



Crime, Law, and Deviance

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2001

Crime, Law, and Deviance 2000-2001 SECTION OFFICERS CHAIR

Robert Sampson
University of Chicago
rjsam@src.uchicago.edu

FORMER CHAIR

Karen Heimer
University of Iowa
karen-heimer@uiowa.edu

SECRETARY TREASURER

Jeanette Covington
Rutgers
covington@rci.rutgers.edu

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Candace Kruttschnitt-'03
University of Minnesota
kruttool@maroon.tc.umn.edu

Neal Shover-'03
University of Tennessee
nshover@utk.edu

Celesta Albonetti-'02
University of Iowa
celesta-albonetti@u.washington.edu

Robert Crutchfield-'02
University of Washington
crutch@uiowa.edu

David Greenberg - '01
New York University
dgreenberg@acflcluster.nyu.edu

John Hagedorn - '01
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
huk@csdr@csd.uwm.edu

Editor

Gary Jensen,
Vanderbilt University
jensengf@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

Assistant Editor

Sarah Goodrum
University of Texas
sdg@mail.la.utexas.edu

FROM THE SECTION CHAIR

Dear CLD Members:

Election results are in and the new chair-elect is Valerie Jenness. The two new council members are Pamela Wilcox Rountree and Darrell Steffensmeier.

Also, the winners of the Albert Reiss Award are Kitty Calavita, Henry Pontell and Robert Tillman for their book, Big Money Crime: Fraud and Politics in the Savings and Loan Crisis, and related published articles (See back cover).

Brian Johnson, a graduate student in the Crime, Law, and Justice Program at Penn State University, was unanimously chosen to win this year's CLD Student Paper Award for "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Sentencing Departures across Modes of Conviction." (See page 3)

Awards will be presented at the CLD Business Meeting at 11:30 on Sunday, August 19, at the Anaheim Convention Center. Sunday is the section day for CLD, and a schedule of events is included in the newsletter. Other sessions of interest are listed, provided they were not in conflict with CLD events.

The reception, co-sponsored with the Sociology of Law section, is scheduled for 7:30 P.M., August 19.

Graduate Student Issues

Sarah Goodrum
Assistant Editor

Finding Funding for Dissertation Research

Finding funding for dissertation research is helpful, not only in the completion of the dissertation, but also in learning how to prepare grant applications.

There is one important issue to be aware of when setting out to secure research funds - time. Time is an issue for three main reasons: (1) review by your university's office of sponsored projects (2-3 days), (2) length of the grant application review process (often 3-6 months), and (3) possibility to revise and resubmit the grant application. So, plan ahead.

There are two stages to finding funding for dissertation research: (1) locating potential sources of funding and (2) preparing grant application materials.

Locating Potential Sources of Funding

First, select a dissertation topic, data source, and method of analysis. Second, make a list of the federal, state, and local organizations that might have an interest in your research findings. Ask yourself who cares about this issue. These organizations may have an interest in funding your research. Federal agencies that

provide dissertation fellowships include:

National Institute of Justice
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/funding.htm

National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/index.cfm

National Institute of Health
grants.nih.gov/grants/index.cfm

National Institute of Drug Abuse
(www.nida.nih.gov/Funding.html),

National Science Foundation
www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/sociol/start.htm

Social Science Research Council
www.ssrc.org/fellowships/

These organizations have formal grant application procedures.

State and local organizations may not offer dissertation fellowships, but they may offer partial financial support of your research (i.e., pay for a tape recorder or software). Consider writing to these organizations to request their financial support and explain how your research will benefit them. National foundations, such as the American Cancer Society and Komen Foundation, are other possible sources of funding.

Also, mention your interest in dissertation fellowships to the university graduate school administrator, department's graduate coordinator, your faculty advisor, and dissertation committee members. I learned about the National Institute of Justice Graduate Research Fellowship from my advisor, and I learned about a dissertation fellowship offered by a foundation affiliated with the university from a fellow graduate student. The more people you talk to about your interest in dissertation funding, the

more information you will have. The ASA newsletter, ASA Section newsletters and e-mail list-servs are other good sources of fellowship information. In addition, your university, graduate school, and department may offer grants or matching grants for dissertation research.

Third, make an appointment with a reference librarian, preferably one who knows about sources of research funding. The librarian can be a great resource and provide you with reference materials on graduate research funding. You can also do this type of research on your own. Do a library catalog subject search for books on graduate school fellowships, and review these books for funding in your areas of interest.

Preparing Grant Application Materials

The second stage in finding dissertation funds involves preparing grant application materials including a proposal and budget. A reviewer for NIMH once told me that he uses three criteria to evaluate proposals: (1) a need for the research, (2) feasibility of the project, and (3) ability of the researcher(s). First, ask yourself whether there is a need for the research and why a reviewer (or anyone for that matter) should care about the research you propose. Discuss the scope of the problem you propose to study (i.e., how many people does it affect), what is already known about that problem, as well as the limitations of that information. Delineate the purpose(s) of the research early in the proposal. Some people call this the project goals or research questions; whatever you call it - spell it out in the last sentence of the introduction. "The purpose of the proposed research is to . . ."

Second, reviewers will consider whether the project you propose is feasible. A reviewer told me that he once rejected a grant application because it did not meet the feasibility criteria. The applicants proposed a 2-year panel study with 100 participants. In the pilot study, the applicants reported that 25% of the participants dropped out after 6 months. The reviewer noted that the pilot study attrition rate suggested that 0 participants would remain at the end of the 2-year study. He argued that the researchers needed to resolve the participant attrition problem before he would consider the project doable.

Also under scrutiny is the feasibility of the project considering your timeline, budget, and resources. For instance, if an applicant neglects to budget for an important expense, the reviewers may feel that the project has not been carefully planned. Ask grad students and faculty for a copy of a grant budget (preferably from a successful application). There is no need to reinvent the wheel, and these samples can be helpful in anticipating project expenses. Next, make a list of all of the equipment, salary, and benefit costs for the project. Equipment costs may include software, transcription machine, paper, and audiotapes. Salary and benefits may be for the applicant or others (e.g., data entry clerk, transcriber, or research assistant). I hired an undergraduate Research Assistant to transcribe in-depth interviews and maintain files. She worked 10 hours a week for 2 semesters, and she helped tremendously in the execution of the project. Final budget advice - do not go over the award limit in the budget. This is

an easy reason to reject the application.

Third, reviewers will consider whether the prospective grantee can execute the proposed plan for research. Reviewers are looking to see whether both the research topic and the applicant are worthy of the funds. Reviewers will consider the applicant's track record, research experience, and faculty support. As a graduate student, track record is often evaluated using master's work and publications. The length of time it took to complete the master's degree and publish articles from that research is a useful tool for gauging the applicant's abilities to manage, finish, and publish dissertation research.

Experience as a research assistant on other projects will boost the applicant's credibility. Be sure to mention any experience relevant for the proposed project. In my first grant application, I acknowledged that the interviews with people who had lost a loved one to murder would be difficult. One reviewer replied, "This may be a very difficult subject matter for someone who is not only young but has been in school their entire career." While my curriculum vitae indicated that I had not been in school my entire career, I neglected to mention that in the proposal. In the revised proposal, I mentioned my experiences interviewing male batterers and counseling battered women.

Reviewers may also consider the amount of faculty support you have to complete the dissertation. If the grant application requires a letter of recommendation, your advisor's letter will be critical for evaluating faculty involvement, interest, and support.

Don't be afraid to revise and resubmit a rejected application (where permitted). It is a great learning experience (and another reason to plan ahead). I was able to use reviewers' comments from my first fellowship application to improve my proposal and dissertation research. I submitted the revised application, and I was awarded the fellowship on the second try.

Finally, if you receive a fellowship, ask the organization's grant administrator how you can become a reviewer. The experience as a reviewer will serve as a learning experience in the grant writing process.

---Sarah

CLD Student Paper Award



We are pleased to announce that Brian Johnson, a graduate student in the Crime, Law, and Justice Program at Penn State University, was unanimously chosen to win this year's CL&D Section Student Paper Award. Brian's paper, "Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Sentencing Departures across Modes of Conviction," examines racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing as they result from courtroom discretion. While previous studies have focused on judicial discretion, Brian's article conceptualizes courtroom discretion as resulting from complicated interactions between several courtroom actors. Using recent data the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, he analyzes the effects of race, ethnicity, and other factors on departures from sentencing guidelines. He finds that race and ethnic effects are greatest for cases

convicted through mechanisms high in both prosecutorial (i.e., negotiated pleas) and judicial discretion (i.e., bench and jury trials).

Brian completed his undergraduate work at Lawrence University where he majored in anthropology and was Phi Beta Kappa. At Penn State, he has worked with John Kramer in the area of sentencing and corrections, and he taught a class on "international narcotics trafficking." Brian is in the third year of his program, and he hopes to finish his Ph.D. in about two more years.

The CLD Student Paper Award Committee thanks the more than dozen students who submitted papers and wishes them the best in their on-going research. The committee members include Bob Crutchfield, Ross Macmillan, Joan McCord, Alex Piquero, and myself, Brad Wright. As head of the committee, I thank the other committee members for their engaged, thoughtful, and timely participation in this competition.

Brad Wright,
Chair, CLD Student Paper
Competition

The Albert J. Reiss Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award, given in recognition of the contributions to criminological understanding made by Albert J. Reiss, Jr., is presented every other year to the author(s) of a book or a series of articles published in the last five years and constituting a major contribution to the study of crime, law, and deviance.

The winners of the award are Kitty Calavita, Henry Pontell and Robert Tillman for their book, Big Money Crime: Fraud and

Politics in the Savings and Loan Crisis, and related published articles. Their decade-long work on the savings and loan crisis make a significant

contribution to the study of white-collar crime, and policies that can contribute to its regulation.



Kitty Calavita and Henry N. Pontell

are Professors in the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine. Robert H. Tillman is Associate Professor of Sociology at St. John's University in Jamaica, New York.

The Reiss Award committee was chaired by Simon Singer. Committee members were Bill McCarthy, Rosemary Gartner, David Greenberg, Christy Visher and Neal Shover.

Job Announcement

Research Assistants (2)

The Vera Institute of Justice is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to making government policies and practices more fair, humane and efficient. The Institute is currently seeking two research assistants to work on an evaluation of a new substance abuse treatment program for adolescent offenders in New York City. The Research Assistants will be responsible for data management, conducting interviews with adolescents and parents, and structured observations, assisting in the preparation of reports and facilitating relations with program and corrections staff. Travel to neighborhoods in New York City using public transportation is required. Periodic site visits to incarcerated youth in upstate New York State facilities will be arranged. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in a social science discipline. Use mail or fax cover letter

and resume to Mary Lutz, Senior Research Associate, Vera Institute of Justice, 233 Broadway, 12th Floor, Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10279. Fax: 212-941-9407. Email questions to mlutz@vera.org or visit our website www.vera.org for more information.

Juvenile Crime/Juvenile Justice has just been published by the National Academy Press (edited by Joan McCord, Cathy Widom and Nancy Crowell). It is a panel report covering crime patterns and trends, risk factors for the development of delinquency, crime prevention, the courts, and racial disparity. Lots of food for thought.

Announcement: Alex Piqueuro, Nicole Piqueuro, and Brian Stults (new SUNY Albany Ph.D.) will be joining the Center for Studies in Criminology and Law in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida.

New book: Making Hate a

Crime: from Social Movement to Law Enforcement, by Valerie Jenness and Ryken Grattet. Published by Russell Sage Foundation (2001). The book is motivated by a series of questions about how social problems, law, and policy domains come into being, get transformed, and are institutionalized over time.

Join us for the 2001 BJS/JRSA National Conference at the Sheraton New Orleans on Canal Street on October 4-5. Pre and post-conference professional seminars will take place on October 2, 3 and 6. For more information and to register online use www.jrsa.org/events/conference/index.html

National Research Service Award Mental Health and Adjustment in the Life Course.

The University of Minnesota is pleased to announce a postdoctoral National Research Service Award, sponsored by the NIMH, on the psycho-social determinants of mental health and adjustment, with emphasis on

childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood. Full-time, 12-month research training is provided. The appointment is for 2 years maximum, subject to review at the end of the first year. U.S. citizens or residents are eligible. For full consideration, send postdoctoral application materials to Professor Jeylan Mortimer at the Life Course Center, Department of Sociology, 1014 Social Sciences Building, 267-19th Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, by November 1, 2001, for admittance before June 30, 2002. equal opportunity educator and employer.

Job Announcement: Vanderbilt University. The Department of Sociology invites applications for a faculty position commencing August, 2002. Rank is open. The candidate is expected to be a distinguished or unusually promising scholar with a commitment to teaching, whose fields of expertise complement existing strengths in any of these four areas: 1) crime and deviance; 2) health; 3) social inequality; and, 4) social movements. Submit a letter of interest in the position and curriculum vitae only by October 1, 2001 to Search Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU Station B Box 351811, Nashville, TN 37235-1811.