

SPRING 2017

dpcc

Race and Justice Scholar

Greetings from the DPCC Co-Chairs!

We have many updates since we last met at the ASC annual conference in 2016. The DPCC welcomes newly elected DPCC Executive Board members Johnna Christian, Schannae Lucas, and Mike Tapia. Dr. Christian was elected by the membership to serve as vice-chair and Dr. Williams was elected to serve a second term as secretary/treasurer. Drs. Lucas and Tapia were elected to serve as executive counselors. The DPCC thanks outgoing board members Jorge Chavez (executive counselor) and María Vélez (vice-chair) for their service.

Heartwarming congratulations go out to the 2016 DPCC award recipients Katheryn Russell-Brown, Ruth Peterson, Nancy Rodriguez, Robert Vargas, Kishonna Gray, Brooklynn Hitchens, Kenneth Polite, and Shaun Gabbidon. We also want to remind everyone to consider nominating deserving scholars and/or colleagues for the 2017 DPCC Awards. Nominations are requested for the Lifetime Achievement Award, Coramae Richey Mann Award, Julius Debro Award, New Scholar Award, Outstanding Student Award, Community Service Award, and the Teaching Award. See page 16 for more info.

We are very happy to report that the DPCC website has undergone significant

improvements thanks to the hard work of DPCC members Kimberly Dodson and LeAnn Cabage. Check out <http://www.ascdpcc.org/> for information regarding the executive board, Race & Justice journal, awards (as well as pictures from the 2016 Awards and Luncheon Symposium), and an updated membership directory!

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American Society of
Criminology



The Division on People of Color and Crime is a constitutionally endorsed group within the American Society of Criminology. The DPCC serves to bring together ALL who are dedicated to addressing the concerns and issues of people of color in the study of crime, justice, and the crime-processing system.

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Statement from the Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology - Division on People of Color and Crime on Recent U.S. Criminal Justice Policy Decisions



The DPCC membership voted and approved (by a unanimous vote) in May 2017 the following official public statement by the Division's Executive Board. The statement was drafted in February 2017, but the membership had to vote on amendments to DPCC bylaws, and then the statement itself, on separate ballots.

The American Society of Criminology - Division on People of Color and Crime serves to bring together all who are dedicated to addressing the concerns and issues of people of color in the study of crime, justice, and the crime-processing system. Our membership encompasses a diverse range of scholars, teachers, and practitioners, representing a wide range of professions, academic disciplines, racial and ethnic identities, nationalities, and political ideologies. Our members share strong commitments to racial and ethnic justice, and rigorous, evidence-based research.

It is with these values in mind that we express grave concern regarding several policy statements and decisions that have been made by the current Presidential administration, which not only adversely affect millions of American citizens, but also clearly contradict scientific evidence and recommendations generated by leading experts in fields including criminology, sociology, law, and political science – many of whom are ASC-DPCC members.

In this statement, we address just a few areas where the Administration's ill-informed decisions will have severe negative consequences for the safety of some of America's most vulnerable citizens, as well as for the broader American public:

Statement from the Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology - Division on People of Color and Crime on Recent U.S. Criminal Justice Policy Decisions

(continued)

Promulgation of false crime statistics

President Trump has made claims about crime rates that are clearly contradicted by data collected by the FBI and other reliable sources. For example, he has stated that “the murder rate in our country is the highest it’s been in 47 years,” and “in Philadelphia, the murder rate has been steady — I mean just terribly increasing.” In fact, the national murder rate in 2015 was less than 60 percent of the rate at its peak twenty years earlier, and the crime rate in Philadelphia declined slightly from 2015 to 2016, and it has dropped by about 29 percent over the last decade. Trump’s false claims about crime statistics exemplify a dangerous pattern of ignoring facts and propagating falsehoods to advance political objectives and justify misguided policy decisions.

Police use of “stop and frisk”

The Trump administration has stated that it will be a law and order administration. While campaigning, Trump recommended reinstating stop-and-frisk practices. Such practices have proven to be not only ineffective in reducing crime but also racially biased in their implementation, which undermines trust in police and willingness to call the police for help.

Immigration policy

As President, Trump has signed executive orders that restrict entry of immigrants from seven countries into the U.S. and authorize the construction of a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico. He also signed an order to prioritize the removal of “criminal aliens” and withhold federal funding from “sanctuary cities.” Trump has justified policies like these by claiming that immigration breeds crime. However, rigorous research has shown immigrants commit fewer crimes, on average, than native-born Americans, and that immigration may even help to lower crime rates.

Violence against women

Trump’s team has indicated that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) may be among the programs to be eliminated in a budget reduction effort. VAWA, first passed in 1994 and reauthorized 3 times (2000, 2005, and 2013), resulted in the much-needed advancement of evidence-based research and programs that have significantly impacted our knowledge of and effective policies to deter gender-based violence. With each new installment of funded programs and research, the U.S. is better prepared to respond to victims, offenders, witnesses (including children), and communities. This saves lives, saves money, and improves the quality of life for everyone.

We are keenly aware of the need to address genuine risks to our nation and promote public safety; however, the approach the new Presidential administration has taken is not appropriate. The pursuit of policies that are unsupported by scientific evidence and facts wastes our tax dollars, puts Americans’ safety at risk, and leads to unjust outcomes, often for the members of our society who already experience great disadvantage and oppression. We urge those in the administration and Congress to draw from the most current and rigorous research to make criminal justice policy decisions that are effective, fair, and humane.

Statement of the American Society of Criminology Executive Board Concerning the Trump Administration's Policies Relevant to Crime and Justice

The following is the statement released on May 5, 2017, composed and approved by the [Executive Board of the ASC](#) and the Ad-hoc Committee on the ASC's Statement on the Presidential Administration's Policies Relevant to Crime and Justice.



The Trump administration has signaled its crime policy intentions through a series of Executive Orders signed in the President's first several months in office.[i] These executive orders demonstrate an incongruity between administrative policy efforts and well-established science about the causes and consequences of crime. Four general areas are especially emblematic of this problem.

Immigrants do not commit the majority of crime in the United States. First, a century's worth of findings on immigration and crime in the U.S. show that immigrant concentration decreases crime at the neighborhood and city levels – also known as the revitalization thesis.[ii] That immigration is a protective factor against crime also holds true for individuals; immigrants as a whole are far less likely to commit crimes than non-immigrants.[iii] Recent examples of crimes committed by unauthorized immigrants are not representative of national, state, neighborhood, or even individual-level violent crime trends,[iv] yet the President and his administration present them as the norm. This erroneous view underlies executive orders that see immigrants as criminogenic, and that threaten cities receptive to immigrants (i.e., sanctuary cities) to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement or face the withdrawal of federal funding, and also is reflected in development of the new Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office.

The proposed travel ban is not empirically justified and targets the wrong countries. Second, there is no empirical evidence to support President Trump's decision to ban citizens of six majority-Muslim countries from travel to the U.S. in the name of preventing terrorist infiltration. No terrorist perpetrator from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen – whose nationals would be halted from U.S. travel under Trump's Executive Order of March 2017 – has been involved in a fatal terrorist attack in the United States since September 11, 2001.[v] Every jihadist who conducted a lethal attack in the United States since 9/11 was a United States citizen or legal resident, while the three countries from which the deadliest terrorists have come to the U.S. are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt – none of which are included in the travel ban.

The U.S. is not in the midst of a national crime wave. Third, rates of violent and property crime have been declining in the U.S. for at least a quarter century.[vi] Many criminologists have referred to this post-1990s period as "the great crime decline." It is true that some cities experienced large increases in homicide in 2015, but this is not indicative of a national pattern as homicide rates overall remain significantly below 1990s peaks.[vii] As for violent crime generally, recent projections anticipate that violent crime rates in America's 30 largest cities

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[continued]

will increase slightly next year, but will still remain near 30-year lows.[viii] That our nation and cities are safer now than at least the 1990s has been disregarded by an executive order that would empower the federal government to make fighting a non-existent crime wave a top priority.

The U.S. government plays an important role in police reform. Finally, the federal government has played a critical role in recent decades in the reform of U.S. police departments. Most recently, former President Obama convened a task force on policing in the wake of police violence against African Americans. The report generated by this task force advances a number of empirically-based solutions aimed at improving policing, rebuilding community trust in the police, and ensuring officer safety and wellness.[ix] In addition, the federal government has intervened in the form of consent decrees in U.S. cities that have well-established patterns of police discrimination and abuse. These consent decrees are designed to create long-term and system-wide pathways for police reform, including funds to do so. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' call for sweeping review of these consent decrees can signal both to law enforcement and to citizens that such problems are not systemic but instead simply the result of "a few bad apples." [x] Research indicates that this is not necessarily the case.[xi] Pulling back on the use of consent decrees could undermine police reform efforts and dial back hard-won progress that many police leaders support.

Recent Presidential executive orders and other administrative decisions are at odds with established evidence in criminology and criminal justice.[xii] Crime-control policies should be built on science, and elected officials at all levels of government have a responsibility to endorse public policies that are evidence-based and that promote fairness, equality, and justice. The Executive Board of the American Society of Criminology is concerned by the actions of the Trump administration in its dissemination of misinformation and development of uninformed policy initiatives. Not only are these initiatives unscientific, they are likely to engender further cynicism about and discontent with the criminal justice system that is harmful to citizens, to members of law enforcement, and to other sources of social control.[xiii] Rather than keeping Americans safer, these initiatives stand to exacerbate existing crime problems by increasing risk of victimization while decreasing likelihood of reporting, and by worsening marginalization and discrimination in the U.S.

We urge the Trump administration to draw upon scientific evidence[xiv] and the research expertise[xv] of scholars who study crime and justice issues to help shape its crime policy agenda, and we stand ready to assist. Specifically, we caution the Trump administration against the resuscitation of Drug War era "get tough" policies and other "law and order" crackdowns that stand to worsen already strained relations between police and communities,

*Statement of the American Society of Criminology
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will increase especially communities of color, and policies that disparately arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate members of these communities. Evidence has shown such policies to create many unintended problems for families, children, law enforcement personnel, and other institutions across our nation. Furthermore, we advocate for a justice system that recognizes the adverse impact of draconian punishments and that seeks to prioritize beneficial reentry and social integration programs[xvi] that hold offenders accountable while still allowing them to maintain bonds with their families and communities. Our discipline has learned much[xvii] about reducing crime, policing smarter, and punishing more effectively over the years, and we urge the Trump administration to draw from these lessons learned in order to advance policies that preserve and protect due process rights for all, and that promote justice at home and abroad.

James Lynch, University of Maryland; President, American Society of Criminology (ASC)

Karen Heimer, University of Iowa; ASC President-Elect

Ruth D. Peterson, The Ohio State University; ASC Past-President

Jody Miller, Rutgers University; ASC Vice President

Christina DeJong, Michigan State University; ASC Vice President-Elect

Gaylene Armstrong, University of Nebraska; ASC Executive Counselor

Delores Jones-Brown, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; ASC Executive Counselor

Natasha Frost, Northeastern University; ASC Executive Counselor

Charis Kubrin, University of California-Irvine; ASC Executive Counselor

Cynthia Lum, George Mason University; ASC Executive Counselor

Ineke Marshall, Northeastern University; ASC Executive Counselor

Hillary Potter, University of Colorado; ASC Executive Counselor

Claire Renzetti, University of Kentucky; ASC Executive Counselor

María B. Vélez, University of New Mexico; ASC Executive Counselor

Chris Eskridge, University of Nebraska; ASC Executive Director

Bonnie Fisher, University of Cincinnati; ASC Treasurer

Amanda Burgess-Proctor, Oakland University; Member, Ad-hoc Committee on the ASC's Statement on the Presidential Administration's Policies Relevant to Crime and Justice

Gary LaFree, University of Maryland; Member, Ad-hoc Committee on the ASC's Statement on the Presidential Administration's Policies Relevant to Crime and Justice

Sheldon X. Zhang, University of Massachusetts-Lowell; Member, Ad-hoc Committee on the ASC's Statement on the Presidential Administration's Policies Relevant to Crime and Justice

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Donald Trump and Race

by **Jason Williams, PhD**

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The ascendancy of Donald Trump to the highest office in the United States was for some a surprise, and for others something that could have been expected. Trump's battle to victory was like anything we've ever seen before. Trump ran his campaign using well-known tactics that many would consider artifacts of the past, though seemingly they have never gone away. He propelled himself into the White House with the help of racism, xenophobia, and exclusionary white supremacist tactics. During his campaign he uttered racist and xenophobic remarks against Mexicans (and the broader Latino community), referring to them as rapists and criminals. He also delivered hatred against the Muslim community, stating that he would institute a barring of Muslims into the United States. One of his first commentaries to the Black community was delivered to a crowd of mostly whites, where he spoke to Blacks as caricatural, stereotypical helpless urbanites in need of protection against the constantly lurking criminals in their communities. Oblivious to his obvious disconnect from the reality of Black life in the United States,

Trump continued on with this mantra, iterating to Blacks, "What do you got to lose?" He faced immediate backlash regarding his uninformed, badly crafted pivot to the Black vote.

On the Reemergence of Pre-1960s White Supremacy

A key hint toward the rise of pre-1960s white supremacy came in the immediate aftermath of President Obama's election. During a speech to the Heritage Foundation, high-ranking GOP Senate leader Mitch McConnell explicitly noted that his top priority was to derail Obama's Presidency making him a one-term president. Meanwhile, a series of vicious, racist campaigns aimed against President Obama in many GOP-dominated jurisdictions displayed a diametrically opposed reality to the notion of post-racialism so often claimed in the aftermath of the election. The biggest grassroots group in opposition to President Obama's election was of course the Tea Party, which was essentially a neo-racist political operation for the reemergence of a white prosperous America. In the midterm election following President Obama's election, the Tea Party did great damage to establishment GOP politics by managing to get dozens of their own representatives into the Capitol. The ascendancy of the Tea Party into the Capitol increased and dramatized the divides



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between the president and the GOP, thus leading to many conflicts and inactivity in Washington. To many racialized individuals, that conflict illuminated the racial disdain the GOP held against President Obama, as their refusal to work with him was unprecedented.

Also stirring in the backdrop of the Tea Party was the now President-elect, Donald Trump himself. Along with other birthers, Trump continuously iterated his confusion and disbelief regarding President Obama's citizenship, and thus his fitness to be president. Trump's vicious campaign against the legitimacy of President Obama's election to the White House traveled great lengths. For instance, he frequently bragged about hiring individuals who traveled to [Hawaii](#), and he questioned President Obama's attendance at Columbia and Harvard while issuing an [award to anyone](#) who could retrieve his college transcripts. Even though the birther movement was at best a racist attempt to delegitimize President Obama's election, most mainstream sources failed to conceptualize it as such, thus normalizing the birther movement.

The normalization of birtherism is what led to the Trump presidency. As mentioned above, Trump utilized countless racist tactics to galvanize support while on the campaign trail. His most prominent thoughts, of course, were against Mexicans and for the building of a wall along the Southern border. Trump played to white economic insecurity to gain the offensive on immigration, claiming that Mexicans were coming to the United States to steal jobs from hardworking Americans—a tactic that has always worked with working poor and middle-class whites and that is of course a legacy of slavery, when the capitalists turned working-class whites against their African American counterparts. For centuries, sadly, this tactic has continued to push working poor and middle-class whites to vote against their own interests. However, Trump for these individuals represents a great-white-hope, a person who could return America to the good old days and "Make America Great Again." Certainly many African Americans could not conceive of a period in which America was great, given their racial-ethnic positioning throughout America's history. Thus, Trump's very campaign represented a kind of racism that many thought to be long gone but that was in truth still alive, just sidelined and awaiting to be reactivated. Trump especially gained the loyalty of GOP supporters in the aftermath of the Dallas shooting of police officers by a Black man, when he claimed to be the "law-and-order candidate" and thus sparked the fire of a GOP tactic used in the not-so-distant past.



DPCC Member News

JANET GARCIA-HALLET, PhD, received the 2016 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). This is a \$15,000 scholarship in recognition of her scholar activism.

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RACE AND JUSTICE

An International Journal

The Official Journal of the
Division on People of Color
and Crime

<http://raj.sagepub.com/>

January 2017, Vol. 7, No. 1

SPECIAL ISSUE: RACE & COURTS

"Examining the Sources of Racial Bias in Potentially Capital Cases: A Case Study of Police and Prosecutorial Discretion" by Nick Peterson

"Spatial Dimensions of Racial Inequality: Neighborhood Racial Characteristics and Drug Sentencing" by Marisa Omori

"Complicating Race: Afrocentric Facial Feature Bias and Prison Sentencing in Oregon" by Amanda M. Petersen

"Exploring the Relationship of Shared Race/Ethnicity With Court Actors, Perceptions of Court Procedural Justice, and Obligation to Obey Among Male Offenders" by Thomas Baker

Backlash against Black Lives Matter

The future of race relations in the United States can easily be conceptualized based on Trump's response to the Black Lives Matter protests that erupted during the primaries. Trump casted Sen. Bernie Sanders as weak after BLM protestors crashed one of his rallies during the primaries. He explicitly stated that BLM would never come to one of his rallies and take over because he would not give up his mic. Such a comment gives one an inside look into how Trump understands the BLM protests. Nevertheless, his indifference to BLM came with scores of dog whistle statements that would further galvanize his base. Soon after his comments there were countless episodes in which Trump supporters physically attacked BLM protestors who would show up at Trump rallies.

Trump's response to these incidents was hardly a disciplining of his supporters. Rather, he seemed to encourage his supporters to continue physically attacking protestors. In fact, at a rally in Las Vegas Trump lamented that he would like to punch a protestor in the face, also mentioning how in the good old days, protestors would be treated differently. The reference clearly was to how African Americans were treated during the Civil Rights struggle—physically beaten, dehumanized, and casted beyond the margins of democracy. Trump does not try to hide his racist intentions; rather he boasts about them, and in return he is able to galvanize his base and gain additional support for his platform. During a rally in Ohio, Trump also stated his belief that BLM had instigated some of

the killings against police—once again exacerbating some of the already existing hateful rhetoric against BLM.

His comments against BLM added to the increasingly baseless rhetoric used with regards to many of the easily provable claims boasted by BLM protestors. In many ways Trump's campaign ushered America into a post-truth society, as facts and sensible debate became artifacts of a past America that once embraced intellect and the pursuit of truth.

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The Anti-Minority Presidency

Immediately following Trump's election to the White House, the number of anti-minority incidents spiked throughout the nation. For instance, in late November 2016, [Newsweek](#) reported 900 hate incidents in the aftermath of Trump's victory. The Southern Poverty Law Center also published a [report](#), titled "Ten Days After: Harassment and Intimidation in the Aftermath of the Election," which also illuminates the extent of the increase in hate-oriented incidents against minorities. The report cites cases of harassment against Blacks and those perceived to be immigrants in K-12 schools, religious buildings, and other public spaces. Many individuals subjected to this post-election harassment indicated that these experiences were somewhat unimaginable to them—that in 2016, they would have never expected to see or experience such terroristic attacks.

The election of Trump has emboldened white racists to publicly showcase their intentions against minorities. In fact, many [white nationalist](#) groups explicitly supported Trump, and continued to do so even after he disavowed them because of the pressure by the media. [Vox](#) reported that Trump's win was largely due to racism and sexism. Citing from an academic paper, the article concluded that race was more significant than economic dissatisfaction, thus concluding that racism was the clear factor that determined the election.

Given Trump's birther beginnings and his historical distaste toward minorities (i.e., see the cases of [Central Park Five](#), of [housing discrimination](#), etc.), one can predict with near certainty that his presidency will be unmatched in the modern era of American politics. His election seems to emanate a kind of old white resentment against scapegoated minorities that have little to do with the contemporary state of white insecurity and more to do with the fact that capitalists have given up on them too. As a result, a Trump administration will not only continue to scapegoat the vulnerable for its own political gain, but it will also remain silent against the countless expressions of racism now emanating as a result of his hateful campaign.

RACE AND JUSTICE

An International Journal

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SPECIAL ISSUE: THE UNIQUE
CHALLENGES FACED BY FACULTY
OF COLOR IN THE ACADEMY

"Race/Ethnicity and Justice in
Academia" by Jesenia M. Pizarro

"Manufactured 'Mismatch': Cultural
Incongruence and Black Experience
in the Academy" by Kwan-Lamar
Blount-Hill and Victor St. John

"Ethics Review and the Minority
Ethnographer: A Case Study in
Racialized Invalidation" by Mike
Tapia and Rubén O. Martinez

"Bring the Noise: Black Men
Teaching (Race and) White
Privilege" by Derrick R. Brooms and
Darryl A. Brice

"The Uncivil Latina" by Jesenia M.
Pizarro

"The Solitary Criminologist:
Constructing a Narrative of Black
Identity and Alienation in the
Academy" by Vaughn J. Crichlow

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To make matters worse, Trump decided to appoint Sen. Jeff Sessions to the United States Attorneys General position. Sessions, himself a bigot with a [racist past](#), is unlikely to take up (or take seriously) causes regarding civil rights and equality. He has a colorful past of being ferociously anti-Black and shares Trump's anti-immigration sentiment. Civil rights activists and grassroots organizations have begun campaigns to block Sessions ascendency to the top law enforcement position in the land. Sadly, appointees like Sessions illuminate what the future will look like if Trump is able to confirm his cabinet.

Now more than ever there needs to be solidarity amongst marginalized peoples and allies. Since the November 2016 election Trump has shown an unlikelihood of changing his ways and his inability to be a president for *all* Americans. Instead, he has embraced the vicious and inhumane policy aspirations of the GOP, which will disproportionately affect minorities, women, and poor people. He has vowed to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, increase support for law enforcement, and strengthen the so-called free market. Trump's promise to America is one that will further concentrate political power into the hands of powerful rich white men, and his cabinet appointments have shown just that. Such a presidency will send race relations into an unprecedented frenzy. Many people are reporting to be fearful, and frankly they have every right to be afraid. But such fear should not lay dormant; it should be used as fuel to resist Trump and his party every step of the way.



Jason M. Williams (Williamsjas@mail.montclair.edu) is Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Montclair State University. He is also involved in several public research and information forums, such as The Hampton Institution, where he serves as chair of the criminal justice department. Most recently, he as coedited (with C. A. Jones) *A Critical Analysis of Race and the Administration of Justice* (Cognella Academic Press, 2015).

DPCC Member News

NISHAUN BATTLE, PhD (Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, Virginia State University), has been selected to be a participant in the [Women of Color Leadership Project \(WoCLP\)](#) with the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). The WoCLP is designed to increase the number of women of Color students and faculty within the field of women's studies and women's centers and, consequently, to have an impact on the levels of participation and power by women of Color in the field of women's studies and women's centers, in NWSA, and in the Program Administration and Development and Women's Center Committees.

2016 DPCC Annual Symposium and Awards Luncheon

November 17, 2016

Mother's Next Door New Orleans, Louisiana



2016 Luncheon MCs: DPCC Co-Chairs
Jennifer Cobbina & Elsa Chen



Keynote Speaker: Kenneth
Polite, U.S. Attorney, Eastern
District of Louisiana



Shaun Gabbidon receives the
inaugural DPCC teaching award



Anthony Peguero & María Vélez
present the 2016 DPCC awards



2016 DPCC Annual Symposium and Awards Luncheon

November 17, 2016

Mother's Next Door, New Orleans, Louisiana

Congratulations to the 2016 DPCC Award Recipients!

See page 16 for DPCC Award descriptions and 2017 nominations process

Lifetime Achievement Award

KATHERYN RUSSELL-BROWN, J.D., PH.D.



University of Florida:
Chesterfield Smith
Professor of Law;
Director, Center for
the Study of Race and
Race Relations;
Assistant Director,
Criminal Justice
Center.

Coramae Richey Mann Award for Scholarship

RUTH PETERSON, PH.D.



Immediate Past
President of American
Society of Criminology.
Ohio State University:
Professor Emeritus,
Department of
Sociology.

Julius Debro Award for Service

NANCY RODRIGUEZ, PH.D.



Former Director of the
National Institute of
Justice. Arizona State University:
Professor, School of
Criminology and
Criminal Justice.

Teaching Award

SHAUN GABBIDON, PH.D.



Pennsylvania State
University, Harrisburg:
Distinguished
Professor of
Criminal Justice,
School of Public
Affairs.

2016 DPCC Annual Symposium and Awards Luncheon

November 17, 2016

Mother's Next Door, New Orleans, Louisiana

Congratulations to the 2016 DPCC Award Recipients!

New Scholar Award

KISHONNA GRAY, PH.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Assistant Professor in Women & Gender Studies and Comparative Media Studies/ Writing. Arizona State University: Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences.



New Scholar Award

ROBERT VARGAS, PH.D.

University of Notre Dame: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology; Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Latino Studies.



Outstanding Student Award

BROOKLYNN HITCHENS

University of Florida: Doctoral Student, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law.



Community Service Award

KENNETH POLITE, J.D.

Former United States Attorney of Eastern District Louisiana



2016 DPCC Awards Committee
María Vélez, Committee Chair
Anthony Peguero
Xia Wang
Valerie Wright

DPCC Awards Descriptions & 2017 Nomination Process

The **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** recognizes an individual who has a record of sustained and significant accomplishments and contributions in (1) research on people of color and crime and the field of criminology or criminal justice; (2) teaching and/or mentoring scholars in this field; and (3) service to the discipline and to the community of people of color. Nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated.

The **CORAMAE RICHEY MANN AWARD** recognizes a member of the DPCC who has made outstanding contributions of scholarship on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice. Nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated.

The **JULIUS DEBRO AWARD** recognizes a member of the DPCC who has made outstanding contributions in service to professional organizations, academic institutions, or the advancement of criminal justice. Nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated.

The **NEW SCHOLAR AWARD** recognizes an individual who is in the early stages of their career and has made significant recent contributions to the literature on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice. Scholars who have earned a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD) within the previous five years are eligible for this award. Nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated.

The **TEACHING AWARD** recognizes a member of the DPCC who possesses excellence in teaching race, ethnicity, crime, and justice related courses. *Qualifications:* Teaching is broadly defined to include: classroom instruction, curriculum design, directing and mentoring students, developing instructional materials, producing educational films or videos, creating educational software or web sites, writing or editing textbooks or teacher manuals, conducting workshops on pedagogy, training student teachers, and publishing teaching-related research. Recipients of the award are expected to have excelled in one or more of these areas, and have a minimum of three years teaching experience. This is not an award simply for being an outstanding classroom teacher at one's own institution, but is intended to honor individuals or collective actors whose contributions, though they may result from classroom teaching, go beyond their institutions to benefit the discipline as a whole. Nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated.

The **OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD** recognizes outstanding student research on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice.

The **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD** recognizes the work by an individual or organization making outstanding contributions to improve the quality of life for underserved populations and communities affected by crime.

Please consider nominating deserving scholars and/or colleagues for the DPCC Awards. The nominations for each of the awards should include a brief statement or letter (about one page) describing the person's merits for the award.

Eligible nominees must be a dues-paying DPCC member for 2 consecutive years prior to being nominated, except for Outstanding Student Award and Community Service Award. Submit nominations by Monday October 2, 2017 to Dr.

Johnna Christian, chair of the DPCC Award Committee, at johnnac@scj.rutgers.edu

The award recipients will be honored at the Annual Symposium Awards and Luncheon during the ASC meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2017 in Philadelphia, PA.

REIMAGINING JUSTICE THROUGH OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

by Liza Chowdhury, PhD



I entered higher education seeking an opportunity to have a way to be enlightened and equipped with a skill set that can somehow transform my community. My community consists of young people who feel like the world does not care and out of desperation engage in a host of “delinquent” or antisocial acts such as selling drugs, prostitution, robbing, gang banging or the worst of it all murder. I knew that something deeper than just poor choices were at hand in regards to why my peers and youth in generations after me became involved in lifestyles that constantly came in contact with the criminal justice system or victimization. Reading research and books provided me with the framework that I needed to come back into my neighborhood to give back and partner with whoever wanted to partner with me to make change happen incrementally. This began my journey into co-founding a non-profit entitled Reimagining Justice and partnering with various grassroots agencies that work with young people to help prevent violence. Over the past two and a half years after finishing my doctorate, I have been on a journey to look at violence from the lens of the perpetrator, the victim, the system and the community. The results of my own soul searching has been that no agency or person can solve the problem of violence by themselves. As a result, I have been fortunate enough to partner with amazing organizations and people that are the hope and advocates for young people who are looking for a voice. Currently, I am involved with a network of outreach workers and our main purpose is to provide young people a better and safer future.

Dr. Liza Chowdhury is Assistant Professor in the School of Criminal Justice, Political Science and International Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Prior to joining the FDU faculty, she was employed by the State of New Jersey as a Senior Probation Officer for Passaic County's Juvenile Division. She spent over a decade supervising court involved youths and adults. During her time in the field of community corrections, she fostered relationships with local schools, law enforcement agencies, social service providers and families. Dr. Chowdhury has supervised sex offenders, juveniles and worked on a federally grant funded program entitled Project Safe Neighborhoods, which was a multiagency collaboration that provided innovative methods to supervise gang involved probationers. She completed her Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D from Rutgers University's School of Criminal Justice. Her defense was entitled "The Intersections of Race and Gender on Prison Punishment and Adjustment." The research focused on the punishment outcomes of inmates in prisons throughout the United States and analyzed if the intersections of race and gender produced disparate punishment outcomes. Dr. Chowdhury is currently conducting research on alternative to juvenile detention programs and the role of informal social controls to help reduce violence.



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REIMAGINING JUSTICE THROUGH OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY

continued . . .

Teens 2 Be Heard is an organization founded by Cristina Pagan. The program provides a safe haven for young people in Passaic County on Friday evenings. In addition to life skills courses for the young people that attend, she and her team of dedicated



volunteers teach the teens how to advocate for themselves and understand the importance of their voice in the community.

The Village was created as a direct result of gun violence. Delwanna Miller lost her son and amidst her pain, she organized community members to reach out to young people in most violent areas to put down the guns and heal. As a result of the movement, members of the organization have held peace rallies, mediated potentially violent disputes, provided motivational speaking and facilitated support groups for victims of violence.

Reimagining Justice is a nonprofit founded by Liza Chowdhury and Jason Davis that works with credible messengers to talk to youth, institutions and community members to learn about gangs, crews, violence and mental health. The message of the organization is to promote collective efficacy, mental health awareness and take away the stigma affiliated with labels.

UPSHOT is an organization founded by Dashaun Morris that utilizes film, social media, books and motivational speaking to help discuss gang violence and trauma. The movement of this organization is to help those involved in gang activity to understand the repercussions of violence.



DPCC Member News

ELSA CHEN, PhD, has been appointed to serve as *Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at Santa Clara University*.

Dennis C. Jacobs, Santa Clara University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, [writes](#), "Through this position, Elsa will play a vital role in the development of programs and services to support the academic mission of the University. Elsa will be responsible for overseeing the areas of Faculty Affairs, Research, Undergraduate Studies, Faculty Development, Global Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion, and Teaching Innovation, as well as assisting me in supporting the deans and enacting academic policies. The Vice Provost also oversees the Hub Writing Center and the de Saisset Museum, and serves as the Provost's designee on the Academic Affairs Committee.



"Since 2015, Elsa has graciously served the University in a number of critical roles, including Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Chair of the University's Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion, Interim Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Development, and Co-Director of the Faculty Collaborative for Teaching Innovation. Prior to her current service, Elsa served on the Academic Affairs Committee and the College of Arts and Sciences' Rank and Tenure Committee. She also directed the Domestic Public Sector Studies Programs and contributed significantly to the Women of Color Network, the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, and the steering committee of the Ignatian Center for Jesuit Education.

"Recently promoted to the rank of Professor of Political Science, Elsa is the recipient of the 2011 President's Special Recognition Award, the 2012 Inclusive Excellence Award, and the 2015 David E. Logothetti Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Sciences. She has an A.B. from Princeton, a M.P.P. from Harvard, and a Ph.D. from UCLA. Prior to joining the Santa Clara faculty in 2000, she worked as a policy analyst in the criminal justice program at RAND."

JANICE IWAMA, PhD (Assistant Professor, Department of

Sociology, University of Massachusetts Boston), was interviewed on the Spanish-speaking network channel [Univision](#) as a hate crime scholar on hate crimes against Latinx peoples in the extended news feature entitled "'Nunca pensé que alguien nos odiara tanto por el simple hecho de ser latinos': Mexicana víctima de odio racista"

"Nunca pensé que alguien nos odiara tanto por mexicana víctima de odio racista"



Go to the ASC website to join the DPCC!

<http://www.asc41.com/appform1.html>

Immigration and Crime

What Does the Research Say?

Reprinted, with permission, from
[The Conversation](#)

In his first week in office, President Donald Trump showed he intends to follow through on his immigration promises. A major focus of his campaign was on removing immigrants who, he said, were increasing crime in American communities.

In his [acceptance speech](#) at the Republican National Convention, Trump named victims who were reportedly killed by undocumented immigrants and said:

They are being released by the tens of thousands into our communities with no regard for the impact on public safety or resources.... We are going to build a great border wall to stop illegal immigration, to stop the gangs and the violence, and to stop the drugs from pouring into our communities.

Now as president, he has signed executive orders that [restrict entry](#) of immigrants from seven countries into the U.S. and authorize the construction of [a wall](#) along the U.S. border with Mexico. He also signed an order to [prioritize](#) the removal of “criminal aliens” and withhold federal funding from “sanctuary cities.”

But, what does research say about how immigration impacts crime in U.S. communities? We turned to our experts for answers.



Across 200 Metropolitan Areas

ROBERT ADELMAN, University at Buffalo, and **LESLEY REID**, University of Alabama

Research has shown virtually no support for the enduring assumption that increases in immigration are associated with increases in crime.

Immigration-crime research over the past 20 years has widely corroborated the conclusions of a number of early 20th-century presidential [commissions](#) that found no backing for the immigration-crime connection. Although there are always individual exceptions, the literature demonstrates that immigrants commit [fewer crimes](#), on average, than native-born Americans.

Also, large cities with substantial immigrant populations have [lower crime rates](#), on average, than those with minimal immigrant populations.

In a [paper](#) published this year in the Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice, we, along with our colleagues Gail Markle, Saskia Weiss and Charles Jaret, investigated the immigration-crime relationship.

We analyzed census data spanning four decades from 1970 to 2010 for 200 randomly selected metropolitan areas, which include center cities and surrounding suburbs. Examining data over time allowed us to assess whether the relationship between immigration and crime changed with the broader U.S. economy and the origin and number of immigrants.

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Immigration and Crime

What Does the Research Say?

continued . . .

The most striking finding from our research is that for murder, robbery, burglary and larceny, as immigration increased, crime decreased, on average, in American metropolitan areas. The only crime that immigration had no impact on was aggravated assault. These associations are strong and stable evidence that immigration does not cause crime to increase in U.S. metropolitan areas, and may even help reduce it.

There are a number of ideas among scholars that explain why more immigration leads to less crime. The most common [explanation](#) is that immigration reduces levels of crime by revitalizing urban neighborhoods, creating vibrant communities and generating economic growth.

Across 20 Years of Data

CHARIS E. KUBRIN, University of California, Irvine, and **GRAHAM OUSEY**, College of William and Mary

For the last decade, we have been studying how immigration to an area impacts crime.

Across [our studies](#), one finding remains clear: Cities and neighborhoods with greater concentrations of immigrants have lower rates of crime and violence, all else being equal.

Our research also points to the importance of city context for understanding the immigration-crime relationship. In [one study](#), for example, we found that cities with historically high immigration levels are especially likely to enjoy reduced crime rates as a result of their immigrant populations.

Findings from our most recent study, forthcoming in the inaugural issue of [The Annual Review of Criminology](#), only strengthen these conclusions.

We conducted a meta-analysis, meaning we systematically evaluated available research on the immigration-crime relationship in neighborhoods, cities and metropolitan areas across the U.S. We examined findings from more than 50 studies published between 1994 and 2014, including studies conducted by our copanelists, Adelman and Reid.

Our analysis of the literature reveals that immigration has a weak crime-suppressing effect. In other words, more immigration equals less crime.

There were some individual studies that found that with an increase in immigration, there was an increase in crime. However, there were 2.5 times as many findings that showed immigration was actually correlated with less crime. And, the most common finding was that immigration had no impact on crime.

The upshot? We find no evidence to indicate that immigration leads to more crime and it may, in fact, suppress it.



Recent Publications of DPCC Members

ARTICLES

Kimberly Cook: “[Has Criminology Awakened From Its ‘Androcentric Slumber’?](#)” in *Feminist Criminology*, 2016, Volume 11, Issue 4.

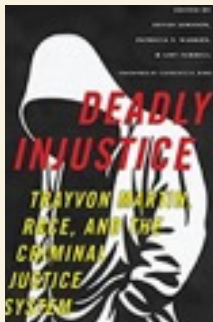
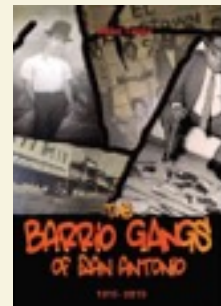
Frank Anthony Rodriguez & Marika Dawkins: “[Undocumented Latino Youth: Migration Experiences and the Challenges of Integrating into American Society](#)” in *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 2017, Volume 18, Issue 2. **SEE** Drs. Dawkins’s and Rodriguez’s London School of Economics US Centre blog about this study: [Undocumented and unaccompanied Latino youth who are exposed to violence are more likely to turn to crime to overcome disadvantage.](#)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Roy F. Janisch: “Native American Criminal Justice: Toward Evidence-Based Policies and Practices” in [Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy](#) edited by Thomas G. Blomberg, Julie Mestre Brancale, Kevin M. Beaver, and William D. Bales (2016, Routledge).

BOOKS

The Barrio Gangs of San Antonio, 1915-2015 by Mike Tapia (2017, Texas Christian University Press)



Deadly Injustice: Trayvon Martin, Race, and the Criminal Justice System edited by Devon Johnson, Patricia Y. Warren, and Amy Farrell (2015, New York University Press)



Intersectionality and Criminology: Disrupting and Revolutionizing Studies of Crime by Hillary Potter (2015, Routledge)



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We are also pleased to announce that the DPCC membership voted and approved (by a unanimous vote) the official public statement by the Division's Executive Board on Recent Criminal Justice Policy Decisions. The statement was drafted in February but we had to vote on amendments to our bylaws, and then the statement itself, on separate ballots. We thank all the members who participated in this process!

This year the ASC annual conference will be held in Philly! There is much exciting events to look forward to. First, the 2017 Symposium and Awards Luncheon will be held at Maggiano's Little Italy. This Italian restaurant is within close proximity to the conference hotel in Philadelphia (1201 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107). The luncheon speakers will be Pam Africa and Ramona Africa who are members of the MOVE organization. You don't want to miss it! But please keep in mind that Maggiano's private banquet hall only seats 90 guests comfortably. In previous years, we have had more than 100 people show up to the Symposium and Luncheon so be sure to purchase your tickets, which are only \$35 for members, ASAP!

Second, the mentoring program, which is now referred to as the Student Collective Mentoring Program, will have a social on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, from 7-9pm. The social will take place at Howl at the Moon, which is located at 258 S 15th St, Philadelphia, PA 19102. Come mingle with students and faculty and enjoy free appetizers!

Third, the DPCC will sponsor a featured policy panel for this year's ASC meeting. The panel will be on Civil Rights Enforcement and led by Nancy Rodriguez, former Director of the National Institute of Justice. The commentators will include criminologists Geoff Ward (University of California, Irvine) and Delores Jones-Brown (John Jay College of Criminal Justice). In addition, the DPCC and the Division on Women and Crime (DWC) will jointly sponsor a featured policy panel called "Social Media for Social Justice," which will be led by Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve (Temple University). The commentator will be Donovan X. Ramsey from The Marshall Project. The discussants will include criminologists Allison Cotton (Metropolitan State University of Denver) and Christina DeJong (Michigan State University).

Many thanks to all of our DPCC members and officers for all of your great work!

JENNIFER COBBINA and ELSA CHEN

Co-Chairs, Division on People of Color and Crime

**RACE & JUSTICE SCHOLAR**

The official newsletter of the Division on People of Color and Crime of the American Society of Criminology.

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