

### *Message from the Director*

As the new semester begins, the researchers at the Justice Center have been busy with their numerous research projects, presenting their work, and publishing papers. This summer, PINS researchers convened at University Park for a planning conference and data collection began at SCI Rockview.

We also said goodbye to post-docs Susan McNeeley and Michaela Soyer and we wish them well at their new appointments.

The Justice Center is excited to welcome new post-doc, Dr. Glenn Sterner to our team.

*Professor Doris MacKenzie*

### **PENN STATE** *JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH*

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director  
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

### **Justice Center Welcomes New Post-Doc, Glenn Sterner, Ph.D.**

Glenn Sterner received his PhD in Rural Sociology from The Pennsylvania State University. His main research agenda is focused on the application of social network analysis in community development and community processes. His dissertation examined and documented the use of social networks in community organizing processes in four municipalities. Through this research, he was able to make explicit the formal and informal institutional innovation involved in these community processes.

Glenn's research interests include the application of social network analysis in addressing critical issues in criminal and toxic behaviors in communities. His current projects include the examination of the social networks of bullying on twitter, and the social networks of heroin use in American communities. He also is interested in the scholarship of engagement and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Recent publications have been featured in the International Journal for Rural Law and Policy and American Journal of Community Psychology.

Prior to his graduate work at The Pennsylvania State University, Glenn received an M.A. and B.S. from Michigan State University.

### **Research Assistant Gives Presentation**

The Justice Center's Research Assistant Diana Pehlic Samardzic presented at the 2015 National Human Services Training Evaluation Symposium (NHSTES) meeting on May 29, 2015 held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT. Diana's presentation, titled "Providing Child Support Enforcement Workers with the Right Training at the Right Time," provided for an engaging workshop discussion among training evaluation experts on her evaluation goals for the Pennsylvania Child Support Enforcement Training Institute (PACSETI), the mixed-method analysis approach to her evaluation, and ways to overcome some challenges faced by the evaluation team.

## Network Mechanisms in a Prison-Based Therapeutic Community (TC-PINS) Award

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism recently made an award of \$443,488 to Penn State to Support the Network Mechanisms in a Prison-Based Therapeutic Community Project. The study will examine the social networks associated with a Therapeutic Community alcohol and drug treatment program in a Pennsylvania medium security men's prison, and will have important implications for understanding of prison drug treatment. It will also help to inform treatment procedures that improve the health of drug-addicted prison inmates. Principal Investigator Derek Kreager and Co-Investigator Gary Zajac are collaborating with numerous external scholars to oversee the PINS Project.

## Departures

Susan McNeeley and Michaela Soyer both departed from the Justice Center at the end of the summer. They have both done excellent work during their time with us and have been an important part of the Center. We are sorry to see them leave, but delighted to see them advance in their careers. We wish them both great luck and success!

- Susan McNeeley has joined the University of Arkansas at Little Rock as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice.
- Michaela Soyer has joined the Department of Sociology at Hunter College as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Soyer will continue her collaboration with the Justice Center on the PINS and TC-PINS projects.

## Michaela Soyer, Ph.D. Book Under Contract

Justice Center Post-doc Michaela Soyer's book tentatively titled *A Dream Denied: Incarceration, Recidivism, and Young Minority Men in America* is currently under contract at University of California Press. The book is based on Dr. Soyer's dissertation work with juvenile offenders in Boston and Chicago.

## Managing Director Gives Presentation

Gary Zajac Managing Director of the Justice Center for Research spoke at the Dauphin County Police Regionalization Committee Meeting on June 23, 2015. Dauphin County is considering regionalization of policing and invited Dr. Zajac to present on a completed Justice Center project, "An Examination of Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Coverage of Municipalities," which investigated the level of PSP service provided to municipalities as well as the amount and types of revenue that the Commonwealth received from the municipalities.

## Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS) Meeting

On July 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> researchers from Penn State, Ohio State, Rutgers, Arizona State, Simon Fraser University, and PA Department of Corrections convened at the PINS meeting. This meeting allowed project collaborators to discuss work completed to date and to plan for additional waves of data collection, analysis and dissemination. This meeting also gave collaborators the opportunity to plan activities associated with the recently funded TC-PINS project discussed earlier in this Docket.

## Recent Publications

- Justice Center Managing Director, Gary Zajac, recently served as senior editor for the recently published Criminology & Public Policy piece “Outcome Evaluation Program for Female Offenders” and contributed the Editorial Introduction titled “Implementation and outcomes in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Among Female Prisoners.” The article can be found here: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9133.12137/abstract>
- Federal Probation Journal recently published an article by Gary Zajac, Justice Center Managing Director, Laura Winger, formerly a Justice Center Research Assistant, and colleagues at RTI. The article is titled “All Implementation is Local: Initial Findings from the Process Evaluation of the Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) Demonstration Field Experiment and can be found here: <http://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/publications/federal-probation-journal/federal-probation-journal-june-2015>
- Susan McNeeley, Justice Center post-doc, co-authored article “Social Ties, Collective Efficacy, and Crime-Specific Fear in Seattle Neighborhoods” published in Victims & Offenders. The article can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/15564886.2015.1006799?journalCode=uvao20>
- Journal of Crime and Justice recently published an article by Justice Center post-doc Susan McNeeley and co-author Yue Yuan titled “Reactions to Crime: A Multilevel Analysis of Fear of Crime and Defensive and Participatory Behavior.” The article can be found here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0735648X.2015.1054297>

## Coming Up on The Docket:

- Justice Center Researchers head to the American Society of Criminology Conference
- Bret Bucklen, Ph.D., Director of Planning, Research, and Statistics for PA DOC kicks off the 2015-2016 Criminology Forum Series

Justice Center for Research

The Pennsylvania State University  
327 Pond Laboratory  
University Park, PA 16802  
814-867-3292  
[www.justicecenter.psu.edu](http://www.justicecenter.psu.edu)

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