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Article

Current Trends in the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sex Offenders

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Child sex abuse (CSA) is a longstanding and pervasive problem in the United States and abroad. Conservative estimates report that a lifetime prevalence ranges from 5.6%–26.6% for girls and 1.9%–5.1% for boys in the United States, noting that the low-end estimate is derived from youth who are still in early adolescence (Finkelhor et al., 2014; Gewirtz-Meydan & Finkelhor, 2020). Worldwide, the WHO (2023) reports an average lifetime prevalence of 18% and 7.6% for girls and boys, respectively. Given the short- and long-term negative consequences for victims of CSA (Jumper, 1995; Maniglio, 2009), it is essential to develop a better understanding of prevention and treatment.

CSA is beginning to be addressed with a more compassionate approach toward existing and potential offenders. Guided by theory and best practices, prevention and intervention programs are moving away from the 20th century's more negative regimens that utilize confrontation and shame (Marshall & Hollin, 2015) and instead focus on the individual's strengths and need to develop the necessary skills to lead a fulfilled life (Sousa et al., 2023; Ward, 2002). While this shift is not without controversy, programs that provide support and reduce stigma could be a critical component to reducing the risk of CSA because stigma-related stress and social isolation may

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Regional Information

contribute to psychopathology and elevate the risk of offending. Additionally, stigma creates fear and encourages hiding among minor-attracted persons (MAPs) who might otherwise reach out for prevention services (Cantor & McPhail, 2016; Jahnke et al., 2015). Given that public beliefs are often based on stereotypes and that attitudes are severely punitive, even for non-offenders (Richards, 2018), garnering public support for these programs is a challenge. As the protection of children is paramount, continued exploration of the success of these complex approaches and effective methods of educating the public to reduce stigma should be pursued, regardless of the logistical or emotional difficulty in doing so. This paper will provide an overview of the historical and current state of offender categorization and therapies as well as potential barriers to modern treatment methodologies.

Typologies and Causes of Offending Behaviors

When thinking about treatment and prevention, it must be recognized that there are multiple targeted demographics that require consideration. Public perceptions and stereotypes often wrongly conflate all people who have pedophilia/hebephilia, that is, individuals with a persistent attraction to children under the age of 11 or between 11 and 14, respectively (Blanchard, et al., 2008) with child sex offenders (CSOs; Fafejta, 2021; Feelgood & Hoyer, 2008; Richards, 2018). Yet, being a person with pedophilia does not intrinsically imply offender status (Blagden et al., 2018). Research indicates an estimate of anywhere from 20%–50% of individuals who have committed CSA fit the DSM-5 classification of “pedophile,” while the remaining majority of CSOs do not (Cantor & McPhail, 2016; Seto, 2009). Additionally, a 2013 study involving 362 convicted CSOs showed that only 4.8% were the persistent, specialized abusers who reflect the profile of a career child predator (Wortley &

Smallbone, 2014). While the number of individuals struggling with pedophilic, hebephilic, or pedohebephilic disorder can only be estimated based on self-reports, many are reaching out for support to manage their feelings.

Broadly speaking, individuals are typically categorized by offense status (offending versus non-offending) and sexual preference (pedophile versus nonpedophile; Gerwinn et al., 2018). The offending category is further subdivided by type of offense: contact versus child sexual exploitation material offenders (CSEM). Unfortunately, due to undisclosed or delayed reports of CSA, few of which ever reach law enforcement (McGuire & London, 2020), and the reliance on self-reports where there is no criminal justice system involvement, there is an additional category termed darkfield offenders for those who offend but remain anonymous (Leverett & Tenbergen, 2023).

There are myriad explanations for why CSA happens (Gerwinn et al., 2018). According to Gannon (2021), larger societal issues like the sexualization of children; situational factors, which may not include pedophilia (as cited in Smallbone & Cale, 2016); and a culture of hostile masculinity (Seto, 2019) are indicated when examining causes of child sex abuse. For individuals, especially those not diagnosed with pedophilic disorder, self-regulation challenges, neuropsychological impairments, and reinforcement learning impairments are also implicated (Dillien et al., 2023). However, it is important to bear in mind that having a sexual preference toward children is a risk factor, and MAPs with antisocial tendencies who engage in criminal behavior generally are the most likely to offend (Seto, 2009). Because treatment approaches will vary according to individual needs, awareness and understanding of offender types as well as non-offending MAPs is essential (Wortley & Smallbone, 2014).

A History of Western Treatment Approaches

Treatment approaches developed from a foundation of human sexuality and deviance theories that emerged in the mid to late 1800s. In the early 20th century, treatment for sexual deviancy centered on psychotherapeutic approaches. However, a belief that sexually deviant preferences were the motivators behind sexual offenses, including pedophilia, began to dominate as behaviorism gained popularity. Under this theoretical system, phallometric assessment was developed in the 1950s to evaluate penile response to deviant stimuli, and aversion therapies were employed with the goal of behavior modification into the late 1960s (Laws & Marshall, 2003). At the time, all sexual preferences deemed deviant (e.g., homosexuality) were treated similarly; as described by Laws and Marshall (2003; as cited in Bancroft & Marks, 1968), "exhibitionists were treated with electrical aversion as were child molesters." In the UK, Joseph Wolpe's writings contributed to the development of behavior therapy via systematic desensitization at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, where treatment aimed at CSOs occurred primarily in the prison system. However, a lack of evidence that these techniques had any lasting effect on sexual preference generated a growing consensus that behavior-based treatment addressing sexual interest alone was ineffective (Marshall & Hollin, 2015).

The inclusion of cognitive processes in sex offender treatments began in the 1970s and rapidly replaced aversion-only behavioral programs. American psychiatrist Gene Abel is credited with promoting the inclusion of cognitive-focused approaches in the assessment and treatment of sex offenders. Abel organized a symposium at the convention of the Association for the Advancement of Behavior Therapy. This first conference in 1975 received only 10 attendees. By the year 2000, that

number had expanded to include thousands of professionals. These conferences would ultimately bring together a growing group of clinicians who would create the influential Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA; Marshall & Laws, 2003).

In the 1980s, Pithers, Marques, and others adopted a strategy used to treat addictions called Relapse Prevention (RP; Laws et al., 2000). RP employed education and skills training along with cognitive and behavioral techniques for sex offender treatment. Years later, Marques led the Sex Offender Treatment and Evaluation Project (SOTEP), a 10-year longitudinal study to determine the success of the program. While largely inconclusive regarding recidivism, it did highlight the need to recognize that sex offenders are diverse and require different treatment approaches (Marques, 1999). Accordingly, the 1980s saw empirically driven taxonomic systems and etiological theories. This decade was also the beginning of research and programs focused on juvenile and female sex offenders as research proliferated (Marshall & Laws, 2003) and peer-reviewed journals and organizations like the National Organization for the Treatment of Abusers (NOTA) emerged, expanding the field (Marshall & Hollind, 2015).

With this growing foundation, the 1990s saw a substantial expansion of treatment programs and research, the development of risk prediction instruments, and civil commitment laws. Despite these advancements, there was a clear need to continue developing the field. For example, after publication of SOTEP, RP was reconsidered for its effectiveness and application, including assumptions that those being treated were motivated to change (Laws et al., 2000). An evolving trend toward identifying the strengths and obstacles of offenders to reduce recidivism was on the horizon with concepts like the Good Lives Model, which

emphasizes the identification of personal values, and the installation of the skills and knowledge needed to achieve fulfilled lives (Ward, 2002). This trend also highlights the importance of humanizing offenders, the incorporation of trauma-informed care (Levenson, 2014), and promoting positive attributions like empathy and improved emotional regulation to create lasting change in CSOs (Marshall & Marshall, 2011).

Current Approaches to Treatment and Prevention

The causes of CSA are vast and complicated. As such, targets include society, non-offending MAPs, and identified CSOs through primary, secondary, and tertiary initiatives, as appropriate. Examples of current programs and services are described below.

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention is defined by larger, societal initiatives that promote public awareness and education (Lievesley & Harper, 2022).

Stop It Now!

CSA Survivor Fran Henry established Stop It Now! in the United States in 1992 to make CSA a public health priority by working with the CDC to promote public education, change local and state policies, and provide training to adults who protect children (Laws & Marshall, 2003; Stop It Now!, 2024). In 1995, the program expanded to include a helpline to provide guidance for anyone concerned about possible abuse occurring and for those who feel they are at risk of offending (Grant et al., 2019).

National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sex Abuse 2021-2030

The Australian government, in partnership with state

and territory governments, created a national strategy to prevent and reduce the impact of CSA. Its focus is on victims/survivors, vulnerable demographics, and the broader community. Five themes define the agenda, including an awareness campaign, victim empowerment, and funding research to enhance program efficacy (National Office for Child Safety, 2022).

Secondary Prevention

Secondary prevention targets individuals who are at risk of offending (Lievesley & Harper, 2022).

Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (PPD)

Beginning in 2004 via a media campaign, Germany's PPD sought to recruit self-identified MAPs who wished to seek treatment for their condition. The goal was to reach those who had either not yet offended or who had not been identified by the authorities by assuring empathy and understanding, a promise to help reduce shame, and confidentiality. Germany does not have mandated reporting laws, and 74.5% of the sample reported to have committed at least one offense. The hope was that people struggling with these impulses would volunteer for treatment, thereby reducing the likelihood of sexual offending against children by learning to control their urges (Beier et al., 2009).

Safer Living Foundation

The Safer Living Foundation established the Aurora Project in the UK in December 2018. It provides free services for MAPs in the form of group and one-on-one therapy sessions with the goals of sexual offense prevention and offender rehabilitation. It operates under the principles of stigma reduction, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and compassion-focused therapy (CFT). Interested parties are considered referable if they are at risk of offending or if they have been convicted of an

offense (Safter Living Foundation, n.d.).

The Global Prevention Project

This organization's comprehensive website provides general information and links to multiple prevention peer support groups and therapists for MAPs who feel isolated and distressed about their attraction to children, as well as links for journalists, friends, and family members. The Global Prevention Project defines the term anti-contact, non-offending pedophiles by using empirical evidence to discern the often-conflated belief that all MAPs are responsible for child sex offenses (The Global Prevention Project, 2024).

As a caveat, it is important to note that peer support groups and forums that work to prevent offending should not be confused with online pedophilia subculture support forums that position themselves counter to wider culture by embracing an “us versus them” attitude. These groups are counterproductive, promoting a narrative that justifies pedophilic cognitions and CSA by using terms like child love to rationalize dangerous, abusive interactions with children (Holt et al., 2010).

Tertiary Prevention

Tertiary prevention programs are provided to those who have already offended (Lievesley & Harper, 2022). Tertiary sex offender treatment programs (SOTPs) will vary based on risk/needs assessments (RNAs)—the first step to a risk-needs-responsivity (RNR) approach to identifying appropriate treatment for individual offenders (Taxman & Smith, 2021).

Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA)

CoSA was started in 1994 in Ontario, Canada

by Mennonite Pastor Harry Nigh. Its framework adheres to the RNR model with the intention of reducing recidivism (CSG Justice Center, n.d.). CoSA programs are now also in the U.S., UK, and Europe. Volunteers seek to reintegrate convicted sex offenders, who are called “core members,” into the broader community by first establishing personal relationships with them that are equitable, without stigma, and based on honesty, with an expectation that core members will take responsibility for their actions (Richards, 2022).

Additional Tertiary Prevention Approaches

1. Emotion-Focused Therapy: Childhood abuse, neglect, and substance abuse lead to higher rates of sexual violence and can cause cognitive distortions (Velasquez Marafiga et al., 2022) and difficulties in affect regulation (Gunst et al., 2017). The inability to functionally regulate emotions is linked to sexual offending etiologies and is considered a risk factor to reoffending (Gunst et al., 2017). A 2019 case study examined whether emotion-focused therapy (EFT) in conjunction with various other forms of therapy (cognitive, art, psychomotor, etc.) could help a convicted offender with a significant history of trauma, abuse, and behavioral issues learn to regulate his emotions (Gunst et al., 2017). Although the participant’s journey was complicated and his progression nonlinear, he ultimately demonstrated notable progress in his affect regulation.

2. Therapeutic Prison Systems: Blagden et al. (2016) studied a therapeutically oriented prison in the UK to determine whether the environment was conducive to rehabilitation based on reports by both prisoners and staff. In this prison, rehabilitation is an integral part of the system’s design and includes clearly communicated goals intended to facilitate positive change. Some of the most important features described by the prisoners were a sense of safety

and belief by prison staff that they were capable of change. Safety was critical because it allowed prisoners the psychological space to fully engage in the programs offered by the prison. A positive attitude by staff appeared to affect prisoners' mentalities about their ability to be rehabilitated, although the desire to change remains a critical component to achieve this goal.

3. Art Therapy: This nonconfrontive approach is strengths based, rooted in empathy, and addresses sex offenders with a history of trauma and complex treatment requirements due to psychiatric illness and disabilities. An art therapy program that emphasizes the Good Lives Model, anger management, and problem-solving skills, while avoiding excessive attention to negative issues, enables participants to lower defenses and reflect on their lives and wrongdoings. This allows them to acknowledge and humanize their victims while creating a new, more empowered self-view (Malhotra & Gussak, 2021).

Evaluation of Programs

These are innovative solutions to a complex problem, yet the question remains: Do these approaches work? The answer is complicated. However, some studies are showing promising results from compassion-based services. Encouraging evidence emerges from a study conducted in 2018, which analyzed the effectiveness of CoSA in Minnesota (MnCoSA) in terms of recidivism and cost benefits to the state. Results showed that the program reduced sex offense recidivism by 88% and saved \$40,923 for each participant (Duwe, 2018). Additionally, a study examining data from Stop It Now! between 2012–2018 found that the organization received 21,030 inquiries, 12% of which were from individuals with concerns about their own behavior and 69% from individuals with a personal connection to those involved in the situation: either

victim, (potential) abuser, or both (Grant et al., 2019). Indeed, most abuse is committed by persons within, or known to, the family of the victim (Gewirtz-Meydan & Finkelhor, 2020). This may suggest that, along with at-risk individuals seeking help for themselves, some emotionally invested bystanders are actively searching for resources to help prevent abuse, perhaps as an alternative to contacting legal authorities. For example, the study also determined that there was an increasing trend in reports from adults who witnessed worrying behaviors by adolescents and children (Grant et al., 2019). This could be an important implication for preventing CSA before young, at-risk individuals reach adulthood and end up in the prison system, given that more than half of CSA is committed by juvenile offenders (Finkelhor, 2014; Gewirtz-Meydan & Finkelhor, 2020).

Conversely, a follow-up study released in 2016 examined whether Germany's PPD program created any changes in its participants' self-reported sexual attraction to children. It ultimately found that pedo/hebephilic attraction was a "highly stable personality trait." More importantly, it remains unclear whether the program has been successful in preventing offending (Grundman et al., 2016). As for the therapeutic prison, while there were positive, hopeful reports among both incarcerated persons and staff, information regarding this model's effect on recidivism is indeterminate and requires more research (Blagden et al., 2016). In addition, although art therapy has valuable implications in terms of humanizing victims and promoting the reevaluation of offender identity (Malhotra & Gussak, 2021), more research is needed to conclude its role in reducing recidivism.

The blend of results indicates a continued need for increased understanding of the causes of CSA and for more targeted studies aimed specifically at CSOs. Some of the difficulty in making determinations is that analysis of the effectiveness of

treatment often regards sex offenders as a homogenous group. In recognition of this issue, a systematic review that examined contemporary psychological interventions for CSOs as a subtype supported the notion that both criminogenic and noncriminogenic needs should be included as valid aspects of programs. However, it also noted limitations in the existing studies including study robustness, design, and quality (Sousa et al., 2023).

Moreover, there is not at present a formalized, unified framework for child sex offense prevention. RNR principles are often applied to tertiary treatment, efforts to reduce recidivism among CSOs, and criminal offenders, generally. Although studies have found that the inclusion of criminogenic needs in program implementation helps prevent reoffending (Andrews et al., 2006; Taxman et al., 2014), a recent meta-analysis questions this assertion (Duan et al., 2024). This discordance is echoed by an umbrella analysis that included 20 years of research and determined the supporting RNR evidence base was “low quality and inconsistent” (Fazel et al., 2024).

This may, in part, be due to inadequate consideration of the complexity of needs of offenders in the application of the RNR model and an overreliance on static risk factors in the development of programs (Taxman & Caudy, 2015). Also, inclusion of noncriminogenic needs (e.g., anxiety, feelings of alienation) may play an important supporting role for program success because they are implicated in the ability of therapists to effectively engage with clients to produce better outcomes (Hanson & Yates, 2013; Ogloff & Davis, 2004). Programs like CoSA embrace this concept and attempt to use meaningful connections with offenders to promote honest evaluations of their thoughts and behaviors, leading them to take responsibility for the harm they have caused their victims.

Barriers to Individual Treatment and Program Implementation

Due to the incalculable damage CSA causes and public assumptions that all MAPs are (or eventually will become) offenders, they are understandably among the most stigmatized groups (Wortley & Smallbone, 2014). Additionally, images of violent sexual predators have been sensationalized by the media, affecting public consciousness (Quinn, 2004). In a broad, inclusive sample comparing public attitudes toward MAPs with alcoholics and sexual sadists, participants responded to MAPs with greater levels of fear, and especially anger, than the latter two groups. Additionally, 93% said they believed MAPs pose a danger to children and held a strong desire to be socially distanced from them (Jahnke et al., 2015). The public’s etiological beliefs about pedophilia were measured using data from online forums when an announcement revealed that a CoSA program would be starting in Australia in 2015. Attributions, each influencing convictions about how or whether MAPs can or should be treated, primarily fall into four categories: (1) sexual orientation, which both increased feelings of blameworthiness and incurability; (2) mental illness, which overall reduced blameworthiness and increased treatability beliefs; (3) choice, the belief that MAPs chose their sexual interest, had the greatest response for blameworthiness and lowest for deserving treatment, and (4) cycle of abuse, the final reason given by respondents, which coincided with the most sympathetic attitudes and support for treatment (Richards, 2018).

Given the current trend by researchers and professionals in the field to move toward a more prosocial, compassionate, strengths-based approach in treatment, the challenge to address stigma is monumental. Studies are testing various modes of educational information and their effectiveness at changing public attitudes and dispelling stereotypes. A 2022 study measured the

attitudes of its respondents prior to providing empirical, psychoeducational information regarding people with pedophilia. The modes of presentation were either narrative or informational. Results determined that while both modes were effective at reducing stigma, the narrative version was slightly more effective and lasting, possibly indicating that this mode had a humanizing effect, countering popular beliefs (Harper et al., 2018). An earlier study supports this finding, suggesting that a personal, narrative account by a MAP elicits a more emotional response from the audience (Harper et al., 2018).

These results could have important implications for reducing offense risk. Although at least half of all CSA cases are not committed by pedophiles, having pedophilia remains a significant risk factor (Seto, 2019) and the stress and shame associated with being a MAP may be a deterrent to seeking help from medical professionals (Levenson et al., 2017) before an offense occurs. MAPs are aware of the stigma against them, causing them to fear rejection and discrimination (Cantor & McPhail, 2016; Jahnke et al., 2015). Not unfounded, nonspecialist medical professionals share similar beliefs about the psychological deviance of MAPs as the general public and report a lower willingness to work with them as compared to mental health professionals or specialists with better training specific to the issue (Lievesley et al., 2022).

Discussion

There is a burgeoning consensus that prevention for first time offenses and recidivism requires a reduction in stigma from the public and medical professionals to encourage treatment seeking by at-risk individuals. This is in addition to a more compassionate approach that identifies strengths, as well as deficits, and attempts to imbue individuals with the skills necessary to maintain healthy, non-offending lives (Ward, 2002). The problem of CSA also requires an examination of society as a whole

and a recognition that these offenses do not emerge in a vacuum but are informed and influenced by the environment in which they grow (e.g., hostile masculinity and the sexualization of children). Additionally, Cant et al. (2022) recommends a public health, whole-of-system approach that connects all levels of initiatives to prevent, detect, and prosecute child sex abuse (CSA) and to create child-safe environments and mitigate the adverse effects of CSA for victims.

Public perceptions of child sex abuse are often overly simplified, yet the problem of CSA is incredibly complex and therefore requires complex solutions. CSA is further complicated by the fact that it is more often perpetrated by young, known offenders, rather than the terrifying strangers portrayed in the media. CSOs are part of families and have significant ties to loved ones. Secondary stigma extends to those individuals, who report experiencing substantial guilt, distress, and fear of abandonment by their social networks when the transgressions of a family member become known (Evans et al., 2023). Programs that seek to reduce stigma have the potential to mitigate harm for bystanders; address offenders as individuals in a more targeted, comprehensive manner; and to encourage non-offending MAPs to pursue preventative treatment.

Although more extensive, longitudinal research is needed to determine precisely the rates of effectiveness of these revolutionary new approaches to preventing abuse, results such as better affect regulation, learning to humanize victims, generating healthier cognitions, and promoting a sense of personal responsibility are positively linked to better outcomes.

Conclusion

It is without question that children are among the most vulnerable of populations, and therefore

responses to CSA are visceral and emotionally charged. However, if a growing body of evidence demonstrates the effectiveness of compassion-based programs for offenders, and stigma reduction for non-offending MAPs, it may be imperative to support such efforts to help keep children safe. As such, societal recognition and acceptance of best practices must be paramount to what is generally more palatable when addressing offending behaviors with this magnitude of consequences.

It is also just as important to recognize what does not work, like the antiquated treatments of decades past that focused exclusively on the undesirable aspects of sex offenders and approached individuals as a homogenous group. From the ashes of the theoretical paradigms of old rise more holistic attempts to recognize individuality and strengthen the positive attributes and humaneness of existing and potential offenders. These approaches acknowledge the reality that individuals with offending potential are intrinsically intertwined with society, affecting many lives. Just as their offenses reverberate throughout, so too does their successful rehabilitation.

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Samuel Walker's

The Future of Police Reform: The U.S. Justice Department and the Promise of Lawful Policing

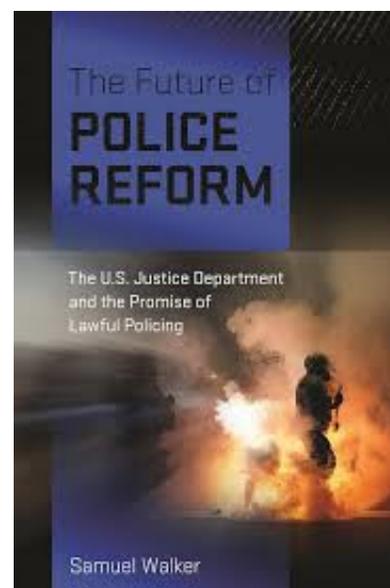
New York University Press
ISBN: 9781479826025

Review by Jason W. Ostrowe, Ph.D.
St. Joseph's University, New York

Recognized as a preeminent police accountability expert, Samuel Walker's scholarly contributions over the past 50 years have been prodigious. Indeed, Walker's accumulation of knowledge, experience, and insight are a great strength of *The Future of Police Reform*. However, researching any social phenomenon has its perils, and police reform, with its confluence of law, public policy, history, and vicissitudes of politics, require a unique skill. Yet for good reason, Samuel Walker is undaunted.

Police reform is a wide-ranging and ever-controversial issue. To introduce readers and provide context for the "national police and race crisis," Walker ascribes recent police controversies as stemming from America's failure to reconcile racial injustice with social, political, and organizational change. Coupled with the unfilled promises of constitutional and professional policing throughout the 20th century, relations between the public and police have become untenable. In Walker's analysis, rectifying these ills exists in the power and authority of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to compel organizational transformation through consent decrees.

In support of this position, Walker explores both the micro and macro forces that led to the "patterns or



practices" provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (VCCLEA). Readers learn that this law empowered the federal government to investigate U.S. law enforcement agencies for patterns or practices of unconstitutional policing. When reform of an agency is necessary, the government may compel change through a judicially enforced consent decree. Though initially overlooked by the public, media, and elected officials, this provision has become among the most consequential—and controversial—aspects of the VCCLEA.

Walker describes how DOJ's special litigation section began to devise programmatic goals and implement strategies under challenging, ambiguous, and politically malleable circumstances. To this point, how does a federal agency enforce an unprecedented law among the 18,000 police agencies in the U.S.? Walker refers to this as part of DOJ's learning curve and proposes how the lessons of police reform can be adopted by state and local authorities. This is a useful discussion because the benefits of such an approach are twofold: filling gaps in reform efforts in which the DOJ is incapable or unwilling, and obviating the federalist critique of encroachment into local affairs.

To support the diffuse enforcement of patterns or practices among other layers of government, Walker describes DOJ's "remarkable success" in reforming troubled police agencies compared to past piecemeal approaches. Unfortunately, this conclusion is rooted in a problematic analysis. Although the DOJ has conducted more than 70 investigations of police agencies since 1994, Walker's analysis and recommendations are based on a mere 20 consent decrees. A consent decree compels reform through judicial oversight and enforcement, but it is sought only against the most troubled, recalcitrant police agencies. There exists substantial variation in the outcome of pattern or practice inquiries that do not result in a consent decree. Past DOJ investigations have resulted technical assistance, MOAs, settlement agreements, and other nonpunitive arrangements. These substantive omissions lead to many questions: What of the power of a DOJ investigation to bring about reform through a mere investigation? What of the influence to initiate reform through alternative agreements? How does public scrutiny of a DOJ investigation engender reform?

Although Walker's expertise in police accountability is evident in the next section—Chapter 4: Putting an End to Unconstitutional Policing and Chapter 5: Resistance, Costs and Sustainability—these two chapters are not without their flaws. Walker describes how a "web of accountability" regarding use-of-force policies, procedures, and supervision under a consent decree can lead to organizational transformation through direct and collateral change. Though compelling, examples of successful organizational transformation are focused on few, and among the largest, police agencies under DOJ authority. What of the many smaller police agencies subject to police reform? Considering that 90% of law enforcement agencies in the U.S. have fewer than 50 sworn employees, how can the principles of a web of accountability and organizational

transformation be scaled down and applied to the mass of American law enforcement when the established template relates to the few and excludes the many?

Further into Walker's area of deep knowledge, readers learn how past reform efforts have been stymied by police unions, political actors, and costs—a sort of iron triangle of resistance. Here, Walker advocates for a workaround to police contracts through a reorientation of reform efforts as management prerogatives rather than work conditions subject to negotiation. This is problematic because it presupposes that management and police leadership's prerogatives are aligned with the principles of agency reform. It's important to recognize here that police leaders are often part of the same system and beneficiaries of the system in need of reform. As such, police leaders may be unlikely to support reform efforts. Moreover, enforcement of patterns or practices is an exercise in power and discretion. Enforcement decisions are subject to the whims of executive branch priorities that may exist outside of democratic and popular influence. Finally, Walker makes a compelling case that organizational transformation and reform will save money in the long run through reduced litigation; however, this requires long-term planning, leadership, and the political capital to secure upfront investment from a police-funding-weary public.

Walker addresses the book's main thesis in the final chapter. Here readers learn of the many promising mechanisms of police reform that exist beyond federal patterns or practices. Walker cites attorneys general's actions that replicate the federal pattern or practice program in California, Minnesota and Colorado, as well as other mechanisms in New York and New Jersey to help rein in misconduct and engender organizational reform. Along with these exercises in direct government authority, Walker describes how

cultural and societal change, greater community engagement, local oversight, and reform follow-through serve as promising developments for the future of police reform. Although compelling, this misses something important: State and locally initiated police reform can only flourish where there is political will to do so. It should not be glossed over: Large swaths of the nation are policed by agencies whose leaders, and their elected representatives, are unsupportive, if not hostile, to police reform and external regulation. What to do about them?

Herein is the unaddressed issue of police reform: When federal intervention in unconstitutional patterns or practices is deprioritized, and no reform mechanism exists among many states and localities, how will systemic police misconduct and unconstitutional policing be curbed? Without the power and political will to compel change, the future of police reform may not be as promising as Walker suggests.



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Samantha Majic's

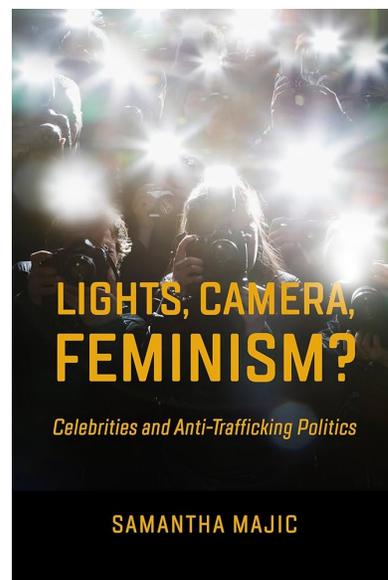
Lights, Camera, Feminism? Celebrities and Anti-Trafficking Politics

University of California Press
ISBN:9780520384910

Review by Deja McCray
Lamar University

Samantha Majic starts *Lights, Camera, Feminism?* by providing an overview of celebrity anti-trafficking activism from 2000–2016, observing that it was dominated by white female actresses who relied on conspicuous, attention-grabbing narratives to draw attention to human trafficking. Majic goes on to thoroughly dissect the anti-trafficking efforts of six celebrities: Ashley Judd, Jada Pinkett Smith, Ashton Kutcher, Ricky Martin, Mira Sorvino, and Julia Ormond. Via dissection, Majic observed their advocacy actions as well as the possibilities and limits of their efforts.

Ashley Judd is a famous actress turned activist who first learned of human and sex trafficking through her involvement with the organization Population Services International. Using her own experiences with sexual abuse and childhood neglect as motivation, Judd passionately advocates for sex trafficking victims in the United States, Cambodia, Kenya, and other nations, even speaking to the United Nations about this issue. It is important to note that Judd's advocacy started during a period of inconsistencies regarding human trafficking, which often overemphasized women and girls as victims of sex trafficking, resulting in Judd's advocacy reflecting those inconsistencies. Judd believes that exploitative men are the cause of human trafficking and poses the solution of demand abolition,



incarcerating the men who sell and purchase helpless women and girls.

Jada Pinkett Smith, similarly to Ashley Judd, is an actress turned activist. After learning about human trafficking from her daughter, Pinkett Smith began advocating for all victims (not just women and girl victims) by raising awareness. Her awareness efforts include participating in Congressional hearings to support anti-trafficking legislation, becoming a spokesperson for numerous organizations, creating her own organization, and producing music and documentaries. Pinkett Smith cites exploitative men and a lack of familial love as contributing components to human trafficking. She believes that a combination of law enforcement involvement, legislation, and loving family relations can solve human trafficking.

Ricky Martin, singer/actor turned activist, was one of the first celebrities to advocate against human trafficking in the early 2000s. After “rescuing” girls in India from child prostitution and conducting online research about human trafficking, Martin began his advocacy via research, PSAs, and community initiatives. Martin's research found that human trafficking impacts all sexes, age groups, and ethnicities, although he focuses his efforts on child victims in Central America and Puerto Rico.

Martin cites that individual, economic, criminal, and legislative components contribute to vulnerabilities that lead to human trafficking. Ashton Kutcher, an actor turned activist, became interested in human trafficking after watching an anti-trafficking documentary. Kutcher, along with his then-partner Demi Moore, created an anti-trafficking organization that focuses on technological anti-trafficking efforts. Thorn, Kutcher's organization, focuses on protecting children from sexual abuse by developing technologies and programs that aid in eliminating and lessening their exposure and vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Ricky Martin and Ashton Kutcher believe that the solution to human trafficking is public engagement, education, and individual awareness.

Julia Ormond and Mira Sorvino are actresses turned activists who focus on and challenge capitalism in relation to human trafficking. Both women use their positions as UNODC goodwill ambassadors to advocate for all sexes and ethnicities of human trafficking victims, focusing primarily on labor exploitation and trafficking. Ormond and Sorvino cite poverty and socioeconomic gaps between the rich and the poor as causes, posing economic and legislative solutions to the global issue of human trafficking. Both activists advocate for law enforcement involvement, in particular an increase in the training and education of criminal justice professionals who may be tasked with identifying and helping human trafficking victims.

Samantha Majic concludes *Lights, Camera, Feminism?* by outlining the advantages and disadvantages of having celebrities as anti-human trafficking activists. Positively, celebrities are well-known individuals with access to a large audience of influenceable individuals. Through their advocacy, celebrities are projecting the voices and narratives of human trafficking victims, organizations, and criminal justice professionals. On the opposite end of the spectrum, celebrity activism

has a significant number of negative implications. For instance, celebrities are not elected representatives or experts on the topic of human trafficking. Misinformation and misguided advocacies can do more harm than good for the victims and anti-trafficking organizations. The mischaracterization of human trafficking victims minimizes and neglects the stories of trafficking victims who do not fit that criterion. Also, because celebrities are not elected representatives of trafficking victims, they have the potential to speak over victims and undermine the efforts of organizations by directing attention away from said organizations. Finally, celebrity activists are typically removed and cannot relate to victims of human trafficking. Celebrities are advocating from afar, which could result in the celebrities' misrepresenting victims in the media and public, going as far as potentially advocating for legislation that could further harm and contribute to human trafficking. The disadvantages that Samantha Majic identified in *Lights, Camera, Feminism* will be analyzed in the next section of this paper.

While Samantha Majic is especially critical of the advocacy efforts of celebrities, it is hard to ignore the attention that celebrities point toward human trafficking and how influential these individuals can be in promoting a social cause and solution. Researcher Mathieu Deflem does a deep dive into the criminology of celebrity culture. Deflem states that celebrities have two primary functions in criminology: political-economic and cultural. As political-economic beings, celebrities are capitalistic puppets who can divert attention from conflicts in the market and political systems (Deflem, 2022). As cultural beings, celebrities are the focal point of the public's attention, entertainment, and perception, to be embraced or criticized by the masses for their beliefs and practices (Deflem, 2022). Regardless of their designated functions, celebrities have the privilege of being influential

role models. Celebrities can use this privilege to promote their own personal motives by being involved in the public discourse of social issues. In other words, celebrities are well-known beings, and to remain well-known, some seek involvement in charitable organizations. In *Lights, Camera, Feminism?* Majic mentions how Ashley Judd's passion for advocacy came at a convenient time in her career, following a bombshell failure in her acting career. It is alleged that celebrities may rely on advocating for significant and hard-to-protest social issues to exercise their influential privileges and maintain public relations, regardless of the sincerity of their advocacy. Deflem, similarly to Majic, found that despite their true intentions, when their influence/advocacy is applied to criminal acts (like human trafficking) and criminal justice, celebrities play a relevant and significant role in shaping public perception, involvement, and legislation.

As technology advances, so does the celebrity outreach to an even larger audience. Unfortunately, this advancement in technology is simultaneously resulting in the advancement of human trafficking. According to researchers, technology is reinventing the process of human trafficking, particularly the recruitment of victims and potential buyers, exploitation, and control over victims (L'Hoiry et al., 2024). On a semi-positive note, celebrity activists like Ashton Kutcher and Ricky Martin are at the frontlines of combating human trafficking in the new digital age. Thorn, Kutcher's technological anti-trafficking organization, has found that the majority of the survivors they have assisted had their forced sexual actions advertised online and thus has called for the shutdown of particular websites (L'Hoiry et al., 2024). Thorn and organizations with similar perspectives state that shutting down adult service websites will deter human traffickers and advertisers from exploiting victims. However, sex workers and their advocacy groups oppose the shutdown of adult service websites, citing that it will not prevent or deter

trafficking; rather, it would only put sex workers and victims in more dangerous, exploitative situations due to the elimination of digital intelligence for law enforcement and safety networks for sex workers (L'Hoiry et al., 2024).

Based on the criticism of celebrity advocacy efforts, one could conclude that the public should focus their attention on professional and more knowledgeable anti-trafficking organizations as a source of information and appropriate interventions. One would be somewhat mistaken, as some advocacy groups have been known to incite moral panic to push their own biased agendas. For instance, in 2023, a furniture website, Wayfair, was suspected of being a cover for a child trafficking organization (Williamson et al., 2023). The "evidence" that some anti-trafficking advocacy groups cited was that items on the website were highly priced and featured the names of missing children, which was merely a conspiracy and lacked any factual foundation, according to research and investigations. Particular anti-trafficking advocacy groups, especially religious advocacy groups, used the public's concern over sex trafficking to push their belief that sex work and pornography are evil and should be abolished/criminalized. These advocacy groups stated that helpless people are being kidnapped and forced into prostitution and pornography, conflating sex trafficking with sex work (Williamson et al., 2023). By demonizing sex trafficking, these advocacy organizations attempted to also demonize sex work and pornography, which was their true agenda. It is important to know and understand the advocacy beliefs of particular activist groups, as with the help of the public and media, these groups can pressure law enforcement and politicians to react and respond to their agenda (Williamson et al., 2023).

A topic that Samantha Majic mentions throughout *Lights, Camera, Feminism* is how feminism and

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celebrity anti-trafficking activism are associated with one another. Researchers Chie Noyori-Corbett and David Moxley (2017) state that since the majority (approximately 80%) of the transnational victims of human trafficking are women and girls, human trafficking is a feminist issue. This statistic could explain why females dominate celebrity anti-trafficking advocacy. Noyori-Corbett and Moxley continue, identifying gender-specific characteristics that become primary causes of human trafficking, such as cultures that devalue women, women being denied education, and domestic violence against women. These researchers, along with others like Bryanna Reid and Joan Fox, state that when addressing human trafficking, advocates and legislators must view the topic through a feminist lens rather than taking a binary stance and simplifying the human trafficking solution to legislation and law enforcement involvement (Reid & Fox, 2023; Noyori-Corbett & Moxley, 2017). Similarly to Majic’s sentiment, Reid and Fox state that when people (like celebrities) prioritize crime control and anti-trafficking legislation, they are merely deflecting attention away from the societal problems and causes, like war, poverty, and racial/gender discrimination.

In conclusion, research supports Samantha Majic’s sentiments and perspectives on celebrity anti-trafficking advocacy and how the issue of human trafficking should be handled within the criminal justice system. While the efforts of celebrities can be appreciated for their face value, celebrities should not be the sole representative of trafficking victims or the sole influence for public perception of human trafficking, crime, and the criminal justice system due to their limited knowledge. Overall, Samantha Majic provided an excellent scholarly description and analysis of numerous anti-trafficking celebrity activists.

National Criminal Justice Month 2024 Awards and Invitation for Submissions for 2025 Awards

At a time when it seems like every month serves as recognition for something, we here at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences would be remiss if we did not promote National Criminal Justice Month. In 2009, through an act of Congress, March was deemed National Criminal Justice Month, with the purpose of promoting societal awareness regarding the causation and consequences of crime, as well as developing strategies for prevention and response to crime. The ACJS National Criminal Justice Month Committee gives awards each year in recognition of National Criminal Justice Month events.

The committee would like to recognize the 2024 ACJS National Criminal Justice Month award winners:

- University of Nebraska, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice: Education Award
- Penn State Harrisburg, Criminal Justice Program: Community Engagement Award
- Seton Hill University Criminal Justice Program and the University of South Florida Department of Criminology: Program of the Year Award (shared)

These organizations have gone above and beyond to further the mission of National Criminal Justice Month. The various activities took hours, and in some instances months, of preparation and hard work by students and faculty. These activities included collaborative workshops (both institutional and community based) highlighting various aspects of criminal justice and forensics; volunteerism with local community partners such as Adelphoi, Building Bridges, Moveable Feast, and the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay; field trips; documentary screenings; faculty/alumni panels discussing recent scholarship and employment; and community engagement with real-life application of criminal justice and forensics.

We are currently accepting nominations for awards in recognition of March 2024 National Criminal Justice Month events. Academic departments, schools, colleges, and universities are encouraged to submit their program's initiatives focusing on education and community engagement. The goal of ACJS is to transform justice through research, education, and practice. With this in mind, this year's theme invites all perspectives on the future of criminology and criminal justice, highlighting the central themes of inclusion, interaction, and internationalization. The need for inclusion in the way we create and implement laws and public policy, a direct understanding how we interact with each other, and a focus on internationalization of those laws and policies are more important than ever.

Submissions can be for the following awards:

Education Award: This award is for making an educational impact on students and the community. Submissions will be judged on relevance, quality of the event, and its overall impact (e.g., the number of people in attendance).

Community Engagement Award: This award will honor an event that promoted meaningful engagement with the community on criminal justice issues and topics. Submissions typically include student engagement efforts with local criminal justice agencies.

Program of the Year: This award recognizes a program or department that engages in several varied events during March to promote the mission of National Criminal Justice Month. Departments that engage in multiple, diverse events will be considered.



Eligibility

- The nominator must be a current ACJS member.
- Events must have occurred in March 2024, during National Criminal Justice Month.



Application Process*

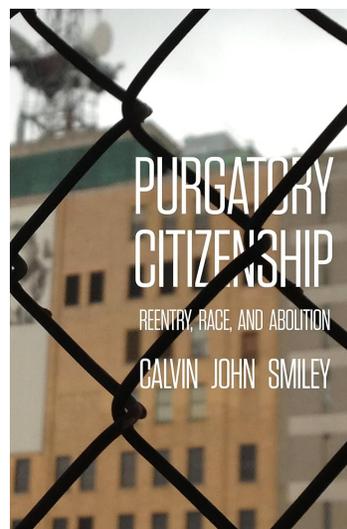
- Submit a letter describing the event(s) and the academic department's background aligned with the award category.
- Include any supplementary materials to support the application, such as photos, video links, survey results, and letters of support from local criminal justice agencies.
- Application materials should be submitted to Committee Chair Brie Diamond, b.diamond@tcu.edu
Copy application to Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovich, kutnjak@msu.edu

*Applications may be submitted for each category, but departments are only eligible to win one award per year. One winning department will be selected for each award.

Calvin John Smiley's *Purgatory Citizenship: Reentry, Race, and Abolition*

New York University Press
ISBN:9780520385993

Review by Daizha Pope
Lamar University



Introduction

The book *Purgatory Citizenship: Reentry, Race, and Abolition* by Calvin John Smiley was published in 2023. The book delves into a profound analysis of the scheme of reintegration into society of formerly incarcerated individuals concerning anticolonial and abolitionist stances against capitalist systems. When the causes of an offender's propensity for criminal behavior are addressed and their physical and social needs are met continuously and comprehensively during and after incarceration, there is a greater chance that it will result in positive reintegration. As a result, it is critical to prioritize comprehensive treatments built on a continuity of care and consistently support offenders inside and outside the prison setting (Gueta et al., 2022). Thus, an offender's preparation for reentry into society should begin before release. This book is a crucial contribution to the social science reentry debate that predominantly employs reduced measures to evaluate reentry success. Smiley, a sociologist who focused on the qualitative, everyday realities of clients of a reentry center in Newark during the early 2010s, offers a "real" and rich critique of the carceral state's persistent violence against these individuals and their communities.

The Concept of Purgatory Citizenship

The focal point of Smiley's theory is called purgatory citizenship. The term clearly describes the subject of the study: a criminal whose conviction excludes him or her from society, to a certain extent, but at the same time does not make him or her a pariah. Instead, they remain gradually on the border between a criminal and a citizen, which hinders their agency to the utmost and leads to punitive measures against them. This concept undermines the clear-cut models of reintegration present in most reentry discourses, introducing a more nuanced understanding of the difficulties of reintegration into society faced by formerly incarcerated people. Smiley's experience as the group leader and educator at the Newark Reentry Center broadens his vision about the subjects of purgatory citizenship. The fieldwork was carried out by the author between the years 2010 and 2013, thus forming the empirical basis of the book (Smiley, 2023). In interviews, focus groups, and observations, Smiley demonstrates how purgatory citizenship operates in reentry clients' lives and shapes their relationships with institutions, communities, and even their bodies and minds.

The halfway house is an essential place that plays a role in representing the notion of purgatory citizenship. Smiley paints a vivid picture of how

a crucial contribution to the social science reentry debate that predominantly employs reduced measures to evaluate reentry success. Smiley, a sociologist who focused on the qualitative, everyday realities of clients of a reentry center in Newark during the early 2010s, offers a “real” and rich critique of the carceral state’s persistent violence against these individuals and their communities. These facilities are supposed to be transitional structures for those coming out of prison. However, it is evident that despite the good intentions, many halfway houses are violent, noisy structures that reproduce several punitive aspects of imprisonment. These facilities do not have adequate and substantive programming and, instead, maintain the parody of prison confinement where residents endure a Kafkaesque existence of carceral logic. The term halfway house itself exemplifies the notion of purgatory citizenship. According to Smiley (2023), halfway houses are not primarily prisons and they are not fully liberated spaces; they are the in-between space. In these spaces, people are required to engage in various stereotyped behaviors, such as going to compulsory group meetings, despite their being purposeless and manipulative. According to Smiley (2023), this performativity of “doing reentry” emphasizes how reentry is not only a procedural reality but does involve communicative performances that render one deserving of freedom from carceral control.

Smiley also addresses the issues of political and social exclusion of people with felonies, both direct and interpretational. He links this disenfranchisement to post-Civil War politics and subsequent attempts to marginalize Black individuals in the United States of America. One of the most evident examples of the modern exclusion of minorities is the voting rights infringement for people with felony convictions. According to Smiley (2023), this disenfranchisement is not just an extension of punishment but a deliberate intent to retain America’s polarized racial

and social order. Through this historical framing of the reentry clients’ experiences, Smiley emphasizes the structural aspects of their exclusion. Smiley (2023) argues that the carceral state is not an isolated entity but a part of the “new racial regime of social control.” From this perspective, the audience is invited to question current approaches to reintegration and to explore how they continue to reenact systems of marginalization and oppression.

Spatial and social analyses of reentry are also discussed in *Purgatory Citizenship*. The author discusses how the organization of halfway houses and reentry centers affects the clients’ place attachment. Such institutions are frequently situated in socially deprived areas that further alienate the clients from the general population. The designs of these spaces, along with rules and regulations such as restricted movements and surveillance, simulate carceral spaces. Another important issue revealed by Smiley studying the conditions of reentry clients is their relationships with their families and communities. As much as reentry is a personal concept, it is also a social concept that speaks of the whole process of rejoining society. However, restrictive factors such as criminal labels, and legal and cumbersome social restrictions that limit complete social inclusion, present the major challenge to this reintegration. Nevertheless, despite these obstacles, there are different strategies adopted by clients to overcome these challenges.

One of the most inspirational factors of *Purgatory Citizenship* is Smiley’s theoretical subtlety. Even though reentry is predominantly portrayed in terms of exclusion, Smiley enriches this theme by considering the concept of purgatory citizenship. Reentry involves a cruel psychological paradox: people

are not independent and self-sufficient but are not entirely excluded from the group either. Such a situation leads to the perpetual struggle between the wish to be free and the fact that one remains under surveillance and oppression. Smiley's theoretical premise brings up Jock Young's idea of the bulimia of neoliberal society, which includes those on the margins while kicking them out and closing the door on their acceptance as full members. According to Jock Young, "This is the 'bulimia of the social system,' a society that, despite its promotion of liberty and equality, paradoxically undermines these values in every aspect of its structure, including the workplace, the streets, the community, and daily interactions" (Montana, 2024). The binary division between "winners" and "losers" is introduced by the duality of inclusion/exclusion. The social misfits, or a racial "underclass," who lack the cultural capital needed to adapt and carve out a place for themselves in a consumerist society are, in essence, the "losers." These institutional frames supply a strong framework for understanding the paradoxes and issues of reentry. In addition to linking the reentry clients' experiences to theoretical frameworks, Smiley's work provides an understanding of the structural factors in play.

A major concept the book brings out is the fact that reentry, for many people, is the first entry to society. This is especially the case for prisoners who have been in jail since they were young and might have spent most of their youth behind bars, hence no access to education, job markets, or social networks. The communities from which many reentry clients come are essentially deprived and underdeveloped, and this makes reentry even more arduous. Smiley connects this finding with Walter Rodney, who explained that the subject level of development of communities is not accidental, but rather the result of planned actions of oppressors (Smiley, 2023). Thus, reentry for most of the reentry clients is not just an attempt to reintegrate

into society, but having the opportunity to overcome the barriers to entering into society that existed when they were put behind bars. This includes finding a job, getting state identification, and completing education, which are considered simple tasks by most individuals but are major achievements to the ex-offenders.

In the book *Purgatory Citizenship*, Smiley introduced the notion of "doing reentry" to emphasize the performative aspect of the process. To prove their level of compliance, the offenders are required to conduct several activities that will not be viewed as enjoyable but are potential steps toward reintegration. Such behaviors include attending required group therapy sessions, adhering to certain rigid rules, and engaging in invasive services. The performative element of reentry reveals how politically constructed reforms tend to be superficial and do not essentially promote the reintegration of inmates back into society. This performativity is closely connected with the monetary aspect of corporate reentry programs and the state. Smiley questions the reentry industrial complex, a system that benefits from the granting of supervision and management of formerly incarcerated people (Smiley, 2023). This relationship makes it possible for reentry programs to shift their goal from meaningful reintegration outcomes to mere policies' compliance, thus perpetuating the cycle of exploitation and social exclusion.

Smiley learns that rule-breaking is used by reentry clients as a means to reintegrate successfully into society. In reentry centers, clients are faced with a highly politicized set of structures that can effectively limit their reintegration. For instance, prohibiting the use of cell phones and closing social media accounts will deter clients from getting in touch with their families and getting jobs. According to Smiley (2023), offenders by all

means try to use restricted items such as forbidden cell phones and other related items to get what they want while circumventing these restrictions. This counterintuitive finding undermines the conventional paradigm of resistance and obedience. It shows how reentry offenders can maneuver within and conform to the formal structures while at the same time actively dealing with a system that is against them. This finding highlights the importance of a more responsive model of reintegration because the individuals who have been released from prison are proactive and resourceful.

Critique of Theoretical Engagement

Despite the abundance of empirical data and theoretical understanding in *Purgatory Citizenship*, it would be useful to offer more consistent references to the readings, particular theories, and thinkers. While Smiley makes several references to related literature, they are quite brief and could be woven into the text more thoroughly. For instance, a more detailed analysis of bulimia theory by Jock Young or Walter Rodney's ideas on underdevelopment would offer the reader a better enhancement of the strengths of the arguments. Also, abolitionist theories and scholars such as Angela Davis, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, and Mariame Kaba could be engaged more intensively (Martin, 2021). These scholars have outlined ambitious abolitionist projects that call for more than the dismantling of the carceral state and new models of justice and care. Integrating their work more deliberately could help place *Purgatory Citizenship* within the discourse of abolition more substantively.

Additionally, although Smiley provides valuable insights about the racialized aspect of reentry, the book could have been more diverse in its representation of people from different ethnic communities. It is also important to remember that Latinos, Indigenous peoples, and other persons

experienced in carceral logics also have histories and narratives worth hearing (Martin, 2021). A better assessment could focus on the relationship between race/ethnicity and imprisonment. This would paint a better picture of the systems that surround reintegration complexities.

In *Purgatory Citizenship*, Smiley's critique of the prison and reentry industrial complexes is incisive, but the book could also address the role of the nonprofit industrial complex in perpetuating carceral logic. Nonprofit organizations often play a significant role in reentry programming, and their reliance on funding and compliance metrics can create similar pressures to those faced by for-profit entities. A critique of the nonprofit industrial complex could provide a more holistic understanding of the challenges and limitations of current reentry practices.

Conclusion

Purgatory Citizenship by Calvin John Smiley is a significant contribution to the literature on reentry and mass incarceration. Through his ethnographic study of a Newark reentry center, Smiley provides a vivid and nuanced account of the lived experiences of formerly incarcerated individuals (Smiley, 2023). His concept of purgatory citizenship challenges simplistic binaries of inclusion and exclusion, offering a more complex understanding of the reentry process. Smiley's work is theoretically nuanced and critically engaged, providing valuable insights into the systemic nature of reentry challenges. His critique of halfway houses, the performative nature of reentry, and the paradox of rule-breaking behaviors add depth to our understanding of the carceral state. While the book could benefit from more sustained theoretical engagement and a more inclusive examination of racialized experiences, it remains a compelling argument for

abolition and systemic change.

Purgatory Citizenship is essential reading for scholars, students, and practitioners in sociology, criminology, and justice studies. By centering the voices of those most affected by mass incarceration, Smiley challenges readers to imagine alternatives to the current system and to consider the possibility of a society where reentry is not necessary because the carceral state has been dismantled. This book is a testament to the resilience and agency of formerly incarcerated individuals and a call to action for a more just and equitable society.

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Daizha Pope is a 23-year-old elective teacher and girls' head coach for the Houston Independent School District. She is also a former juvenile case manager and worked in the criminal justice department for a few years. Ms. Pope graduated from Sam Houston State University with her Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. Ms. Pope recently just finished her last semester at Lamar University and will be receiving her Masters of Science in Criminal Justice. Ms. Pope loves to read, research, exercise, and spend time with her family. She also loves to volunteer and participate in community during her free time. Ms. Pope aspires to mentor and motivate future generations. She believes her calling in this world is to help others and has been fully devoted to her cause. Ms. Pope's journey is just beginning, and she has so many more things in store. Fun Facts: Ms. Pope has 16 siblings!



ACJS Member Accomplishments

Holli Vah Seliska, Ph.D. and colleagues published "Professional Learning Communities and Adjunct Faculty Professional Well-Being in Online Higher Education" in the *Journal of Faculty Development*.

Natasha N. Johnson, Ed.D. and colleagues published the following articles:

Johnson, T. L., Johnson, N. N., Topalli, V., McCurdy, D., & Wallace, A. (2024). Police facial recognition applications and violent crime control in U.S. cities. *Cities*, 155, 105472.

Johnson, N. N. & Johnson, T. L. (2024). The Gender-Race-Equity-Leadership Matrix: Intersectionality and Its Application in Higher Education Literature. *Journal of Black Studies*, 55(7), 591-613.

Johnson, T. L., Johnson, N. N., Sabol, W. J., Hartman, M. A., & Snively, D. T. (2024). Collective bargaining, police pay, and racial differences in police lethality rates. *Police Practice and Research*, 25(6), 692-717.



Journal of Criminal Justice Education

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Published Online: August 19, 2024

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2024.2392662>

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By Eric Madfis & Adam Lankford, Eds., Temple University Press

James Alan Fox

Published Online: October 12, 2024

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Andrea Krieg

Published Online: October 12, 2024

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JUSTICE QUARTERLY

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Daniel Seddig

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JUSTICE EVALUATION JOURNAL

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Michael Sanders, Kate Bancroft, Susannah Hume, Oliver Chetwynd & Paul Quinton
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Recent Publications: August 15, 2024 - October 28, 2024



Region One - Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS)

www.neacjs.org

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Conference: June 4th - 7th, 2025 in Prince Edward Island, Canada

Theme: Cross Border Connections: Improving Criminal Justice Systems

Conference Submissions due April 2025

Award Submissions due April 2025

Student Membership = \$20.50

Student Conference Registration = TBD

Regular Membership = \$51.30

Member Conference Registration = TBD

Awards: Founders Award, Regional Fellow Award, Roslyn Muraskin Emerging Scholar Award, Gerhard O. W. Mueller Innovator Award, Faculty Teaching Award, Graduate Student Teaching Award, The Michael Israel Graduate Student Scholarship, Gerhard O. W. Mueller and Freda Adler Undergraduate Student Scholarship, Patrick J. Ryan Community College Student Scholarship, Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Competitions, and the CJPR-NEACJS Policy Paper Award

Region Two - Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA)

www.southerncj.org

Follow us on X/Twitter @ southerncrim

Conference: September 9th - 12th, 2025 @ Charleston, SC

Hotel: Francis Marion Hotel

Theme: Bridging the Gap: Advancing Research to Practice

Abstract Deadline: June 15, 2025

Award Submissions: Roughly July 1, 2025

Awards: Outstanding Education Award, Outstanding Professional Award, The Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Award, Outstanding Masters Student Award, Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, and Outstanding Student Poster Awards

Student Membership = \$15/year

Student Conference Registration = \$5

Regular Membership = \$50

Member Conference Registration = \$49

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SCJA 2024 Award Winners

Outstanding Educator Award: Dr. Bryan Miller, Clemson University

Outstanding Professional Award: Director Angelo Della Manna, Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences

Outstanding Doctoral Student: Zachary Buckner, University of Mississippi

Outstanding Masters Student: Elle Jackson, University of Tennessee Chattanooga

Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award: Abigail Curran, Clemson University

Springer Outstanding American Journal of Criminal Justice Article: "When Your School is in a 'Rough' Neighborhood: What Can Shield Youth from Crime and Delinquency?" by Anastasiia Timmer (California State University), Rachel Lautenschlager (University of Denver), Olena Antonaccio (University of Miami), Ekaterina V. Botchkovar (Northeastern University), Lorine A. Hughes (University of Colorado)



Bryan Miller is the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies (ADR) for the College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences and a professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice. He served as the 49th President of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, is a past Chair of the Drug and Alcohol Research Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and is an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Miller earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Sociology from Virginia Tech and his Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society from the University of Florida. His work has evaluated drug abuse, probation practices, offender reentry, deviant peers, and drug treatment. He has worked on projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Current projects include examining synthetic opioid trafficking networks, evaluating efforts to reduce the number of individuals with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders in jail, evaluating treatment courts, designing law enforcement led initiatives to respond to individuals with mental illnesses, and supporting justice led programs to implement evidence-based practices to reduce substance abuse and divert individuals into treatment. He has authored over 70 articles and chapters as well as the books *Emerging Trends in Drug Use and Distribution* (2014, Springer) and *Marijuana in America* (2022, ABC-CLIO). He is the Founding Director of the Clemson University Center for Criminal Justice and Social Research (CJSR). He was a 2018-2019 Fulbright Scholar at Tampere University, Finland, a recipient of the 2019 Clemson University Research, Scholarship and Artistic Achievement Award, a recipient of the 2022 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Outstanding Mentor Award, and recipient of the 2022 College of Behavioral, Social and Health Sciences Award for Excellence in Research – Senior Scholar. Dr. Miller is an accomplished teacher and engaging classroom lecturer who clearly maintains a teaching philosophy of inclusiveness, receptiveness of critical feedback from students and promotion of alternative viewpoints to challenge conventional wisdom and encourage free thinking. He is also pedagogically creative and encourages students to think differently, to challenge their instincts, and to take risks in their work. In addition to work his work with his current graduate student and former graduate student mentees, he has worked closely with many junior faculty members at both Georgia Southern and Clemson University.

Region Three - Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (MCJA)

<https://www.mcja.org/#/>

Conference: September 25th & 26th, 2025 @ Chicago, IL

Hotel: Aloft Hotels Magnificent Mile

Abstract Deadline: July 15, 2025

Award Submissions: July 15, 2025

Awards: Student Travel Scholarships, Student Paper Competitions, Poster Competitions, Practitioner Award, Tom Castellano Award

MCJA 2024 Award Winners

Outstanding Paper Award: Dr. Adam M. Watkins, Bowling Green State University - "How Stable is the Relationship between Gang Membership and Delinquency Over Time? An Exploratory Analysis Using Repeated Cross-Sectional Data from Students in One State, 2001-2017"

Graduate Student Poster Award: Sara Lucak, Jennifer Peck, & Kristina Childs, University of Central Florida - "Applying Social Learning Theory to Understand Racial Extremism Ideologies: A Comparison of U.S. Youth and Adults"

Undergraduate Student Poster Award: Sonyah Ngwafang (University of Maryland), Maizie Hill (Curry College), Isabelle Gochtovtt (American University), Maria Holmes (Gonzaga University), Lawrence Pear (Lafayette College), & Beth Bjerregaard (UNC at Charlotte) - "From Street to Suit: The Effects of Adolescent Gang Involvement on Adult Employment Through Life Course Theory"

Student Travel Scholarship Awards: Tiana Gaudette (Michigan State University), Peyton Gillespie (Ball State University), Katelyn McMahon (University of Louisville), Kaitlyn Swanberg (University of Nebraska-Omaha)

Tom Castellano Award: Dr. Matthew Matusiak, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Region Four - Southwestern Associate of Criminal Justice(SWACJ)

2024 Conference was held October 2nd - 4th, 2024 in Fort Worth, TX.

Dr. Howard Kurtz - Elected to fill 1st Vice President vacancy

Dr. David Scott - Elected as 2nd Vice President

Felix Fabian Award: Dr. Michael Cavanaugh, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

To have regional information included in *ACJS* today, please email sgavin@sbu.edu by the provided deadline for each issue.

A Word From NEACJS

Cross Border Connections: Improving Criminal Justice Systems

NEACJS 48th annual meeting at the historic Rodd Charlottetown on Prince Edward Island, Canada June 4th – 7th, 2025.

Come join the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS) as we celebrate our 48th annual conference on Prince Edward Island, Canada June 4th – 7th, 2025! Turning the corner on twenty-five years in the 21st century, this year's theme promotes improvements to the criminal justice system and efforts undertaken towards a more efficient response to justice. The submission website is open and we urge you to consider submitting an abstract, a roundtable, or a workshop for the annual meeting. Conference information is available on the NEACJS website (neacjs.org) and please reach out to Richard Wentling (rwentling@psu.edu) with any questions or comments about the annual meeting. More information about Prince Edward Island can be found by visiting <https://www.tourismpei.com/> and remember to have updated passport/traveler credentials. Hotel reservations can be made through the website or by following this link:

<https://reservations.travelclick.com/85516?groupID=3957032>

Spotlight on NEACJS

Jennifer Murphy, NEACJS President

The Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS) is one of the regional associations of ACJS. If you live or work in the northeastern part of the United States or eastern Canada, then this is the group for you! Please consider joining NEACJS so you can network with other members and participate in our annual conference. NEACJS members are also eligible for awards that recognize teaching, research, and service. NEACJS members can also nominate their students for student paper and scholarship awards.

Our 2024 conference was held in Gettysburg, PA in June. Over 130 faculty, students, and practitioners participated in the three-day event, which featured over 50 workshops, panel discussions, poster presentations, and roundtable sessions. We are excited to hold our 2025 conference in beautiful Prince Edward Island, June 4-7. Join us in Canada for our first conference out of the U.S.! The NEACJS conference is always welcoming and fun, especially for first-time attendees. We organize many social and networking events in addition to academic presentations.

I hope to see you in Canada in June!

2024-2025 Executive Board

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