Access to Criminology and Criminology & Public Policy

By now all ASC members should have received an email from Vice-President Laura Dugan explaining the decision recently made by Wiley to forego publishing print editions of Criminology and Criminology & Public Policy during the COVID-19 crisis. Wiley will still continue to publish online editions of both journals and the current issue of both will be available at the links provided below. These links will automatically update with the latest issue:

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In addition, notifications of the Table of Contents will be posted on ASC’s social media platforms. Members are encouraged to sign-up for notifications.

Editor’s Note:

When considering the theme of Pressing Issues for the 2020s and Beyond, I would be remiss to ignore how much technological advances are forcing us to reconceptualize crime. In this essay, Volkan Topalli and Manja Nikolovska show us that this problem is much more complex than just adding a few more boxes under a Types of Crime section during data collection. If we are not vigilant in developing theory and collecting adequate data on technology-based crime, practitioners and policymakers will turn to other disciplines to help mitigate this growing problem.

Laura Dugan, ASC Vice President

The Future of Crime: How Crime Exponentiation Will Change Our Field

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An important driver of change in crime is the advancement of technology. Until recently, the pace of that change was relatively stable; technological advancements occurred, and crime and the response to them would change apace. In the process, old forms of offending (horse theft) fell to the wayside while new ones (car theft) emerged. Criminology is currently built for linear change, grounded in the functionality of traditional criminal justice and research institutions that also operate linearly. The equilibrium between crime and responses to crime is eroding however, due in part to the exponential growth in computing power governed by Moore’s Law, which states that the density of transistors on a computer chip will double approximately every two years while the cost of production will be halved at the same rate, resulting in an exponential rather than linear increase in capability (computing power and memory) and accessibility (the amount of usable technological platforms for the greatest number of people).
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From this flows the major recent advancements in technology; the internet, smart phones, 3-D printing, gene sequencing, supercomputing, GPS navigation, cryptocurrencies, brain imaging, virtual and augmented reality, and the “internet of things” (IoT), as well as the proliferation of powerful social media and communication platforms.

**Crime Exponentiation**

The field now must respond to a world where change is exponential. In this essay, we label this phenomenon, *crime exponentiation*, a condition whereby advancements in technology lead to evolutions in crime that outpace our ability to conceptualize and respond to them. This is happening in three ways. First, technology is simplifying criminal techniques so more individuals can offend (*crime accessibility*). Second, it is increasing the amount of crime in which any one individual can engage (*crime productivity*). Third, it is introducing new forms of crime we have not seen before or changing the nature of traditional crime execution (*crime diversification*). There are three core areas – data, theory, and training – where crime exponentiation needs to be addressed, if the field is to retain its relevance into the future.

**Crime Accessibility**

Much technology-enabled crime is facilitated by legitimate platforms (hardware, software, and the like) designed to improve everyday living, entertain, and boost commerce. A key driver of their commercial success is the extent to which such platforms can penetrate broad markets, and is most often tied to *usability* (i.e., a platform's ease of use and accessibility). This is particularly true of social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Usability coupled with the ubiquity of the internet facilitates widespread adoption and frequent use. This brings large numbers of people together who, because of geographical restrictions, would not otherwise interact. Legitimate users engage this vast power of distributed computer networks and processing power to facilitate communications with family, friends, or work partners, purchase and sell goods, or provide or access services and data. Of course, criminals have the same access, and the usability of these platforms means that many of them need no particular technological expertise to successfully perpetrate offenses.

One example of this is Advance Fee Fraud (AFF) scamming, a variant of traditional mail scams wherein a product is offered online and the victim is swindled out of their money after they pay for something that is never delivered. These con games rely heavily on email or chat communication supported by commonly available social media platforms. Many are variations of those employed in face-to-face or phone scams with origins in auction and commercial fraud (Braucher and Orbach 2015). AFF scammers use social networking sites to contact thousands of potential victims across the world, hide their location, and engage in untraceable financial transactions (using mobile payment platforms or cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin). Scammers employ a variety of online deceptive practices (referred to as social engineering techniques in the information systems literature; see Arachchilage and Cole 2016) that include misrepresentation, misinformation, and the misuse of victims' public information. Online environments facilitate the implementation of social engineering techniques by reducing social inhibitions (Prizant-Passal et al. 2016; Suler 2004), enabling anonymity (Lowry et al. 2016), permitting a single offender to portray multiple self-representations (Burrell 2008), and disrupting conventional social hierarchies between people (Taylor and Quayle 2008). These advantages are inherent in the capabilities of social networking platforms optimized for usability. The techniques for engaging in this kind of scamming are passed from scammer to scammer at cybercafés, on YouTube, or through online chat rooms. Most can be picked up in less than a day and implemented from anywhere.

**Crime Productivity/Efficiency**

An especially prolific street offender might be able to rob multiple people in a given day, but this pales in comparison to what a hacker can accomplish online. The 2011 Sony PlayStation Hack resulted in the theft of personal information of 77 million people, shutting down their gaming services for 23 days. It cost Sony over $250 million. Because Sony is a large, loosely organized conglomerate, measures implemented to protect the gaming side of the company were not implemented across its subsidiaries. Sony Pictures was later hacked in 2014 over the release of a film deemed offensive to the North Korean regime. Other examples abound but Yahoo! has suffered the largest hack to date. Originally admitting to a hack of 500 million accounts in 2014, we now know the number of accounts penetrated since 2013 is 3 billion.

These hacks were instigated by small groups or in some cases, single individuals. Their effect is multiplied when stolen information is distributed or sold online (in “dark web” online black markets; see Dittus, et al., 2018; Hutchings & Holt, 2017). Such massive “robberies” and “thefts” would not be possible without the underlying online platforms that access increasingly powerful computing capacity. These technologies permit offenders to target exponentially more victims in less time and with less threat of capture than face-to-face predatory crimes.
Crime Diversification/Innovation

In some cases, technology enables new forms of crime, such as the use of ransom software to force individuals, corporations, or municipalities to pay up (usually in Bitcoin) or have their server files permanently erased. This has happened to dozens of cities around the world, most recently New Orleans and Atlanta. In other cases, it leads to new takes on “traditional” crime, such as the online exploitation of children (cyber grooming). Whereas child abuse in the physical world involves sexual interactions with an acquainted child (family member or friend) through the use of persuasion, manipulation, or coercion, technology has revolutionized this form of crime, allowing offenders to exploit many more children worldwide. Offenders exploit social media platforms where young people interact (Instagram, TikTok, Imgur, SnapChat, etc) to develop relationships with minors through the use of cyber-specific social engineering techniques (see Mann, 2017; Stewart & Dawson, 2018) for purposes of abuse. This includes everything from blackmail, financial fraud, and sexual exploitation in person (by convincing a minor to physically meet up) or online (by manipulating them to produce compromising photos). Similar techniques have been used to victimize the elderly and the technologically uninitiated.

Implications for Criminology

What are the consequences of these trends for our discipline? Are we conducting the kind of research and training the kinds of scholars needed to ensure the relevance of the field as technological development continues to accelerate? We know criminals will adapt and innovate. Law enforcement, service providers, and industry will try to keep up. Will criminologists? There are three areas where criminology needs to evolve in response to crime exponentiation to remain relevant to policy and prevention.

Theoretical Development

Most recent work in our field assumes traditional criminological theories are adequate to describe and predict emerging forms of technology-based offending, but they do so without taking into consideration the extent to which human cognition and behavior are altered in response to technology-governed environments (Parsons, 2017). Though humans are uniquely capable of engaging in complex symbolic reasoning – one of the attributes that allows us to operate in online environments in the first place – our brains employ cognitive maps built on physical-world assumptions about time, distance, volume, etc. (Williams, et al., 2009; Velmans, 1990). By design, cyberspace, virtual reality, social networks, etc., violate the assumptions that form the basis for such maps. They are frequently designed to purposely bypass perceptual or interactional processes that would otherwise hinder more efficient or rapid communication, entertainment, and commercial activities. This suggests two implications for criminological theory.

First, criminology has a long-standing tradition of understanding crime as a geographical and place-bounded phenomenon (see Eck & Weisburd, 2015). Currently, we see place as physical (three dimensional, concrete, geographical) and social (interactional, perceptual, cultural). When we talk of place in the criminological sense, we ask ourselves how the “location” of offenders and victims drives or inhibits crime. It matters “where” offenses are planned and enacted, where victims congregate, live, and move, and so forth. But this conceptualization is limited to understanding crime anchored in a physical world. A core challenge of addressing crime is that it increasingly occurs in technology-based environments that violate traditional, physical world notions of distance, space, and time. Interacting with others online may now take place without having to consider appearance, physical closeness, maintaining eye contact, or attenuating your voice. Such mundane precursors to social interactions are actually critical to proper social functioning in the physical world, and are baked in to the vast majority of criminological theories that have anything to say about the behavior of offenders and victims.

It is important to remember that brains evolve at the speed of biology, with functional adaptations occurring over millennia of natural selection. Lately, this evolutionary adaptation of the brain has been outstripped by the exponential advancement of technology, which currently progress on the order of years, months, and even weeks (see Kurzweil, 2000, 2005; see also Raikov, 2018). Consequently, the human brain is a biologically constrained cognitive apparatus – optimized for a physical world, but limited in its capacity to respond to an ever-changing technological one (Saniotis et al., 2014). This introduces criminogenic asymmetries between knowledgeable offenders and inexperienced victims that can be further exacerbated by the ability of technology to amplify offending. This creates natural conditions for criminality and abuse across a variety of offenses unaccounted for in many current criminological theories.

Second, theories should be assessed on the basis of how they can explain offending online, offline, or across both environments. The following framework is a starting point. It depicts how offenders and victims overlap in a world that includes the technological contexts.
It posits baseline components – offenders and victims, and technological contexts (virtual reality, online platforms, cyberspace) all embedded within the physical world – for the development of concepts and theories related to crime – and acknowledges that offenders and victims may behave differently whether they’re operating in physical or tech-based worlds. Importantly, the framework is not designed to describe cybercrime or technology-based crime but all crime, because it comprehensively includes both technology contexts and the physical world within which they are embedded. Thus, while traditional theories of crime causation fit within the model where offenders and victims overlap exclusively in the physical world, (e.g., robbery), the inclusion of the technology now expands the potential for theory development to accommodate cyber-exclusive offending (such as hacking) as well as offenses that occur in both spaces (e.g., cybergrooming, where offenders seduce children online, then victimize them in person later).

In the future, criminological theory development will have to account for whether an offense takes place wholly, partially, or not at all within the confines of technology “spaces”. It will also have to contend with the need for criminologists to rethink basic assumptions about human behavior and social systems undergirding existing hypotheses about crime causation as technology becomes a greater factor in the daily lives of people.

**Data**

Criminologists rely heavily on federal data made available by the reporting of local agencies (e.g., the UCR, NIBERS) or via surveys (e.g., the NCVS). As crime exponentiation continues to take hold, traditional sources of data will likely represent a decreasing proportion of all crime committed. How much is hard to say because we have very little systematic, comprehensive, or timely data on cybercrime. Although it is widely accepted that “traditional” crime has decreased in recent decades (see Griffiths & Norris, 2020, Tcherni-Buzzeo, 2019), we have some evidence that cybercrimes have not followed this trend (Van Dijk, Tseloni, and Farrell 2012), and that the rate of cybercrime as a percentage of all recorded crime has been steadily increasing over the past decade (Caneppele and Aebi 2019; Levi et al. 2017; Levi 2017). However, such evidence is neither comprehensive nor systematic, and we lack a good grasp on the nature of this change. Consequently, we don’t have critical basic research insights into the nature of cybercrime, how effective we are at combating new forms of crime, or where our resources to do so belong.

If criminology is to meet the challenge of crime exponentiation we will need new forms of data to test theories, and measure different forms of crime and the effectiveness of interventions. Unfortunately, this is a historical weakness for the field (see Rosenfeld, 2011) even without considering the challenges presented by crime exponentiation. A great deal of technology-based crime goes unmeasured for two reasons. First, traditional datasets are heavily dependent on physical world-based notions of crime (e.g., geography, addresses, etc). As mentioned previously, this categorization is incongruent with the description of typical online-based offenses. When your bank account is hacked, did it happen in Estonia where the hacker lives? In Finland, where they used a virtual private network to re-route the hack? In Atlanta, where you live? Or in Charlotte, where the bank is headquartered? Are you the victim or is the bank?

Second, a great deal of online criminal behavior goes uncounted by the law enforcement agencies who contribute to (for example) the UCR. Readers of this essay are more likely to have had their credit card information stolen than have been robbed at gun point. Most will have reported the robbery to the police, but not the credit card hack. That is because in most cases, the credit card processor identifies the breach before the user is aware of it, assures them they are not responsible, and absorbs the loss. Even if you want to file a report, local law enforcement does not have the resources to do much about it. In fact, most investigations of hacks and online fraud are handled internally by credit card companies, without involving law enforcement. They essentially own the data, but it contributes nothing to our understanding of tech-based crime. In the absence of this critical information we may have
witnessed a crime shift rather than a crime drop, a classic "dark figure of crime" dilemma (Biderman & Reiss, 1967).

These issues were peripherally acknowledged by Lauritsen and Corker (2017) in their assessment of the current state of crime data for the National Academies Report on the Future of Crime Statistics and Measurement (2016). In that report, they recognize the current data infrastructure and architecture is ill-suited to identifying patterns in technology-enabled crime. Unfortunately, their recommendations provide minimal guidelines for accommodating the distributed nature of cybercrimes. These include incorporating incident attributes such as "extraterritoriality" and "multiple jurisdictions" as well as whether offenses are "cybercrime-related" but this leaves many tech-based difficult to enumerate and categorize. Certainly, it is insufficient to facilitate the development of a "…modern crime classification" framework. Moreover, there is tacit acknowledgment that current data structures will have difficulty incorporating emerging forms of crime because they are based on a long-standing conceptualization of offending based on an even longer standing legal system that itself is struggling to adapt to crime exponentiation (and which is also "place-bound"; see Lloyd, 2017, Sunde, 2017).

Referring to the need to properly modernize crime statistics, Lauritsen and Corker (2017) state, “Much of this effort will require collaborative efforts among local, state, and federal agencies (both law enforcement and others) in part because administrative and regulatory data are the only source of information about some offenses in the classification" (p. 1086). The NAS report also recommends, "For ‘new’ offenses in particular, reference to either police report or victimization data is likely not the best or most accurate approach to get a sense of levels (both counts and characteristics) and trends in specific offenses. Hence, new systems will be necessary to begin to develop estimates [for non-traditional crimes]…a crime statistics clearinghouse function to obtain and compile data from external sources including other federal or state agencies." (pg. 44).

There are two things missing from these recommendations. The first is an acknowledgment that tech-enabled crime often manifests itself in ways that transcend traditional geographical and place-based notions of crime. The second is that a significant proportion of relevant data on tech-enabled crime is held not by "federal or state agencies" but private corporations. FinTech and mobile payments companies, banks, social media companies, and internet service providers all retain massive stores of data related to technology-enabled hacks, thefts, extortions, ransoms, espionage, and even terrorism. Because these data are never incorporated into existing sources we are likely underestimating crime overall and tech-related crime in particular.

The NAS report recommends a crime statistics clearinghouse approach. We agree but would advocate that it operates as a partnership between government, academia, and private companies. Academic institutions (e.g., criminology departments) could be certified by the government with processes used to qualify census data centers to serve as trusted repositories between government and corporations, merging data provided by both, anonymizing it where necessary, to produce timely data, analysis, and reports. A good mechanism for advancing such efforts would for clearinghouses to be guided by a Federal Advising Committee on Cyber- and Tech-Enabled Crime (FACTE), jointly overseen by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and convened initially by the Executive branch. The FACTE would be made up of academic and agency researchers and industry representatives with the goal of advising a pre-approved consortium of academic institutions on how to house a joint dataset, what to include in it, and how it should be used.

Training

If Criminology is to claim a central role in addressing crime exponentiation, a final imperative is to change how we train emerging criminologists. A great strength of criminology is its status as a field of study rather than a discipline. This means we are at liberty to mine ideas and methods from any other disciplines as they pertain to the commission of or response to crime (Sutherland, 1934). Technology-related crime has yet to become a major focus of our field, ceding purview to other disciplines like computer science, information systems, and engineering, none of which maintains strong traditions of theorizing about human behavior and social systems. Beyond the fact that this leaves our discipline playing a secondary role in addressing crime exponentiation, there are serious consequences flowing from addressing crime without the benefit of a criminological lens.

Criminological institutions should take advantage of the inherent flexibility afforded us as a field by incorporating previously ignored disciplines into our curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels, with new courses on cybercrime, cybersecurity, future crime, crime science, and big data, as well as courses on emergent technologies such as artificial intelligence, IoT, augmented and virtual reality, blockchain technology, etc. Though nascent, examples of this kind of adaptation can already be seen in various research institutions such as The Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group at Georgia State University, The Dawes Centre for Future Crime at University College London, the International Cyber-Crime Research Centre at Simon Fraser University, the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law, and Singularity University.
CONCLUSION

Crime exponentiation presents a major challenge to society. The best analogy is to climate change where the delay of action risks irreversible damage. This requires greater urgency and a willingness to reexamine how we proceed as a field. If we progress incrementally, clinging on to traditional approaches for conceptualizing, measuring, and responding to crime, we may be on a path to increasing irrelevance and stagnation. We would argue such a response is untenable for the sake of the field and for the sake of understanding and controlling crime. This piece has not been a cautionary essay about the “nature of cyber-crime” or “the dangers of the internet”. It’s too late for that. Technology-enabled crime has been a problem for years, but its recent accelerated advancement is now poised to present monumental challenges. Moreover, as new financial, social, and operational platforms emerge and proliferate novel forms of as yet unimagined crime will develop, in ways we are currently ill-suited to deal with. To address that challenge, we need to create a nimble, flexible, and responsive intellectual infrastructure at multiple levels, simultaneously and soon. The bedrock of that infrastructure – theory, data, and training – are critical components of a strategy to ensure we are not left behind.

2 From 1999 to 2019, Criminology published only one article related to cybercrime (i.e., Maimon, et al., 2014).
3 https://ebcs.gsu.edu/
4 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/jill-dando-institute/research/dawes-centre-future-crime
5 https://www.sfu.ca/icccrc.html
6 https://www.nscr.nl/en/
7 https://www.mpicc.de/en/
8 https://su.org/


Health Criminology: New Developments in an Emerging Paradigm

Michael G. Vaughn, Dylan B. Jackson, Alexander Testa, Katie Holzer, Lisa Jaegers, & Daniel C. Semenza

The long-term human and economic costs of being caught up in the criminal justice system can be enormous, especially regarding health outcomes. For instance, findings indicate that individuals with a history of incarceration have increased risk for mortality, chronic health problems, risky lifestyles, stress-related illness, obesity, and overall lower self-reported health (Binswanger, Stern, Deyo, & Heagerty, 2007; Massoglia & Pridemore, 2015; Massoglia & Remster, 2019; Porter, 2014; Wildeman & Wang, 2017). These effects appear to extend to family members, as parental incarceration is associated with poor health behaviors, behavioral problems, and mental and physical health challenges among offspring (Jackson & Vaughn, 2017; Turney & Goodsell, 2018; Wildeman, Goldman & Turney, 2018).

These findings have resulted in growing recognition and interest in the intersection of health and criminology. For example, a bibliometric analysis using Google Scholar reveals that scholarly publications mentioning both health and criminology increased substantially between 2005 and 2019. Although most of the growth involves mentions of mental health, there has also been a steady increase in research that specifically mentions physical health (Figure 1). This total growth is especially apparent in criminology journals, such as Justice Quarterly (10 search matches in 2005; 95 matches in 2019) and the Journal of Quantitative Criminology (10 matches in 2005; 43 matches in 2019). However, articles that mention both health and criminology have decreased in Criminology from 25 matches in 2005 down to 3 in 2019.

Illuminating the intersections between criminology and health is an inherently collaborative enterprise. One way to advance this multifaceted body of work is via academic research networks. An increase in research partnerships between criminologists and scholars from allied disciplines is sorely needed. Such partnerships would improve our understanding of the causes, correlates, and distribution of health-related outcomes and ascertain the effectiveness of prevention, clinical intervention, and policy at the intersection of health and justice systems. In order to address the multi-level, multi-domain intersections of health, crime, and the criminal justice system, the Health Criminology Research Consortium (HCRC) was started in 2017. The HCRC is an interdisciplinary collaboration of researchers investigating the nexus of health, crime and the criminal justice system, focusing on how to improve effectiveness in prevention, clinical intervention and policy. Currently, the core institutional partners are Saint Louis University (College for Public Health and Social Justice), Johns Hopkins University (Bloomberg School of Public Health), and the University of Texas at San Antonio (Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice). A key goal of the HCRC is to develop a social network that can leverage intellectual and social capital to advance theoretical and empirical understanding of the health and well-being of justice-involved populations and their families. At present, the HCRC comprises over 40 research partners, including scholars from disciplines such as criminology and criminal justice, public health, sociology, psychology, epidemiology and biostatistics, medicine, nursing, occupational science, psychiatry, and social work.

HCRC members are well poised to advance the trajectory of health criminology in the years to come, given their engagement with and study of marginalized populations who are at elevated risk of drug use, violence, and health challenges directly related to public safety and well-being over the life-course. Furthermore, the collective expertise of HCRC members is vital in facilitating the advancement of local and national efforts in research-based decision making that leads to more effective policy, practices, and outcomes at the intersection of health (behavioral, mental, and physical) and criminal justice institutions.
In this article, we highlight the value of applying a life course lens to this area of study, the importance of and the challenges associated with community embeddedness and engagement, and the vision for enhancing academic partnerships that focus on health and justice issues in the future.

Importance of the life course

Life-course research on the connection between crime, criminal justice involvement, and health has largely taken a “back-end” focus that prioritizes health consequences in adulthood (Jackson & Vaughn 2018). That is, the focus has typically centered on correctional health, or the health consequences of incarceration, criminal justice contact, and/or chronic offending during adulthood. This is mainly because Moffitt (2006: p. 57) persuasively argued that “the life-course-persistent antisocial individual will be at a high risk in midlife for poor physical health, cardiovascular disease, and early disease morbidity and mortality.” Piquero, Farrington, & Blumstein (2007a, p. 211) also suggested that “one aspect of involvement in crime – especially frequent and serious criminal activity – that has escaped the imagination of many criminal career researchers is the effect of crime on health”. Relatedly, Piquero and colleagues (2007b: p. 201) advocated for research “exploring the extent to which race and gender condition the relationships among offending, antisocial lifestyles, and adverse health outcomes.” They go on to state that “such an investigation is relevant not only because of the established sex and race differences in health and criminal activity, but also because Moffitt anticipates important race and sex differences with regard to life-course-persistent offending” (2007b: p. 201).

In recent years, the arguments of Moffitt (2006) and Piquero et al. (2007) have been investigated (Massoglia & Remster, 2019; Piquero et al. 2014; Porter 2014; Vaughn, Salas-Wright, DeLisi, and Piquero 2014), but research examining the role of health risks during infancy and childhood on offending and criminal justice contact has been rarely examined by criminologists (Jackson, Newsome, Vaughn, & Johnson, 2018; Jackson & Vaughn, 2017; Vaske et al., 2015). In short, studies assessing the extent to which early health promotion efforts might assist in curtailing early offending behaviors and criminal justice contact are in short supply (Jackson & Vaughn, 2018). The lack of research in this area is perplexing in light of a commentary by Brandon Welsh and David Farrington (2015) reviewing the significant financial benefits of developmental crime prevention (i.e., monetary benefits far outweigh the costs), including strategies explicitly designed to improve children’s mental, physical, and emotional health before offending behaviors begin or worsen (e.g., Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Thus, while there is evidence for the effectiveness of developmental crime prevention efforts centered on child health, original criminological research on the intersection between child health, delinquency, and justice involvement remains sparse.

The implications of racial and socioeconomic disparities in health during the early life course for offending and early-onset criminal justice system exposure have been largely ignored by criminologists. This is surprising given the evidence showing that the social and developmental consequences of poor health are stratified by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status (Braveman & Barclay, 2009). A more complete integration of health disparities research into the study of early involvement in crime and early contact with the criminal justice system is long overdue. Such integrative work can elevate theorizing on the developmental origins of crime and enrich policy initiatives designed to prevent crime. Ultimately, a more holistic approach to developmental crime prevention that assesses the health and wellbeing of children is necessary to move this literature forward and create better alignment between criminal justice and public health policy.

Community Embeddedness

One of the key features of successful academic partnerships is community embeddedness. Examples include academic physicians, occupational therapists, and other researchers working in local jails on research concerning women offender’s health issues, insurance linkage for arrestees with serious mental illness, and correctional officer stress. The implementation of HIV prevention and medication assisted treatment in jails and prisons cannot be effective without this embeddedness (Brinkley-Rubinstein, 2015). These connections go beyond mere community input in that they are characterized by consistent involvement that promotes trusting and respectful relationships. A systematic review of community-academic partnerships indicates that primary facilitating factors were the positive, trusting and respectful nature of the partnership (Drahota et al., 2016). Not surprisingly, one of the most frequently cited challenges is the time commitment necessary in building these relationships (Drahota et al., 2016). Fortunately, there is ample precedent in criminology for research-practitioner partnerships (Bales, Scaggs, Clark, Ensley, & Coltharp, 2014; Petersilia, 2008; Tilyer et al., 2014; Rudes, Viglione, Lerch, Porter, & Taxman, 2014).

Given the difficulty of working with marginalized populations, however, these relationships can never be taken for granted. Prior research, for example, highlights the challenges and paradoxes within the researcher-community partnerships, finding that the major issues pertain to participation and community consent, power and privilege, racism and ethnic discrimination, and the assumption that research can be used for social change (Wallerstein & Duran, 2006; Wallerstein, Duran, Minkler, & Foley, 2005). Tensions arising from these issues can challenge the mutuality of the research relationship. Key questions remain:
1) What is the infrastructure needed to bring together university, community, and government stakeholders to unify efforts towards justice reform and educate the larger community about these efforts?

2) What research initiatives will most effectively see the productive return of justice-involved individuals to communities and, perhaps more importantly, prevent offending trajectories in their earliest possible stages?

In addition to their engagement in community-based research, a number of HCRC members productively utilize extant data sources, typically from nationally representative samples, to test hypotheses and explore relationships not easily undertaken with local/smaller samples. While there are data limitations, several national data sets can identify whether an individual has been incarcerated or is under community supervision. We have also undertaken much needed conceptual work on promoting health equity as an avenue towards crime prevention during the early life course (Jackson & Vaughn, 2018). We argue that criminological and public health approaches are complimentary, as each can inform the other. At our first three summits (2017, 2018, 2019) held in St. Louis, MO, many of our academic partners and community practitioners commented on how the cross-fertilized nature of these exchanges was useful in their own work and even inspired them to expand their research vision and networks and initiate new projects. For example, the HCRC has produced an edited volume featuring scholars from around the world specifically targeting the delinquency and health intersection (Vaughn, Salas-Wright, & Jackson, 2019) and has sponsored a series of symposia at the 2019 American Society of Criminology (slated to continue with seven panels for the 2020 conference). Furthermore, the synergy that has emerged among consortium members has resulted in a variety of noteworthy accomplishments, including dozens of manuscripts published by interdisciplinary teams of HCRC members as well as various grant applications and data-sharing activities.

Conclusions

Academic health criminology research partnerships have tremendous untapped potential. Broad networks (such as the HCRC) can leverage intellectual and social capital on increased empirical understanding and enhancing health and well-being among vulnerable populations, including those already involved with the criminal justice system as well as those at elevated risk for health problems and criminal activity across the life course. Despite the promise of such networks, challenges remain. These include the difficulty of obtaining funding, the relative lack of well-characterized health data on justice-involved individuals, and conversely the omission of justice-involvement variables in large-scale health data.

There are a number of future avenues that we are confident will bear fruit. These include neglected areas of research such as the health of individuals in the juvenile justice system and health-related predictors of early involvement in delinquency, police-public health relationships, biomarker assessment of metabolic syndrome among justice-involved individuals, the development of a two-way data pipeline to support data sharing with partners, data trainings, storage, and analysis needs, and increasing the number of criminologists willing to add a health focus to their research repertoire. Some of our current discussions among network members involve COVID-19. These include descriptive research on the epidemiology of the virus among justice-involved populations, and more fundamental questions pertaining to the effects of pandemics on crime rates. Finally, we are examining the feasibility of a peer-reviewed journal that leverages a public health approach to criminological scholarship.

In closing, it is our hope that more academic health criminology partnerships are forged in the future, as these types of networks have the potential to proliferate and produce a significant impact.

Authors Note

If you are interested in learning more about the HCRC, please visit our website at https://www.slu.edu/public-health-social-justice/research/health-criminology-research-consortium.php.

If you are interested in becoming an HCRC research partner, please reach out to the Director of the HCRC, Michael G. Vaughn (email: michael.vaughn@slu.edu).

References


EDITOR’S CORNER

Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology: the journal of the ASC Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology

The expansion, indeed explosion of research on developmental and life-course dimensions of crime and criminal behaviour over the past two decades has fostered the need for developing a specific academic outlet to showcase leading research on these topics. The actual seeds for the Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology can be traced to the establishment of the Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology within the American Society of Criminology in November 2012. During the inaugural meeting of the Division, Adrian Raine raised a proposal to establish a journal for the Division and, as past chair, was charged with the task of exploring the possibility of establishing a new journal linked to the Division. Ultimately, Tara Renae McGee and Paul Mazerolle negotiated a contract with Springer to establish the Journal. The first issue was published in 2015, and represented one of the four issues which are produced annually.

The JDLCC has made significant progress over the past five years. Collectively the journal has published over 120 manuscripts, five thematic issues, and generated over 100,000 paper downloads since 2015. Submissions rates have been consistent and papers are reviewed by a global community of expert reviewers. In the main, most manuscripts are fully reviewed within ten weeks.

An important development and something we have focused on is receiving an Impact Factor rating for the JDLCC. This will happen in 2020. Over the past five years the co-editors, have worked with Springer to prepare the Journal for consideration in the listing of Journals included by Clarivate for an Impact Factor ranking. We are hopeful that this will continue and perhaps increase the existing trend of great manuscripts being submitted to the Journal. This is a great achievement for such a young journal, in its sixth year of existence.

As Co-Editors, a key objective is to publish research which seeks to advance knowledge and understanding of developmental dimensions of offending across the life-course. Research that examines current theories, debates, and knowledge gaps within Developmental and Life-Course Criminology is encouraged. Theoretical papers, empirical papers, and papers that explore the translation of developmental and life-course research into policy and/or practice are welcomed. Papers that present original research or explore new directions for examination are also encouraged. All rigorous methodological approaches are welcomed and orientations and encourage submissions from a broad array of cognate disciplines including but not limited to psychology, statistics, sociology, psychiatry, neuroscience, geography, political science, history, social work, epidemiology, public health, and economics.

To advance knowledge in the field, we have developed thematic special issues on topics of significance in developmental and life-course criminology. The special thematic issues have been very popular and have focused on methodological innovations in developmental and life-course criminology research; gendered experiences in the pathways to crime; and desistance. These are available via the links below. You may want to keep an eye out for upcoming thematic issues on developmental and life-course theories of crime and developmental approaches to crime prevention.

There are also new articles being added regularly to online first, so be sure to check out the latest papers at http://link.springer.com/journal/40865

To be alerted to its publication, you can register for updates to the Journal on the Springer website https://link.springer.com/journal/40865 Use the bell icon ‘Stay up to Date’ about halfway down the page.

The Journal’s co-editors-in-chief are Tara Renae McGee of Griffith University, Australia and Paul Mazerolle of University of New Brunswick, Canada. The Associate Editors are Alex Piquero, USA; Ray Corrado, Canada; Georgia Zara, Europe; and Darrick Jolliffe, UK. The Editorial Manager of the Journal is Fiona Saunders and the journal is hosted by Griffith University. Further information can be found on the journal’s website http://www.springer.com/40865 and any queries can be directed to Tara, Paul, or Fiona at <jdlcc@griffith.edu.au>.

We welcome your submissions!

Tara Renae McGee and Paul Mazerolle
Co-editors
Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology
School of Criminal Justice
Graduate Programs in Criminal Justice

Master of Science (offered online and onsite)
Doctor of Philosophy

Main Areas of Specialization:
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Bonnie S. Fisher | Northwestern University
James Frank | Michigan State University
Cory Haberman | Temple University
Edward J. Latessa | The Ohio State University
Hexuan Liu | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sarah Manchak | University of California, Irvine
Joseph L. Nedelec | Florida State University
Ebony Ruhland | University of Minnesota
Paula Smith | University of New Brunswick
Christopher J. Sullivan | Rutgers University
Lawrence F. Travis, III | University at Albany, SUNY, Emeritus
Patricia Van Voorhis | University at Albany, SUNY, Emeritus
John D. Wooldridge | University of Illinois
John P. Wright | University of Cincinnati
Roger Wright | Chase College of Law, Emeritus
AROUND THE ASC

Accepting nominations for 2020 Awards:

Mentor Award
Teaching Award

Deadlines for all other 2020 award nominations have passed

** These Awards will be presented during the Annual Meeting of the Society. The Society reserves the right to not grant any of these awards during any given year. Award decisions will be based on the strength of the nominees' qualifications and not on the number of nomination endorsements received. Current members of the ASC Board are ineligible to receive any ASC award.**
NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 ASC AWARDS

MENTOR AWARD

The Mentor Award is designed to recognize excellence in mentorship in the discipline of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Nominations of individuals at all stages of their academic careers are encouraged.

Any nonstudent member of the ASC is an eligible candidate for the ASC Mentor Award, including persons who hold a full or part-time position in criminology, practitioners and researchers in nonacademic settings. The award is not limited to those who participate in the ASC mentoring program.

Nonstudent members may be nominated by colleagues, peers, or students but self-nominations are not allowed. A detailed letter of nomination should contain concrete examples and evidence of how the nominee has sustained a record of enriching the professional lives of others, and be submitted to the Chair of the ASC Mentor Award Committee.

The mentorship portfolio should include:

1. Table of contents,
2. Curriculum Vita, and
3. Detailed evidence of mentorship accomplishments, which may include:
   • academic publications
   • professional development
   • teaching
   • career guidance
   • research and professional networks, and
   • other evidence of mentoring achievements.

The letter should specify the ways the nominee has gone beyond his/her role as a professor, researcher or collaborator to ensure successful enculturation into the discipline of Criminology and Criminal Justice, providing intellectual professional development outside of the classroom and otherwise exemplary support for Criminology/Criminal Justice undergraduates, graduates and post-graduates.

Letters of nomination (including statements in support of the nomination), the nominee’s portfolio, and all other supporting materials should be submitted to the Mentor Award Committee Chair in electronic form by June 1.

Committee Chair:  BRENDA SIMS BLACKWELL, Georgia Southern University (912) 478-0202 bblackwell@georgiasouthern.edu

TEACHING AWARD

The Teaching Award is a lifetime-achievement award designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate and/or graduate teaching over the span of an academic career. This award is meant to identify and reward teaching excellence that has been demonstrated by individuals either (a) at one educational institution where the nominee is recognized and celebrated as a master teacher of criminology and criminal justice; or, (b) at a regional or national level as a result of that individual's sustained efforts to advance criminological/criminal justice education.

Any faculty member who holds a full-or part-time position teaching criminology or criminal justice is eligible for the award, inclusive of graduate and undergraduate universities as well as two- and four-year colleges. In addition, faculty members who have retired are eligible within the first two years of retirement.

Faculty may be nominated by colleagues, peers, or students; or they may self-nominate, by writing a letter of nomination to the Chair of the Teaching Award Committee. Letters of nomination should include a statement in support of nomination of not more than three pages. The nominee and/or the nominator may write the statement. Nominees will be contacted by the Chair of the Teaching Award Committee and asked to submit a teaching portfolio of supporting materials.

The teaching portfolios should include:

1. Table of contents,
2. Curriculum Vita, and
3. Detailed evidence of teaching accomplishments, which may include:
   • student evaluations, which may be qualitative or quantitative, from recent years or over the course of the nominee's career
   • peer reviews of teaching
   • nominee statements of teaching philosophy and practices
   • evidence of mentoring
   • evidence of research on teaching (papers presented on teaching, articles published on teaching, teaching journals edited, etc.)
   • selected syllabi
   • letters of nomination/reference, and
   • other evidence of teaching achievements.

The materials in the portfolio should include brief, descriptive narratives designed to provide the Teaching Award Committee with the proper context to evaluate the materials. Student evaluations, for example, should be introduced by a very brief description of the methods used to collect the evaluation data and, if appropriate, the scales used and available norms to assist with interpretation. Other materials in the portfolio should include similar brief descriptions to assist the Committee with evaluating the significance of the materials.

Letters of nomination (including statements in support of nomination) should be submitted to the Teaching Award Committee Chair in electronic format and must be received by April 1. The nominee’s portfolio and all other supporting materials should also be submitted to the Teaching Award Committee Chair in electronic format and must be received by June 1.

Committee Chair:  JORGE CHAVEZ, University of Colorado, Denver (303) 315-6300 jorge.chavez@ucdenver.edu
2020 ELECTION SLATE FOR 2021 - 2022 ASC OFFICERS

The following slate of officers, as proposed by the Nominations Committee, was approved by the ASC Executive Board for the 2020 election:

**President**
Janet Lauritsen, University of Missouri–St. Louis
Jeremy Travis, Arnold Ventures

**Vice President**
Ramiro Martinez, Northeastern University
Jeff Ulmer, Penn State University

**Executive Counselor**
Venessa Garcia, New Jersey City University
Kareem Jordan, American University
Jay Kennedy, Michigan State University
Tom Loughran, Penn State University
Melissa Morabito, UMass Lowell
Sandra Walklate, University of Liverpool

All current (as of April 1 of the voting year) ASC non-student members are eligible to vote in the election of officers. Voting for the 2020 election for 2021-2022 officers opens at 12:01 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Standard Time) on May 1, 2020 and closes at 12:01 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Standard Time) on June 16, 2020.

American Society of Criminology
921 Chatham Lane, Suite 108
Columbus, Ohio 43221
614-826-2000 (Ph)
614-826-3031 (Fax)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2021 ELECTION SLATE OF 2022 - 2023 OFFICERS

The ASC Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the positions of President, Vice-President and Executive Counselor. Nominees must be current members of the ASC at the time of the nomination, and members in good standing for the year prior to the nomination. Send the names of nominees, position for which they are being nominated, and, if possible, a current C.V. to the Chair of the Nominations Committee at the address below (preferably via email). Nominations must be received by June 1, 2020 to be considered by the Committee.

Ineke Marshall
Northeastern University
Sociology & Anthropology/
School of Criminology & Criminal Justice
959 Renaissance Park
Boston, MA 02115
617.373.4988
i.marshall@neu.edu
ASC Hosts Panel at American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference

The American Society of Criminology hosted a panel at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meetings in Seattle, Washington, in February 2020. This high profile venue is the premier general science conference in the nation. There are a limited number of panels and only a handful of social science panels, so ASC's representation on the program is significant. The title of the panel was The Science of Immigration, Crime, and Justice. William Pridemore (University at Albany – SUNY, School of Criminal Justice), who is ASC’s Liaison to AAAS, organized and moderated the panel. Charis Kubrin (UC-Irvine, Department of Criminology, Law, and Society), Min Xie (University of Maryland, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice), and Cecilia Menjivar (UCLA, Department of Sociology) were presenters. Alexes Harris (University of Washington, Department of Sociology) was discussant. After accepting the panel for the program, the AAAS Scientific Program Committee selected the panel to have its own press briefing (about 10% of all panels are selected for these briefings).

Kubrin presented research that used state-level panel containing violent and property offenses from 1970 through 2018 to assess the impact on crime rates when California became the first sanctuary state following the passage of California Senate Bill 54. Xie presented research that accounted for how crime might be underreported to police in areas of immigrant concentration, using data from the Area-Identified National Crime Victimization Survey to integrate multiple theoretical perspectives to understand patterns of violent and property crime reporting in immigrant neighborhoods. Menjivar used information gathered from interviews with lawyers and immigrant women, and from experiences assisting these immigrants in the asylum process, to examine the process of migration, asylum seeking, and detention among Central American immigrant women as seen through the lens of violence, describing how these women's experiences represent a continuum of violence from their societies of origin to their destination, including the U.S. detention system.

Pridemore is currently preparing ASC’s proposal for the 2021 AAAS meeting. The theme is “Understanding Dynamic Ecosystems,” and the meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona.
THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON CRIME AND JUSTICE

Call for Papers for 2021 Special Issue

The COVID-19 crisis has and will have a significant impact on society. The impacts of the pandemic on the criminal and juvenile justice systems are already evident in changes to police department services and operations, corrections and incarcerated populations, court operations, resource availability for vulnerable populations, and ongoing justice reform efforts. Substantial adjustments to social and economic routines and resources could also impact crime and disorder.

Research will be needed to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on all facets of crime, criminal justice operations, and policy. To encourage inquiry in this area, the Editors in Chief of Criminology & Public Policy seek studies that examine the impacts of COVID-19 on crime and justice. Accepted papers will appear in a special issue to be published in 2021, and select papers will be featured in a congressional briefing at the U.S. Capitol.

Papers for this special issue must be submitted through the ScholarOne online submission site for Criminology & Public Policy (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/capp) no later than April 1, 2021. All papers will go through CPP’s normal peer-review process. For questions about this call for papers, please contact the Editors in Chief, below.

CYNTHIA LUM AND CHRISTOPHER KOPER
Editors in Chief, Criminology & Public Policy
George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law and Society
Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy
cllum@gmu.edu; ckoper2@gmu.edu
https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17459133
The Division of Terrorism and Bias Crimes is committed to advancing the scientific study on Terrorism and Bias Crimes, testing innovation in the field, and promoting excellence in practice through translational activities. The most effective way to achieve such a mission is through the creation of a global network of scholars, practitioners, policy makers, community leaders, and students. We hope that the Division will be such a network, and we hope your expertise and participation will add to our Division’s mission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The DTBC is hoping that you and your families are well during this difficult time.

You can become a member of the Division by completing the form located at [https://www.asc41.com/appform1.html](https://www.asc41.com/appform1.html) and sending to asc@asc41.com.

Do you need help with your syllabus? Check out our syllabus repository here: [http://ascterrorism.org/syllabi/](http://ascterrorism.org/syllabi/).

Interested in being a member of a DTBC-sponsored panel this year at ASC? Please email us at jcarson@ucmo.edu for more information.

Follow us on Twitter: @ascterrorism

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The DTBC is now seeking nominations for both the Distinguished Scholar Award and the Student Paper Award. The deadline for nomination is June 1st, 2020. If you have any questions about the Distinguished Scholar award, please contact the Committee Chair, Jeff Gruenewald (jgruenew@uark.edu); questions about the Student Paper Award can be directed to the Committee Chair, Carla Lewandowski (lewandowskic@rowan.edu).

More information and the guidelines about the awards can be found on the division website.
VISIT THE WEBSITES FOR THE ASC DIVISIONS FOR THE MOST CURRENT DIVISION INFORMATION

Division of BioPsychoSocial Criminology
https://bpscrim.org/

Division of Communities and Place
https://communitiesandplace.org/

Division of Cybercrime
(website coming soon)

Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology
https://dlccrim.org/

Division of Experimental Criminology
https://expcrim.org/

Division of International Criminology
https://internationalcriminology.com/

Division of Policing
https://ascpolicing.org/

Division of Rural Criminology
https://divisionofruralcriminology.org/

Division of Victimology
https://ascdov.org/

Division of White Collar and Corporate Crime
https://ascdwcc.org/

Division on Corrections & Sentencing
https://ascdcs.org/

Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice
https://divisiononcriticalcriminology.com/

Division on People of Color & Crime
https://ascdpcc.org/

Division on Terrorism & Bias Crimes
https://ascterrorism.org/

Division on Women & Crime
https://ascdwc.com/
The new approach to developing policy panels for the 2020 meetings seems to have worked reasonably well with a number of interesting panels being proposed from the membership. The Policy Committee reviewed the submissions and accepted a number as policy panels. Next year we will work with the ASC staff to develop a more seamless integration of this new application process with the automated submission system.

Washington Update 4/1/2020

The Washington Update was prepared for the Crime and Justice Research Alliance by Liliana Coronado of the Brimley Group.

The past several months have seen many changes in Washington. Toward the end of last year, Congress passed the FY2020 omnibus spending package and the President signed it into law. It funded the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) at $43,000,000 and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) at $36,000,000, with an additional set aside. Congressional report language urging DOJ to re-establish the Science Advisory Board (SAB) was included. While the Violence Against Women Act has not been reauthorized, Congress increased funding to $500 million, a historic high. Also of note is the fact that federal “Ban the Box” legislation was included as part of the FY2020 defense spending bill, which prohibits the federal government and federal contractors from asking about the criminal history of a job applicant prior to the extension of a conditional offer of employment.

Appropriations for FY2021 are underway. CJRA requested a $5 million increase in funding for BJS and NIJ, which have seen decreases in their accounts over the past decade. Of note is the fact that the President’s budget request included an increase of 21% for NIJ. Because Congress has been focusing on the coronavirus pandemic for the past several weeks and we expect that they will continue to do so, the appropriations process will likely be delayed. Congressional hearings may need to be conducted via video and all staff and members of Congress are working remotely at this time. CJRA and COSSA have been corresponding with Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Sullivan regarding missing and delayed BJS reports. Sullivan sent a response to the original inquiry, and CJRA and COSSA also responded, making further inquiries and providing a list of missing or delayed reports.

Before the national emergency triggered by the coronavirus, Washington was continuing to work on criminal justice matters, with Congressional hearings and the formation of the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, which includes representation from law enforcement officials from around the country. Congress also passed S. 3201, a bill that extended the temporary scheduling of fentanyl and fentanyl like substances for 15 months, which the President signed into law earlier this year.

But March saw the focus, understandably, shift to responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Congress has spent much of March passing legislation to address the fallout from the crisis. This past month saw the President declare a national emergency, and Congress pass three large coronavirus packages in an effort to address multiple aspects of the crisis, including an economic stimulus package, expansion of family and paid sick leave, and expansion of unemployment benefits for workers impacted by the coronavirus. The last package also contained provisions that would allow the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to expand home confinement, and it provided for personal protective equipment to the BOP, and video visitation for incarcerated individuals. It also allows for video teleconferencing in certain court proceedings. Congress also made supplemental emergency appropriations to numerous agencies, including an additional $100 million to the BOP and $850 million for state and local governments to help them respond to the pandemic, as well as increases to other agencies such as the DEA and the federal judiciary. The President signed the third package into law on March 27th. Attorney General Barr quickly issued guidance for home confinement determinations, which advised the BOP to prioritize individuals whose risk of recidivism is minimum, as scored by the risk assessment tool developed pursuant to the First Step Act (PATTERN). Barr also recently issued a new directive to the BOP to give priority to the institutions that are being hardest hit by the virus (FCIs Oakdale, Danbury and Elkton). Congress is already working on a fourth package, which we expect will include additional criminal justice measures.

Many advocates and stakeholders have expressed grave concerns around how prisons and jails are addressing the crisis, and urging counties and states to release vulnerable individuals, suspend arrests, and set bail as much as possible. In addition, pressure on state prison systems to provide free video visitation and telephone calls, given the need to suspend visits, has grown. Numerous jurisdictions have already made systemic changes to their correctional systems in an effort to respond to the crisis, but more is needed. Several members of Congress have introduced bills that would cut telephone rates for incarcerated individuals and expand the release of vulnerable individuals. It remains to be seen what provisions will make it into the fourth package.
Media Update 4/1/2020

The Media Relations Update was prepared for the Crime and Justice Research Alliance by Caitlin Kizielewicz.

In February and March, CJRA promoted the Criminology & Public Policy study, “Demonstrations, demoralization, and de-policing,” by Christopher Marler and Lorie Fridell. Nearly half a dozen reporters requested the press release and a copy of the full report. The Alliance also promoted the Justice Evaluation Journal study, “Sanctuary Status and Crime in California: What’s the Connection?,” by Charis Kubrin and Bradley Bartos. CJRA also finalized a template for the new one-page initiative, which will feature a summary of research findings, experts and resources on timely issues from additional journals from ASC and ACJS.

Over the last two months, CJRA secured more than 30 opportunities for CJRA experts to speak with reporters and secured more than a dozen media placements through outreach to more than 860 reporters. Interviews were secured with national media outlets and regional press, including FOX News, Vox, The Guardian and others. The Alliance reached out to dozens of reporters on a variety of angles surrounding COVID-19, including the impact of the pandemic on policing, courtrooms, domestic violence during quarantine and others. CJRA was looking forward to participating in the Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA) Advocacy Day and the ACJS annual meeting in San Antonio, but both events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

CJRA continues to distribute its monthly newsletter to reporters, policymakers, researchers and practitioners in the field. To stay informed of the latest efforts by CJRA, sign up for the monthly newsletter or follow the Alliance on Twitter @cjralliance. Here is a link to sign-up for the newsletter https://emailmarketing.fp1strategies.com/h/d/B6AA25B91CB0D15B
 Ranked #2 by US News and World Report in 2019

Susan Turner, MAS Director

MAS Faculty 2019-2020

Hillary Berk, Assistant Professor of Teaching in Criminology, Law and Society
  Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley; J.D. Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College

Terry Dalton, Associate Professor of Teaching in Criminology, Law and Society
  Ph.D., J.D. University of Denver

Sora Han, Associate Professor of Criminology, Law and Society
  Ph.D. University of California, Santa Cruz, J.D. University of California, Los Angeles

Valerie Jenness, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, Sociology, and Nursing Science
  Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara

Paul Jesilow, Professor Emeritus of Criminology, Law and Society
  Ph.D. University of California, Irvine

Richard McCleary, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and Environmental Health, Science, and Policy
  Ph.D. Northwestern University

Emily Owens, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and Economics
  Ph.D. University of Maryland at College Park

Henry Pontell, Professor Emeritus of Criminology, Law and Society
  Ph.D. Stony Brook University

Nancy Rodriguez, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and Law
  Ph.D. Washington State University

Bryan Sykes, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology Law and Society
  Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley

Susan Turner, Professor of Criminology Law and Society
  Ph.D. University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Reducing Racial Disparities in Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Program Recruitment

Katherine Wilson-McCoy

Introduction

While many undergraduate Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) programs in the US have high enrollment rates across all racial groups (Gabbidon, Penn, & Richards, 2003; Tontodonato, 2006), the enrollment rate at the graduate level is comparatively low for African Americans (Frost & Clear, 2007; Updegrove, Cooper, & Greene, 2017). In a 5-year analysis of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, Updegrove and colleagues (2017) discovered that the average completion rate for black Americans decreased by 9 percent from the bachelor’s level to the doctoral level, while 85 percent of white students completed a doctoral degree. This disparity is problematic because it creates the perception that the CCJ field is biased (Young, 1995). It also inhibits the further development of scholarly literature from the black perspective (Gabbidon, Greene, & Wilder, 2004). Last, it is important to note that while blacks are overrepresented as victims and offenders in the criminal justice system (Lantigua-Williams, 2016), they are underrepresented in the field most responsible for influencing criminal justice policies and practices. In a survey of several hundred upper-level CCJ majors, Cooper, Updegrove, & Bouffard (2019) found that the following factors affect students’ intentions to pursue a graduate degree in CCJ: a dislike of reading, writing, and statistics; a perception of racial tension on campus; and greater encouragement to attend graduate school. The purpose of this essay is to explore these factors to better understand racial disparities in CCJ graduate recruitment, and to advise black students on how to effectively and positively navigate graduate school, considering these issues.

A Dislike of Reading, Writing, and Statistics

An advanced workload serves as a deterrent in deciding to attend graduate school (Mears, Scaggs, Ladny, Lindsey, & Ranson, 2015). More specifically, the dislike of reading, writing, and statistics at the undergraduate level carries over to the graduate level. Ample research suggests that compared to their white peers, students of color have not been provided the necessary tools to be successful in these areas. Schools in disadvantaged neighborhoods, typically with high dissimilarity indices, do not have the resources to adequately educate students. For example, schools with predominately African American and Latino students are twice as likely to employ unqualified teachers than majority white schools (Wilkins et al., 2006). As a result, these students begin their academic career at a competitive disadvantage, which makes it more difficult for them to succeed compared to affluent or white students benefiting from cumulative advantage. Indeed, students who attend schools in poor districts are perceived as less academically appealing to predominately white institutions (Wilson, 2012); consequently, students of color are forced to attend less competitive academic institutions (Carnevale & Strohl, 2013).

In their recent piece, Cooper et al. (2019) recommend that CCJ faculty create non-intimidating strategies to strengthen students’ skills in areas that will allow them to compete and succeed at the graduate level. This can include pairing students who are struggling with students excelling in their classes (i.e., a peer mentoring program), as peers’ function in a non-threatening role can provide guidance in more informal settings. Conversely, students who are struggling academically can also take the initiative to improve in these areas by connecting with excelling students for mentoring purposes, study groups, or tutoring sessions. Additionally, most universities offer free reading and math tutoring sessions, of which students can take advantage. A recent study found that like-minded peer connections provide, among other functions, educational and academic support, tutoring, and assistance with navigating programs (McDougal, Cox, Dorley, & Wodaje, 2018).

A Perception of Racial Tension on Campus

Racial contention also plays a key role in black students’ inclination and ability to attend graduate school. According to Unnever and Gabbidon (2011), the continued exposure to discrimination is the main component in the development of African Americans’ understanding of what it means to be black in a racist society. This exposure is prevalent in every aspect of American culture, including the educational system. Schools were not desegregated until the 1950s, and most schools did not fully segregate until the 1970s (Hanushek, Kain, & Rivkin, 2009). For many black students, experiences of racial discrimination, hostility, and isolation are a reality of attending predominately white institutions. For example, 50 percent of African Americans in CCJ programs felt that their instructors were racially insensitive (Bing III, Heard, & Gilbert, 1995). Further, 60 percent of black students in CCJ programs felt that their professors were insensitive to content involving race, about half felt that they had been racially discriminated against by their white professors, and 25 percent reported noticing overt hostility on majority white campuses (Heard & Bing III, 1993). The resistance
to blacks attending predominately white institutions of higher learning has ensured that students experience daily reminders that they are not accepted or wanted in these spaces (Ladson-Billings, 1998). Many black students have reported experiencing stress and racial isolation as a result of these experiences (Ellis, 2001; McClain & Cokley, 2017; & Smith et al., 2007).

It is imperative that both black and non-black students report racially insensitive or discriminatory comments from professors to the appropriate department. Every University’s policies and procedures for filing a formal complaint may be different, therefore, students should first contact the head of their department or advisor and follow the necessary procedures. Students should also seek out safe spaces to discuss racial issues. One of the ways this can be achieved is by joining and supporting black student organizations. According to a study examining factors that affect student engagement and success among black college students, 34 percent of respondents cited their peers, specifically same-race peers, as one of their biggest sources of support and reasons for their success (McDougal, Cox, Dorley, & Wodaje, 2018). These students felt a sense of relief from being able to share their thoughts and frustrations with other students who are able to understand and relate to them. Additionally, the students explained that like-minded students can also help one another with academic assignments and with learning how to successfully navigate their academic programs (McDougal, Cox, Dorley, & Wodaje, 2018).

**Encouragement to Attend**

Last, encouragement to attend graduate school increases students’ likelihood of pursuing a graduate education. This can simply take the form of faculty members reaching out to promising undergraduate students and encouraging them to attend graduate school. Research has shown that certain individuals are often responsible for nurturing the idea to attend graduate school for students (Gardner & Holley, 2011); in particular, individuals who are in a social and cultural position to assist students in the application process. Mentorship plays a key role in the success of students (Crawford, 2011; Peterson, 1999), and in the case of black students, same-race mentorship would ensure that students see representations of themselves in a career that they wish to pursue. In the aforementioned study on factors that influence student engagement and success among black college students, almost half of black students have reported feeling that their largest source of support is the population of black faculty members on campus (McDougal, Cox, Dorley, & Wodaje, 2018). The lack of black students completing CCJ graduate programs, however, has resulted in a shortage of black faculty members employed, and consequently, few black students will have an opportunity to have a mentor who shares the same race and cultural experiences. In my assessment of the racial makeup of faculty in the top 35 Criminology and Criminal Justice programs in the U.S. (U.S. News and World Report, 2018), a stark finding emerged: in 2019 there were only 52 black tenure-track faculty members currently employed, compared to 573 non-black faculty members. This disparity reinforces the perception of racial isolation and furthers the aversion to pursue a graduate education (Cooper, Updegrove, & Bouffard, 2019). According to Pierre Bourdieu, social scientists must look within and address their working environments and the positions they hold. If a system is unsatisfactory for the vast majority of American social scientists, then the system must be corrected to ensure it reflects the discipline’s stated values (Kawa, Michelangeli, Clark, Ginsberg, & McCarty, 2019). Parents and guardians can also serve in a role of encouragement, but it is up to academic gatekeepers to recognize their privilege and work to extend it to students who may not look like them.

Similar to connecting with fellow black students on campus, black students should seek to connect with black faculty – even if those networking connections happen outside of CCJ. Often, approaching faculty can be intimidating, especially for undergraduate students. Encouragingly, McDougal and colleagues (2018) found that black faculty, specifically faculty teaching Africana Studies, typically make a special effort to check in with students regarding both their academic and personal lives and to show that they truly care about their students’ wellbeing. Respondents further stated that their black professors “were more likely to understand, empathize, and/or personally relate to the experiences they were going through and this made the students more comfortable talking to them. Black faculty gave these students a sense of family and/or a sense of being welcome and at home” (McDougal et al., 2018, p. 206).

To address the racial disparity in academia, students should advocate for a higher employment of black faculty, with support from black student organizations and other black allies. Doctoral institutions often invite graduate students to attend interviewing faculty’s job talks to solicit student feedback. Black students should take advantage of this opportunity to respectfully voice their concerns about potential candidates, including the intellectual diversity (or lack thereof) that candidates may bring to the faculty. Another avenue black students can take to receive mentorship and encouragement is to join the American Society of Criminology’s (ASC) Division on People of Color and Crime (DPCC). Student accessibility to this division (including networking and mentoring) is affordable; a one-year student membership to the DPCC is only $5.
Conclusion

As CCJ programs are growing across the U.S, their ability to connect with and recruit black students continues to lag (Frost & Clear, 2007; Updegrove, Cooper, & Greene, 2017). The contribution of black thought can ultimately influence the laws, policies, and criminal justice practices that disproportionately affect their communities. Scholars who are aware of what it means to be black or Latino in America, though, sometimes face the greatest challenges in having their work respected (Bing, Heard, & Gilbert, 1995). Therefore, it is crucial to understand the factors that explain the racial disparities in CCJ graduate recruitment, and that black students are able to effective and positively navigate graduate school in light of these issues. To have a more successful academic experience, black students should be advised to connect with excelling students for mentoring purposes, study groups, or tutoring sessions, especially if they are struggling academically; report racially insensitive or discriminatory comments from professors to the appropriate department; seek out safe spaces to discuss racial issues by joining and supporting black student organizations; connect with black faculty on campus; and advocate for a higher employment of black faculty, with support from black student organizations. It is impossible to erase the painful experiences that black Americans have faced and continue to face every day. Making these strides, however, can help provide African Americans something that has too long been denied: an equal playing field in higher education.

References


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**RECENT PHD GRADUATES**

**Homer, Emily M.**，“Examining corporate blameworthiness in relation to federal organizational sentencing for probation and corporate monitors”, Chaired by George E. Higgins, Ph.D., May 2020, University of Louisville Department of Criminal Justice, Louisville, KY.
Lyndsay Boggess, PhD
Communities and crime, crime-mapping

Max Bromley, EdD
*Director of the MACJA Program*
Law enforcement, campus crime

George Burruss, PhD
Cybercrime, criminal justice organizations

Elizabeth Cass, PhD
*Graduate Coordinator / Instructor*

John Cochran, PhD
*Department Chair*
Death penalty, theories of crime and crime control

Richard Dembo, PhD
Alcohol and drug use, juvenile justice, youth public health issues, statistics

Bryanna Fox, PhD
Developmental criminology, forensic psychology, evidence-based policing

Lorie Fridell, PhD
Police use of force, biased policing, violence against police

Kathleen Heide, PhD
Juvenile homicide, parricide (children killing parents), trauma

Chae Jaynes, PhD
Offender decision-making, rational choice theory, employment and crime

Michael J. Leiber, PhD
Juvenile delinquency, juvenile justice, race/ethnicity

Yunmei (Iris) Lu, PhD
Age and crime, cross-cultural studies, social change and crime, sentencing

Michael J. Lynch, PhD
Green and radical criminology, corporate crime, environmental justice

Richard Moule, PhD
Criminological theory, street gangs, technology in criminology and criminal justice, mixed methods

Ráchael Powers, PhD
*Graduate Director*
Violent victimization, violence against women, gender and crime, hate crime

Mateus Rennó Santos, PhD
Crime trends, drivers of violence, homicide, comparative criminology

Dwayne Smith, PhD
*Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs*
Dean of Graduate Studies
Homicide, capital punishment, structural correlates of violent crime

#10 ranking by *Center for World University Rankings*
*CWSR - Rankings by Subject, 2017*

#8 ranking for publication productivity by faculty
*Kleck and Mims, 2017*

For more information, contact Dr. Ráchael Powers,
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*criminology.usf.edu*
OBITUARIES

JO DIXON

Jo Dixon, 70, passed away unexpectedly, on March 7, 2020, at her home in Estero, FL. A professor of sociology at New York University until her retirement last year, Jo received a BA in sociology at the University of North Carolina, Greensborough in 1972, her MA in sociology at Emory University in 1981, and her PhD in sociology at Indiana University in 1989. Jo was an accomplished and highly regarded scholar and a deeply committed teacher and mentor. Her studies on criminal sentencing, domestic violence policies and practices, responses to sexual violence, gender stratification in the legal profession, and other topics were published in the top journals of her field including Law and Society Review, the American Journal of Sociology, Social Problems, and Criminology and Public Policy. At the time of her death, Jo was completing a comparative justice project that examined the role of state building in efforts by elites to select transitional justice tools capable of attaining the often-contradictory goals of justice and state building. Her research is widely cited and will have a lasting effect on sociological and criminological scholarship for years to come.

Jo valued teaching and mentoring. She was recognized for her teaching by New York University in 1999, when she was awarded NYU’s Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 1992, when she was awarded NYU’s Golden Dozen Teaching Award. She directed NYU’s interdisciplinary Institute for Law and Society and its Law and Society graduate program for many years. Jo was an excellent mentor of graduate students. Several of her Ph.D. students received dissertation awards from the National Science Foundation or the National Institute of Justice, and her Ph.D. students have gone on to obtain faculty positions at prestigious universities and have themselves made important contributions to the discipline. Jo has also influenced universities around the world, teaching or conducting research at the University of Vienna and at NYU’s programs in Prague and Abu Dhabi. Jo was an active member of several professional associations, having served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Law and Society Association, organizer of multiple programs for the American Society of Criminology, and council member of the Law and Society Section of the American Sociological Association. She also served on the editorial board of the American Sociological Review, Law and Society Review, and Law and Social Inquiry.

Jo had an inspiring sense of adventure and curiosity. She was beloved by her family and friends, maintaining strong, cherished bonds with friends for decades. She had a wonderful laugh, cheered for her friends’ successes and comforted them at times of sadness and loss. Jo was born in Dunn, North Carolina on November 20, 1949. Her parents were Wallace and Annie Laurie Dixon. She is survived by her loving husband, Mari C. Engracia, her brother Wallace (Dana) Dixon, sisters-in-law Danna Sue Dixon and Ann Tart Dixon, as well her stepchildren, Jennifer, Judith and Jay and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers EB Dixon and David Dixon. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Tinnitus Association.

NICHOLAS KITTRIE

(1926 - 2019) Nicholas Kittrie passed away in December at the age of 93. He served as the President of the American Society of Criminology in 1975. A professor at American University’s Washington College of Law, Dr. Kittrie was the College’s longest-tenured faculty member, and taught for more than 50 years. See below for a more detailed obituary.

(October 22, 1931–March 14, 2020) Our esteemed, longtime colleague and friend, Ted Palmer, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2020. Ted's research and legacy are classic to the field of criminology and corrections. His contributions include being one of the “firsts” to implement a randomized trial in a juvenile justice setting and pioneering the identification of programmatic factors that affect the quality of interventions. In his 2004 presidential address to the ASC, Francis Cullen recognized Ted as one of the 12 people who “saved correctional rehabilitation.” Ted was later recognized by the ASC Academy of Experimental Criminology which awarded him the 2011 Joan McCord Award.

As lead researcher for the California Youth Authority and the California Department of Corrections during the 1960s and 1970s, Ted produced a remarkable body of research. One of his most well-known projects, the Community Treatment Project, utilized a rigorous experimental design, amassed a wealth of knowledge about juvenile offenders and developed strategies for identifying and addressing their differential needs. Throughout his career and in retirement, Ted addressed the issue of correctional effectiveness. Most notably, he countered a 1974 article in which Robert Martinson reviewed 231 correctional program evaluations and concluded that no therapeutic model worked to reduce youth recidivism. Ted meticulously reanalyzed Martinson’s data and reported that 48% of the 231 studies actually showed positive or partially positive results and that many programs had worked for some offenders and not others. In retirement, Ted was a regular attendee of the ASC meetings. He befriended and advised many younger scholars. Although he never pursued a career in academe, he was a precious mentor who offered wise and gentle counsel. He was regularly sought after as a dinner companion and valued friend. In 2005, Ted and a former colleague established the Marguerite Q. Warren and Ted B. Palmer Differential Intervention Award, an award offered through the ASC Division of Corrections and Sentencing. Ted helped to insure the legacy of rigorous research and instilled in many the value of research in action settings and collaboration with front line agencies. Friends and colleagues were fascinated by Ted’s life. He was born in 1931, after his parents, Mary Korn and Jack Poholski, left Poland to escape economic hardship and rising anti-Semitism. Ted is a veteran of the Korean War where he served as an Army medic providing mental health services to soldiers suffering from “shell shock” (PTSD). He later received his doctorate degree in psychology from the University of Southern California. He was multilingual and an avid student of astronomy and art. In his 70s and 80s, Ted pursued a rigorous travel agenda, which included long trips to such exotic places as the South Pacific Islands, the Great Wall of China, Mongolia, Antarctica, India, Nepal, and Tibet. At the time of his death, he was planning another trip to Southeast Asia which included paragliding in the Seychelles and a stop in Brazil on the way home. Ted’s wife, Mildred, passed away in 2019. He is survived by a daughter, Cara, and a son and daughter-in-law, Clay and Jocelyn.

We were privileged to know you, Ted,
Pat Van Voorhis, Francis Cullen, Fay Taxman, Phil Harris, and Kathleen Heide
With the recent outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, everyone around the world has had their lives disrupted. Schools have closed and made the switch to online learning, conferences canceled, and have to stay shuddered in at home. Most troubling is watching the number of cases spread so quickly and the number of deaths caused. Some countries have felt the impact more severely than others. Currently, one of the most severely hit by the pandemic is Italy. As of March 29, Italy has nearly 11,000 dead. I remember my semester abroad in Italy in Fall 2012 teaching students from the University of New Haven (UNH) at their Prato, Italy campus. I look back fondly at the great memories and look forward to a time when the pandemic is over. In honor of the many people I met in Italy, I wanted to write about my experience there in 2012.

Enriching Learning through Experiential Education

As an undergraduate student, I never had the opportunity to do a short-term study, let alone a semester abroad. Working for a university, I was able to run short-term study abroad programs to Cuba, China, Poland, Australia, and Spain, but never had the opportunity for a semester long program. In Spring 2012, my first semester teaching at a new university, the dean approached me at a gathering and asked if I wanted to do a study abroad, I immediately said YES. He asked if I wanted to take some time to think about it, and I said “No, I have already made up my mind.” The program, running in Prato, Italy, was going to be a split semester. Someone backed out from taking on the second half of the semester so I was in. I could not contain my excitement, but also was nervous to be packing up my things in my second semester as an Assistant Professor and making this journey to live in another country for two months.

I arrived in Italy during mid-semester break. After arriving at the airport in Florence I was taken to my new apartment at Torre Degli Ammannati which was right next to the Castello dell’Imperatore (Emperor’s Castle) in Prato, which is in the Tuscan region. We went to lunch at Tenuta di Artimino (Artimino Estate) near Florence and had a chance to discuss the hand-off of the semester. Students were on break so many of them traveled to other parts of Europe. There were numerous restaurants around town that had meal programs for us, so we were able to select where we wanted to eat. The first night I went to one restaurant Caffé el Teatro and asked to be seated for dinner. They asked if I was the new professor. How did they know? In Italy, dinner starts usually around 8 pm, not 6. When I returned for dinner around 7:30, I had the chance to meet a few of the students, and their families who were visiting for Spring Break. This was a great chance to catch up with the students, learn about Prato and all it had to offer.
The classes were located in a building right inside the Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral) where we had a view of Saint Stephen’s Cathedral in Prato. This Piazza had farmer’s markets on Sundays and other events throughout the semester. Being able to see all the sights and sounds of a small Italian town in the northern Tuscan region was unlike any experience you can get in a regular classroom. This immersive experience was something the students and I have still not forgotten. Even though this study abroad was 8 years ago, and the students have since graduated and started their careers and lives, many of them are still the best of friends and regularly keep in touch with me as well.

Although the students were criminal justice majors studying in courses such as Introduction to Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Criminal Investigations, they learned so much more. They got to learn Italian, and take courses on Italian Culture which included visits to museums, as well as other cultural experiences. Since they were so far from home, they instituted Thursday nights as “family dinners” at the beginning of the semester, so this was now also part of my schedule. All the students, and faculty attended giving everyone a chance to sit together, break bread, and share their experiences in Italy and other European countries they had traveled to. For some of the students this was their first time away from home, some their first semester in college, while others had done a previous semester abroad in Seville, Spain. One of the students managed to take a semester abroad every year including graduating while finishing out his last semester in a study abroad program at a university in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands. One of the students is now back and living in Prato, Italy. While some of the students cried at the airport in New York on their way for a semester abroad, scared about the unknowns, they also cried when they had to leave Italy. Overall it was a life-changing experience, not only for the students but for me as well.

Vesna Markovic

Arriving to work on a sunny October day

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**Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice**

The Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice (https://acccj.org/) was officially established in November 2010 in San Francisco during the ASC meetings. Some 32 scholars from the U.S., U.K., China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau attended the inaugural meeting. The goal was to create a non-profit, non-political organization for scholarly and professional activities. The purpose of the organization is to promote Chinese criminology and criminal justice research, teaching, and learning among academic communities around the world. We seek to do this through various means such as strengthening academic connections and exchanges, promoting the development of research in criminology and criminal justice in Chinese societies, and mentoring young scholars who are interested in comparative criminology and criminal justice involving Chinese societies. The membership has grown substantially and is now in the three figures. We have sessions at ASC, have a regular e-newsletter, give a “Best Student Paper” award, and since 2014 have sent delegations to various Chinese societies. This year, 2020, is our 10th anniversary, and we intend to mark the occasion at the forthcoming ASC meetings in Washington DC with a celebration banquet. We invite all who are interested to join with us in these endeavors.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FUTURE ASC ANNUAL MEETING DATES

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