Greetings!

Plans are being finalized for the Crime, Law and Deviance Section’s activities at the upcoming Annual Meetings of the ASA in Washington, D.C. Our section’s sessions, business meeting, and reception will all be held on Tuesday, August 15th.

Because our membership exceeded 600 last year, we are able to sponsor three panel sessions and one roundtable session. The session listings are included in this newsletter, for your interest.

Currently, our business meeting is scheduled from 1:30 to 2:10 p.m. in the Hilton. Here you can learn about the section’s activities during the past year, and help to decide on activities for the coming year.

Our reception is scheduled to be held at 6:30 on Tuesday in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. We are holding our reception jointly with other sections, as we have in some past years, in an effort to further strengthen ties to other sections and keep costs manageable. I hope that you will be able to attend all or many of these events.

One of the items on the agenda of the Business Meeting will be the presentation of the CLD Section’s Student Paper Award. The selection committee this year was chaired by Brad Wright and included Simon Singer, Jay Meehan, Sara Steen, and Ross MacMillan.

The winner of the STUDENT PAPER competition is Christine W. Bond of the University of Washington, for her paper titled, “Does Gender Still Matter? Quantitative and Narrative Analyses of Gender Differences in Criminal Involvement and Pre-Trial Release.” You will find a brief description of this paper later in the newsletter. Congratulations to Christine!

We also will discuss possibilities for some new section activities at the Business Meeting. One is a proposal for a new CLD Section award for best scholarly paper. Another is the opportunity to suggest themes or authors for featured reviews or invited symposia to the new...
Christine Bond, University of Washington, is Winner of the CLD Section Award for Best Student Paper!

We are pleased to announce that Christine Bond, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology, University of Washington, was unanimously chosen to win this year’s CLD Section Student Paper Award.

Christine’s paper, "Does Gender Still Matter? Quantitative and Narrative Analyses of Gender Differences in Criminal Involvement and Pre-Trail Release," examines gender differences in the circumstances of offending and in pre-trail release and sentencing decisions.

The paper analyzes quantitative and textual data from 705 adult, felony defendants in the King County (Washington) Superior Court. Using sophisticated multinomial logit regression models and narrative analysis, it finds that male and female defendants differ in the circumstances of their offending, with women, for instance, being more likely to commit crimes in groups and in private settings. Nonetheless, even when controlling for these circumstances, as well as relevant offense and defendant characteristics, women still receive more lenient pre-trail outcomes, such as release without conditions, than men, who more often had to post bail.

These findings give solid evidence that both gender and legal factors matter in the treatment of defendants in criminal courts.

Christine received her B.A., in sociology and English, and a law degree with honors from the University of Queensland in Australia. Before entering graduate school, she worked for the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission where her duties included evaluating policing programs. Her research interests include formal social control issues, the sociology of law, particularly decision-making processes in criminal justice institutions, and quantitative methods. She expects to receive her Ph.D. in 2002.

(cewbond@uwashington.edu)

The CLD Student Paper Award Committee thanks each of the students who sent in papers and wish them the best in their on-going research. The committee members include Ross Macmillan (University of Minnesota), Jay Meehan (Oakland University), Simon Singer (SUNY at Buffalo), Sara Steen (Vanderbilt University), and myself, Brad Wright (University of Connecticut). As head of the committee, I thank the other committee members for their engaged and timely participation in this competition.

—Brad Wright
The CLJ program maintains a portfolio of research on prominent topics, offers a graduate program in the tradition of social science units at major universities, and administers an undergraduate program that emphasizes broad social science background and pre-professional training over preparation for entry-level positions in criminal justice agencies.

Research

There are a few common themes that emerge from the various lines of research pursued by members of the CLJ faculty. Much of the research is theoretically-driven criminology, including work on the nature and causes of violence (conducted by Rich Felson, Eric Silver, Tom Bernard, and Wayne Osgood, among others), the patterning of crime in relation to demographic factors such as age, race, and sex (Darrell Steffensmeier, Roy Austin, and Wayne Osgood), and communities and crime (Eric Silver, Darrell Steffensmeier, Lisa Miller, and Wayne Osgood). Our research on societal responses to crime stresses justice system decision-making, especially victim decisions to report crimes (Barry Ruback), police arrest decisions (Robin Engel), and criminal sentencing (John Kramer, Jeff Ulmer, and Darrell Steffensmeier).

We benefit from strong ties to several organizations at Penn State. The Center for Research on Crime and Justice serves as our primary research arm, lending assistance in grant preparation and in support services for ongoing projects. The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, which is located on campus, constitutes an invaluable resource for studies of sentencing processes and outcomes. Our research is often enhanced by Penn State’s Population Research Institute, which has excellent facilities for managing large data sets, undertaking demographic analyses, and applying geographic information systems. Quantitative investigators are able to draw on the statistical expertise of highly regarded specialists in the Department of Sociology, the Department of Statistics, and the Methodology Center in the College of Health and Human Development. CLJ faculty regularly engage in joint research projects with scholars from these units.

Graduate Program

The graduate program in CLJ is a social science doctoral program, not a professional training track for criminal justice administration. The program is limited to 25 full-time students who intend to pursue the Ph.D. (whether or not they already have a master’s degree) and who are interested in careers in research, scholarship, and
Admission is highly selective, with only about six students entering the program each year. All students receive financial aid; a number are funded by research assistantships and fellowships while others serve as teaching assistants.

Our graduate program is built on the philosophy that leaders in research on crime and justice must not only be rigorously trained in that field but must have substantive knowledge of one or more standing disciplines. From our perspective, doctoral training in sociology departments falls short by having too few faculty members to provide sufficient depth in the study of crime and justice. In contrast, we see criminal justice doctoral programs as prone to insularity, failing to promote the growth engendered by cross-fertilization with other fields. Our program is well situated to overcome this dilemma, comprising an integrated curriculum and a sizeable number of crime and justice specialists within a strong sociology department. Penn State also has a tradition of interdisciplinary collaboration in the social sciences, and we enjoy good working relationships with Psychology, Geography, and Human Development and Family Studies. Indeed, the affiliate faculty members of our program include renowned scholars of crime and justice such as Jim Eisenstein in Political Science and Philip Jenkins in History.

To insure that our students become conversant in another discipline, we require that they develop a four-course concentration in a coherent area of inquiry that can be applied to research on criminology and criminal justice topics. This outside work is usually completed after a standard set of theory and methods courses, several substantive seminars, and a candidacy exam have been passed and a master's thesis approved. Ph.D. students must also pass a comprehensive exam and complete and defend a dissertation.

Though the current incarnation of the CLJ graduate program is young, having just concluded its fourth year, we have already met with considerable success. We are attracting students with excellent credentials, about half of whom have backgrounds in sociology and half in related fields. Penn State’s Department of Sociology attracts talented students in all areas, and the CLJ students have more than held their own in terms of GRE scores, graduate grades, and performance in graduate courses after arriving. Our students are also doing well on the job market. Recent graduates have taken positions at SUNY Albany, Clemson, Bowling Green, Arkansas State, the National Institute of Justice, and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

As might be expected based on national trends, our undergraduate program is thriving. Each year we offer approximately 50 course sections with a total enrollment of over 2,600. Most of this enrollment is accounted for by 550-600 majors, an increasing number of whom are minoring in sociology. CLJ students win their fair share of college and university awards, and some accept invitations to join honorary societies, including Alpha Phi Sigma and Phi Beta Kappa. Eligibility for membership in the latter reflects the liberal arts niche occupied by our program within the Penn State system. (Other Penn State campuses provide more vocationally oriented training.) With guidance from a professional advising staff, CLJ B.A. and B.S. candidates develop substantive breadth (in courses on criminology, law and society, courts, juvenile justice, and policing) while acquiring computing and statistical skills and satisfying diversity and writing requirements. The B.S. students take courses in disciplines ranging from philosophy to chemistry in order to complete a formal concentration in areas such as legal studies, social science research, or pre-forensics.
An especially attractive feature of our program is its extensive menu of out-of-classroom enrichment opportunities. Academic-year semesters can be spent abroad, and a summer course in The Netherlands (taught by affiliate faculty member Alan Block) provides cross-national insights on crime and justice. Consistent with the heavy research emphasis of the faculty, undergraduate majors are encouraged to gain experience as RAs or by conducting their own projects. Qualified students may complete a thesis as part of the honors option. Through structured internships—approximately 100 are arranged annually—our majors learn about the operation of the criminal justice system and also about future career possibilities. Our in-house Career Development Center, a Fall semester job fair, and frequent contacts with alumni (via class presentations, panel sessions, and one-on-one mentoring) further prepare CLJ students for life after Penn State. For many, that life includes a stint in graduate or professional school.

More Information

A good starting point to find out more about Crime, Law and Justice at Penn State is the website listed at the beginning of this article. Specific questions can be routed, as appropriate, to (1) Wayne Osgood (wosgood@psu.edu), who directs the graduate program, (2) John Kramer (jhm@psu.edu), who directs the undergraduate program, or (3) Barry Ruback (rbr3@psu.edu), who directs the Center for Research on Crime and Justice. Department-level inquiries can be sent to the head of Sociology, Barrett Lee (bal6@psu.edu).

As Editor of the CLJ newsletter, I asked that Chuck say a few words about his move and his years at Washington State.

"Changing jobs at this point in my career is a major move that occasions much reflection. I am extremely grateful for the experience of having served on the faculty at Washington State University for twelve years and I am particularly glad for the association with Jim Short. Washington State University is a wonderful school and the Department of Sociology is exceptional in its quality and its historical commitment to crime/deviance studies. While in Pullman, I was able to edit Criminology for six years, direct a number of graduate students, and keep my own scholarly work on track, including the production of two books. The most profitable aspect of my time at WSU and a source of continuous amazement to me, however, has been the close work with Jim Short. He has taught, counselled, stimulated, and, on occasion, provoked me; I cannot imagine a better situation for a sociologist interested in crime and deviance.

Despite all of that, the opportunity at North Carolina State (Goodnight/Glaxo-Wellcome Endowed Chair of Social Science), was just too good to refuse. The freedom and funding that this new position offers should enable me to bring to fruition a number of ideas and pieces of work that have been on the back burner for a long time. I am especially excited to begin working with a fine group of scholars, many of whom are interested in crime and deviance. My new colleagues have already energized me to undertake some things that I might not have considered in Pullman. The concentration of interests should make NC State regionally dominant in..."
upward trajectory toward excellence in sociology. Finally, the Raleigh area provides an almost ideal environment for personal comfort. I hope this transfer will be a mutually beneficial experience for me and Debbie and all of our new colleagues. Meanwhile, we reluctantly leave Washington State University and its Department of Sociology; they have provided us with many good memories and we wish them the best.

--Charles Tittle

**LETTERS TO SECTION MEMBERS**

Dear ASA Section Chair,

In August, 2000 we will become the new co-editors for *Contemporary Sociology*, the second largest circulation sociology journal in the world.

We are exploring ways that each Section of the American Sociological Association may have its interests represented in *Contemporary Sociology*. We hope you will invite your Section's members to suggest themes and authors for featured reviews or invited symposia.

To seek your Section's participation in developing this vital publication for our journal, we ask you to invite suggestions in your newsletters and at your business meetings this August.

Our intention is to ensure that

*Contemporary Sociology* continues to meet its readers' interests and needs. Past editors have made the journal a valuable resource for sociologists in all types of academic and research settings. We welcome the challenge to continue the tradition and recognize the importance of ASA members' participation in shaping the journal.

Please call or e-mail us at your convenience if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Miller  Robert Perucci
(765) 494-4600  (765) 494-4714

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Please send comments, critical dialogues, responses to critical dialogues, news items or letters for this newsletter as Word Perfect 5.1, 6.0 or 7.0 attachments, or include in e-mail to:
jensengf@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ronald Akers and Gary Jensen are soliciting manuscripts for the 2001 Issue of *Advances in Criminological Theory*.


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**SUMMER 2000**

Please submit proposals or manuscripts for consideration by October 30, 2000 to:

Gary Jensen
Department of Sociology
Vanderbilt University
Nashville TN 37212

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**WANTED: Student Editor.**

William Pridemore completes his term as the first Assistant Editor at the end of July. Thank you, William, for your work on our behalf.

The Section is currently accepting applications from graduate students to be next year's Assistant Editor. There is a stipend and we are especially interested in help developing a web site this coming year.

Please send a letter of interest in the Assistant Editor position and resumé to:

Gary Jensen
Department of Sociology
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN 37235

Section Activities at the 2000 ASA Convention in Washington, D.C. (Reproduced as received. Some numbers used twice)

August 15

Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.


Organizer and Presider: Christopher Uggen

Papers:
(1) Holly Foster, John Hagan, Richard Tremblay, Bernard Boularce;
(2) Ronald Simons, Rand Conger, Kuei-Hsiu Lin, Leslie Gordon, Gen Brody;
(3) Scott Davies, Julian Tanner;
(4) David Jacobs;
(5) Tammy Anderson, Jason Carmichael, Erin Ruel, Richard Campbell, Brian Flay

Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

415. Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance: Qualitative Research in the Study of Crime, Law, and Deviance–Hilton Washington

Organizer and Presider: George S. Bridges

Papers:
(1) Alexes Harris;
(2) Deborah Potter;
(3) Deborah Kilgore;
(4) David Karp, Lynne Waisler

Discussion: Sara Steen

Tuesday, 12:30

Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance Council Meeting (to 1:30 p.m.) –Hilton Washington

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.

Section on Crime, Law and Deviance Business Meeting (to 2:10 p.m.)–Hilton Washington

Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.


Organizer: John R. Sutton

Papers:
(1) Katherine Beckett;
(2) John H. Laub, Robert J. Sampson;
(3) Bruce Western;
(4) John R. Sutton;
(4) David Jacobs, Richard Kleban

Tuesday, 4:30 p.m.


Organizer: Rodney L. Engen

1. Explaining Crime and Deviance: Advances in Social Process Theories
   Table Presider: Stacey DeCoster

   Papers: (1) Stacy DeCoster, Karen Heimer; (2) Monica L.P. Robbers;
   (3) Monika Ardelt, Laurie Day, (4) C. Wesley Younts

2. Explaining Crime and Deviance: The Importance of Social Structure and Context
   Table Presider: Rodney L. Engen

   Papers: (1) Man Deveve, Karen F. Parker; (2) L. Susan Williams; (3) Raymond R. Swisher, Glen H. Eder, Jr., (4) Jeb A. Booth

3. Reactions to Crime and Deviance: Formal Social Control

Tuesday, 6:30p.m. Reception

Joint Section Reception (Comparative Historical Sociology: Crime, Law, and Deviance; Sociology of Law; and Sociology of Sexualities)–Marriott Wardman Park

SUMMER 2000

Table Presider: Uyed Klein

Papers (1)Lloyd Klein; (2) Susan Chimones; (3) Robert A. Brooks;
(4) Steven E. Barkan, Steven F. Cohn

4. Reactions to Crime and Deviance: Informal Social Control

Table Presider: Edem F. Avakane

Papers (1) Sarah Butler, (2) Katarzyna Celinśka; (3) Gail P. Myers; (4) Edem F. Avakane

5. Evidence on the Nature of Deviance

Table Presider: David J. Hartmann

Papers: (1) David J. Hartmann;
(2) Katherine Irwin, (1) Robin D. Perrin

Tuesday, 6:30p.m. Reception

Joint Section Reception (Comparative Historical Sociology: Crime, Law, and Deviance; Sociology of Law; and Sociology of Sexualities)–Marriott Wardman Park

REMEMBER:

Tuesday, 12:30

Council Meeting (to 1:30 p.m.)
–Hilton Washington

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.

Business Meeting (to 2:10 p.m.)–Hilton Washington

Tuesday, 6:30p.m. Reception

Joint Section Reception–Marriott Wardman Park