

Race and Justice Scholar

THE DIVISION ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND CRIME NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Editors of Race and Justice: An International Journal

The intersection of race and the justice system is increasingly a topic of mainstream conversation. Political officials, the media, and many criminal-justice practitioners criticize mass incarceration and certain policing strategies for their detrimental impacts on people and communities of color.

Continued on Page 2

Members' Promotions and Publications

Congratulations Mike Tapia on obtaining tenure and promotion at New Mexico State University and on the below recent publications:

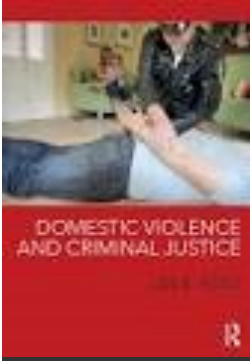
Mike Tapia. (In Press). "Barrio Criminal Networks and Prison Gang Formation in Texas" *Journal of Gang Research*.

Mike Tapia, Leanne Alarid, and Courtney Clare. 2018. "Parenting Styles and Juvenile Delinquency: Exploring Gendered Relationships". *Juvenile & Family Court Journal*, 69 (2): 1-25.

Mike Tapia, Nicholas Natividad and Crystal Vasquez. 2017. "The Effects of Restorative Justice Programming on Juvenile Offender Empathy". *Journal of Knowledge and Best Practices in Juvenile Justice and Psychology* 10(1): 7 -16.

Janet Garcia-Hallett has a new publication:

Garcia-Hallett, J. (2018). Maternal Identities and Narratives of Motherhood: A Qualitative Exploration of Women's Pathways Into and Out of Offending. *Feminist Criminology*. DOI 10.1177/1557085118769741



LEE ROSS HAS A NEW TEXTBOOK IN THE AREA OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Ross, Lee E. (2018). *Domestic Violence and Criminal Justice*. Boca Raton: Routledge Publishing (Taylor & Francis Group).

Racial justice in all forms (social, economic, and so on) is widely recognized as indispensable to a free, open, democratic society

Yet many of the racial gaps in opportunity that give rise to inequality, discrimination, crime, and disproportionate justice-system contact persist in society, and many are worsening. The income gap between black and white families in the United States widened dramatically during the Great Recession and is now at its largest in recorded history. Even black Americans who hold college degrees, are employed full time, and own homes possess a mere fraction of the wealth that similarly situated white Americans enjoy. Economists estimate it would take the average Latino family 84 years and the average black family 228 years to accumulate the financial resources held by the average white family today. Millions of people of color nationwide are, as the saying goes, a flat tire away from financial devastation. Systemic poverty perpetuates racism, and racism in turn gives rise to public policies and social practices that entrap vulnerable people in pockets of concentrated disadvantage. Crime, violence, and drugs dwell in the isolation created by these discriminatory policies and practices.

Recent times have also seen a rise in the popularity of the practice of willfully discounting facts that do not fit with some preconceived bias or political agenda. Speaking loudly is all too often considered a legitimate substitute for gathering trustworthy information. In a time when objective social and political realities of all types are flagrantly ignored by zealots pushing preposterous agendas, it is imperative that cooler heads prevail.

Scientists and academics are vital to the effort to keep truth and facts at the center of public policy. We collect our data and report our findings with integrity. This does not mean we do not care about injustice; indeed, we care deeply and are committed to alleviating it in whatever ways we can. Researchers produce the empirical evidence needed to reveal hidden inequalities, unmask “racially neutral” policies that in fact have discriminatory impacts, and inform the discussion about productive solutions to reducing the burdens that all too many people of color face in their lives.

As the editors of *Race and Justice*, we value scholarship that advances the understanding of racial inequalities and the methods by which injustice might be ameliorated or eliminated. We consider and accept manuscripts containing a wide range of topics and research methods. Our core values remain grounded in the belief that scientific study is the best way to produce information. We seek to be a scholarly journal in which readers can find articles that speak to cutting-edge topics and yield trustworthy, reliable conclusions. In this way, we see *Race and Justice* as helping advance the racial-equality and racial-justice dialogue in the U.S.

Please consider submitting your work to the journal. We have prompt turnaround times, and accepted manuscripts are immediately published online while they await placement in an upcoming issue. We look forward to receiving your manuscripts.

Sincerely,

Jacinta M. Gau
Kareem L. Jordan
Co-Editors-in-Chief, *Race and Justice: An International Journal*

MORE RECENT PUBLICATIONS

David E. Barlow, Melissa Hickman Barlow **Police in a Multicultural Society: An American Story** **Second Edition**

Social, political, and economic relationships played key roles in the historical development of the police. The authors present policing strategies from the vantage points of marginalized communities and emphasize the intersection of attitudes about class, race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation with policies. Police practices cannot be class neutral in a class-based society, nor can they be race neutral or gender neutral in a racist, sexist, and heterosexist society. The key to understanding the relationship between the police and society is to think critically about the role of power and interests.

The second edition includes a new chapter in the section on the police and rebellion covering recent events. There is also a new chapter on Latino/a police officers and an expanded chapter on LGBTQ police officers.

Without meaningful social change toward greater justice, police reforms such as community policing and training in cultural diversity will fall short of creating an institution characterized by fairness and equality for all members of society. A clear view of history is essential for understanding the challenges a more diverse police force faces in today's multicultural environment.

CO-CHAIR JENNIFER COBBINA HAS PUBLISHED:

Adams, Elizabeth A., Merry Morash, Sandi W. Smith, and **Jennifer E. Cobbina**. (2017).
Women's Experience of Motherhood, Violations of Supervision Requirements and
Arrests. *British Journal of Criminology*, 57, 1420-1441.

Morash, Merry, Deborah A. Kashy, Sandi W. Smith, and **Jennifer E. Cobbina**. (2017).
"Technical Violations, Treatment and Punishment Responses, and Recidivism of Women on
Probation and Parole." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* (online first DOI:
10.1177/0887403417723425

Kerrison, Erin, **Jennifer E. Cobbina**, and Kimberly Bender (2017). "Your Pants Won't
Save You": Why Black Youth Challenge the Demands of Respectability Politics and Race-
Based Police Surveillance." *Race & Justice* (online first DOI: 10.1177/0887403417723425)

- Holmstrom, Amanda J., Elizabeth A. Adams, Merry Morash, Sandi W. Smith, **Jennifer E. Cobbina**. (2017). "Supportive messages female offenders receive from probation and parole officers about substance use: Message perceptions and effects" *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, (online first DOI: 10.1177/0093854817723395).
- Morash, Merry, Deborah A. Kashy, **Jennifer E. Cobbina**, and Sandi W. Smith. (2017). "Characteristics and Context of Women Probationers and Parolees Who Engage in Violence." *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, (online first DOI: 10.1177/0093854817719103).
- Cobbina, Jennifer E.**, Michael Conteh, and Colin Emrich. (2017). "Race, Gender, and Responses to the Police among Ferguson Residents and Protesters." *Race and Justice* (online first DOI: 10.1177/2153368717699673).
- Lavin, Roberta, Tener Veenema, Wilma Calvert, Sheila Grisby, & **Jennifer Cobbina**. (2017). Nurse Leaders' Response to Civil Unrest in the Urban Core. *Nursing Administrative Quarterly*, 41, 164-169.
- Morash, Merry, Deborah A. Kashy, Sandi W. Smith, and **Jennifer E. Cobbina**. (2017). "Is the Nature of Communication Relevant to the Supportiveness of Women's Relationships with Probation and Parole Agents?" *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*.
- Morash, Merry, Deborah Kashy, Miriam Northcutt Bohmert, **Jennifer E. Cobbina**, and Sandi W. Smith (2017). "Women at the Nexus of Correctional and Social Policies: Implications for Recidivism Risk" *British Journal of Criminology*, 57, 441-462
- Oselin, Sharon and **Jennifer E. Cobbina**. (2017). "Holding their Own: Female Sex Workers' Perceptions of Safety Strategies." In Katie Hail-Jares, Corey S. Shdaimah, and Chrysanthi S. Leon (eds.), *Challenging Perspectives on Street-Based Sex Work*. Philadelphia, Temple University Press

Member's Contribution to the Discipline

JOB WOES SHOW PUNISHMENT DOESN'T END WITH PRISON: EX-CONVICT PUNISHMENT PERSISTS IN JOB SEARCH

Doshie Piper

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One of the lasting and harmful consequences of the era of mass incarceration is the large number of our neighbors returning from jails and prisons with a permanent felony record – an estimated 7,000 per year in Bexar County, TX alone.

Many observers have rightly questioned the morality and the efficacy of the War on Drugs and other tough-on-crime policies primarily waged in poor communities of color, but not enough attention is given to the challenge of reintegrating our returning neighbors who have already paid their "debt to society."

Tough-on-crime policies extend well beyond harsh sentencing. There is a series of invisible sanctions we impose after the official sentence is met. People with felony records, especially drug-related cases, are legally discriminated against when seeking jobs, public housing, food assistance and student loans, not to mention voting and jury duty. One of the most harmful of these sanctions may be the discrimination of employment because a stable job with a living wage is a critical factor in keeping former convicts from relapsing into the criminal justice system.

The Nehemiah Reentry Project hosted its annual community forum on the East Side of San Antonio to address reintegration. Leaders from congregations and community organizations met with dozens of returning neighbors and their family members in an effort to ease their reentry after serving a sentence. I met a former nurse who talked about his obstacles to getting a job. "I am in a Catch-22 situation," he said; "On one hand there are so-called 'felon-friendly' employers who won't hire me because my previous nursing career makes me overqualified, and on the other hand, I don't get past the background check for a professional job."

Imagine filling out a job application that asks you to "check the box if you are married or have children." Or "check the box that best describes your sexual orientation." Or even "check the box if you have physical disabilities of any kind." No, we cannot imagine it because we have made that illegal. Our policies reflect our conviction that it is wrong to determine a candidate's ability to do a job based on those criteria.

The Nehemiah Reentry Project leaders believe that it is also wrong to severely and permanently curtail opportunities for someone who has been convicted of a felony, without regard for the type of crime, how long ago it happened, or any extenuating circumstances.

In a recent study, researchers tracked 88,000 people arrested in 1980 for the following 25 years. They compared the results with citizens of the same age who had never been previously arrested and found that there is a period of time after which an ex-offender should be considered "redeemed." The probability that someone would re-offend based on offense type and age is known as the "hazard rate." The hazard rate for 18-year-olds arrested for burglary declined to that of the general population in 3.8 years; for aggravated assault in 4.3 years; and for robbery 7.7 years.

After a relatively short time, some ex-offenders are no more likely to commit a crime than any of us, but they are labeled for the rest of their lives.

That is why civil rights groups and advocates for formerly incarcerated individuals promote fair-chance hiring through a "Ban the Box" campaign. This national effort encourages employers to remove from their job applications the box that applicants must check if they have ever been convicted of a crime. Checking the box essentially ends the chance of being considered for the job.

The federal government has "banned the box" from its job applications and so has Bexar County. In fact, the county has done much more; it opened the Bexar County Reentry Center in May and made numerous changes to the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) with its East- and West-side field offices to accommodate the needs of returning citizens. The county is also coordinating numerous faith-based reentry initiatives.

Unfortunately, the city of San Antonio and the state of Texas continue to ask the question of all applicants for all their jobs. All private sector employers in this state are legally allowed to ask the question and most do.

Texas State Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, introduced a “Ban the Box” bill during the last legislative session. HB 548, which passed the House but died in the Senate, would have prevented state agencies from asking about one’s criminal background until the interview stage, giving the applicant an opportunity to prove they are ready for the job.

An estimated 12 million Texans are directly affected by the criminal record question, which severely limits the pool of applicants.

In 2008, the city of Austin passed a resolution amending its employment applications to “no longer require the disclosure of past criminal history during the initial job application process.” And more recently, the Austin City Council’s Economic Opportunity Committee introduced the “fair chance hiring” ordinance. If it passes, Austin will join seven states and 12 cities that have extended the “Ban the Box” requirement to private employers.

Cities and states that have banned the box stand on firm legal ground. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has policies that prohibit employers from discriminating solely on the basis of a criminal record. In January 2012, the EEOC announced that Pepsi Beverages agreed to pay \$3.13 million based on a finding of reasonable cause that their criminal background check policy discriminated against African-American applicants. Pepsi’s former policy disproportionately excluded black applicants from employment based on arrests for certain minor offenses, even if they had never been convicted.

It is time for the San Antonio community to have a real conversation about the many obstacles we have placed in front of our neighbors returning from jails and prisons. It is in our best interest to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration as full members of the community. That means exploring real solutions such as affordable housing, public transportation, living wages and “fair chance hiring” policies. The city of San Antonio has begun raising its entry-level wages to \$13 an hour, on its way to \$15 an hour; promoting fair chance hiring policies should also be considered.

Through our community forums we have heard how people in our neighborhoods struggle with the consequences of a permanent criminal record. This stigma, which is borne disproportionately by poor people of color, dehumanizes them and leaves them and their families vulnerable.

We invite the community to join us in grappling with all these issues and to help us create an effective, broad-based institutional response to this crisis. We believe in redemption and forgiveness; it is time our policies reflect our beliefs.

... District 4 Councilman Saldana accepted the invitation presented in the above opinion editorial and garnered support by four Council members to propose a policy change to remove the criminal background question from the City of San Antonio application. It passed with a nine to one vote in favor of removing the criminal background question from all City applications. Councilmen Saldana along District 2 Councilman Shaw, who has the second largest reentry population in his city council district have been meeting with the business community and other stakeholders to work on a Fair Chance Hiring Ordinance.

However, these reentry advancements in Austin and San Antonio have not been without opposition. This 85th legislative session, HB91 relating to a review of occupational licensing requirements and an applicant's criminal history passed the Texas House. This was after numerous amendments. This original HB91 wanted to stop ANY city in TEXAS from passing ANY type of ordinance to help folks coming out of prison, jail or simply have been arrested.

DPCC Awards Nominations and Solicitations

The DPCC has approved the creation of a new graduate fellowship -Shortly after the ASC annual meeting last year, Chris Eskridge reached out to all the division heads requesting the development of new student awards to recognize students who do good work. Chris stated that he wanted DPCC to set up this new student award, set up a committee, establish the usual award standards and procedures and criteria, put out an announcement, and then start raising the money to support the award. Since one- third of ASC members are students, ASC wants to do more to support its student members. As a result, DPCC created the Helen Taylor Greene and Vernetta D. Young Graduate Fellowship AND the Norman White Outstanding Student Paper Award. Please note that DPCC has always had a student award. However, 1) now we have named it after Norm White to honor him for his contribution to issues dealing with racial equity and social justice; 2) we now require students to submit a paper; 3) the winner of the paper will be awarded \$500.

Additionally, a number of people on the executive committee (and many others) spoke extremely highly of Helen Taylor Greene and Vernetta D. Young in the naming of the new graduate fellowship to recognize the support they have provided to graduate students over the years. The award both honors their commitment to students, and continues their work and support.

HELEN TAYLOR GREENE AND VERNETTA D. YOUNG GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP FOR THE STUDY OF RACE AND CRIME IS DESIGNED TO RECOGNIZE AN EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT IN THE FIELD OF RACE AND CRIME.

The division will give annually one graduate student a one-time award in the amount of \$2,500 to support a project involving original research, program or service development, implementation, and/or evaluation, or advocacy. In order to be eligible, the student must be the leader or principal investigator on the project. The project may be a master's thesis, dissertation research, or another project.

Budget items that will be supported include: data collection, data purchases, hardware/software purchases, travel (to archives or for other data collection purposes, for conference or workshop travel), promotional or program materials, office supplies, participant compensation, or salary support/research assistance salary. The fellowship will not cover indirect costs.

The fellowship will be awarded based on the following criteria:

- The originality of the proposed project;
- The potential of the project to inform race and crime research, theory, or practice;
- The feasibility of the proposed project, including the budget and timeline for completion.

In order to be eligible to apply, a graduate student must be:

- Currently enrolled (full or part time) in an accredited masters or doctoral program (including professional programs, like social work or law);
- In good academic standing;
- Lead or principal investigator on the project;
- If not already a student member of the Division on People of Color and Crime, it is expected that the winner will join the division upon receipt of the award.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply, please submit the following materials as a single .pdf document to fellowship committee chair Mike Tapia at mtapia@nmsu.edu no later than August 15, 2018.

- A research proposal (no longer than 5 single spaced pages), including the following sections:
 - Purpose of the project
 - Background/literature review/theoretical framing
 - Goals/objectives
 - Implementation plan
 - Deliverables (e.g., master's thesis, dissertation, report)
- Proposed budget, justification for budget items
- Project timeline
- Current curriculum vitae
- Transcript from current institution (unofficial is fine)

Letter of nomination from at least one permanent, full time faculty member at the student's current institution. Letter can be submitted directly to the link above, and should address student's academic standing and suitability for the proposed research.

Please title your complete application document "DPCC_Lastname_Firstname_Application.pdf". Nomination letters should be titled using the same format: "DPCC_Lastname_Firstname_Letter.pdf" (with applicant's name).

Winners will be notified by October 1, 2018, and will be expected to submit a one-page annual activity statement no later than October 1 each year following the award until the project is completed.

Any presentations, papers, or printed materials that result from this award must include the following text: "This project was supported by the Division on People of Color and Crime Helen Taylor Greene and Vernetta D. Young Graduate Fellowship."

THE DIVISION ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND CRIME'S NORMAN WHITE OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER AWARD

The Division on People of Color and Crime of the American Society of Criminology invites submissions for the Outstanding Student Paper Award. The fellowship is named in honor of Norman White whose research interest focused on community initiatives surrounding issues of racial equity and social justice. This award honors Norm White for his contribution and continues his efforts.

This award is presented in recognition of outstanding student research on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice. Eligibility is limited to papers that are authored by one or more undergraduate or graduate students and have not been previously published or accepted for publication at the time of submission. Papers written with faculty members are not considered for this award. Submissions will be judged on five evaluative criteria, including: the overall significance of the work; its research contribution to the field; integration of prior literature in the area; appropriateness and sophistication of the research methodology (if applicable); and overall quality of writing and organization of the paper. Papers should not exceed 30 pages of double-spaced text. References, tables, and figures are not included in the page limit.

The winner of the award will be recognized during the DPCC luncheon at the annual conference and awarded a cash prize of \$500.00. In cases in which there are multiple authors, the award will be divided among the recipients.

Submit nominations by September 1, 2018 to Dr. Mike Tapia, chair of the DPCC Award Committee, at mtapia@nmsu.edu. The award recipients will be honored at the Annual Symposium Awards and Luncheon during the ASC meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2018 in Atlanta, GA.

Submission/Solicitations

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBMITTING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE PALGRAVE STUDIES IN RACE, ETHNICITY, INDIGENEITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

This pioneering series brings much-needed attention to minority, excluded, and marginalized perspectives in criminology, centered on the topic of 'race' and the racialization of crime and criminal justice systems. It draws on a range of theoretical approaches including critical race theory, critical criminology, postcolonial theory, intersectional approaches and Indigenous theory. The series seeks to challenge and broaden the current discourse, debates and discussions within contemporary criminology as a whole, including drawing on the voices of Indigenous people and those from the Global South which are often silenced in favor of dominant white discourses in Criminology.

Editors:

Cunneen, C. (Ed), Russell-Brown, K. (Ed), Gabbidon, S. L. (Ed), Garner, S. (Ed)

****SAVE THE DATE****

PLEASE CONTACT RITA SHAH PHD FOR MORE INFORMATION.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CRIMINOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY,
AND CRIMINOLOGY

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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The Division on People of Color and Crime is a constitutionally endorsed group within the American Society of Criminology.

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The DPCC serves to bring together ALL people who are dedicated to addressing the concerns and issues of people of color in the study of crime, justice, and the crime-processing system. The DPCC facilitates and encourages research and theory development about people of color and criminal justice, and promotes relevant and effective teaching techniques and practices for courses on race, ethnicity, crime, and justice. The Division also recognizes the achievements of scholars (including students) who make outstanding contributions in research and activism/practitioner work on people of color and crime in the field of criminology or criminal justice through its annual awards program. To facilitate scholarly connections, networking, and mentoring, the DPCC provides featured panels; numerous presentations on race, ethnicity, and crime; an annual luncheon symposium; and a student mentoring workshop and social.

<https://www.ascdpcc.org/>