This statement represents an update of our published statement of September 28, 2019 (The Criminologist, Volume 44, No. 6, pp. 1, 3-4), and provides an updated timeline of our efforts to address the 2011 Criminology article “Ethnic Threat and Social Control: Examining Public Support for Judicial Use of Ethnicity in Punishment” by Brian D. Johnson, Eric A. Stewart, Justin Pickett, and Marc Gertz (49: 401-441), as well as the 2018 Criminology article “Lynchings, Racial Threat, and Whites’ Punitive Attitudes Toward Blacks” by Eric A. Stewart, Daniel P. Mears, Patricia Y. Warren, Eric P. Baumer, and Ashley N. Arnio (56: 455-480).

On October 15, 2019, the Criminology Co-Editors and ASC Executive Director were informed by the Vice President of Research at Florida State University that an official inquiry, which was opened as a result of a complaint about alleged misconduct regarding the 2011 article, had concluded. A formal investigation, to be initiated if significant issues of concern were uncovered during the inquiry, was not undertaken.

On October 25, as the co-editors awaited Johnson, Stewart and Gertz’s erratum for the 2011 article, these authors contacted us to request a voluntary retraction, noting that errors reflected in the paper exceeded what they viewed as acceptable for a published paper. Co-author Pickett approved of the retraction on October 26.

Following the COPE Committee on Publication Ethics Retraction Guidelines, the editors then negotiated with all of the authors on “wording that is clear and informative to readers and acceptable to all parties” (https://publicationethics.org/files/retraction%20guidelines_0.pdf, p. 5). On November 18, the editors were informed by Eric Piper, Senior Editor at Wiley Periodicals, Inc., that the publisher’s Research Integrity Team had reviewed and approved of the language of the retraction statement, with minimal changes for clarity. The date of the retraction’s official publication is still forthcoming and will be determined by the Wiley team. The approved statement is as follows:


This article has been retracted at the request of the authors and by agreement with the journal editors and Wiley Periodicals, Inc. The second author, Eric A. Stewart, in the course of responding to concerns raised with the data and analysis, identified a mistake in the way the original data were merged. This, in conjunction with the discovery of other coding and transcription errors, collectively exceeded what the authors believed to be acceptable for a published paper. They therefore voluntarily requested that the paper be retracted. The third author, Justin Pickett, also requested retraction. He has publicly stated his view that the identified discrepancies are not attributable to researcher error.

On October 24, while the revised corrigendum for the above-referenced 2018 article and its 2019 corrigendum was under review, authors Stewart, Mears, Warren, Baumer and Arnio contacted us to request a voluntary retraction, noting that errors reflected in the paper exceeded what they viewed as acceptable for a published paper. Again, following the COPE Committee on
Publication Ethics Retraction Guidelines, the editors then negotiated retraction statement language with the authors. On November 21, the editors were informed by Eric Piper, Senior Editor at Wiley Periodicals, Inc., that the publisher’s Research Integrity Team had reviewed and approved of the language of the retraction statement, with minimal changes for clarity. The approved statement is as follows:


The above article, published online on 25 March 2018 in Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com) has been retracted at the request of the authors and by agreement with the journal editors and Wiley Periodicals, Inc. The authors were responsive to concerns raised about the original paper and the corrigendum to this article dated 18 August 2019. However, in the course of responding to questions about the data and analysis, they determined that the errors reflected in the paper, including coding mistakes and transcription errors, exceeded what they viewed as acceptable for a published paper. They therefore voluntarily requested that the paper be retracted and chose not to update the original corrigendum.

The date of the retraction’s official publication is still forthcoming and will be determined by the Wiley team.