI-Loc program. Results indicate that the NI-Loc intervention did not affect crime or calls for service in treatment areas compared to controls. And, while the CEPs increased positive contacts with residents in the targeted areas, they did not impact residents’ overall attitudes toward police. There was also little difference across outcomes based on the dosage of CEPs (2 vs. 4 per day). A process evaluation highlighted key aspects about the implementation of the program, including the success of using the CAD system to direct patrols and measure the patrol dosages delivered during the study. Key lessons learned for policing in high crime areas and promoting community engagement are discussed in the report.
**Drs. Laura Hickman** and Jennifer Wong (Simon Fraser University) had a paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “What Have We Learned about Immigration and Crime at the Individual-Level Unit of Analysis?”.

**November 15, 2017**

Over the last 15 years, there has been a tremendous growth in studies looking at the relationship between immigration and crime at the macro-level. Comparatively little study however has been undertaken that examines immigration and crime at the individual-level. This is most likely due to a lack of access to data that can be used for this unit of analysis. The paper examines the current state of knowledge around immigration and crime at the individual-level. It also describes and draws lessons from analyses of the Los Angeles County Foreign Born Jail Study data. This study examined a one-month release cohort of foreign born jail inmates and their post-jail release recidivism. With the cooperation of federal immigration, legal versus authorized status was determined for each individual in the release cohort. The series of studies resulting from this data set has allowed the examination of both short- and long-term recidivism patterns for those immigrants with and without current legal status. It has also afforded a comparison of sub-groups of immigrants on recidivism outcomes and rearrest after removal for those who were deported from the country.

**Drs. Kathryn Wuschke, Kris Henning, Sgt. Greg Stewart** (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty) and **Katelyn Bonn** (alumna of CCJ Masters of Science degree program) gave a presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Public Perceptions of Crime Maps”.

**November 15, 2017**

Accountability and transparency play an important role in fostering public trust in police agencies. At present, a renewed effort to build trust between police and communities coincides with greater data availability; as a result, police agencies are increasingly able to provide the public with better access to up-to-date crime maps. However, along with availability comes debate regarding the appropriate level of detail of such maps, with specific concern for victim privacy. With address-level precision, dot maps provide the public with detailed crime information, but lack a consistent method to respect the anonymity and security of those involved. In contrast, hotspot maps anonymize individual data by aggregating nearby event locations, but lack a standard development procedure, resulting in considerable variation in the appearance, clarity and accuracy of the output. Further, there is a lack of research exploring how public viewers interpret either type of map. This paper extends upon research presented in an earlier study by exploring user perception and interpretation of several common types of public crime maps. Results from these combined studies help to inform police agencies by highlighting how mapping choices impact citizen perception of public safety.

**Sgt. Greg Stewart** (Portland Police Bureau; CCJ adjunct faculty) gave a presentation with Cpt. Ryan Keck (Oregon DPSST-Center for policing Excellence) and Sgt. Ryan Eaton (Corvallis Police Department) at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Bridging the Gap: Bringing “What Works” to Policing Agencies”.

**November 15, 2017**

Their presentation was part of a round table discussing the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training efforts at introducing evidence-based practices into Oregon policing. Some of these efforts ranging from public safety leadership training, ethics and police legitimacy/procedural justice training to re-imagining curriculum and delivery within the Basic Academies.
Drs. Kelsey Henderson and Christopher Campbell gave a presentation with Janet Moore (University of Cincinnati) and Marla Sandys (Indiana University Bloomington) at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Bridging the gap between clients and attorneys: Examining public defender communication”.

November 15, 2017

In the landmark Gideon v. Wainwright decision, the US Supreme Court established the federal standard of appointed counsel for indigent defendants as fundamental to fairness. With a large portion of individuals represented by public defenders (approximately 82% of felony defendants in large, state courts), conceptualizing effective representation becomes an important task, and crucial for improving public defense. Recent research has emphasized greater need for a client-centered approach to lawyering. Key to this approach is communication that facilitates the attorney-client relationship (e.g. listening, asking the client their opinion), and may lead to improved perceptions of procedural justice. This project aims to further examine factors that are important for effective attorney-client communication, presenting the preliminary findings from a series of studies. The first is a survey of public defenders in an urban jurisdiction that captures what attorneys believe are important factors in developing and maintaining good communication with clients. Then, the authors present findings from an exploratory method of shadowing attorneys in meetings with their clients to identify if such factors are used. Lastly, they present findings from a survey of the clients their views of communication with their attorney. Results are presented in relation to their policy implications.

Johanna Shreve* (student in Criminology and Criminal Justice Masters of Science degree program) gave a poster presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Anti-LGB Hate Crimes: Political Threat or Political Legitimization?”.

November 15, 2017

Following the 2016 presidential election, organizations such as the Southern Poverty Law Center reported an apparent spike in hate crimes, some of which implicated the election result explicitly (Miller & Werner-Winslow, 2016). While activists have often argued that the legitimization of biased attitudes and stereotypes by political leaders foments violence against minority groups (e.g. Rao, 2016), criminological research in the U.S, has focused more on “threat” hypotheses that view hate crime as a retaliatory response to perceived gains or encroachment of targeted groups. This poster compares the effect on anti-LGB (lesbian, gay, bisexual) crimes of events representing political threat (a court decision legalizing same-sex marriage) and political legitimization of bias (passage of a ban on same-sex marriage). The analysis found a spike in anti-LGB hate crimes after the ban on same sex marriage (outside two standard deviations). There was no change in rates after the decision legalizing same sex marriage.

Drs. Brian Renauer, Mark Leymon (Harmon), and Christopher Campbell gave a presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Pretrial Risk Assessments and Bail Disparities in Criminal Court”.

November 16, 2017

Concern over mass incarceration has opened debate and discussion on mechanisms that can scale back incarceration while balancing public safety. In order to stabilize or reduce incarceration a number of States have embarked on “Justice Reinvestment Initiatives” (JRI). The use of risk assessment instruments has received increasing attention as a potential tool for JRI’s to reduce incarceration without harming public safety. However, the use of risk assessment in the pre-adjudication or sentencing phase of the court process brings with it controversy regarding social justice costs, particularly disparate racial/ethnic sentencing outcomes. This paper examines the impact of
utilizing a pre-adjudication risk assessment (PAA) on court sentencing outcomes overtime in a JRI setting. The experiences of two counties in Oregon that have been utilizing different PAA tools and at different decision-points in the court process since 2014 are compared. Propensity score matching is used to find samples of like cases both pre and post implementation of the PAA that only differ in terms of defendant’s race. The key research question explored is which PAA tool and process is the most promising for reducing incarceration without exasperating racial and ethnic disparities.

Dr. Danielle McGurrin and KJ Kresin* (student in CCJ’s Masters of Science degree program) gave a presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “The Globalization of White Collar Crime Scholarship”.

November 16, 2017

In their paper the authors undertook a meta-analysis of the sub-field of white collar crime, revealing trends in journal publication, author characteristics, white collar crime typologies and content attributes, as well as methodological trends and geographical foci of this scholarship. Their findings suggest under-representation is still an issue, but that the sub-field is becoming increasingly globalized. Through a content analysis of 17 top CCJ peer-reviewed journals, 2011-2015, they endeavor to shed light on these important questions regarding the place of white collar crime studies in the criminology and criminal justice discipline and the nature of this essential sub-field.

Drs. Mark Leymon (Harmon) and Breanna Boppre (University of Nevada Las Vegas) gave a presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Cleaning the Dirty Pool: Methodological Considerations in Assessing the Impacts of Policies on State Imprisonment Over Time”.

November 17, 2017

The impact of policies on substantive outcomes like imprisonment rates are some of the most pursued questions in the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The policy choices we make can have a profound impact on who and how many people are impacted by the justice system. From a research perspective, our ability to accurately reflect these policy impacts is highly influenced by the modeling choices we make. This paper specifically assesses different modeling techniques, variable construction, and interpretive approaches in regression based modeling of the impact of polices on state level imprisonment rates over time. The authors use sentencing reforms passed over the last 40 years to illustrate how the modeling choices we make greatly impact the results produced. Based on a series of evaluations this paper makes recommendations and highlight important considerations when assessing imprisonment rates.

Drs. Mauri Matsuda, Terence Thornberry (University of Maryland), and Marvin Krohn (University of Florida) gave a presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Identifying Late-Bloomers and Examining Early Characteristics That Account for Why They Delay the Onset of Offending”.

November 17, 2017

Developmental, life-course studies have demonstrated a substantial degree of heterogeneity in delinquent careers with respect to the major parameters of the criminal career perspective. For example, while the population age-crime curve indicates that the onset of delinquency is most common in early to middle adolescence, many delinquent careers begin “off-time”, either early (during childhood), or late (during late adolescence and beyond). The present study is concerned with the latter phenomenon, offenders whose delinquent careers emerge and expand...
after the age-normative period of middle adolescence. We refer to them as “late bloomers”. In particular, we present a conceptual definition of late-bloomers and a discussion of how semi-parametric group based modeling techniques can identify them, if they exist. We also examine how they differ from other types of offenders, especially non- and very low-level offenders on the one hand, as well as chronic, persistent offenders, on the other hand, in terms of earlier individual, family, school, peer, and neighborhood characteristics. A fuller understanding of late-bloomers is important theoretically, as their existence is a point of divergence between life-course and typological theories, as well as practically, as previous studies suggest that their adult careers are both serious and prolonged.

Drs. Ryan Labrecque and Christopher Campbell gave a two-part presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA entitled “Panacea or Poison: Can Propensity Score Modeling Replicate the Results from Randomized Control Trials?”.

November 18, 2017

Regardless of institutional focus (e.g., law enforcement, corrections), identifying the practices that will best reduce crime and victimization requires ample research with strong methodology. Understood as the “gold standard” in research design, the randomized control trial (RCT) has been shown to provide reliable and valid findings. However, RCTs are often not feasible in many criminal justice settings because of ethical and practical considerations. As a substitute for RCTs, researchers have increasingly had to rely on other quasi-experimental designs and statistical techniques. One of the more popular techniques is propensity score modeling (PSM), which is designed to simulate the effects of an RCT. With the growing popularity and technological ease of using PSM, this research project funded by the National Institute of Justice addresses the critical question: Can PSM methods replicate the results from RCTs? Using a selection of RCT databases available in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD), this study tests commonly used PSM techniques to examine how close related effect sizes actually are to that of an RCT in criminal justice settings. As Part I of this two-part presentation, we explain the process of testing such techniques and discuss the findings from one of the tests. In Part II of this two-part presentation, we meta-analyze the differences found in the effect sizes generated through the PSM and RCT methodologies.

Drs. Ryan M. Labrecque and Paula Smith (University of Cincinnati) published a journal article entitled “Reducing Institutional Disorder: Using the Inmate Risk Assessment for Segregation Placement (RASP) to Triage Treatment Services at the Front-End of Prison Sentences” in the journal Crime and Delinquency.

December 2017

Most correctional scholars and policy-makers agree that prison authorities should use restrictive housing less, yet few studies exist to provide guidance on how to do so while also ensuring institutional order. This study advances the idea that proactively providing rehabilitative programming to inmates at the front-end of prison sentences will help reduce institutional disorder. In so doing, we create and validate a risk assessment instrument to predict inmate likelihood for placement in restrictive housing during one’s commitment. The findings of this study support the predictive validity of the tool. We argue authorities can use this assessment to make more informed and targeted programming decisions during the intake process that will help reduce institutional misconduct and the need for restrictive housing.
Dr. Kris Henning gave a presentation at the 3rd Annual Oregon Problem-Oriented Policing Conference in Salem, OR entitled “Analyzing crime data with Excel for police”.

December 6, 2017

Most law enforcement agencies in Oregon have detailed data collection protocols and records management systems (RMS) for documenting criminal incidents, calls for service, motor vehicle accidents, etc. These data are of great value for Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) initiatives. This includes use of the data for identifying recurring problems, conducting in-depth analysis (e.g., who, what, when, where, why, and how), and evaluating the impact of crime prevention efforts. Unfortunately, many agencies in Oregon lack analytic capacity to do this kind of work. In a recent survey of 125 agencies, 48% reported they do not have any employees to analyze and interpret data for administrative, strategic, or tactical purposes. Only 24% of agencies said they conduct analyses for Problem-Oriented Policing. The current presentation seeks to address this issue by offering police officers a brief crime analysis tutorial using MS Excel. The first half of the workshop introduced participants to basic MS Excel functions and pivot tables. The second half of the session provided participants with hands-on experience analyzing criminal incident data for a POP project.
FULL-TIME FACULTY TEACHING & RESEARCH AREAS

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Delinquency prevention, parental incarceration, minority overrepresentation

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DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CCJ)

The Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice (CCJ) emphasizes the generation and practical application of empirical evidence to crime and justice issues. We seek to promote effectiveness, efficiency, and equity in crime prevention and control efforts by (1) providing students with quality educational experiences that prepare them for lifelong professional success, (2) conducting and disseminating research on theoretical and policy-relevant topics, and (3) collaborating with justice-related organizations to assess, evaluate, and improve policy and practice. Our Department values empirical inquiry, access to higher education, diversity, social justice, and community engagement. We offer degrees at the undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate level. Please visit us at go.pdx.edu/ccj for more information.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CJPRI)

CJPRI is housed within the CCJ department. The institute strives to promote informed decision-making on the complex issues related to crime prevention, crime control, and the criminal justice process. Its goal is to provide policymakers and the public with research and empirical guidance that is objective, practical, rigorous, and evidence- and theory-based to advance efficient, effective, and equitable policy and practice in the field of criminal justice. Faculty from the CCJ Department at Portland State University comprise the core research expertise of CJPRI.