MAY 2026

NEWSLETTER

We're happy to share the latest issue of the ACJS Corrections Section newsletter. We begin with an update from our new Section Chair, Dr. Lisa Carter. Congratulations to our Section award winners! A big thank you to our outgoing executive board member, Dr. Stuti Kokkalera for her service to the Section. We also welcome our new Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Victoria Inzana. At the meeting, we heard from the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls. You can learn more about their work in this issue. Thank you to our other contributors for making this issue engaging for our members!

If you would like to send a corrections-focused teaching note, research note, work in the field, student spotlight, or other materials, please email Dragana Derlic at dderlic@georgiasouthern.edu. The notes can range from 500 to 2,000 words including references. We look forward to hearing from you!

- ***Newsletter Committee (Dragana Derlic, Victoria Inzana & Stuti Kokkalera)***

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Message from the Chair

By Dr. Lisa Carter, Florida Southern College



Hello Corrections Section!

I trust that those of you who attended the annual ACJS meeting in Philadelphia had a meaningful and productive conference. I want to report to you on some business covered at The Section's meeting and celebrate this year's award winners.

At our business meeting we paid farewell to The Corrections Section Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Stuti Kokkalera (Sam Houston State University). I am so deeply appreciative of the time and dedication Stuti gave to the board and the membership. Big thanks to you Stuti!

I would like to welcome our newest board member, Dr. Victoria Inzana (Sam Houston State University). She will serve as the section's Secretary/Treasurer. Congratulations Victoria! I enjoyed meeting you in Philadelphia and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Once section business was settled, we heard from our keynote speaker. This year, we welcomed David Garlock to speak at our event. He delivered a message titled "Trauma, Reentry, and Carve Outs: How We Can Better Support Returning Citizens?", exploring the intersections of individual needs, systemic barriers, and policy reforms needed to create more effective reentry pathways. David shared his powerful personal story and spoke about his advocacy for criminal justice reform.

To learn more about David and his work, visit https://www.davidlgarlock.com/.

Message from the Chair Cont.

By Dr. Lisa Carter

During the annual awards ceremony several awards were presented to recognize major contributions to the Section and our discipline. Dr. Ryan Labrecque, Editor of Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research (CPPR) presented the award for the 2026 Article of the Year to Katherine Rankin and Joshua Cochran (both of University of Cincinnati) for their article titled "Correctional Officer Stress and Prison Management: Does Stress Alter Rule Enforcement Modus Operandi?". Dr. Peter Wood (Corrections Section Awards Committee Chair) presented the Corrections Section Outstanding Member of the Year Award to Brandon Applegate (University of South Carolina). Congratulations to you all!

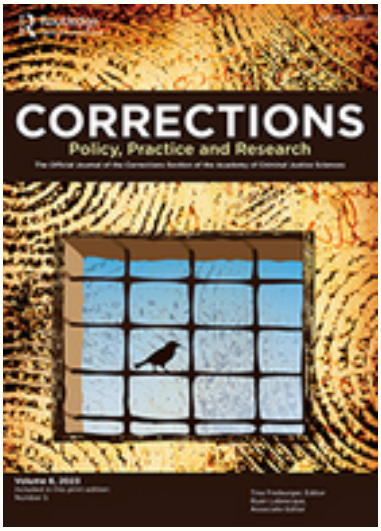
The Corrections Section periodically confers the John Howard Award to recognize an individual who has made significant scholarly and practical contributions to the field of corrections. This year the John Howard Award was presented to Dr. Kimberly Dodson (University of Houston-Clear Lake). Dr. Dodson's research interests include correctional program evaluation and offenders/prisoners with special needs. Congratulations Dr. Dodson!

After a brief break from the festivities and indulgence in refreshments, the Section recognized Philadelphia Justice Project as this year's nonprofit service recipient. Jill McCorkel, Executive Director, shared a video message highlighting the organization's mission and expressing her gratitude for our donation. To learn more about the impactful work of PJP, visit https://phillyjusticeproject.org/.

If you are not a member of The Corrections Section, please consider joining. Also, please encourage your students to join the section and invite them to upcoming meetings. Student membership is free. If you are a current member, thank you for being a part of the community.

Best,
Lisa

Call for Associate Editor of CPPR



Call for Associate Editor Applications

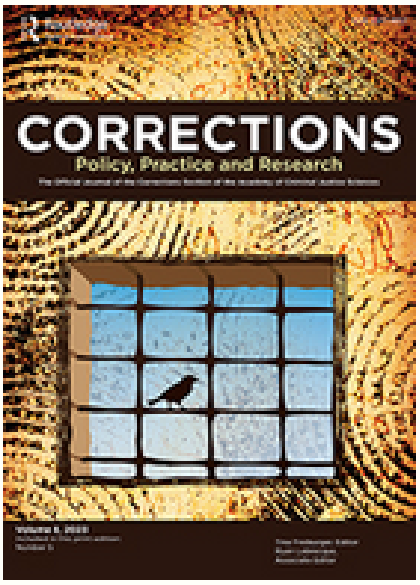
Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research (CPPR) promotes methodologically rigorous scholarship on criminal sentencing, institutional confinement, community corrections, treatment interventions, alternative sanctions, andreentry. The journal prioritizes empirical studies that use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method research designs to advance correctional policy, practice, and research.

CPPR is currently soliciting applications for the position of Associate Editor. The chosen applicant will serve as Associate Editor for the journal for a three-year term from January 2027 through December 2029. The Associate Editor of the CPPR works directly with the Editor to perform the following tasks:

1. initial screening of manuscripts;
2. selection of reviewers;
3. promotion and improvement of the journal;
4. collaboration with editorial board members; and
5. assistance to guest editors with special issue preparation.

By agreeing to serve as Associate Editor, it is expected the chosen applicant will then serve as Editor of the journal for a three-year term from January 2030 through December 2032. The Editor and Associate Editor of the CPPR currently receive a yearly stipend from Routledge/Taylor & Francis.

Call for Associate Editor of CPPR Cont.



Please submit electronic applications to the current Associate Editor, Dr. Jeff Bouffard at jab088@iastate.edu by October 1, 2026. Application materials should include the following:

1. Letter of interest
2. Curriculum vita
3. Letter of support from Dean or Department Chair

Questions about the role of the Associate Editor or transition to Editor should be directed to the current Editor, Dr. Ryan Labrecque, rlabrecque@rti.edu, or the current Associate Editor, Dr. Jeff Bouffard, jab088@iastate.edu.

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acjs
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
Corrections Section

Congratulations to our award winners!

Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research (CPPR) Paper of the Year Award 2026
Winners: Katherine E. Rankin & Joshua C. Cochran
Article: "Correctional Officer Stress and Prison Management: Does Stress Alter Rule Enforcement Modus Operandi?"



Dr. Joshua Cochran and Dr. Ryan Labrecque

Congratulations to our award winners!

Outstanding Member Award
Winner: Brandon K. Applegate, University of South Carolina



Dr. Brandon Applegate and Dr. Peter Wood

Congratulations to our award winners!

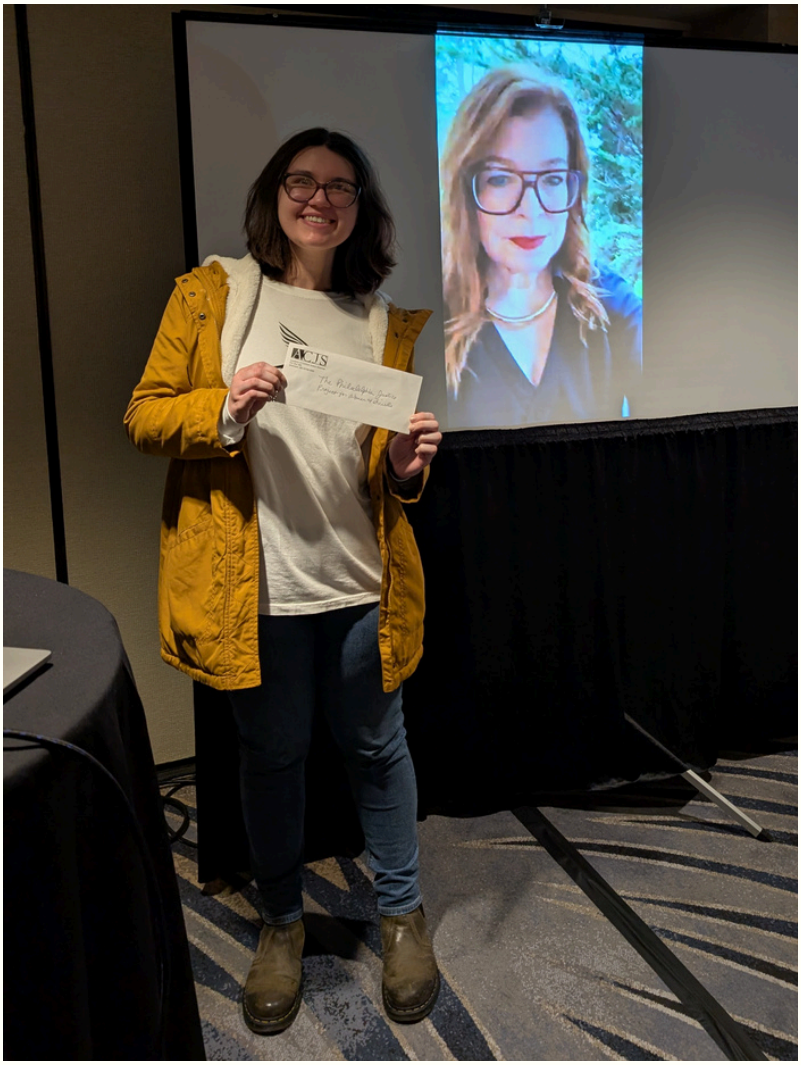
John Howard Award
Winner: Dr. Kimberly Dodson, University of Houston-Clear Lake



Dr. Kimberly Dodson and Dr. Peter Wood

Congratulations to our award winners!

Non-Profit Service Recognition
Organization: Philadelphia Justice Project



Dr. Jill McCorkel and Janis Parker

Thank you to our outgoing Secretary/Treasurer



Dr. Stuti S. Kokkalera

Thank You!

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls



"The majority of incarcerated women and girls—over 80%-are survivors of a lifetime of violence and abuse. The very systems, institutions, and people that should have protected them did not."
-Jill McCorkel, Ph.D.

The ACJS Corrections Section recognized the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls at the 2026 annual business meeting. Dragana Derlic followed up with Dr. Jill McCorkel to learn more about the organization. The following is an edited interview with Dr. Jill McCorkel and Dragana Derlic.

Dragana: Jill, thank you so much for making time to meet with me today. I am truly grateful for the opportunity and I know you are very busy and all the way on the other side of the world so I will get right to it. Could you share a little bit about how long you've been involved with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls and what motivated you to develop and lead the organization?

Jill: My entire career has focused on mass incarceration and the bulk of it has been about the impact of mass incarceration on women and the intersections between gender violence and criminalization of survivors. I started to feel, particularly in Obama's second term, that a lot of that work that was being done wasn't having much impact. The Justice Reform Movement was having tangible impacts in terms of reducing the size of the prison population nationwide, but, from my vantage, there was a silence at the policy level in terms of what was happening to women and girls—even though mass incarceration, one of its sort of hallmark features is it's historically and globally unprecedented number of women who are locked up. In a lot of the justice reform spaces, whether they were community or academic driven, there was a silence or a marginalization of gender issues.

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Jill Cont.: One of the final straws for me was when I disaggregated the data on the drop in the prison population, that reduction in the size of the nation's prison population was entirely driven by reductions in the number of men who are in prison. And in a lot of states, including in Pennsylvania, the women's population was either stagnating or increasing even though women should have been the primary beneficiaries, given the nature of the kind of convictions that women have, they're just less violent and less serious and less frequent. I was like, "What if I just put a flag in the sand and start raising a ruckus about women being left behind?" So that was kind of what took place in 2020.

Dragana: How would you describe the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls to those who may not be familiar with it?

Jill: The official description is that it's research and advocacy that operates across three domains. We work on individual cases, that might be either serving as expert witnesses or wrangling expert witnesses in, or, oftentimes, giving money so that an individual defendant or somebody who's appealing a conviction can afford to have an expert come in. There's work on individual cases at the institutional level with respect to advocating for issues that are directly impacting incarcerated women and girls. A lot of times these are things such as access to reproductive healthcare, issues around sexual assault and harassment in the institutions, and access to educational and vocational opportunities. And then the third thing is really working with members of the bar, specifically, court officials, attorneys, and policymakers to familiarize them with the research literature that's out there.

Dragana: The Philadelphia Justice Project focuses specifically on women and girls impacted by the justice system. What are some of the most critical or overlooked challenges facing this population today?

Jill: One of the most crucial and pressing things right now is the failure to recognize the ways in which women are pulled into a lot of men's crimes.

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Jill Cont.: Oftentimes their role is periphery or peripheral. But because they may be unwilling to cooperate or unable to cooperate with law enforcement and prosecutors, the response is to be punitive toward them and to treat them as if they are as culpable as a male co-defendant—when in a lot of those instances, they simply aren't. And in a lot of those instances, they are powerless themselves. They're powerless themselves to certain kinds of criminal activity which is often an extension of the abuse they are experiencing. I think a lot of academics get it. I think there's growing research literature around this, but I don't think that court officials, law enforcement, and policymakers really have a full grasp on this. So that to me is a pressing issue. And then secondarily associated with that, there has been a pronounced uptick in the number of women who are serving extreme sentences of 20 years, or a life sentence, or life without parole sentence. And there's not a corresponding increase in women's convictions for violent crime. I think a lot of women are getting charged as accomplices and for very serious crimes and they simply just don't have the same culpability as a principal offender. So, we need to find a way for these women who have these extreme sentences to try to get back into court or to try to qualify for some kind of commutation that acknowledges abuse histories and diminished culpability.

Dragana: Organizations like yours are often asked to engage with a variety of audiences. Why did you feel it was important to connect with members of the ACJS Corrections Section, and what do you hope they take away from learning about your work?

Jill: I think ACJS more so than a lot of other disciplinary organizations really does position itself in a way that is much more collaborative and in dialogue with criminal justice professionals. I think those pathways are already present and the organization itself has worked very hard to build those relationships across academia and communities of practitioners. I think it's an important avenue to engage with. It's also important for me to be hearing from people, both academics as well as practitioners who are part of this community.

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Dragana: Looking ahead, are there collaborations or partnerships you would like to expand or develop further?

Jill: There are some people who are doing phenomenal work around incarcerated women in New York, in California, in Minnesota, in Florida. There are at least two conferences that try to bring together activists, incarcerated people and their families, academics, and practitioners. Forums where people who are working on these issues can link up and exchange ideas and strategies is one thing that I'm very interested in. And partnerships with universities. Philly Justice Project has always worked closely with Villanova University to try to bring in students as well as faculty and that's been a fruitful relationship for everybody involved. So, I think that is a collaboration I'm interested in as well.

Dragana: Does Philadelphia Justice Project offer opportunities for students, such as internships, service learning, or research collaborations? If so, what kind of experiences can students expect?

Jill: When I was building Philly Justice Project, I was teaching a wrongful conviction class which has now evolved into sort of a yearlong, two-part series of classes where first semester is wrongful conviction and miscarriages of justice in general, and then if they elect to, they can do a second semester that's applied. For the first five years, undergraduate students under supervision in my classes would get involved in cases. They did a variety of things. Some of them shouldered sort of advocacy work where they were thinking about messaging and how to use social media platforms to raise public awareness about a discrete case. Others were going through interview transcripts to see if there were red flags, if there's areas that were overlooked by trial council. Other students were working directly with appellate council on anything that needed to be done. My students have worked directly with family members too. That has always been one component of it where it's been part of the undergraduate experience for students.

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Dragana: Your work emphasizes gender-responsive and trauma-informed advocacy. How do these frameworks shape your legal strategies and client interactions?

Jill: We disproportionately take cases out of Philadelphia County that are long-term cases. These are women who have violent convictions, but nine times out of 10 they're not the principal on it. Typically, it's just an awareness of research literature and the sort of questions we should start asking and things that we should start looking for in those trial transcripts. And for some of the women themselves, it's like the violence is so normalized across the life course that it might not be at the forefront of the narrative they tell. So, it's sort of a matter of getting to that element of it, the components of the relationship, like their economic situation for example. The trauma informed element of it, of course, is being collaborative with that advocacy work because not everybody wants that for understandable reasons. So how do you navigate those waters in a legal arena where resources are limited and you need dollars for a lawyer, for a private investigator, for a research expert for example. That's where public advocacy campaigns are very useful, but for a host of reasons, you don't necessarily want to be putting all that stuff out there. And, then the other element is that sort of public pushback on not being a "perfect victim" because she used drugs. You don't want to put somebody all the way out there and then subject them to the kind of public boxing that goes on when any woman is just put up in public. We spend a lot of time talking about these things with our clients, but also with their family members, with the attorneys as well. And sometimes we work with journalists. That's another component, because you can be fighting a mountain that is just driven by the journalist looking for a headline. And so sensitizing journalists to some of these elements and pressing them to wait a minute.

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Dragana: Philadelphia Justice Project is involved in efforts to reduce incarceration among women and girls. Can you share examples of policy changes or legal victories that have had a meaningful impact?

Jill: One of our most significant cases, India Spellman, who was factually innocent of murder robbery that she had been convicted of. One of the lasting impacts of that case, aside from the fact that she was exonerated after 11 years of incarceration, was that I had gone to the DA's office and asked, "How many women are applying to conviction integrity to have their cases reviewed?" And they couldn't tell me. It was a basic data question, and it's a data question that comes from my own research experience in women's prisons, which is law libraries at women's prisons suck or don't exist at all. I'm not suggesting that law libraries and men's prisons are great either, but there's a stark difference in terms of legal cultures in men's and women's prisons, and that's directly a product of a lack of legal resources, particularly in women's prisons. One of the things that happened in the aftermath of that exoneration was an agreement from the DA's office that they were going to now disaggregate by gender the number of their applicants, as well all the other data that they were collecting around those applications. It seems minor, but to me, incredibly significant because then that gives you a talking point to go back to attorneys, to funders and say, "We have a real gender gap when it comes to wrongful conviction cases, and we need to look at this, and we need to fund more legal resources going in to these women."



An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Dragana: How does Philadelphia Justice Project center the voices and lived experiences of the women and girls served and how does that shape your program and advocacy priorities?

Jill: We have inside advisors at each of the state prisons for women in Pennsylvania and we make use of our inside advisors, particularly on issues that are affecting women in the institutions and what we should be prioritizing. Sometimes that can be different than what public advocacy campaigns might be focused on because it might be more granular. It might be that "we only get three rolls of toilet paper a week" and this is a huge problem. And so, they've been incredibly valuable to us. Most of our inside advisors tend to be women who've got a lot of time in and they can give us an overall view of historical changes that have happened in the institutions.

Dragana: Many justice-involved women face intersecting challenges (e.g., poverty, race, caregiving responsibilities). How does Philadelphia Justice Project address these overlapping inequalities in its work?

Jill: That's tricky because the needs are so great and the resources are so small. I think it's important to stay in lane. We're not a service organization so we don't do a lot of reentry stuff. We don't really do meaningfully any kind of reentry other than through the coalition that we're part of. We are just focused on getting people out and then also highlighting the issues that are putting people in and then trying to find mechanisms to get more people out. Obviously we take an intersectional approach in that the perspective is women don't have the resources to fight their cases, and we're trying to provide those resources both in terms of professional expertise and money.

Dragana: What does success look like for Philadelphia Justice Project, both at the individual client level and in terms of broader systemic change?

An Interview with the Philadelphia Justice Project for Women and Girls

Jill: Anytime that we can get a woman out of prison, anytime that we are able to have a woman avoid prison in the first place, avoid a conviction, avoid a punitive sentence, that is a victory. From an institutional perspective, I want to see a significant drop in the number of incarcerated women.

Dragana: What are your priorities for the organization over the next 3-5 years?

Jill: Honestly, we're just trying to stay alive. It's the funding landscape; it has always been dismal. Of all giving, 2% goes to organizations that are dedicated to women and girls. And most of that is around reproductive rights. If you just think about that alone, that less than 2% goes to any organization dealing with things that affect women and girls, which would include healthcare and education and participation in politics and anti-poverty campaign, and violence. And then of that 2%, just a small fraction goes to organizations that are working with women who are justice involved and particularly stigmatized within the justice system.

Dragana: What is one thing you wish corrections professionals better understood about justice-involved women and girls?

Jill: The level of their victimization and how their reluctance to cooperate and maybe sometimes hostility toward law enforcement is actually a function of their powerlessness, not their criminal culpability. I'm not saying that's true of everyone but I think that a lot of times that gets misread and I think it would go a long way to have professionals trained in some of these issues. I think it would go a long [way] in how we deal with them just through the vector of law enforcement and prosecutors.

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Lived Experience

From Recidivism to Responsibility: A Returning Citizen's Reentry Journey

Adolfo "Flaco" Mitchell with Dragana Derlic, PhD





"Recidivist" is a word I heard repeatedly whenever I entered a courtroom, often alongside labels such as "danger to the community" and "public nuisance." My first felony conviction came at the age of eighteen in San Bernardino County, California. Today, I have more than fifteen felony convictions and remain on parole for the next twenty years. My last arrest was in 2018, and I was convicted in 2023. During the years I was fighting my case, I spent 16 months in county jail, 9 months in rehabilitation, 15 months on house arrest, and finally 2 years in prison.

During that time, I learned a lot about myself and about the roots of the choices I made. Being abandoned by my father early in life, growing up in poverty, and spending much of my youth without stable guidance shaped the path I followed. I found role models in the streets rather than in healthy environments. Many of my decisions were driven by a need for approval and people-pleasing behaviors. I am not asking for sympathy or trying to excuse my actions. I only want people to better understand what drives many individuals toward crime and incarceration.

Lived Experience Cont.

From Recidivism to Responsibility: A Returning Citizen's Reentry Journey

Adolfo "Flaco" Mitchell with Dragana Derlic, PhD

Research consistently shows that people involved in the justice system are disproportionately likely to have experienced childhood adversity, trauma, unstable housing, poverty, family disruption, and substance use disorders (Henry, 2020). Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction, are strongly associated with later substance misuse, mental health struggles, and criminal justice involvement (Dube et al., 2003; Baglivio et al., 2014). Trauma does not excuse harmful behavior, but untreated trauma can become part of the cycle that leads people back into the system. This is why trauma-informed treatment and reentry services are increasingly recognized as essential components of effective correctional practice (Miller & Najavits, 2012).

The biggest achievement of my life has been learning accountability. I no longer blame my absent father, the lack of parenting, or growing up poor. I take responsibility for my choices. That shift in mindset is what began my real rehabilitation and reflects what desistance scholars describe as identity transformation, when individuals begin to replace an offender identity with a prosocial one (Maruna, 2001).

Correctional systems do offer programs designed to help people prepare for release, including substance abuse treatment, cognitive-behavioral interventions, educational programming, vocational training, and reentry planning. Decades of research indicate that well-designed prison and reentry programs can reduce recidivism, especially when they target criminal thinking, addiction, employment readiness, and personal responsibility (Andrews & Bonta, 2010; Davis et al., 2013). However, programs only work when individuals are ready to engage honestly in change. After many years behind bars, I finally became that person willing to confront my criminal thinking and do the hard work of changing my life.

Lived Experience Cont.

From Recidivism to Responsibility: A Returning Citizen's Reentry Journey

Adolfo "Flaco" Mitchell with Dragana Derlic, PhD

Today, I am free, not only from incarceration, but from the bondage of self. Reentry is still a daily process. It means making better choices, maintaining discipline, and staying committed to the right path even when life becomes difficult. I still struggle with people-pleasing tendencies, but now I channel that energy into serving others in a positive way.

I am a successful business owner with multiple restaurants throughout Southeast Georgia. For many returning citizens, entrepreneurship becomes a pathway when criminal records create barriers to traditional employment (Pager, 2003; Visher & Travis, 2011). Flacos House Taqueria Mexicana is where I work hard each day to provide for my family, contribute to my community, and prove that people can change. To some, this may seem like a major reentry success story, moving from incarceration to running and operating a multi-location regional restaurant brand. To me, however, my story is not about perfection; it is about the small steps that I take each day that lead to gradual progress. It is about accountability, redemption, and choosing every day to stay on the right path.

Since my release, I have focused on lawful entrepreneurship and community contribution through Flacos House Taqueria Mexicana. My story reflects what research consistently shows: stable employment, personal accountability, and community connection are among the strongest protective factors against reoffending (Duwe, 2015; Visher & Travis, 2011). After years of justice involvement and repeated convictions, I made the difficult decision to confront the thinking patterns and behaviors that had repeatedly led me back to incarceration. Rather than viewing those experiences solely as punishment, I now see them as a period of self-reflection and transformation. I chose to take responsibility, rebuild my life one step at a time, and commit myself to a different future.

Lived Experience Cont.

From Recidivism to Responsibility: A Returning Citizen's Reentry Journey

Adolfo "Flaco" Mitchell with Dragana Derlic, PhD



Lived Experience Cont.

From Recidivism to Responsibility: A Returning Citizen's Reentry Journey

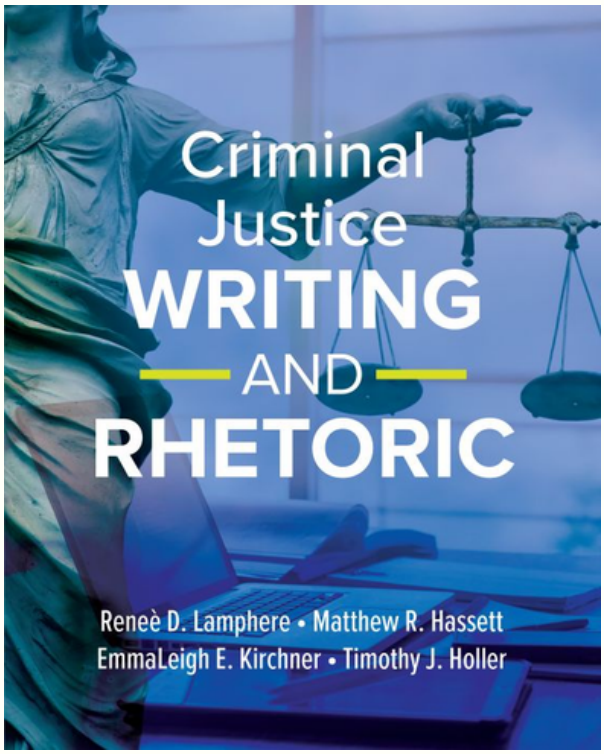
Adolfo "Flaco" Mitchell with Dragana Derlic, PhD





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Research Spotlight



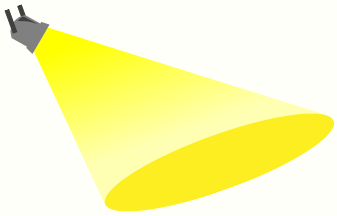
Criminal Justice Writing and Rhetoric is designed to help criminal justice students improve their academic and professional writing skills. The book offers guidance on critical forms of writing in the field of criminal justice, everything from traditional academic essays and research papers to more specialized formats such as police incident reports, legal briefs, and public presentations.

The book addresses the varied writing needs at all stages of a criminal justice student's educational journey and beyond. It includes information on combatting writing anxiety, understanding the mechanics of good writing, and maintaining academic integrity. The book also includes practical instruction on APA citation, the formulation of research questions, drafting documents, and the use of secondary data in research. Activities and discussion topics at the end of each chapter provide opportunities for applied learning and classroom engagement.

Criminal Justice Writing and Rhetoric serves as a comprehensive introduction to professional communication in the criminal justice system and prepares students for real-world writing demands both during and after their college careers. It is ideal for any criminal justice course with a significant writing component, as well as for senior capstone seminars.

Research Spotlight

Peer-Reviewed Articles



Ahlin, E. M., Derlic, D., & Kokkalera, S. (2025). Examining parent-child contact practices among incarcerated parents with mental health illnesses. Crime & Delinquency, 71(4), 1153-1179. https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287231155925

Dmello, J. R., & Kokkalera, S. (2025). Teaching beyond borders: Elevating global perspectives in the criminal justice classroom. Journal of Criminal Justice Education, 36(1), 103-120. https://doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2024.2389092

Derlic, D., Kokkalera, S. S., & Bourgeois, J. W. (2025). Examining the relationship between mental health diagnoses and write-ups during incarceration. Crime & Delinquency, 71(13-14), 4276-4301. https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287241295684

Derlic, D., Koza, M., & Kokkalera, S. (2025). Exploring Restorative Justice Programs for Emerging Adults in the United States: A Content Analysis of Available Services. Criminal Justice Studies, 38(2), 115-132. https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2025.2508054

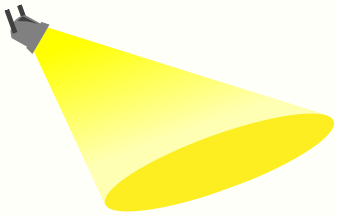
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Garlock, D., Derlic, D., & Kokkalera, S. (2025). Hospice in prison: Compassion in action. In Handbook on Lived Experience in the Justice System (pp. 163-167). Routledge.

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Research Spotlight

Peer-Reviewed Articles



Koza, M., & Kokkalera, S. S. (2025). Parole outcomes in a developmental context: The interplay of age at offense and rehabilitation. Journal of Criminal Justice, 101, 102546. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102546

Laugalis, V.R., McCullough, K., Koza, M., Kokkalera, S.S., & Vaughn, M.S. (2025). A state-by-state analysis of sentencing statutes for juvenile homicide offenders in the United States. Psychology, Crime & Law, 1-18. https://doi.org/10.1080/1068316X.2025.2578365

Laugalis, V. R., & Kokkalera, S. S. (2025). Predicting parole for emerging adult lifers: Do age, culpability, and rehabilitation matter?. Journal of Criminal Justice, 97, 102380. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2025.102380

Laugalis, V. R., Koza, M., Kokkalera, S. S., & Vaughn, M. S. (2025). Technically not life: How de facto life sentences condemn juveniles to die in prison. Criminal Justice Review, 50(2), 143-169. https://doi.org/10.1177/07340168231216100

Palacios, J.E., Craig, M.O., & Vaughn, M.S. (2026). Exposure to environmental contaminants: litigation on incarcerated individuals' challenges to conditions of confinement. Journal of Crime and Justice, 1-22. https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2025.2606003

Swartz, K., McNeeley, S., Overstreet, S., & *Humphrey, B. (forthcoming, now online). Which CO should we attack?: Applying target congruence to correctional staff assault. Crime and Delinquency. https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287251401197

Research Spotlight

Honors and awards



Dr. Susan McNeeley
Minnesota Department of Corrections
Recipient of the Bonnie S. Fisher Victimology Career Award from the ASC Division of Victimology.





SPEAKERS:
Dr. Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State University
Dr. Dragana Derlic, Georgia Southern University
Dr. Cody Telep, Arizona State University

EVENT:
Translational Criminology Colloquium
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
University of Alabama

Corrections Section Awards

Nominations are due by October 31, 2026!

Kelly Cheeseman Outstanding Student Travel Award - In 2011, the Section began awarding the Outstanding Student Travel Award. Students presenting papers at the ACJS annual conference are encouraged to submit their presentations (in PowerPoint format) to the Awards committee for consideration for receipt of the $500 travel scholarship. This award is offered in loving memory of Dr. Kelly Cheeseman. Dr. Cheeseman was a strong criminal justice advocate, former correctional officer, well-respected academic colleague and friend. To read more about Dr. Cheeseman's life and legacy, click on the article included in the ACJS newsletter, ACJS Today, pp. 14-16.

Outstanding Member Award - Criteria for nomination for the Outstanding Member award are: 1) membership in and preferably contribution to the ACJS Corrections Section; and 2) significant research and/or scholarship in the field of corrections. Winners will receive a $200 cash award, a plaque of recognition, and will be honored at the annual Corrections Section Award meeting. Self-nominations are allowed and encouraged.

John Howard Award - The John Howard Award is given intermittently, upon significant demand, to recognize an individual who has made significant and sustained contributions to the practice of corrections. The nominee MUST have made significant contributions to practice, but also can have made significant contributions in scholarship, teaching, policy, or service. Nominators can make the argument that a nominee's scholarship or work in teaching, policy, or service DID make a significant contribution to practice. Nominations are accepted every year and the committee will seriously consider all nominees. However, the awarding of this honor is solely at the Committee's discretion and may not be awarded each year. Nominees should send a description of the nominee's contributions, explaining how the nominee meets or exceeds the criteria, along with a copy of the nominee's CV to the Section Chair.

Upcoming Conferences



<u>The Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association</u>

Venue: Hilton Union Square in San Francisco
Dates: May 28-31, 2026
Theme: Sanctuary
Program Co-Chairs: Mark Fathi Massoud (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Leisy Ábrego (UCLA)

<u>NEACJS 2026 Annual Conference</u>

Venue: Dewey Beach, DE
Dates: June 3-6, 2026
Theme: Turbulent Waters: Navigating Criminal Justice Reform
Program Chair: Dr. Timothy J. Holler (University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg)

Upcoming Conferences

FRONTIERS OF CRIMINOLOGY
EUROCRIM 2026

The 26th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology

Venue: University of Warsaw, Poland
Dates: September 9-12, 2026
Theme: Frontiers of Criminology

The Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology

Venue: Palmer House, Hilton
Dates: November 18-21, 2026
Theme: Criminology and Justice Policy
Program Co-Chairs: Carlos E. Monteiro (Suffolk University) and Jennifer B. Robison (Salem State University)

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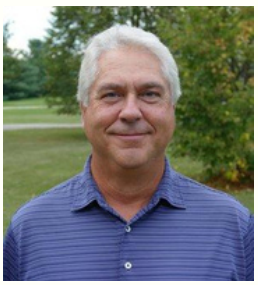
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