

Crime, Law, and Deviance

A Section of the American Sociological Association

Newsletter

Spring 2009

Crime, Law, and Deviance
2008-2009 SECTION OFFICERS

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ASA Conference Info Correction

The American Sociological Association will meet in San Francisco, CA for the 104th Annual Meeting on August 8-11, 2009. An incorrect location was listed in the Fall Newsletter.

August 2009 San Francisco ASA 104th Meeting

Annual Meeting News: Joint Reception with Sociology of Law

On August 10th at 6 pm, the CLD and Sociology of Law Sections will host a joint dinner reception at the New Delhi Restaurant in Union Square. At this reception, the Sociology of Law Section will honor Philip Selznick, Arthur Stinchcombe, and William Chambliss with lifetime achievement awards. Members from both sections will engage in an informal conversation about their recollections of the founding of the field of sociology of law and its relationship to broader questions of crime, law and deviance. Rosemary Gartner has graciously agreed to facilitate the conversation between these honored guests and the audience. Check your program for more details. We hope to see you there.

Nominations for Awards for the ASA 104th Meeting

The CLD section is seeking nominations for the James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award. This award is typically given every two years for a distinguished article in the area of crime, law, and deviance published in the preceding two years. Because the award was not given last year due to a lack of nominations, papers published during the calendar years 2006 and 2007 are eligible for this year's award. We will present the award again next year for papers published during the calendar years 2008 and 2009. Please send a letter of nomination by March 20, 2009 to the committee chair, **Patty McCall**, via e-mail: Patty@server.sasw.ncsu.edu **Jeremy Staff**, **Ross Macmillan**, and **Ramiro Martinez** are also on the James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award committee.

The CLD section invites submissions for the **2009 Distinguished Student Paper Award competition**. Papers may be conceptual or theoretical, addressing any topic in the sociology of crime, deviance, law or criminal justice. Submissions may be sole- or multiple-authored, but all authors must be students.

Papers should be article length (approximately 30 double-spaced pages) and should follow the manuscript preparation guidelines of the American Sociological Review. Papers accepted for publication at the time of submission are not eligible. The winner will receive \$500 to offset the cost of attending the 2009 ASA meeting. Please submit papers to:

Ronet Bachman

ronet@UDel.edu. Papers must be received by April 15, 2009. **Dave Kirk, Carla Shedd, and Bill MacCarthy** are also on the Distinguished Student Paper Award committee.

White Collar Crime Discussion

Given the current global financial crisis and its relationship to white-collar crime, we invited several section members to submit discussions about this problem. If section members express sufficient interest, we will continue this practice with other topics in future newsletters. Please email comments, rebuttals, or topic suggestions to the newsletter editor.

White-Collar Crime and Sociological Irrelevance. Gilbert Geis Emeritus, University of California, Irvine

There exists a striking – a stunning – gap today between what concerns sociologists and

criminologists professionally, that is, in their role as scholars, and what is of paramount interest and of vital importance to the public. That gap is marked by a scholarly focus on issues that are addressed with consummate statistical sophistication and that contribute little or, probably more accurately, nothing to an understanding of or an improvement in the lives of other human beings.

Sociologists and criminologists, for instance, have failed to attend the economic disaster that confronts the United States and other regions of the globe. There are crimes and other acts aplenty that could provide data for study, interpretation, and policy recommendations. It is now fashionable to preach that the focus should be on evidence-based research, that is, studies that rely on experimental designs to produce intrepid conclusions. The clear implication is that if an investigation does not meet this criterion it is inferior and less worthy science.

Of course, it would be difficult to employ evidence-based research to analyze the failure of the Securities and Exchange Commission to respond to numerous signals that Bernard Madoff was operating a Ponzi scheme. Not could that tactic address the obscene salaries and bonuses and perks of corporate CEOs. Enron, Arthur Andersen, and their malfeasant kin went down the tubes without a sign of

concern or analysis by the mainstream criminological and social problems brotherhood and sisterhood in their leading journals.

Sociologically, the contours of the current economic catastrophe were presaged by the presidential address delivered in 1939 by Edwin H. Sutherland in which he coined the phrase “white-collar crime.” Sutherland had in mind offenses committed by persons in the upper echelons of the business, political, and professional world in the course of their work. His pioneering contribution obviously offers an interpretative basis for sociological concern with the current revelations about the aberrancies of the privileged (Sutherland, 1940; 1949).

The University of Chicago sociologist Andrew Abbott, after examining the contents of the *American Journal of Sociology* over the years, concluded that the discipline was “slowly sinking into inconsequence” (Abbott, 1999:142). The failure to focus on white-collar crime rather than on trivial and marginal matters that can be evidence-based and statistically autopsied illustrates Abbot’s point.

References

Abbott, Andrew (1999). *Department & Discipline: Chicago Sociology at One Hundred*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sutherland, Edwin H. (1949). *White Collar Crime*. New York: Dryden Press.

Sutherland, Edwin H. (1940). White-Collar Criminality. *American Sociological Review*, 5:1-12.

Trivializing White-Collar Crime.

Henry Pontell, University of California, Irvine

Current worldwide financial problems have their roots in home mortgage lending practices in the United States. Many are part of what have been called "subprime" loans that, at best, less than prudent, and, at worst, criminally fraudulent. The bursting of the real estate bubble, which had grown quickly to massive proportions, has resulted in an unprecedented number of foreclosures, a striking collapse in the market value of homes, and heavy losses for those holding investments involving the bundling of loans and debt. Moreover, some of the most sophisticated financial institutions had allowed – and encouraged – practices that were highly imprudent, despite their reputation for expertise in risk management. Well before the bubble burst, criminologist and former federal regulator William Black noted the danger signs and diagnosed the risks that these companies faced:

Why? Because their CEOs, acting on the perverse incentives crucial to today's outrageous compensation systems, engaged in practices

that vastly increased their corporations' risks in order to drive up corporate income and thereby secure enormous increases in their own individual incomes. And these perverse incomes follow them out the door... Pay and productivity (and integrity) have become unhinged in U.S. financial institutions.¹

Black is perhaps over-generous in portraying a need to show a particularly healthy balance sheet in order to justify outrageous pay packages for executives. The CEO of AIG, one of the near-bankrupt companies rescued by the U.S. government, saw his company lose \$5 billion in the most recent year and his board of directors award him a bonus of \$5 million for, well, for what? He also earns a salary of \$1 million a month.

The extent of law-breaking in the world of subprime lending and financial institutions that sold securities and derivatives based on such debt remains to be seen, although enforcement agencies, concentrating their resources on homeland security over the past decade, will prove to be hard-pressed to satisfactorily investigate and adjudicate this issue. There has been a 36 percent staff reduction since 2001 in FBI agents dealing with white-collar crime and the number of criminal cases brought by the FBI has dropped by slightly more than one quarter during the same period.² A Syracuse University study determined

that the fall off rate in white-collar crime prosecutions had reached the 50 percent level.³ As previous studies have demonstrated empirically, the government's enforcement capacity and response – or non-response – is crucial to a scientific understanding of the nature and magnitude of the role of fraud in major financial debacles.⁴

In terms of understanding the enormous potential magnitude of white-collar and corporate crime, it needs to be stressed that except for a regular recourse to "speculators" in the blame game and a not insignificant degree of victim-blaming, the big culprits have escaped condemnation and the only concern is whether they really ought to be given so much taxpayer money to relieve their distress. What we currently see is the *historical record of the trivialization of white-collar crime repeating itself in even grander fashion*. That the former U.S. Attorney General declined to form a task force to investigate the roots of the subprime debacle, while likening the problem to "'white-collar street-crime' that could best be handled by individual United States attorneys' offices"⁵ is but one central measure of this phenomenon.

As former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan's *mea culpa* made painfully clear, neoclassical economists and those who

listen to them are blinded by an ideology that trivializes fraud, proclaims free markets as the panacea, and sees regulation as the bogeyman. Greenspan's "shock" that companies took advantage when they were handed the opportunity to do so, rather than doing the right thing for investors and markets, may appear disingenuous, but it also stems from the refusal to acknowledge that these business contexts constituted what criminologists have for some time noted as "crime-facilitative environments" where white-collar offending can flourish. Economists generally are either unaware or disdainful of the perspectives from other disciplines, and often show contempt for government interventions into the marketplace. They have thus managed to trivialize the matter of white-collar crime in formulating policies that govern banking and finance.

The scholarly claim that white-collar crime is primarily a middle class offense and that the status of the offender needs to be separated from the act in order to avoid biased social analysis, implicitly allows the most consequential forms of white-collar and corporate lawbreaking to fly well below the political, academic, and policy radar screens. Put another way, such treatment trivializes the nature and extent of white-collar crime. This trivialization ensures that major white-collar crimes remain largely absent in the development of effective

regulatory policies and the law more generally. The magnitude of the current global financial crisis is a case in point. For even if one argues that major frauds weren't a central underlying component in the current global meltdown, a little bit of law-breaking certainly seemed to go a long way.

Footnotes

- ¹ Black, William H. (2007). (Mis)Understanding a Banking Industry in Transition. *Dollars and Sense* No. 273 (Nov/Dec):14-27.
- ² Lichtblau, Eric, Johnston, David and Ron Nixon (2008). "FBI Struggles to Handle Financial Fraud Cases." *The New York Times*. Oct.19. p. A1.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Calavita, Kitty, Pontell, Henry N., and Robert H. Tillman (1997). *Big Money Crime: Fraud and Politics in the Savings and Loan Scandal*. Berkeley: University of California Press; Henry N. Pontell (2005). "Control Fraud, Gambling for Resurrection, and Moral Hazard: Accounting for White-Collar Crime in the Savings and Loan Crisis." *Journal of Socio-Economics* 34 (December) pp. 756-770; Henry N. Pontell (2005). "The Role of Fraud in Major Financial Debacles: White-Collar Crime or Just Risky Business?" *Crime, Law and Social Change* 42:4-5 (January) pp.309-324.
- ⁵ Lichtblau, op. cit.

Suite Revenge? Policing the Economic Crisis Dr. Michael Levi, Professor of Criminology, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University, UK.

In the halcyon days before 2008, Americans were complaining that the UK's 'light touch' regulation had led to London overtaking Wall Street as the Global Finance Capital. Those complaints now seem a lifetime away. The 'crime triangle' was never designed for white-collar crimes: but a framework of *motivation* (take your pick from anomie, bonuses and testosterone), *opportunities* (the array of mathematically sophisticated derivatives like Collateralised Debt Obligations that functioned as The New Alchemy, turning the property-owning fantasies of poor Americans into the dross of their sub-prime mortgages and then into pure spun gold), and (in)capable guardians (internal corporate controls, the SEC, the UK FSA - not forgetting NASDAQ once chaired by The Great Ponzi Bernie Madoff) works well here.

American and British bankers' claims of contrition were negated by their passive-voice 'stuff happens' blame on 'the economic downturn' and their insistence that they made reasonable judgments on the facts as they appeared at the time. But on what criteria do we decide whether this

apparent sociopathic insincerity is the product of (a) trapped masculinity¹ and/or (b) legal instructions by Directors & Officers' Insurers that admissions of personal fault might lead to civil if not criminal liability?

In normal times, the Boyz from the Hood or neglectful one parent families are blamed for crime. But here we have fecklessness by feral financiers and cowardice/negligence by timid regulators, cowed by bullish politicians and intellectually convinced by neo-Conservative market theory. Will it be viewed as crime, and if so, crime by whom? What level of intention or criminal recklessness will be attributed in the courts and what verbs will be used to fit the Procrustean Bed of the criminal law? Deceived? Recklessly sold? And who will do the investigations? FBI (but not the Manhattan DA's) fraud investigation resources may have been cut back in the US since '9/11', but they are still much larger than in the UK which - like Canada - continues to rely on the US to extradite, prosecute and pay for the imprisonment costs of Britons and Canadians involved in

1 Some researchers claim that the 'irrational exuberance' is due to the concentration of testosterone on the trading floor (Coates and Herbert, 2008): but this focuses us on the more accessible traders rather than on the less crowded suites of the CEOs who plainly were responsible for most of the losses. The culture (if not the biology) of masculinities is an element at CEO level too (Levi, 1994).

transnational financial crimes. It is hard to generate and to sustain a moral panic about *any* white-collar crimes and criminals, though some populist areas such as 'identity fraud' and 'investment fraud' are good candidates, especially where individuals, ethnicities or 'organized crime networks' exist as folk devils already (Levi, 2009). Here, as in other financial scandals since 17th century Tulipmania (Goldgar, 2008), there are just too many and varied culpable actors to give clarity to populist 'law and order' campaigns.

Key state actors try to manage 'the problem of fraud' by data-sharing, compensation and regulation, plus some symbolic degradation ceremonies, calming the factors that might stoke 'counterproductive' reactions that might harm 'the economy.' There will be a rush to plead guilty in the US, to avoid the long prison sentences mandated under post-Enron Sentencing Commission guidelines: but the downside threats on not guilty pleas are much lower in the UK (Levi, 2006). Yeats did not have hedge fund executives in mind when he concluded *The Second Coming* with "and what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches towards Bethlehem to be born." "Kill the beast" may indeed be the cry of the dispossessed, including academics around the world, whose pensions have diminished in ways that have not happened in previous financial scandals: but which beast?

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- Goldgar, A. (2008) *Tulipmania: Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age*, Chicago; University of Chicago Press.
- Levi, M. (1994) Masculinities and white-collar crime, in T. Newburn and B. Stanko (eds.) *Just Boys Doing Business*, London: Routledge.
- Levi, M. (2006) *Sentencing Frauds: a Review*
http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/resources/Levi_GFR_Sentencing_Fraud.pdf
- Levi, M. (2009) 'Suite Revenge? The Shaping of Folk Devils and Moral Panics about White-Collar Crimes', *British Journal of Criminology*, 49 (1): 48-67.

Of (White-Collar) Crime and Contractions: A Brief Meditation

Peter C. Yeager, Sociology, Boston University
 greedom (grē-dum)
 (contraction greed + freedom)
 n.

1. Philosophical foundation of U.S. national economic policy emphasizing the unfettered competitive pursuit of limitless wealth by individuals and organizations.
2. Belief that individual's responsibility is limited to one's own material enrichment, with the

exception that such may also be applied to the interests of one's immediate family; corollary belief that one bears no social responsibility to members of some fictitious 'community.'

3. Economic process of wealth accumulation that recurrently leads to its own destruction without simultaneously discrediting its underlying philosophy (*see 1 above; also American finance, history of*).
 4. Process by which freedom to pursue greed, and its effects, undermine other forms of human freedom.
- v.
1. *Colloq.* To socialize persons to beliefs associated with greed.

White-collar crime always shadows capitalism's massive economic breakdowns. In eras in which American economic policy embraces greed — when this philosophy grips both commerce, consumer and citizen with roughly equal force — a rising tide of apparent wealth only deepens the public faith while obscuring the violent riptides just below the mesmerizing view of a limitless horizon.

When, as always, this tide necessarily recedes, it leaves exposed the beached remnants of its depths: massive criminal frauds, yes, but more importantly the lawful financial alchemy that builds economic sandcastles in the air. This cannot be the creative destruction that Schumpeter

trumpeted.

So how to limn the relation between white collar crime and economic crisis? They share roots in greed, both the philosophy and the material processes it animates. Merrill's collateralized debt obligations no less than Madoff's ponzi scheme represent the operation of the force of greed freed from the normative constraints of community sensibilities. Law stakes out variable and vulnerable positions on this volatile seascape, rendering quaint that old academic quarrel regarding the 'criminality' of white-collar crime given what is at stake in the lived world.

More fateful are the coming criminal prosecutions and civil judgments. As they tilt toward the individualization of corrupted social relations — the 'bad apple' view — they invariably obscure the systemic elements at play even as taxpayers are required to prop up financial institutions that are too big to (be allowed to) fail, executive bonuses notwithstanding.

Yes, law tightens and heads roll, those alike of regulators and the (re)regulated. Avarice is denounced while commerce contracts and the state sets about the terribly delicate task of repairing markets while holding in trust the ideology of greed. Ultimately memory fades and policies drift as the economy cycles and the tide begins to roll back in.

But history takes notes, if only we were to consult them. Not so long ago, in Oliver Stone's hit film "Wall Street," Gordon Gekko first uttered his iconic line — "Greed is good" — the very year that the American stock market crashed on Oct. 19, 1987, pronounced by *The New York Times* "the worst day in the history of the New York Stock Exchange." Gekko was reiterating the sentiment offered seriously to a group of American business students in 1985 by Ivan Boesky, the prominent arbitrageur who was later convicted for his role in the signature insider trading scandals of the mid-1980s.¹

¹ William Glaberson, "The Plunge: A Stunning Blow to a Gilded, Impudent Age." *The New York Times*, Dec. 13, 1987.

Call for Papers

Special Issue Call for Papers: "Theories of Homicide."

Submissions should focus on theoretical explanations of homicide, although papers that include closely related behaviors, i.e. suicide and aggravated assault, in addition to homicide within their scope are welcome. Submissions may focus on a specific theory or on an integration of two or more theories.

Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages and should include a brief abstract of about 100 words. Submissions should be

double-spaced, with footnotes, references, tables, and figures on separate pages. Papers should be in Microsoft Word format and follow the specifications in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th edition). Submission of a manuscript implies that it has not been previously published and is not under review by another journal.

To submit an electronic copy and for further questions contact:

Jay Corzine

Guest Editor

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The deadline for submissions is May 31st, 2009.

Symposium: Crime, HIV and Health: Intersections of Criminal Justice and Public Health Concerns

Colleagues from the School of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics at California State University, Los Angeles and, the Epidemiology Research Branch in the Division of Epidemiology, Services and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, invite you to attend a symposium on the intersection of issues pertinent to the fields of crime and public health. The working title is: Crime, HIV and Health: Intersections of Criminal Justice and Public Health Concerns. The

symposium will be held Day Zero (or the day before the official start) of the American Sociological Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, which is August 7, 2009 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Approximately a dozen presentations will be offered on topics related to one of five themes: 1) Incarceration and Health Risks; 2) Health Consequences of Risk Behaviors; 3) Health and Health Access in High Crime Neighborhoods; 4) Public Health Interventions among High Risk Populations; and 5) Crime, Space and Health. All are welcome to attend. For further information, please contact Bill Sanders at bsander2@calstatela.edu.

Graduate students at Stony Brook University Department of Sociology will present the 6th Annual Graduate Student Ethnography Conference.

Friday, May 1st at Stony Brook, Manhattan (401 Park Avenue South at 28th St.). This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Herbert J. Gans of Columbia University. Presentation abstracts are welcome from all graduate students using ethnographic methods, including field research and in-depth interviews. If you are working on, or have completed an ethnographic project, consider making a presentation at this spring's conference. Papers of all topics are welcome, although preference will be given to research in advanced stages. The

Upon acceptance, submission of a full paper is required.

A brief description of your work (1-2 pages) should be received by March 15th, 2009. If interested, please email your project description, the title of your presentation, your university affiliation, and your contact information (name, mailing address, and email address) to sbethnographyconference@gmail.com.

Please specify your research progress and note any special equipment needs for your presentation (e.g., overhead projector, power point).

New Section - Disability in Society

We are proud to announce a new Section-in-Formation of the ASA: Disability in Society.

This section intends to explore issues relevant to the study of crime, law and deviance, including the ways in which certain populations are pathologized and labeled 'deviant', the intersections of psychiatric disabilities with homelessness with the criminal justice system, the rise of disability hate crimes – and many other issues regarding social exclusion, vulnerability, marginalization and labeling. In this new section, approaches to these topics will occur

within a broader framework that highlights the impact of a disabling society and the development of a social movement around disability rights. We urge you to join with us in exploring the insights that arise from studying disability from a range of perspectives, network with other scholars, discuss recent events, and pursue avenues for grants, teaching, research and service. Free memberships for 40 ASA graduate student members interested in joining the section are available. Potential members may contact membership committee chairs: Liat Ben Moshe: lbenmosh@maxwell.syr.edu or Mark Sherry: markdsherry@yahoo.com

CLD Department Highlights

For the Spring 2009 Newsletter, we invited members to submit descriptions of their CLD related academic departments. To include a description of your department in the next newsletter, email the newsletter editor.

George Mason University, Justice, Law, and Crime Policy (JLCP) Program

The Justice, Law, and Crime Policy (JLCP) program is a multidisciplinary graduate program in the Department of Administration of Justice. Our program is designed for students who wish to make a difference in research and policy in the fields

of criminology, justice administration, and law and society. The JLCP program offers both Masters and Doctoral degrees that prepare students for academic, research, and policy careers. The program also provides numerous opportunities for graduate research funding and teaching assistantships.

Justice, Law and Crime Policy (Ph.D. and M.A.) brings cutting edge social science methods to the disciplines of criminology and law and society. Students coming to this program seek to make a difference in the development and evaluation of policy in these fields. The JLCP curriculum focuses on three core areas: criminology and crime policy, law and society, and justice organizations and management. By taking this diverse and broad approach to the discipline, our graduate program reflects the many research and evaluation needs of justice institutions, and trains students to become influential scholars and researchers in these areas.

Our program offers a MA or PhD in Justice, Law, and Crime Policy. As a JLCP student, you will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to understand what matters in the administration of criminal and civil justice, how law affects society, and how policies influence crime. The program's balance among justice theory, empirical research, and policy application prepares JLCP

graduates to be highly competitive for the most sought-after positions. For specific information on the MA or PhD in Justice, Law and Crime Policy program, please visit jlcp.gmu.edu.

Arizona State University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University is growing in dynamic ways. The faculty has now grown to 20 tenure track members, and supports thriving undergraduate and graduate programs. The PhD program admitted its first cohort in the fall, 2008 semester and is preparing to invite its second cohort. The School counts nearly 900 undergraduate majors and more than sixty master's students. Faculty research emphasizes topics such as criminal justice policy, criminological theory, the social context of crime, and quantitative research methods. In the summer of 2009, the School will re-locate to the ASU campus located in the heart of downtown Phoenix, in close proximity of more than 12,000 criminal justice professionals, and in the center of a rapidly growing and thriving metropolitan area. For more information go to <http://ccj.asu.edu/>

**University of Maryland,
Department of Criminology
and Criminal Justice**

Since its inception in 1969, the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland has been a leader in the development of criminological and criminal justice research and theory, the training of graduate students to conduct and understand basic and applied research, and the provision of undergraduate education of the highest quality. Our department has grown to be the most popular major on campus with over 1400 undergraduate majors and our doctoral program is ranked among the very best programs in the world. We offer our graduate students advanced course work in theory and practice, and cutting edge analytical skills that enable them to both conduct and understand criminological research broadly defined. For more information on the MA or Ph.D. programs, please visit www.ccjs.umd.edu

**University of Delaware,
Department of Sociology and
Criminal Justice: Minority
Mentor Lecture Series**

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware offers Masters and Doctorate level degree programs in both Sociology and Criminology. The primary focus of the programs is the preparation of members of

the next generation of sociologists and criminologists by emphasizing systematic training in theory and research methodology as well as teaching. These advanced education degrees are intended for persons interested in careers in academia, public service, or private enterprise. The department has 28 full-time faculty from the disciplines of Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Law, Criminology, History, and Criminal Justice. This allows students to work closely with faculty members while preserving a reasonable breadth of interests. While both the Sociology and Criminology degrees rely on strong theoretical and methodological foundations, they also allow students to tailor a program that meets their individual needs. The department is very committed to diversity. At least 25% of our incoming graduate cohort for the past 5 years has been comprised of minority members. In response to a self-evaluation of the graduate program last year, we instituted a "Minority/Mentor Lectureship Series" in October 2008 with an inaugural event featuring Dr. Ruth Peterson, Distinguished Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Director of the Criminal Justice Research Center at The Ohio State University and co-organizer of the Racial Democracy, Crime, and Justice-Network. Dr. Peterson's visit featured a public lecture, reception, and a workshop on the professionalization of graduate

students. Anyone interested in obtaining information about our new initiative may contact: Ronet Bachman, Department Chair; Anne Bowler, Director of Graduate Studies or Karen F. Parker, Chair of the Graduate Policy Committee.

**Georgia State University,
Criminal Justice and
Criminology**

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia granted approval to the Georgia State University Department of Criminal Justice to offer a Doctor of Philosophy degree, the first Ph.D. program in Georgia to focus on criminal justice.

The department's mission is to generate and disseminate theoretically driven and policy relevant information for the fields of criminal justice and criminology. The undergraduate and graduate curricula, as well as faculty research interests, emphasize issues of crime and justice occurring in urban environments from a multicultural, interdisciplinary perspective to inform science, policy, and practice. The department has a core group of faculty who engage in policy-relevant research and faculty who engage in cross-disciplinary research, as evidenced by its involvement in the Partnership for Urban Health Research, located

within the Institute of Public Health.

The department has 16 full-time tenure-track faculty members, whose educational backgrounds include psychology, law, social work, and sociology, as well as criminology and criminal justice. Faculty strengths include urban crime, violence, and participatory research. Based on publications in top criminal justice and criminology journals between January 1995 through December 1999, the department was ranked 14th nationally; the highest in the nation among programs without a Ph.D. program. More recently, the department was ranked eighth in the nation in terms of the average number of scholarly articles published in top criminal justice/criminology journals. The department also has a long history of publishing in prominent criminal justice/criminology journals and academic presses. The department houses the Criminal Justice Review and International Criminal Justice Review.

The department will begin accepting applications in the fall of 2009 for the first class of students who enroll in 2010. Georgia State University is located in downtown Atlanta and has an enrollment of over 28,000 students. For more information, contact the Department of Criminal Justice at 404-413-1020 or visit the department's website at <http://www.cjgsu.net>.

Students for the Prevention of Drug Abuse, University of Oklahoma.

A new group offers education to youth, college students, and the community through drug abuse awareness, strategic projects / programs, and mentoring intended to lead to better choices and healthier lifestyles.

For more information, contact Spencer Pittman
spencer.pittman@ou.edu

Member News

Josh Meisel accepted an assistant professor position in the Department of Sociology at Humboldt State University. In addition to teaching the criminology curriculum for the department, he is also developing a criminology major.

Danielle S. Rudes accepted a tenure-track position at George Mason's Administration of Justice Department after receiving a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of California with a dissertation entitled "Social control in an age of organizational change: The construction, negotiation and contestation of policy reform in a parole agency."

Books of CLD Interest

Karen F. Parker 2008. Unequal Crime Decline: Theorizing Race, Urban Inequality, and Criminal

Violence. New York University Press.

[http://www.nyupress.org/books/Unequal Crime Decline-products_id-7889.html](http://www.nyupress.org/books/UnequalCrimeDecline-products_id-7889.html)

Lo Presser 2008. Been a Heavy Life: Stories of Violent Men. The University of Illinois Press. <http://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/catalog/97qmw3yd9780252033582.html>

Malcolm D. Holmes and Brad W. Smith 2008. Race and Police Brutality: Roots of an Urban Dilemma. Albany: State University of New York Press. **Jonathan M. Wender** 2008. Policing and the Poetics of Everyday Life. The University of Illinois Press.

Francis M. Williams 2008. Student Assistance Programs (SAP): Concepts, Methods and a Theory of Organization. VDM Verlag Publisher.

Gary T. Marx has recent publications available on his website: <http://web.mit.edu/gtmarx/www/garyhome.html#Online>

Foreword: Technocrime-Something's Happening Here and We Are There.

Simmel on Secrecy. A Legacy and Inheritance for the Sociology of Information

Web Sites of CLD Interest

American Sociological Association
www.asanet.org

Crime, Law, and Deviance Section
www2.asanet.org/sectioncld

The American Society of
Criminology
www.asc41.com

Academy of Criminal Justice
Sciences
www.acjs.org

Bureau of Justice Statistics
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs

National Criminal Justice
Reference Service
www.ncjrs.gov

National Archive of Criminal
Justice Data
www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd

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

Federal Bureau of Investigation
www.fbi.gov

ICPSR (Inter-University
Consortium for Political and Social
Research)
www.icpsr.umich.edu

U.S Census Bureau
<http://www.census.gov>

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