

PENN STATE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER

Jeffery Ulmer, Director
Gary Zajac, Managing Director
Megan Kurlychek, Associate Director
Elaine Arsenault, Docket Editor

Message from the Director

We here at the Criminal Justice Research Center are excited and eager to begin another academic year. We have many exciting things happening this fall and spring. First, we put together a vibrant speaker series with the Department of Sociology and Criminology, with four speakers this fall. Second, we are happy to bring back our Career Expo with the Department of Sociology and Criminology this fall, after a hiatus last year.

Our fall seed grant competition yielded a substantially increased number of proposals compared to last year, which indicates that more faculty are becoming aware of the CJRC and its mission. We have also been excited to be a part of the Penn State C3N initiative in fostering several exciting and impactful projects by faculty at Commonwealth Campuses. These projects notably bridge research and outreach to criminal justice agencies and policy. Furthermore, we are pleased to continue to work with the Penn State Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction and the Social Science Research Institute on issues of mutual interest. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and productive academic year!

Jeffery Ulmer
CJRC Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Criminal Justice Research Center Welcomes New Personnel

Joy Vincent-Killian is the Criminal Justice Research Center Outreach and Enrichment Coordinator. Joy started with Penn State in 1999 as the Membership Director at WPSX-TV channel 3 and WPSU-FM. She was recruited from KVPT-TV in Fresno, California after winning the National PBS Membership Award. In 2015 she began working as the Senior Catering Sales Manager at The Nittany Lion Inn and The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center with weddings, and on-site and off-premise events. She has served on several non-profit boards and volunteered for Centre Safe, Discovery Space, Soroptimists, United Way, and Hillel. Joy received her bachelors in Liberal Arts from California State University, Fresno, and is looking forward to managing events, marketing, growing the social media presence, and assisting the students with their College of Liberal Arts experience. Joy has been collecting antiques since she was a teen and seeks out all things 1939 including World's Fair items, literature, magazines, philatelic, and collectible ephemera. She is an avid gardener and she and her husband provide their canned goods of pickles, jams, salsa, and hot sauces to their friends and neighbors.



Criminal Justice Research Center Departures

The CJRC wishes our colleagues who departed the Center this summer much luck in their new positions!

Dennis Dozier, CJRC Administrative Support Assistant at Penn State Abington, will be moving on to work with the U.S. Department of Justice after 20 plus years working at the University.

Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar, will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Towson University.

Clare Strange, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar, will be an Assistant Research Professor in Drexel University's Criminology and Justice Studies Department.

Fall Speaker Series

The Criminal Justice Research Center and Department of Sociology and Criminology are happy to announce that the following speakers will present during the Fall Speaker Series in 406 Oswald Tower and via Zoom:

Friday, September 16

Michael Vuolo - The Ohio State University

"The Framing of Minority Threat and Moralization to Criminalize Behavior: The Case of Cannabis in the Early 20th Century"

Friday, October 14

Rhys Hester - Clemson University

"Addressing Racial and Ethnic Bias in Risk Assessment Instruments"

Friday, November 4

ZOOM ONLY

Jennifer Cobbina-Dungy - Michigan State University

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America"

Friday, December 2

Chris Witko - Penn State

"Hijacking the Agenda: Economic Power and Political Influence"

Please contact cjrc@psu.edu with any questions.

CJRC Managing Director Gary Zajac promoted to Research Professor

CJRC Managing Director Gary Zajac has been promoted to Research Professor, effective July 1, 2022. This is the highest level in the research faculty ranks. Gary has been with the CJRC since the beginning, joining the center in early 2010 as key player in its start-up. He has worked tirelessly since to promote the development and success of the CJRC. In addition, he has been a vital leader and collaborator in many of the CJRC's most impactful research projects, such as the Prison Inmate Network Study (PINS) project series, the Pennsylvania death penalty/homicide prosecution and sentencing studies, and the Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) Demonstration Field Experiment. His promotion is itself a testament to the success of the CJRC in its mission to support faculty to excel in their own research and scholarship. Congratulations Gary!

Derek Kreager Honored as Center Director

Dr. Derek Kreager served as the Criminal Justice Research Center Director from 2017 to June 2021. During his tenure as Director Dr. Kreager was instrumental in growing the research portfolio and outreach activities of the Center. In August, colleagues of the Center gathered to celebrate Dr. Kreager.



Michael Lavetsky, CJRC Commonwealth Campus Center-Nodes (C3N) Faculty Affiliate, Named to State Board

Michael Lavetsky, CJRC Commonwealth Campus Center-Nodes (C3N) Faculty Affiliate, was recently named by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf to a four-year term on the state Sexual Offenders Assessment Board.

Read more on this announcement [here](#).

The American Sociological Association Awards Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant to Iman Said

The American Sociological Association (ASA) recently announced the 2022 ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG) Research Scholars. [Iman Said](#), doctoral candidate in Criminology at Penn State, was awarded a grant for her project titled “A Mixed Method Exploration of Police Behavior at Recent Social and Political Protests.”

Read more about Iman’s research [here](#).

OUTREACH AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Fall Career Expo- Government and Public Sector Crime, Law, and Policy Tuesday, October 4

Join CJRC at the Fall Career Expo on October 4 from 11:30 am until 3:30 pm in Heritage Hall at the HUB-Robeson Center on the University Park campus in State College.

Over 30 agencies from the northeast will be available for networking with students. Federal, state, and local agencies are seeking internships and job applicants.

The registered tables include police departments, district attorneys, probation, and probation offices, county human resources, the FBI, DEA, NSA, Department of State, Army, Bureau of Prisons, NGIC, Navy and Army, and more.

CJRC and the Department of Sociology and Criminology have substantial support with co-sponsors from: Penn State Law, School of International Affairs, School of Public Policy, Schreyer Honors College, Smeal College of Business, Liberal Arts Career Enrichment Network, Eberly College of Science (Forensic Science program), and College of Information Sciences and Technology.

Maybe your agency would like to table? Please contact Joy Vincent-Killian, Coordinator for CJRC and Sociology/Criminology at jkv1@psu.edu or 814-867-3291.

Student Spotlight Profiles

Recently, many of the CJRC's undergraduate research assistant alumni offered positive feedback and insight on what it is like to be a research assistant on CJRC research projects. Read their feedback [here](#). To get involved with undergraduate research at the CJRC please reach out to Joy Vincent-Killian, Outreach and Enrichment Coordinator for CJRC and Sociology/Criminology at jkv1@psu.edu.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

New Commonwealth Campus Center-Nodes Funded Projects

The Commonwealth Campus Center-Nodes (C3N) initiative engages faculty from across Penn State who are conducting criminal justice research as part of the Criminal Justice C3N (CJ C3N). A main goal of the broader C3N program is to foster faculty relationships across Penn State in support of Commonwealth Campus faculty research activities by increasing Commonwealth Campus faculty connections with research resources available at UP. This month we would like to highlight the 2022 seed grant funded projects.

Development & Efficacy of an “Orange Flag Assessment”: An Addendum to the Lethality Assessment Program

Dr. Melanie Hetzel-Riggin (Professor of Psychology, C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Behrend) will be working to design an addendum to the The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). LAP has been found to be effective at increasing referrals from police officers to safe houses or other resources for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), but only assesses for extreme levels of danger (e.g., red flags). The project addendum will seek to assess more moderate levels of danger, primarily forms of coercive control which have only recently become part of the legal definition of intimate partner violence in certain states.

Developing Medical-legal Partnerships to Improve Outcomes for Women Experiencing Co-occurring Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Victimization and Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Penelope K. Morrison (Assistant Professor of Biobehavioral Health, Health & Human Development and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State New Kensington), Kate McLean (Associate Professor of Administration of Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Greater Allegheny), Richard L. Wentling (Assistant Professor, Administration of Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State New Kensington) will conduct research that aims to understand the barriers and facilitators to developing medical-legal partnerships to improve outcomes for women experiencing Co-IPV/OUD from a wide range of key stakeholders, to include but not limited to: IPV advocates, MAT service providers, other health care professionals, court officials, social workers, child, youth, and family (CYF), lawyers, and law enforcement, among others.

How Much Is That Puppy on the Internet? An Examination of Pet-Scam Victim Narratives

Jennifer L. Schally (Associate Teaching Professor of Criminal Justice, School of Public Affairs and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Harrisburg) will conduct a qualitative study which examines the narratives of victims of advance-fee pet scams. This type of pet scam became more widespread in 2020 during the Coronavirus pandemic as people increasingly sought the companionship of pets while being confined at home. Using the theoretical framework provided by both narrative criminology and narrative victimology, this project is particularly interested in victims' experience of shame and victim-blaming as well as the ways in which the victimization experience affects future behavior and self-concepts.

Using a Developmental Approach to Study Victims' Post Traumatic Sexual Behavior

Dr. Kim S. Ménard (Associate Professor, Criminal Justice and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and C3N Faculty Affiliate Penn State Altoona) and Danielle J. DePriore (Assistant Professor, Psychology and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Altoona) will work on a project that will seek to determine if the developmental timing of sexual victimization (defined here as nonconsensual sexual contact) affects post traumatic sexual behavior and motivations of women, using the Post Traumatic Sexual Behavior Inventory for Women (PTSBI-W). The goal of this study is to gain knowledge about the effects of developmental timing of prior victimization on women's sexual behavior, which could help to better identify and inform the treatment needs of women who have been sexually victimized. Finally, this data collection effort would also allow the researchers to subject the PTSBI-W to additional invariance analyses.

CORRECTIONS AND RE-ENTRY

Enhanced Seed Grant Award: Pilot Data Collection for the Corrections Officer Health and Networks Study (COHNS)

Dr. Derek Kreager (Liberal Arts Professor of Sociology and Criminology) and consultant Keith Aronson (Director, Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness) will conduct a study that proposes the collection of focus group and pilot data from Pennsylvania state prison corrections officers (COs) to investigate their peer networks, prison social systems, and individual and aggregate health (e.g., suicidality, stress, burnout, COVID/vaccination). This preliminary data will be used to support subsequent data collection in two Pennsylvania state prisons (one women's and one men's prison) to map their CO networks and connect these to health outcomes. The larger project will also collect caregiver interviews and administer a survey to a random sample of COs across Pennsylvania prisons to further understand the social supports and organizational factors related to CO health.

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

First Annual Summit on Substance Use Disorder Stigma Reduction at Penn State University on September 22

The 1st Annual Summit on Substance Use Disorder Stigma Reduction at Penn State University on September 22nd, 2022 hosted by the [Penn State Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction's Substance Use Stigma Reduction Collaborative](#). The event will take place in-person at the HUB-Robeson Center located on the Penn State University Park Campus, State College, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The Summit on Substance Use Disorder Stigma Reduction is an interdisciplinary event that brings together practitioners and scholars from a range of fields (e.g., public health, government and public policy, psychology, criminal justice) to consider research, policy, and practice around the issue of stigma reduction in the field.

Please view the agenda and register here today! <https://web.cvent.com/event/e522ac0f-8169-4191-8e4e-4e3f247e6af2/summary>

COURTS AND SENTENCING

New Article on The Consequences of Counting Juvenile Adjudications in Adult Sentencing

Federal Sentencing Reporter recently published an article on “The Consequences of Counting Juvenile Adjudications in Adult Sentencing.” The authors include, Miranda A. Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni at the CJRC, Matt Kleiman, Deputy Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, and Megan Kurlychek, CJRC Associate Director.

The article considers the impact of utilizing juvenile adjudications are part of the “prior record score” in determining sentence lengths. In the article the authors contrast current Pennsylvania policy to policies used in other states as well as the prospect of not considering juvenile records at all since the juvenile system is drastically different than the adult system in purpose and process. The authors demonstrate how these policies impact type and length of sentence as well as differential impact across population groups. The authors conclude that what might seem like small policy decisions actually have large impacts on sentencing outcomes, and more importantly, individual lives.

Read the article [here](#).

Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni, publishes in *Criminology & Public Policy*

A new article was recently published in *Criminology & Public Policy*, titled “Stacking punishment: The imposition of consecutive sentences in Pennsylvania.” The author is Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni at the CJRC.

Read the article [here](#).

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION

Perceptions of White-Collar Crime Seriousness: Unpacking and Translating Attitudes into Policy Preferences Article Published

The *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* recently published an article titled “Perceptions of White-Collar Crime Seriousness: Unpacking and Translating Attitudes into Policy Preferences.” The authors include, Sally S. Simpson, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, Miranda A. Galvin PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni at the CJRC, Thomas A. Loughran, Professor of Sociology, Criminology, and Public Policy at Penn State, and Mark A. Cohen, Justin Potter Professor of American Competitive Enterprise and Professor of Law at the Owen Graduate School of Management, Vanderbilt University.

Read the article [here](#).

Enhanced Seed Grant Award: Evaluating Domestic Violence Reform in 18 states to Reduce Punitive Criminal Justice Response

Dr. Brenda Russell (Professor of Psychology, C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Berks) and consultant Jennifer Cox (Associate Professor, Clinical Psychology, University of Alabama) will investigate attorney and police officer attitudes about proposed domestic violence reforms pertaining to training, alternatives to arrest, prosecution, and perpetrator accountability. This information can provide pilot data to assess attitudes about potential reform among those who work in the criminal justice system. This study also plans to investigate the implementation of various reforms enacted by each state to reflect the diversity and expanse of reform programs.

Seed Grant Award: Digital Radicalization in Theory and Practice

Dr. Kurt Fowler (Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Abington) will be working on a project that sheds light on the process of digital radicalization. By using data collected from a variety of message boards and social media posts, this research strives to understand the role technology and digital culture play in the process of radicalization and provide policy recommendations to reduce the likelihood of extremist-based crime, violence, and domestic terrorism.

Seed Grant Award: Leveraging Prominent National Surveys to Assess the Efficacy of County and City Crime Control Efforts

Dr. Eric Baumer (Professor of Sociology and Criminology and University Park Faculty Affiliate) will work on a project that will integrate jurisdictional data on crime prevention efforts and criminal justice policies and practice with individual-level data from national-level surveys. These data integrations will offer several important contributions both to general scientific knowledge about victimization and youth offending and to specific knowledge about the efficacy of selected crime control efforts.

Seed Grant Award: Gun Accessory Purchasing Patterns and Intentions

Dr. Lacey N. Wallace* (Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Altoona) will seek to address these gaps in the literature on gun accessories including devices such as slings, lights, external scopes, magazine extenders, large-capacity magazines, and silencers. Gun owners will be surveyed and this study will serve as pilot data collection to future funding. Topics to be examined include the prevalence of different types of gun accessories, individuals' reasoning for purchasing them, intent to purchase, and how owners obtained gun accessories (dealer, online, privately). The study will further explore how these factors differ between rural and urban areas. *Dr. Lacey Wallace has left Penn State, Dr. Nathan Krus (Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Altoona) will continue this work.

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September 2022