

Presidential Panel Areas

Crime and the Economy – Shawn Bushway

The recent recession has perhaps reminded most Americans about the important role the social institutions that drive or support the economy play in the shaping of everyday American life. Yet, relatively little research has focused on the relationship between the economy and crime. What little there has been has tended to focus on the relationship between work and crime, and the role of the economy in creating employment opportunities. Comparative criminological work hints at the potential role that the different economic structures present in different countries might play on crime, but usually cannot separate the impact of the economy from other factors such as political structure. Recent research on the relationship between mortgage foreclosures and crime presents an alternative mechanism (besides work) by which the economy may influence crime. Other scholars have focused on the seemingly permanent disconnection from the formal economy experienced by growing numbers of young African-American men as an underlying cause of criminal activity. We encourage papers that think hard in new and creative ways about the relationship between the economy as a social institution and crime.

Crime and the Family – David Farrington

What are the most important family risk factors for children's delinquency? What are the causal processes linking family risk factors and child delinquency? What family factors have promotive or protective effects? What are the most important theories that explain the influence of family factors on child delinquency? What family-based interventions are most effective in preventing delinquency? What risk and/or protective factors should be targeted in intervention programs?

Crime and Education – Allison Payne

What impact does the school domain have on crime and delinquency? What school factors are related to delinquency and what programs and interventions are most effective at targeting these factors? What measurement issues, such as differing findings across sources of school crime data or differing units of analysis (e.g., students versus schools), are concerns in the area of crime and education? How does the system of discipline management found in schools influence crime and delinquency? What factors impact the “school to prison pipeline” and what consequences does this jailhouse track have?

Crime and the Polity – Thomas D. Stucky

The role of crime in the polity is complex, subject to change and varied. Comparative studies suggest that the role of crime in political life may be shaped by the institutional structures of government, as well as by cultural and religious processes. At the same time, the current recession has the potential to intensify concern about crime and insecurity, but may also create opportunities for penal reform. We invite papers that explore the varied and changing role of crime in politics, as well as research that explores the politics of penal reform.

Crime and Religion – Ronald Akers

Is there a religious factor in variations in criminal and deviant behavior? What is the relationship between crime and religion as an institution and crime and an individual religious beliefs? What contributions can faith-based initiatives make in treatment, rehabilitation, and the prevention of crime and delinquency? What is the interplay between religious institutions and customs and economic, family, political, and other social institutions and customs in affecting crime rates in modern society? How do secular and faith-based ideals and values function and interact in supporting or countering restorative justice policies and programs?