Crime, Law, and Deviance in New York City!!

Karen F. Parker, CLD Chair
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
University of Delaware

CLD Day (and a half) at ASA 2019

As we approach the 2019 ASA annual meeting, I want to share with you some of the exciting activities and sessions in hopes that you will join us. As many of you know, the ASA designates section activities to a certain day of the conference, where a section rotates each year through the ASA program calendar. This year, most of the CLD sessions will take place on Tuesday, August 13. While most of the sessions occur on this day, CLD has other activities planned for Monday, August 12, such as a panel session and our reception. We felt that most people would prefer having events prior to Tuesday, rather than extend their stay another night in order to attend the CLD reception. To increase the likelihood that you would attend, the reception will be held Monday before most of our CLD sessions begin. I'll say more about that later on. For now, I want to fill you in on our thought-provoking paper sessions and roundtables.

In fact, I’ll take this opportunity to provide a concise summary of the CLD schedule, including dates, times and room locations. Also, I think it is important to recognize all of you who helped organize the NYC meeting. There were many of you and I can’t thank you enough for the role you played in producing a very exciting conference. First, the standing committee on CLD paper sessions consisted of: Michael Vuolo, The Ohio State University (chair), Jonathan R. Brauer, Indiana University Bloomington, and Ashley Michelle Mancik, University of South Carolina. They did an excellent job of selecting papers that fit the overall ASA conference theme but also the specific areas and topics in our open call for sessions. In fact, they had over 150 submissions of which to review for our limited number of CLD sessions.

Let’s Get Started: Opening Session, Monday August 12

On Monday, August 12, the CLD sessions begin with one of our open-call sessions titled, Pathways to Social Justice. This session addresses the broader issues of crime, law and social justice, but with a focus on social justice as it is core to this year’s ASA conference theme. We encouraged members to submit papers that explored social justice through community partnerships and/or interdisciplinary work, whether quantitative or qualitative in design. Jonathan R. Brauer, Indiana University Bloomington, will preside over this session.

Mon, August 12, 10:30am to 12:10pm, Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Gramercy

- “Advocacy Organizations and the Positive Discursive Shift on Marijuana Legalization” Burrel James Vann, University of California, Irvine
- “Creating Responsibilized Victims: Judicial-therapeutic approaches to the social control of prostitution” Lillian Taylor Jungleib, University of California, Santa Barbara
- “Narrative and Expectation in the Experience of Electronic Home Monitoring” Gabriela Kirk, Northwestern University
- “The Overrepresentation of Persons with Co-Occurring Disorders in the Criminal
CLD Reception: Monday, August 12

Later on Monday evening, we hope that CLD members are ready to celebrate. All are welcome to our reception (held jointly with the ASA section on Children and Youth, chaired by Aaron M. Pallas, Columbia University). While we are still finalizing the location for this event, it will run from 7:00-9:00pm on Monday, August 12th. Look for further information about the NYC location selected for our reception via CLD listserv this summer. Also take note that we will start the evening with a mentoring hour from 6:00-7:00pm. Because it is often difficult to organize luncheons given the crammed ASA schedule or have time to network with our CLD students, we will hold a smaller mentoring event devoted to CLD students just prior to the reception. The goal is to formulate an environment at ASA, which tends to be large and overwhelming, that allow CLD interested students to get advice, network or simply to socialize with a group of CLD scholars in a smaller setting. Join Us!!!

Thanks go to the Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring- Sara Wakefield, Rutgers University, Newark (chair); Valerio Bacak, Rutgers University, Newark and Michael Sierra-Arevalo, Rutgers University, Newark- for the mentoring hour. In addition, the work to organize the reception was led by the Ad Hoc Local Arrangements committee, consisting of: Sara Wakefield, Rutgers University Newark, Robert Nash Parker, retired, Sadaf Hashimi Rutgers University Newark, and Ashley Appleby Rutgers University Newark. Sara Wakefield’s leadership on both of these efforts is truly outstanding. She will make an excellent chair next year.

CLD Roundtables & Business Meeting:

On Tuesday, the assigned day for CLD sessions at ASA, we start early with an interesting set of roundtables, followed by our business meeting. The roundtables are a great way to get introduced to CLD at ASA, discuss important topics in a smaller, less formal setting, and/or just meet other scholars. The three-person roundtable committee consisted of: Andrew Gray, University of Delaware, Suzy McElrath, University of Minnesota and Talisa J Carter, American University. The roundtables turned out to be equally popular to the panels with over 84 submissions. I really appreciate the efforts of Andrew, Suzy, and Talisa to generate the topics for our roundtables this year. You can pitch in and help support these scholars by dropping in to hear the roundtable presentations, then stick around for the business meeting that follows in the same location.

Tue, August 13, 8:30 to 9:30am, Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Central Park West

Roundtable Topics Include:
- Responses to Gendered Violence
- Crime and Desistance Across the Life Course
- Criminal Justice (Identity) Work
- Current Policies and New Directions in Youth Justice
- Effects of Race and Place on Policing Policy and Practice
- Guns and Mass Shootings
- Incarceration and Inequality
- Modes and Explanations of Violence
- Monetary Sanctions, Pre-Trial Detention, and Misdemeanor Courts
- Neighborhoods and Mobility
- Police Use of Force
- Policing and Surveillance Technologies

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Following the roundtables will be the CLD business meeting. All are welcome to attend as we present the section awards, recognize our members, and talk about future plans for our section. It is a great time to connect with other members but also offer your input on what topics and sessions to explore in future meetings. The section will present two awards this year: the Albert J Reiss Jr
Distinguished Scholarship Award, committee chaired by Jeffrey Ulmer, Penn State University and the Distinguished Student Paper Award, committee chaired by Eileen Avery, University of Missouri. The business meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 9:30 to 10:10am, Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Central Park West.

Invited Session: Tuesday, August 13 10:30am-12:10pm

As Tuesday progresses, there are three additional CLD panel sessions scheduled throughout the day. I cordially invite you to the only invited CLD panel of the conference. It’s titled Race/Ethnicity and Police Shootings: Call for New Data and Knowledge. The panelists will lead a timely and important discussion about the link between race/ethnicity and police shootings/killings, as well as challenge us to explore new forms of data. This session not only fits well with the larger mission of the CLD section, but also the ASA conference theme, “Engaging Social Justice for a Better World.” In addition, and particularly relevant to NYC, this session marks the 5th year anniversary of the incident and death of Eric Garner involving an NYPD officer.

Tue, August 13, 10:30am to 12:10pm, Sheraton New York, Third Floor, Liberty 1

- “Righteous Shoot or Racial Injustice: What do data on police caused homicide actually tell us?” Malcom D. Holmes, University of Wyoming
- “Fatal Police-Citizen Encounters: Does Community Racial Composition Impact the Odds of Police Use of Deadly Force Relative to Police Lethal Victimization?” Gregory M. Zimmerman, Emma Fridel, Keller Sheppard, Northeastern University
- “Rhetoric and Behavior: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis of Police use of Deadly Force” Mitchell B. Chamlin, Texas State University
- “Crowdsourced police shooting data: what we know and what we’re missing” Justin Nix, University of Nebraska Omaha; Kyle McLean, Florida State University; Jeff Rojek, Michigan State University; Scott Wolfe, Michigan State University; and Geoffrey Alpert, University of South Carolina

The next open-call session begins at 12:30pm, and it broadly explores CLD issues, with a particular focus on research that explores inequalities, disparities and potential solutions through advancing scholarly attention or policy. This session, titled Exploring Crime, Law and Deviance, will be presided and discussed by Trina L. Hope, University of Oklahoma.

Tue, August 13, 12:30 to 2:10pm, Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Madison Square

- “Say Her Name: Gender, Race, and Police Violence during Investigatory Stops” Brianna Remster, Villanova University; Chris M. Smith, University of California, Davis; Rory Kramer, Villanova University
- “The Declining Significance of Race in Criminal Sentencing” Ryan D. King, The Ohio State University; Michael Light, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- “Therapeutic Prosecution: Pretrial Diversion, Illness, and Inequality” Mary Ellen Stitt, University of Texas-Austin

The final CLD session is titled, New Directions and Innovation in the Study of Crime and Justice. It offers a series of papers that employ innovative methods or data, investigates novel mechanisms, advances our knowledge of crime trends, or other new directions. The presider of this session is Ashley Michelle Mancik, University of South Carolina.

Tue, August 13, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Columbus Circle

- “Assessing Prominent Explanations for U.S. Homicide Trends: A Meta-Analysis” Ashley Michelle Mancik, University of South Carolina; Karen F. Parker, University of Delaware; Graham C. Ousey, College of William and Mary
- “Combining Geographic and Social Proximity to Model Urban Domestic and Sexual Violence” Claire Kelling, Penn State University; Gizen Korkmaz, University of Virginia; Corina Graif, Pennsylvania State University; Murali Haran, Penn State University

The next open-call session begins at 12:30pm, and it broadly explores CLD issues, with a particular focus on research that explores inequalities, disparities and potential solutions through advancing scholarly attention or policy. This session, titled Exploring Crime, Law and Deviance, will be presided and discussed by Trina L. Hope, University of Oklahoma.
• “The Effects of Jail Incarceration on Employment and Recidivism: Evidence from a Natural Experiment.” Michael Ryan Menefee, University of California Berkley; David J. Harding, University of California Berkley; Anh P. Nguyen, University of Michigan; Jeffrey Morenoff, University of Michigan; Shawn Bushway, UAlbany

• “Times…Are They A Changin'? Examining Changes in the Transition to Adulthood and Age-Crime Curves: 1930s-Today” Bianca E. Bersani, University of Massachusetts Boston; Elaine Eggleston Doherty, University of Missouri-St. Louis

Conclusion

With the help of so many of you, we have planned a truly outstanding set of CLD panel sessions, roundtables, and events that offer a great chance to meet our CLD students and catch up with our CLD friends and colleagues. I am very excited about this year’s conference. Hope to see you there.

In the meantime, don’t forget to vote in the 2019 ASA elections, especially for the CLD section. Our Committee on Nominations, chaired by Kevin Drakulich, Northeastern University, has identified a solid group of scholars to lead our section in the future. Voting ends May 31st at 5pm. Vote at: http://www.asanet.org/about-asa/governance/asa-2019-elections

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**Chair:** Karen F. Parker, University of Delaware, 2019  
**Chair Elect:** Sara Wakefield, Rutgers University, 2019  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Stacy De Coster, North Carolina State University, 2019

**Council Members:**  
Holly A. Foster, Texas A&M University 2019  
Jeremy Staff, The Pennsylvania State University 2019  
Lisa Marie Broidy, University of New Mexico 2020  
Sarah K.S. Shannon, University of Georgia 2020  
Amada Armenta, UCLA 2021  
Bianca E. Bersani, University of Massachusetts Boston 2021

**Newsletter Editors:** Sarah Hupp Williamson and Riku Kawaguchi, North Carolina State University  
**Webmaster and Social Media:** Jesse Wozniak, West Virginia University

**ASA CLD 2019 Schedule of Events**

**Monday, August 12**

10:30-12:10PM Pathways to Social Justice  
Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Gramercy

6:00-7:00PM CLD Section Mentoring Hour  
Location TBA

7:00-9:00PM CLD Section Reception  
Jointly with the Section on Children and Youth  
Location TBA

**Tuesday, August 13**

8:30-9:30AM Referred Roundtables  
Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Central Park West

9:30-10:10AM CLD Business Meeting  
Sheraton New York, Second Floor, Central Park West

10:30-12:10PM Race/Ethnicity and Police Shootings: Call for New Data and Knowledge  
Sheraton New York, Third Floor, Liberty 1

12:30-2:10PM Exploring Crime, Law and Deviance  
Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Madison Square

2:30-4:10PM New Directions and Innovation in the Study of Crime and Justice  
Sheraton New York, Lower Level, Columbus Circle
Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve won the 2019 ASA Distinguished Scholarly Book Award for her book *Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America’s Largest Criminal Court*.

Sarah Hupp Williamson will start her first Assistant Professor position in the Department of Criminology at the University of West Georgia this fall after graduating in May from North Carolina State University. Her primary research focus analyzes the macro-level factors that contribute to human trafficking in various regions around the world. Her other research examines the intersections of globalization, human and environmental harms, and corporate deviance. She was also awarded the 2019 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Best Dissertation Award.

Victor Rios was named Associate Dean of Social Sciences at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Renee Shelby was awarded Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2019-2020.

Blythe George has accepted a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Berkeley to work with professor Sandra Smith.

The 1972-2018 General Social Survey has been released and that data and documentation are available at [http://gss.norc.org](http://gss.norc.org).
Remembering Frank R. Scarpitti

The field of criminology mourns the loss of Frank R. Scarpitti, who passed away on February 28, 2019. He was 82. Frank was born in Butler, PA and moved to Cleveland, Ohio at age 11. He attended junior and senior high school in Cleveland and graduated from Cleveland State University in 1958. He immediately entered graduate school at The Ohio State University, receiving his Ph.D. Degree in sociology in 1962. Although trained in criminology, his first professional position was as director of one of the first community mental health research studies, testing the efficacy of home care for schizophrenic patients. This research was published in the book Schizophrenics in the Community, and received the American Psychiatric Association’s Hofhemier Prize for Research in 1967. Thus began a 44-year career of teaching, research and writing.

After spending four years on the faculty of Rutgers University, he accepted an associate professorship at the University of Delaware in 1967, moving his wife and young daughter to Radcliffe Drive in Newark, a home he and Ellen never left. Two years later he was promoted to full professor and appointed Chair of the Department of Sociology (later Sociology and Criminal Justice). He served in that position for 17 years over several terms. The year 1969 was also notable because their second child, a son, Jeffrey, was born.

Frank was a prolific scholar and writer, authoring, coauthoring or editing 19 books and over 60 articles and chapters. He researched and wrote on mental health, crime, delinquency, corrections, deviant behavior, social problems, drug treatment and the role of organized crime in illegal waste disposal. His coauthored book, Poisoning for Profit, was widely cited by legal and legislative officials as the impetus for legal action designed to curb unlawful waste dumping. He was recognized nationally by being elected President of the American Society of Criminology as well as holding various offices in several other professional organizations. In 1981, he was elected Fellow in the American Society of Criminology, in recognition of his scholarly contribution to the intellectual life of the discipline.

Frank was also committed to the University of Delaware, particularly to ensuring a climate of equality. In 1968, he was appointed by the University President to Chair the Advisory Committee on Policies, Programs, and Services Affecting Blacks and Other Minority Group Students. The committee was tasked with recommending policies to improve the campus climate for minority students. They presented their recommendations in what became known as The Scarpitti Report, which had a large influence on policies designed to increase recruitment of minority students and faculty, and also ensure their representation on the Board of Trustees.
In 2006, Frank was named the Edward and Elizabeth Rosenberg Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice and received the Francis Alison Award, the University of Delaware's highest faculty honor. Despite his various honors and awards, he was proudest of the many graduate students with whom he worked and who have assumed a variety of academic and governmental positions. Nearly 50 of them returned to Newark to attend his retirement celebration. In Frank's honor as a graduate student mentor, the Frank Scarpitti Graduate Student Award is presented annually to a graduate student in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. It is still not uncommon for faculty and students alike to ask, “What would Frank do?” when challenging issues arise.

The most important sphere of Frank’s life was his family. Frank was a devoted husband and father, participating with Susan and Jeffrey in a variety of activities as they passed through their childhood and teenage years. For over 20 summers, the family moved to its farm in Pennsylvania, where they adopted a simpler lifestyle focused on the outdoors and the wonders of nature. For Frank, these were perhaps the happiest years of his life. Although he worked a great deal, he always had time for baseball, mystery novels, and old western movies, a subject he often lectured on.

He will be remembered as a kind, caring person, often generous to a fault, who once said he wanted to be remembered as a "good man." His family and friends believe he achieved his goal. A memorial service will be held at a future date. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ellen Canfield Scarpitti; a daughter, Susan Scarpitti Newstrom, son-in-law, George; daughter-in-law, Lisa Scarpitti; granddaughter, Alyssa Padilla and her children Bella and Matthew Castro; sister, Rita Bournique; brother Ronald; and various nieces and nephews. He was pre deceased by his son, Jeffrey, parents Frank and Geneva Scarpitti, brother Louis, and sister, Alice Lazor.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in his honor to the University of Delaware, Gift Processing, 83 E. Main St., 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716, including in the check memo line “Frank Scarpitti Graduate Student Award in the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.” Gifts can also be made on the University of Delaware secure website, www.udel.edu/makeagift and including the same designation. To send online condolences, visit www.stranofeeley.com.
Studying Tribal Reservations: *Far North Tribal Offender Database*

By Blythe George, Harvard University

Half of all tribal reservations in the country have unemployment rates over 50% and nearly all have poverty rates over 40%, with their incarceration patterns nearly 44% higher than national averages. Despite dealing with these significant and overlapping inequalities for generations, tribal reservations and the individuals who call these areas home remain virtually unstudied. As a member of the Yurok Tribe of northern California, I became a sociologist to remedy this gap through culturally-sensitive, community-based participatory research that engages with tribal nations as partners rather than subjects in the research process.

In collaboration with the Yurok Tribal Court, I constructed the *Far North Tribal Offender Database*, a confidential dataset for tribes in the four northernmost counties of California (comprising 2% of all tribes in the nation). This database uses tribal enrollment and county jail records to track tribal members who are incarcerated in local and state jurisdictions. Previous to my work, it was unknown how many or how frequently tribal members were incarcerated. There is no centralized way to answer these questions as it requires simultaneous processes of downloading county jail records on a rolling basis, name-by-name data entry, and access to tribal enrollment lists to verify membership. Over the course of a year, I combed county jail records daily to build this database from scratch. The purpose of this database was twofold—first, little was known from the tribal court’s perspective as to the scope and characteristics of the tribe’s incarcerated population. Beyond the administrative necessity of these details, these baseline characteristics also had to be established before I could pursue my qualitative dissertation on unemployment and prisoner reentry on the Yurok and Hoopa Valley reservations.

Through the *Far North* database, I found that tribal members are incarcerated at a rate four times the national average, with jail much more common than prison for the average offender, at eleven times the national rate. Approximately 65% of these offenders are male, with an average age of 32. The most common offenses were supervision violations, domestic violence, and weapons charges. Despite such high levels of over-representation, ongoing identification efforts show that these numbers are conservative estimates at best.

With this database, I am establishing the data infrastructure needed to document and intervene in incarceration patterns in Indian Country. The Yurok Tribal Court is leading the nation in joint jurisdiction efforts, yet significant work remains to identify how high levels of incarceration affect tribal populations. As a discipline, we cannot purport to have comprehensive theories of social phenomena like crime, joblessness, or poverty without incorporating communities who are epidemically impacted by these inequalities: tribal reservations. In my scholarship, I add a new lens to the study of concentrated disadvantage by describing how the

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“reservation” represents both a physical space and a social institution that structures contemporary inequality. Specifically, in my dissertation on the job-seeking behaviors for tribal fathers with criminal records living on and off-reservation, I show how the process of finding work for tribal job seekers is shaped by their world renewal worldview, their personal behaviors such as substance use, and the social expectations placed on them by their network partners. This contribution expands our understanding of how macro-level shifts like industry decline, mass incarceration, and even climate change interact with individual-level meaning-making to structure how low-skill men seek employment.

My future research plans include developing my dissertation into a book manuscript, as well as expanding the Far North database to the state and national levels, using it as a template for the collection of comparable data across different geographies. There are great data needs facing Indian Country, yet few materials exist to help guide their data collection efforts. I am in the process of designing these curricula as an extension of my work with the Far North database, expanding the tools that I piloted in my dissertation for use with other tribes. Ultimately, I envision a network of trained data analysts who build their own tribal datasets while contributing to state and national databases under my oversight, building the necessary data to establish and track incarceration patterns across Indian Country.

Ultimately, we as tribal people need sociologists and criminologists who are willing to conduct research in a way that acknowledges us as partners in knowledge production, not simply study areas for knowledge extraction. There is a long history of exploitation when it comes to academia and tribal communities, and as such, many are wary of partnering with social scientists for fear of further exploitation. We as academics have a responsibility to produce research of the highest caliber, and when it comes to working with tribal communities, such research mandates their participation from the ground up. As data scientists, we have invaluable skills that are lacking in most tribal infrastructures, and together we can build the tools needed to capture vital data on the factors shaping individual and community-level outcomes in Indian Country. In doing so, we will establish a line of inquiry ripe for further research and policy intervention.

**About the author:** Blythe George is a member of the Yurok Tribe of northern California, the largest tribe in the state, and a PhD candidate in the Harvard University Sociology and Social Policy Joint Degree Program. Her work focuses on unemployment and crime in tribal communities, with an emphasis on qualitative methodologies and database creation & management. She is the recipient of two NSF awards, and her dissertation has been recognized by the Social Science Research Council, the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, and Indigenous Education, Inc. In 2020-2021, she will serve as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at UC Berkeley working with Prof. Sandra Smith.
Texas Tech University, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Visiting Assistant Professor

We are recruiting a VAP in criminology. Sub-specialization is open but we would love to have someone that does something related to terrorism/drugs and security/organized crime.

The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work at Texas Tech University invites applications for a Visiting Assistant Professor position in sociology for the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semesters. The department offers a B.A. and M.A. in sociology. We are seeking candidates with a specialization in criminology. All areas of criminology will be considered. Texas Tech University is a Tier One Research Institute with a strong emphasis on expanded funded research and scholarly dissemination and continued commitment to undergraduate and graduate education. Applicants must submit: (1) a statement describing his or her research and teaching interests, (2) a current curriculum vitae with contact information including e-mail address, and (3) any examples of published/potentially publishable scholarly work. In addition, applicants should provide the names and contact information for three references. Any inquiries and all applications for this position should be sent to Martha Smithey, Ph.D., Associate Professor at m.smithey@ttu.edu.

Candidates who have very strong records of scholarship supported by extramural funding and who have the proven capacity or clear potential to bring externally sponsored research to Texas Tech University are encouraged to apply. Service duties include program-building, as well as commitment to extra-curricular activities. Service to the department, college, university, and community is expected.

More details may be found at: https://sjobs.brassring.com/TGnewUI/Search/Home/Home?partnerid=25898&siteid=5637#jobDetails=438787_5637
I have recently accepted a Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship at UC Berkeley to work with Prof. Sandra Smith. Many tribal reservations have unemployment rates over 80% (Henson 2008), but they have been excluded from considerations of long-term joblessness and its consequences. In my research project, I extend considerations of unemployment to include the experience of American Indian men, using ethnographic observation and in-depth interviews with 35 tribal men living on and off-reservation to answer the question: how do tribal fathers with criminal records manage the process of finding work? In collaboration with the Yurok Tribal Court, I adopt a community-based participatory research design to provide an in-depth, narrative-based account of the men’s job search strategies, how they provide for themselves in the absence of formal employment, and how living on vs. living off-reservation can shape these processes. In doing so, I add a new lens to the study of concentrated disadvantage by describing how the “reservation” represents both a physical space and a social institution. Specifically, I find that the process of finding work is shaped by the worldview, personal behaviors and social expectations of tribal men as fathers. This contribution expands our understanding of how macro-level shifts like industry decline, mass incarceration, and now climate change interact with individual-level meaning making to structure how low-skill men seek employment.

My dissertation, “Designing Justice: Sexual Violence, Technology, and Citizen-Activism,” examines how technologies used to protect victims, report and investigate assault, and punish offenders produce multiple meanings of both sexual violence and justice. Using discursive analysis of archival documents, my dissertation examines how four technologies—wearable anti-rape technology, digital web apps, the rape kit, and psychotropic drugs—challenge enduring gendered and racialized assault tropes. I reveal how these “technologies of sexual violence” simultaneously create competing knowledge about violence, while structuring victims’ experiences and the flow of cases through the court system. For example, digital rape reporting apps provide a structural alternative to traditional reporting mechanisms that seek to provide survivors more agency in the reporting process, while helping to challenge the persistent belief that certain women lie about rape. In contrast, the scientific discourses that surround the rape kit function as a “forensic gaze” that hide practices of racial bias in case investigation, whereby Black women’s assaults are investigated at lower rates than non-Black women. My research illuminates how sexual violence is not just an act of interpersonal violence, but also a flexible concept produced through the interaction of people, technology, and ideas about gender and race. Looking at how multiple meanings of sexual violence and justice are produced across different socio-legal moments, this project shows the competing ways technology informs institutional responses to violence. This approach reveals opportunities for how technological and regulatory systems can be altered to promote more democratic interests.


Fox, Nicole, and Hollie Nyseth Brehm. 2018. "I Decided to Save Them": Factors That Shaped Participation in RescueEfforts during Genocide in Rwanda." Social Forces 96, no. 4: 1625-1647


