

dpcc

SPRING/
SUMMER
2012

Race and Justice Scholar



Note from the Chair

With each year, those of us who focus our research on alleviating the racially-based aspects in crime, criminality, and the criminal processing system hope that we work our way out of a job. Regrettably, we have so much more work to do. There are many situations to reference regarding this concern, but one of the most talked about cases in recent months has been the shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman. This tragedy has provided us with yet another case-

study on the continued salience of race, race relations, and racialized perceptions of crime. It is unfortunate that we continue to be supplied with fodder for our research. As follows, we must make sure that OUR voices are heard in assuring that stereotypical and biased reasoning is not accepted as fact, whether considering the Martin-Zimmerman case or the many other matters that deserve our attention.

We must question everything. And we must demand others - students, the press, justice system professionals, and the general

public alike - to also question the way we think about and treat others, and how our crime-processing systems can be transformed to work better for all of us. Relatedly, Hal Pepinsky pushes criminologists to "think outside the box" in his article appearing in this issue on the measurement of crime in the United States.

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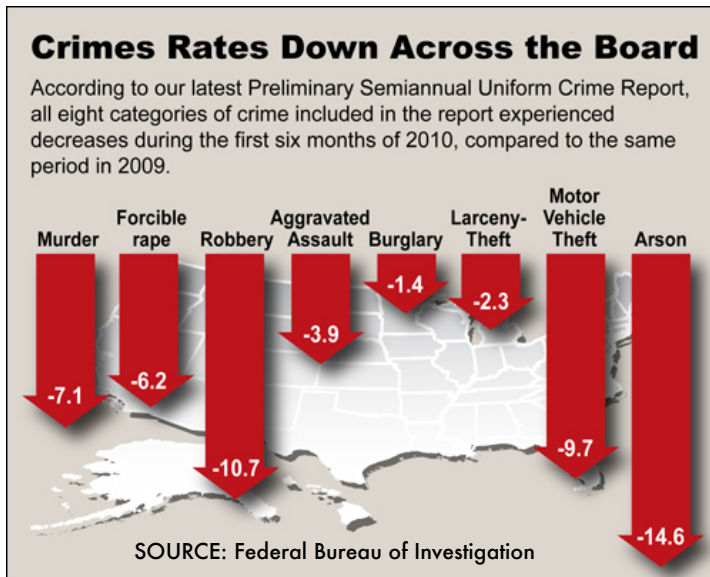
American Society of
Criminology



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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Crime Measurement: Give It Up!

by Hal Pepinsky

Thanks for inviting me to write a brief account of my career-long appeal to my fellow criminologists to forsake counts of crimes and criminals as their dependent variables. My reports of findings about counting crime begin with a law school clash (see my 1991 *Geometry of Violence*, p. 1, para. 2 for the story), to a dissertation field observation and analysis of police patrolmen's decisions whether to report offenses, to a historical review of the growth of crime measurement in the United States, to a 1980 book on crime control strategies devoted to applying measures of crime and criminality, to a 30-year review of police crime counting in Indianapolis, to a records and interview check of crime counts in Sheffield England that I gathered in 1983 and published in 1987, and beyond, I have continually concluded that crime counts can tell me about trends in counting behavior more clearly than about trends in behavior of the counted. A 2001 account of the evolution of my

findings and thinking about crime statistics in general and New York City's COMPSTAT in particular are in the freely readable and downloadable first chapter and references at <http://critcrim.org/pepinsky>.

I sum up my conclusions about the crime counting enterprise in my 2006 University of Ottawa Press book, *Peacemaking: Reflections of a Radical Criminologist*. Page proofs are also freely available at http://critcrim.org/sites/default/files/Pepinsky_proofs_o.pdf. There I revisit what I learned over nearly 40 years of inquiry into crime and criminality measurement. I call on criminologists to abandon the study of criminality in favor of studying how we build trust and security in all our relations in the face of forces of fear and separation—supplanting competition with compassion. I won't use space here recounting all that I report in the web-placed writing I have just cited. When I retired three years ago, I started a blog on peacemaking at <http://pepinsky.blogspot.com> that includes posts reacting to an October 22, 2011,

DPCC Member News

Greg Barak announces the publication of his new book, *Theft of a Nation: Wall Street Looting and Federal Regulatory Colluding*. Prepublication reviews call his work "a rich history," "an intelligent and disturbing analysis," and "an extremely well-written piece of major scholarship." For more information, see the publisher's website at <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781442207783>

Kimberly D. Dodson, Assistant Professor in the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, earned the university's Academic Excellence Award for 2012. The award is given to a faculty member who demonstrates a strong commitment to teaching and instruction and supports opportunities for research, scholarly and creative activities, and public service and outreach, and delivers a strong, user-centered information technology infrastructure in the classroom.

DPCC Member News

Lorenzo Boyd was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the Fayetteville State University.

Howard Henderson was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Sam Houston State University.

Edwardo Portillos was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

Hillary Potter was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Viviane Saleh-Hanna was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth.

Marjorie Zatz began in July 2012 as Program Director, Law and Social Sciences Program, National Science Foundation. Dr. Zatz is on leave from her position at Arizona State University.

“crime counts are real in perpetuating the grand delusion that prosecution and law enforcement can make us safer”

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extended report on COMPSTAT crime counting back in NYC. I welcome responses to any of my published findings on crime measurement.

I felt vindicated by the October 22 “This American Life” radio segment on COMPSTAT. The transcript of that show is at <http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/414/transcript>. As I found first in Indianapolis, police (in England too) respond to incentives to how to report crime and criminality. In the United States, the federal police crime reports are of seven “index offenses,” ranging from murder and non-negligent manslaughter through rape, robbery, burglary, through “major” theft through arson. I first noticed a “roller coaster” effect in crime counting in the Indianapolis study. When police marginally spent time taking and filing citizen complaints of offenses, they were criticized for failing to enforce order on city streets by arrests. When they turned to arrests for offenses that are not on the crime index, their crime reports fell. Over thirty years in Indy from 1948 to 1978, the roller coaster rode several cycles of waves of crime reporting, then of arrests.

These days police nationwide are more closely than ever monitored to make crime figures look good, so that crime reports, even of homicide, go down while the primary index of trends in juvenile crime—juvenile arrests—show that young people of color in particular are threatening public safety (a.k.a. national security), while arrests, community corrections caseloads, and incarceration all “prove” that increased law enforcement prevents crime. I find instead that more powerful adults are odds-on to be far more dangerous to selves and others than the poor who are counted criminal. To paraphrase W.I. Thomas, crime counts are real in perpetuating the grand delusion that prosecution and law enforcement can make us safer.

I don’t question the personal sincerity and commitment of crime counters. Those who are invested in crime counting share my desire to make findings, which can be applied to doing social good. I have set a course beyond controlling crime and criminals, toward sharing rather than accumulating power in all our relations. I have shifted away from studying crime and criminality. I invite criminologists who have not already done so to abandon the anachronism that we can gauge our social well-being by whether crime and criminality rise or fall. Thanks to DPCC for giving me this hearing. I welcome dialogue anytime.

Love and peace—Hal
pepinsk@indiana.edu

Hal Pepinsky

Professor Emeritus
Department of Criminal Justice
Indiana University, Bloomington

J.D. Harvard University, 1968;
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Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

ASC Annual Meeting Program Committee

Victor Rios, Ph.D., Executive Counselor

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Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara

Internal Awards Committee



WANT TO HELP?

The DPCC needs your help for the ASC Annual Meeting in Chicago. If you would like to volunteer, please contact any of the members of the Board listed above.

ASC Annual Meeting 2012 November 14-17 Chicago Palmer House Hilton Hotel Preliminary Program for DPCC Events	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	9:30am Author-Meets-Critics Session for Arrested Justice by Beth Richie 5:00pm Author-Meets-Critics Session for 5 Grams by Dimitri Bogazianos 6:30pm DPCC Happy Hour (offsite)	11:00am DPCC General Business Meeting 2:00pm DPCC Mentoring Meeting and Workshop	12:30pm DPCC Luncheon Symposium 2:00pm Authors-Meet-Critics Session for Race & Justice by Marvin Free & Mitch Ruesink 10:00pm Minority Fellowship Dance	10:00am Author-Meets-Critics Session for The Black Child Savers by Geoff Ward

Conferences: Calls for Submissions

Critical Criminology and Justice Studies Conference

Working Theme: *The Promise of Radical Works and Social Justice: Berkeley Politics in the 21st Century*

The Department of Sociology-Criminology & Justice Studies at California State University San Marcos, and the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University will host a critical criminology & justice studies conference Thursday, **February 7, 2013**, in Berkeley, CA. This day-long event is the fifth in a conference series viewed as a grassroots effort to cultivate a critical criminology and justice studies collective in the western region of North America. The conference immediately precedes the opening reception for the Western Society of Criminology's annual meeting Feb. 7-9, 2013. (<http://westerncriminology.org>).

Email abstracts (300 words or less) to kglover@csusm.edu by October 15, 2012. Please

include full contact information and university/organization affiliation with your email submission.

Registration Fee – Faculty/Non-student: \$40.00 (includes meeting space, student support)
 Students are encouraged to attend and are not charged a registration fee. Registration accepted on-site.

For further information, please contact Karen Glover at (760) 750-4170 or kglover@csusm.edu.

Rethinking Prisons Conference

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee
 May 3-5, 2013

The Vanderbilt Committee for Rethinking Prisons invites submissions of workshop presentations that interrogate and share knowledge on issues raised by the American prison system. The conference seeks to foster conversations between activists and scholars who share common concerns and bring

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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/>

April 2012, Vol. 2, No. 2

"Racial Disparity in Iowa Prisons:
Possible Theoretical Explanations for
Racial Differences Between Inmates on
the Level of Service Inventory-Revised"
by Christopher C. Barnum, Sandra A.
Quinn, and Nick J. Manrique

"Constructing 'the Other' Media
Representations of Katrina Evacuees in
Houston, Texas" by Deirdre M. Warren

"Race, Geography, and Juvenile Justice:
An Exploration of the Liberation
Hypothesis" by Angela Taylor, Lori
Guevara, Lorenzo M. Boyd, and Robert
A. Brown

"An Analysis and Recommendations
Concerning an Incident in Which Muslim
Students Interrupted an Israel Official
Speaking on a College Campus" by
Gilbert Geis

Book Review by Doshie Piper of
Immigrants Raising Citizens:
Undocumented Parents and Their Young
Children by Hirokazu Yoshikawa

July 2012, Vol. 2, No. 3

"Hip-Hop and Procedural Justice: Hip-
Hop Artists' Perceptions of Criminal
Justice" by Kevin F. Steinmetz and
Howard Henderson

"Racial Disparity in Police Contacts" by
Robert D. Crutchfield, Martie L. Skinner,
Kevin P. Haggerty, Anne McGlynn, and
Richard F. Catalano

"Predictors of Hate Crime Prosecutions:
An Analysis of Data From the National
Prosecutors Survey and State-Level Bias
Crime Laws" by Bryan D. Byers, Kiesha
Warren-Gordon, and James A. Jones

Book Review by Jennifer Sumner of *A
Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of
Mass Incarceration in America* by Ernest
Drucker

Conferences: Calls for Submissions (continued)

different knowledge, methods, strategies and experience to the table.

The format will be discussion-based workshops. Panels of three will present their work for the first 30 minutes of the session. Their presentations will be followed by 45 minutes of discussion. Our conversations will address (but will not be limited to):

- (1) Intersections between the work of prison activists and research in political, literary, legal and social theory.
- (2) Challenges faced by an activists seeking transformational alternatives to the U.S. prison system
- (3) The promise and shortcomings of present death penalty and solitary confinement legislation
- (4) The intersections of the U.S. prison system with race, gender, class, and sexuality.
- (5) The intersections of the U.S. prison system with politics.

In addition to the workshops, we will have two keynote speakers, Joy James and Susan Rosenberg. Joy James is the editor of several important anthologies of work on prisons and by prisoners, including *The New Abolitionists: (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Prison Writings* (2005), *Imprisoned Intellectuals* (2003), and *States of Confinement: Policing, Detention and Prisons* (2002). Susan Rosenberg is a writer, educator, and former political prisoner. Her memoir, *An American Radical: A Political Prisoner In My Own Country* (2011), is a moving account of her experience of incarceration and of her HIV/AIDS activism, both in prisons and beyond. As a result of her lawsuit with Silvia Baraldini and Sylvia Brown, Lexington's High Security Unit, an experimental prison for women, was permanently closed.

Guidelines for Submission of an individual workshop presentation are available from the Program Committee members, Lisa Guenther lisa.guenther@vanderbilt.edu and Geoff Adelsberg geoffrey.adelsberg@vanderbilt.edu

All submissions must be submitted electronically by December 1, 2012.

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As we move into our busy season, I encourage DPCC members - including our new and budding scholars - to push even harder to get our voices heard. For instance, submit research papers to journals that have been established as a platform for progressive work in race, crime, and justice, such as the DPCC's official journal, *Race and Justice*, and the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. And we must also make attempts to get published in "mainstream" journals such as the official ASC journals *Criminology* and *Criminology and Public Policy*.

It's also important to share our expertise beyond the academic world. For example, submit your name and profile to your local press (especially the "crime beat" reporters), stating that you are available for interviews on crime-related issues in your area. Also consider joining up with local and national activist and advocacy groups working on issues related to your expertise. Many members of these groups are especially open to having interaction with individuals fully embedded in scholarly research related to the group's focus.

While we have much more work to do, we must also remember that we've come a long way. For instance, four of the five individuals recently elected to serve on the ASC executive board are DPCC members and have done much in their work to advance issues important to the DPCC. (We will highlight these members in the next newsletter.) As mentioned above, there are academic journals that have been established to directly focus on race, crime, and justice. Our numbers have also increased, as evidenced in the directory of doctoral-level criminologists who identify as a person of color, most of whom also have expertise in issues related to race and crime. Indeed, we have much to celebrate in the trails that have been blazed since scholars like Coramae Richey Mann and Julius Debro entered the scene and began breaking down the barriers for all of us who have followed.

Hillary Potter
 Chair, Division on People of Color and Crime



DPCC Reminders

Summer is a good time to catch up on academic chores. Here's a list of DPCC related items that should be on your to-do list.

- Pay your ASC and DPCC dues.
- Join the Division listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dpcc-asc/> or contact Kenethia Fuller at kfuller@uncfsu.edu.
- Join the DPCC Facebook group. Just search for Division on People of Color and Crime and then request to join the group.
- Review the July issue of *Race and Justice*, the official journal of DPCC. If you have not done so, make sure you are signed up to receive the journal: <http://raj.sagepub.com/>.
- Consider serving on one of the many DPCC committees or as a member of the Board. The call for Board member nominations will go out in August.
- Submit your information to hillary.potter@colorado.edu for inclusion in the new Directory of Criminologists of Color.
- Send information about publications, awards, calls for papers, and other news to jmckean@bsu.edu for inclusion in the next edition of *Race and Justice Scholar*.