

# ACJS *today*

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Newsletter



## Engaging with National Criminal Justice Month

*By Jennifer Gibbs, David May, Johnny Rice II, and Cassandra L. Reyes*

During the past year, in part due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, crime and the criminal justice system have experienced several changes. As people emerge from the pandemic lockdowns, crime—especially violent crime—is increasing. The causes and consequences of the change in crime are ripe for research exploration. The death of George Floyd and subsequent charging, trial, and lengthy prison sentence of former police officer Derek Chauvin sparked demonstrations promoting Black Lives Matter, raising awareness among the general public about the central role of race in criminal jus-

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tice processing. Prison officials slowly made decisions to release inmates to home confinement to decrease the spread of COVID-19, with minimal effects on crime and providing evidence for possible policy change. The emergence of new strains such as Omicron will continue to present unique challenges for the field. With continued media exposure of crime and criminal justice issues, National Criminal Justice Month (NCJM) provides academics, students, and practitioners a time to engage the public throughout the month of March and beyond.

### **History of National Criminal Justice Month**

Designating March as NCJM was affirmed through a unanimous vote by Congress in 2009 (ACJS, 2010). Later that year, ACJS formed an ad hoc committee to engage scholars, practitioners, students, and the public with issues in crime and criminal justice. During his ACJS Presidency (2015–2016), Brandon Applegate charged the NCJM Committee with disseminating information about NCJM, supporting and promoting the development of events and activities to celebrate NCJM, and developing a specific proposal for recognizing outstanding events and activities celebrating NCJM (i.e., propose a means of identifying, nominating, and selecting for recognizing events/activities; propose specific awards for those selected; Applegate, 2015). The three ACJS National NCJM awards were created and justified during the 2015–2016 NCJM

meeting on March 16, 2016, the Board approved the three awards: Education Award, Community Engagement Award, and Program of the Year Award (ACJS, 2016). The Inaugural ACJS National NCJM Awards were presented during the 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver, CO (Reyes, 2017). In its current form, the committee solicits and reviews nominations for three NCJM program awards, provides website materials and resources for the ACJS community, provides media outreach to promote NCJM, and sponsors webinars related to NCJM.

### **Committee Introduction**

This year, the committee is chaired by Andrea Walker (Clarkson College). Committee members are Clare Armstrong-Seward (SUNY Morrisville), Agnes Aponte (consultant), Mark Beaudry (Worcester State University), Lisa Bowman-Bowen (Texas A&M University Kingsville), Anika Dzik (Pinellas County Sheriff's Office), Jennifer Gibbs (Penn State Harrisburg), David May (Mississippi State University), Jessica Noble (Lewis and Clark Community College), Johnny Rice II (Coppin State University), Joshua Ruffin (Old Dominion University), and the ACJS Board Liaison Cassandra L. Reyes (West Chester University of Pennsylvania).

### **Campus Activities to Recognize National Criminal Justice Month**

Everyone can participate in NCJM activities. Online and face-to-face ways to engage with NCJM include the following:

- Organize a 5k run to promote NCJM



- Hands-on crime scene investigation simulations
- Documentary screenings
- Guest speakers
- Job fairs
- Host criminal justice-related podcasts
- Recognize criminal justice professionals or criminologists who have contributed to criminal justice awareness

The Penn State Harrisburg Criminal Justice Program (with which one of the authors, Jennifer Gibbs, is affiliated) was recognized as the 2018 Program of the Year. During March 2017, Penn State Harrisburg hosted several events to recognize National Criminal Justice Month. The Penn State Harrisburg chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma organized a teddy bear drive for the local policing agency: Operation Tactical Teddy Bear. The honor society collected more than 100 stuffed animals from January through March to donate to the Middletown Borough Police Department to distribute to children officers meet while on call, in an effort to enhance police-community relations. The Criminal Justice Club hosted the MEGGITT Firearms Training Systems (FATS), which is a shooting simulation system allowing participants to explore what kind of force (if any) they would use in a variety of police calls for service. The Criminal Justice Club also hosted a college-wide bus trip to the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC, engaging participants in an historical look at US espionage and

an interactive spy experience, and the Club invited Detective Sergeant Lisa Layden of Southwestern Regional Police Department to Penn State Harrisburg to talk to students about issues in policing. A final event, a panel discussion on police body-worn cameras (“Are Police Worn Body Cameras the Answer?”) was scheduled for March 2017 but was postponed to April due to inclement weather.

The Arizona State Center for Correctional Solutions (ASCCS) was recognized by ACJS as a Program of the Year in 2020. The mission of the ASCCS is to enhance the lives of people living and working in the correctional system through research, education, and community engagement. Their research is innovative: incarcerated men and women work alongside ASCCS staff as researchers in participatory action research projects. Their education is transformational, and they have designed and implemented many classes in which students learn outside of the classroom and within correctional facilities. Their community engagement is inclusive and defines community broadly. Their *Incarcerated* art shows empower incarcerated men and women to use their talents to support their community and have raised \$13,000 for multiple youth organizations. ASCCS’s latest work reimagines the prison environment as one where the university shares responsibility for the well-being of people in prison. Their POINT Model (Potential, Opportunity, Investment, Nurture, Transformation) seeks to answer the question, “What happens when we invest in people in prison?” In this program, ASCCS staff work alongside people



## National Criminal Justice Month

who are incarcerated and correctional staff to leverage university resources that can promote economic, social, cultural, economic, and overall well-being. Their hope is to create a prison environment that is fully equipped to promote growth and transformation. Students are critical to the success of ASSCS and they have a specific mission to enhance their lives through empowerment, deliberate practice, and service to others. Students are trained to appreciate the blend between the outside knowledge of academia and the inside knowledge of living and

vides a multidisciplinary study of the structure, administration, and dynamics of the criminal justice system. CRJ is also a member of the CUNY Justice Academy, an articulation agreement partnership program that enables students who complete the Criminal Justice A.A. degree at BMCC to seamlessly transition to John Jay College and continue their studies towards Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees. CRJ has 9 full-time and approximately 45 part-time faculty in our program, with multidisciplinary expertise in sociology, criminal jus-



working within our correctional system. The vision of ASSCS is a just and fair approach to corrections that repairs harm, empowers people, and promotes public safety.

The Criminal Justice Program (CRJ) at the Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York (BMCC/CUNY) is part of the Social Sciences, Human Services, and Criminal Justice department and was recognized by ACJS as a Program of the Year in 2020. With approximately 2,500 majors, CRJ is the second-largest major on campus and pro-

vides a multidisciplinary study of the structure, administration, and dynamics of the criminal justice system. CRJ is also a member of the CUNY Justice Academy, an articulation agreement partnership program that enables students who complete the Criminal Justice A.A. degree at BMCC to seamlessly transition to John Jay College and continue their studies towards Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BS) degrees. CRJ has 9 full-time and approximately 45 part-time faculty in our program, with multidisciplinary expertise in sociology, criminal justice, public policy, policing, immigration, critical race theory, and higher education in prison, to name a few. The CRJ program is a minority majority program. Latinx, Black, and Asian students are overrepresented and are 92% of the majors. The CRJ Program is the first on the BMCC campus to have developed, with strong support from our library, a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) degree program, utilizing Open Educational Resources to ensure that students can enroll in courses for the entire degree without needing to pay for course materials, thereby minimizing textbook cost as a prohibiting factor in degree comple-



tion.

In addition to the ideas you may gain from previous Program of the Year winners, another suggestion is to connect activities with the theme of the annual ACJS meeting.

### **This Year's Theme**

The theme of this year's conference is "Avenues of Change: Integrating Research, Advocacy, and Education." As previously noted, the confluence of COVID-19 and the cry for racial and social justice reflects the conference theme of change—change motivated in response to disparities and differential treatment reflected in criminal justice response and treatment of Black people and persons of color captured on video, as well as disparities in public health care and access. Specifically, over the past year there has been recognition that systems reform is necessary and just. Reforms are underway to ensure officer accountability and agency transparency. Change is underway, in part due to societal recognition that reimagining criminal justice requires a commitment to social justice. NCJM provides a meaningful platform in which to consider such change from a criminological lens and promote a constructive dialogue that is inclusive of objectivity, scientific merit, and the human experience.

### **Our Charge to You**

As we move toward the annual conference, now is the time to consider the presentation of research that addresses gaps during this historic period, advocacy that includes the disen-

franchised, and education that prepares our students and emerging scholars for the world post COVID-19. Please consider what activities and events are viable to carry out during criminal justice month on an individual, group, and community level. The development of planning committees to discuss and consider feasibility of activities carried out by members, students, campuses, and external stakeholders will assist in providing the foundation needed to celebrate this month and at the same time advance our organization's mission. ■

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# NEW IN PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME AND JUSTICE

a series from Southern Illinois University Press, edited by Joseph A. Schafer

## Institutional Sexual Abuse in the #MeToo Era

Edited by Jason D. Spraitz and Kendra N. Bowen

Paper: 978-0-8093-3823-8  
E-book: 978-0-8093-3824-5  
\$36, 232 pages

### Institutional Sexual Abuse in the #MeToo Era

Edited by Jason D. Spraitz and Kendra N. Bowen

This timely and important collection brings together the work of contributors in the fields of criminal justice and criminology, sociology, journalism, and communications. These chapters show #MeToo is not only a support network of victims' voices and testimonies but also a revolutionary interrogation of policies, power imbalances, and ethical failures that resulted in decades-long cover-ups and institutions structured to ensure continued abuse. This book reveals #MeToo as so much more than a hashtag.

Contributors discuss how #MeToo has altered the landscape of higher education; detail a political history of sexual abuse in the United States and the UK; discuss a recent grand jury report about religious institutions; and address the foster care and correctional systems. Hollywood instances are noted for their fear of retaliation among victims and continued accolades for alleged abusers. In sports, contributors examine the Jerry Sandusky scandal and the abuse by Larry Nassar. Advertising and journalism are scrutinized for covering the #MeToo disclosures while dealing with their own scandals. Finally, social media platforms are investigated for harassment and threats of violent victimization.

Drawing on the general framework of the #MeToo Movement, contributors look at complex and very different institutions. Contributors include revelatory case studies to ensure we hear the victims' voices; bring to light the complicity and negligence of social institutions; and advocate for systemic solutions to institutional sexual abuse, violence, and harassment.

Read more at [www.siupress.com/institutionalsexualabuse](http://www.siupress.com/institutionalsexualabuse).

### Now Accepting Submissions!

Open, inclusive, and broad in focus, Perspectives on Crime and Justice covers scholarship on a wide range of crime and justice issues, including the exploration of understudied subjects relating to crime, its causes, and attendant social responses. Of particular interest are works that examine emerging topics or shed new light on more richly studied subjects. Volumes in the series explore emerging forms of deviance and crime, critical perspectives on crime and justice, international and transnational considerations of and responses to crime, innovative crime reduction strategies, and alternate forms of response by the community and justice system to disorder, delinquency, and criminality. Both single-authored studies and collections of original edited content are welcome. Read more at [www.siupress.com/pcj](http://www.siupress.com/pcj).

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### ALSO AVAILABLE



*Dilemma of Duties: The Conflicted Role of Juvenile Defenders*, by Anne M. Corbin



*Demystifying the Big House: Exploring Prison Experience and Media Representations*, edited by Katherine A. Foss



# The Irony of Paywalled Articles Is They Can Be Made Open Access for Free

By Scott Jacques and Eric Piza

The field of criminal justice (CJ) uses research, education, and outreach to make the world better. CJ scholars have become increasingly concerned with applied science, whereby research findings are widely disseminated and used to positively impact the CJ system. The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) serves this mission by captaining three journals: *Justice Quarterly* (JQ), *The Journal of Criminal Justice Education* (JCJE), and *The Justice Evaluation Journal* (JEJ). Their articles advance what's known about the CJ system, education, and research itself. This knowledge helps people to improve their practices. All of us in the academy want ACJS journals to be read and used by colleagues, students, journalists, community leaders, legislators, policymakers, police chiefs, judges, wardens—everyone and anyone.

There is a big problem holding back ACJS journals: Their articles, like most in our field, are prohibitively expensive to read, leading them to go unused. Most people can't afford to unlock the paywall. For a single electronic copy, the cost is \$47. Some of us have free access via our library or membership in ACJS, but most of us don't. Journal paywalls make it harder for CJ practitioners to create and implement evidence-based policies and services (Bennell & Blaskovits, 2019). These paywalls are a challenge to students, staff, and faculty, too. The skyrocketing cost of journal subscriptions has led many

universities to cancel their deals; the trend will only grow (Gaid, 2019; McKenzie, 2018).

Unequal access to knowledge is a social injustice. It's a detriment to scholarly impact. It stands against the ACJS Code of Ethics, which affirms faithfulness to "free and open access to knowledge, to public discourse of findings, and to the sharing of the sources of those findings whenever possible."<sup>1</sup> It's counter to many of ACJS's purposes per its constitution and bylaws.<sup>2</sup>

ACJS can provide *complete* open access (OA) to its journals. It can do so easily and quickly at no cost. This transformation would enable anyone with an internet connection and a computer to freely read and share ACJS journal articles. This would be socially just. It would increase the journals' citation metrics and altmetrics. Properly executed, this poses no legitimate threat to ACJS's revenue from licensing its journals to a publisher, currently Routledge (an imprint of Taylor & Francis).<sup>3</sup> A lot of progress can be made because there's a long way to go. Of any leading journal in our field, for example, JQ has the smallest percent of OA articles; 91% of articles published between 2017 and 2019 are fully paywalled (see Ashby, 2020).

To understand how such dramatic change is possible, you need to know about the different types of OA. With respect to ACJS journals, two kinds are most important: "green" and "gold." They are defined by their relationship to different types of papers: preprints, postprints, and versions of record (VOR). A paper is a preprint if it hasn't been accepted for publication, and a postprint if it has been. OA is "green" if it applies to preprints and

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.acjs.org/page/Code\\_of\\_Ethics](https://www.acjs.org/page/Code_of_Ethics)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acjs.org/page/Constitution>

<sup>3</sup> See Peter Subner's submission to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy: <https://suber.pubpub.org/pub/apqb-1mp4/release/3>



postprints. “Gold OA” applies to the VOR, or the “final” version published in the outlet, and always entails an article processing charge (APC). Tables 1 and 2 show the major distinctions.

Table 1. Types of Papers

Stage of Paper	Type of Paper		
	Preprint	Postprint	Version of Record
Submitted for publication	X	✓	✓
Accepted for publication	X	✓	✓
Published by outlet	X	X	✓

Table 2. Types of Open Access Pertinent to Current ACJS Journals

Type of Paper	Type of Open Access	
	Green	Gold
Preprint	✓	X
Postprint	✓	X
Version of Record	X	✓

At ACJS journals, the APC to make an article gold OA is \$3,400.<sup>4</sup> Unsurprisingly, few authors pay this fee. At the time of writing, for example, only 5% of the journals’ latest articles (i.e., OnlineFirst) are gold OA. This is fine with us because, generally speaking, we think it is irrational to pay APCs. Why? Because paywalled articles can be made OA for free. Authors do so by sharing their

<sup>4</sup> See <https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-open-access/open-access-cost-finder>

preprints and postprints on their personal websites, institutional repositories, field-specific (e.g., CrimRxiv) and general-purpose repositories (e.g., SocArxiv, Zenodo), and professional networking sites (e.g., ResearchHub, ResearchGate, Academia).

Green OA isn’t perfect. By definition, preprints and postprints are not the *versions of record*, which are the best ones to use. Short of access to the VOR, postprints and preprints are useful replacements. The substance of a paper’s postprint and VOR should be exactly the same, though they may have stylistic differences. The substance of a preprint may match that of its VOR, but it may not if changed by the review process or otherwise. In short, then, gold OA is too expensive, and preprints may not adequately reflect the VORs, which make green OA to postprints the best of the bunch.

Every major CJ publisher expressly permits authors to provide green OA to their postprints (and preprints). This has an interesting moral and practical implication: Publishers are not to blame for the lack of OA in ACJS journals and elsewhere. Authors are the culprits, we hate to say. It’s understandable that they can’t afford gold OA, but green OA has no APC. It’s an easy, fast, and free way to promote social justice and unlock potential impact. There’s no good reason not to do it.

That said, CJ researchers and educators are not experts in library and information science. CJ programs offer no or little training in OA and “scholarly communication” more broadly. Our professors told us to publish frequently and/or in good places. They didn’t tell us to maximize our impact and serve the public good by making our papers OA. After all, OA is a relatively new development, especially given the slow pace of change





in academia. Back in the world of print publications, OA wasn't possible. We're now in the digital age. It's time to capitalize on new opportunities.

There are many people who want to help authors make their work OA. Librarians are available to assist in all sorts of things, including copyright, licenses, and getting papers into repositories. Some of your colleagues (us included) are available to take questions and steer you in the right direction. CrimRxiv is establishing a network of moderators to serve as "local" points of assistance. You can always tweet @criminologyopen or send an e-mail to hello@criminologyopen.com. Ignorance of OA can't continue to be an excuse.

What can ACJS do to help authors provide green OA to articles in JQ, JCJE, and JEJ? A lot. Some of the options are difficult, expensive, or slow. We encourage everyone to avoid them. The best example of a bad idea is transitioning the journals to all gold OA. After all, few of us can afford to pay thousands of dollars for APCs. There are many better options: easy, fast, and free to implement. ACJS can provide complete OA to its journals. How so? The first step is asking for help. We are thankful for the opportunity to write this article for *ACJS Today*. Future efforts are too many to list here. But OA can't be an afterthought. ACJS needs a dedicated group of people working on the issue for the academy and its stakeholders. ■

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responsible for the agency's crime analysis and program evaluation activities. Dr. Piza's research focuses on the spatial analysis of crime, crime control technology, and the integration of academic re-search and police practice. He received his PhD from Rutgers University.



## Teaching Tips: Building an Online Classroom Community

By Danielle Bailey

ACJS Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship Section



**Danielle Bailey, PhD** is Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at Tyler. She received a Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (2015), a Master of Forensic Science from The George Washington University (2010), and a B.S. in Forensic and Investigative Science from West Virginia University (2008). Dr. Bailey teaches a variety of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, specializing in research methods and forensic science courses. She currently serves as the Forensic Science Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice Internship Coordinator, and co-liaison for the Professional Learning Community on Global Awareness and Diversity. Dr. Bailey has been extensively involved with professional development while at UT Tyler,

completing a Certificate in Effective College Instruction from the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). Her efforts in the classroom earned her the Jack and Dorothy Faye White Fellowship for Teaching Excellence (2020) and a Teaching and Learning Award (2020). She was also selected as the UT Tyler nominee for the University of Texas System's Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (2021). You can find more about Dr. Bailey by visiting her [website](#), following her on Twitter [@DrBaileyUTTyler](#), or emailing her at [dbailey@uttyler.edu](mailto:dbailey@uttyler.edu).



## Seth W. Stoughton, Jeffrey J. Noble, and Geoffrey P. Alpert's *Evaluating Police Uses of Force*

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS

ISBN-13: 978-1479830480

*Review by Kevin V. Riley*

The names Rodney King and George Floyd are forever etched into the social fabric of modern American culture. These men had no relationship to each other, except that both had fateful encounters with one of the most visible and omnipresent governmental institutions in our nation: the police. In both cases, officers were recorded engaging in police brutality, using violence during the encounters, and thus forever tarnished the way many in the public view the institution of American policing. When police use violence to effectuate an arrest, visceral controversy often follows and the public is left with more questions than answers. So, what aspects of American law actually determine the legality and justification for police officers to use force on private citizens while performing their public service duties? What are the rules in this arena where those sworn to protect and serve the public are statutorily permitted to

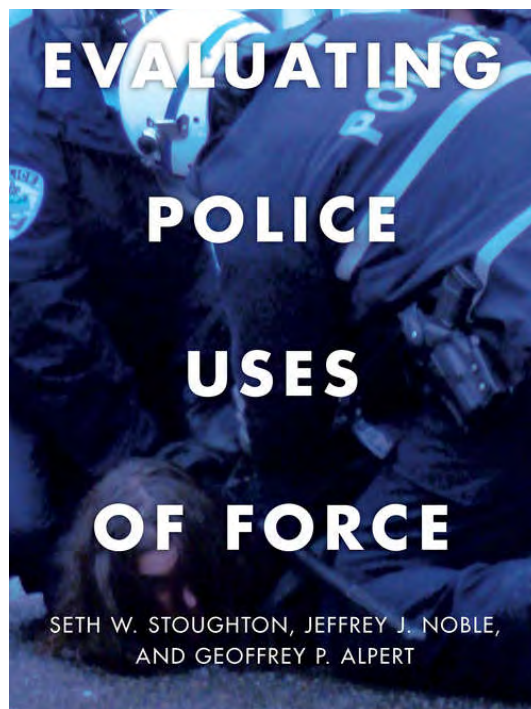
injure or take someone's life? Seth W. Stoughton, Jeffrey J. Noble, and Geoffrey P. Alpert present a comprehensive and enlightening discussion intended to dissect this controversial and misunderstood realm of the American criminal justice system. The authors bring a unique blend of experience as academics, researchers, and practitioners to this unique and particularized work.

*Evaluating Police Uses of Force* serves as a comprehensive study of police use of force, focusing on how its use is evaluated and analyzed by investigators, the courts, and the public through the evaluative frameworks of the U.S. Constitution, state laws, administrative regulations, and local community expectations (p. 9). The authors meticulously discuss and analyze these frameworks and then contrast them against the backdrop of police tactics and the use of controversial force options such as chokeholds, batons, chemical munitions, Tasers, and of course firearms. We learn what the police are generally allowed to do, what tools and techniques they are allowed to use, and how they are evaluated and judged in the aftermath. Through this academic-style approach, a clearer picture emerges of the justification for police to



use violence in the context of serving important governmental interests such as facilitating criminal justice, maintaining order, and keeping officers and citizens safe (p. 50). The book has a dual beneficiary value because it provides insight for both citizens and police officers who are searching for objective reference material that synthesizes the academic and practical applications involved in the evaluation of police use of force by the nearly 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country (p. 97).

Through the discussion of the variances in state-level regulations on police use of force, this book can be an important reference source for sounding the alarm bells for public and police executives who draft agency policies and conduct in-service training. There is an extensive analysis of two landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases involving police use of force, *Tennessee v. Garner* and *Graham v. Connor*, and the triumvirate “Graham factors” that courts use to test the objective reasonableness of an officer’s use of force (p. 19). The authors also discuss the factors that constitute “excessive force” under the federal civil rights statute 42 U.S.C 1983 and the legal remedies for holding police officers accountable for these violations (pp. 13–14). Although some readers may view portions of the material in the book as lacking in more substantive and overt criticisms of the police, who often use violence at higher rates in poorer neighborhoods with predominantly minority populations, this book should not be regarded as a



“pro-police” essay, solely intended to arbitrarily justify the use of police violence. Stoughton et al.’s blunt recommendation for the inclusion of such predicated factors as “pre-seizure conduct,” “officer-created jeopardy,” and “alternative options” in the final use of force analysis is opposed by some police unions (pp. 227–228).

One of the book’s difficulties with teaching use of force concepts and police tactics together in the same work center on the pedagogical limitations of explaining these concepts within

the constraints of a book and then transferring them to fictional scenarios to illustrate the “highly fact-intensive” nature of use of force decision making (p. 20). Consequently, the use of force discussion is relegated to a purely academic, two-dimensional abstract lesson plan. For example, some of the scenarios in the book depicted subjects who were described as “morbidly obese octogenarians” and used comparison subjects who were described as younger and athletic as the binary choice of what force options police would use on

a particular person. It is understandable that the authors are constrained in their choice of characters to depict in these fictional scenarios. However, an argument could be made that the use of polar opposite characters as illustrative examples of who should or should not be on the receiving end of certain police tactics serves as prima facie evidence of the ambiguity within the canons of use of force decision making. This argument is bolstered by the fact that the authors



are seemingly obliged to use exaggerated subject examples as a means to induce understanding of appropriate police use of force actions. Many use of force incidents exist as “grey areas, zones of uncertainty” that require further investigation (p. 43). As noted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Graham* case, “police officers are often forced to make split-second judgements, in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving, about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation” (p. 159). Common sense therefore compels us to understand that use of force models, books, and case laws cannot fully prepare officers for the unpredictable nature of real-life, human-generated violence.

Coincidentally, due to a preexisting publication schedule, this book was released the day after George Floyd was killed in May 2020. Stoughton, Noble, and Alpert broached this controversial topic at a time in our nation’s history when it is desperately needed because the mere mention of the police often elicits strong community reactions, both in support and in opposition. They make a significant contribution to a social and policy conversation that should never end, both as a public service to improve police effectiveness and accountability and to restore strong support in what is arguably one of the most visible, and important, governmental institutions in our nation—and the one we call when we need help. ■



### **Kevin Riley**

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in criminal investigations, interviews and interrogations, community policing, undercover operations, and computers in criminal justice. His law enforcement career has spanned more than 32 years; his past assignments included patrol, SWAT, narcotics, criminal investigations, internal affairs, and public information officer. He was also the department’s administrative commander and patrol division commander. He currently commands the department’s investigative division.



## Sexting, Sextortion, and Child Pornography: How Do We Help Our Children?

*By Bryan Wright*

Think of your most embarrassing moment. Remember how you felt, the awkwardness and humiliation? Imagine how you would feel if naked photos of yourself were shared on the internet or with all your friends and coworkers. What if these images were of a child that you love?

You may not think that this could ever happen to someone that you know and love, but sexting and sextortion are growing problems among young people. Statistics and percentages continue to climb, with recent studies showing that one in four students reported “sending, receiving, or sharing nude photos or sexual images in the past 30 days” (McCoy, 2020). Another study shows that 48% of teens say they have received sexually suggestive messages (GuardChild, n.d.). When two consenting adults share sexually explicit material it is not a crime; however, when a child under the age of 18 sends sexually explicit content or nude photos to another child, they are guilty of distributing child pornography to a minor, which is a Class F felony. The person who receives the content or photos is guilty of possession of child pornography, which is a Class I felony (Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, 2020). Once charged with possession of child pornography, a person is added to the sex offender registry, leaving them labeled as a sex offender for life.

A child being charged with a felony for sexting is rare, yet it does happen. Youth who have engaged in sexting are often processed through the juvenile justice system, given a misdemeanor ticket, ordered to do community service, and/or an array of other punitive sanctions may be applied. However, these approaches that have been used in the recent past to reduce teen sexting have not worked (Patchin, 2020).

Furthermore, once a child has shared sexual photos with others, those individuals can use the threat of exposing the images to manipulate vulnerable teens. Consequently, teen sexting cases

may further tax social agencies by facilitating teen sextortion cases. Indeed, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (n.d.), “More than 12.7 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation were made to the CyberTipline between 1998 and June 2016. More than 8.2 million in 2016 alone.”

What is a healthy solution and how does the criminal justice system, or any other organization, approach these issues? I showed up to a social media task force out of Winnebago, WI attended by leaders from various county disciplines including law enforcement, the district attorney’s office, school officials, and human services. That group “identified sexting as something that was problematic,” said Eric Sparr, Deputy District Attorney of Winnebago County (Woods, 2021). With sexting being as problematic as it is, with no real solutions or best practices to handle it, everyone agreed there needs to be a program to address this issue.

Dynamic Family Solutions was founded to help offer healthier alternatives to better address and create new resolve for issues such as this. As a company we are dedicated to developing second-chance educational diversion programs that help families and youth struggling with life-altering issues. As I’ve been developing programs for more than 13 years, I stepped up to the challenge and said I’ll create a program. What came of it is now the Social Media and Sexting Diversion Program.

The program is designed to explore why teens engage in risky behaviors, such as sexting, and teach replacement behaviors and thought processes that build self-esteem and confidence. Instead of sending adolescents through the criminal process, they are now referred directly to the program where in lieu of receiving a ticket they are offered a second-chance educational alternative. We receive 85% of referrals from School Resources Officers who work directly with students in the school, 13% from Health and Human Service Departments, and 2% from teens who are facing criminal charges.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the program, I partnered



with professors in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. A standardized pre- and post-test evaluation was developed to gauge each student's progress in the program and assess program effectiveness. What they've found is that teens reported a higher understanding in certain areas, such as perpetrator mentality, the idea of hypersexualization in today's culture and its influence on them, and how it can lead to higher levels of sexual abuse and assault. They also saw significant gains in teens' self-esteem (Beck et al., 2021). Upon seeing these results, Assistant Criminal Justice Professor Matt Richie commented, "My thought was that any program that will make kids feel better about themselves is worth its weight in gold."

Due to a growing demand for the program, Dynamic Family Solutions now offers full certification training to become a program facilitator, allowing organizations to provide the program in their own area. Dynamic Family Solutions' Social Media and Sexting Diversion program now has more than 150 trained facilitators running the program in 22 counties within Wisconsin, 3 other states, and internationally in Barcelona, Spain. Many states are facing the challenges of how to best address these issues among today's youth. Every state deals with child pornography and sexting by minors differently (see <https://cyberbullying.org/sexting-laws> for the penalties in each state). To be effective in helping resolve the issues of sexting, there needs to be a consistent approach based on best practices to address this problem.

If you would like to learn more about Dynamic Family Solutions, you can visit [dynamicfamilysolutions.net](https://dynamicfamilysolutions.net). ■

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### Bryan Wright

graduated from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Bryan found himself taking an alternative path from becoming a cop and has spent more than 13 years working in the fields

of domestic and sexual violence. He started as an intern working with restorative practices and helping to implement restorative programming in schools. He has worked as a behavioral specialist with Lutheran Social Services, a children's advocate for Safe Haven Domestic Abuse, and a dual prevention educator for Christine Ann Domestic Abuse and Reach Counseling Sexual Abuse. Bryan's experience working with families and youth, running and creating curricula and groups, enabled him to establish Dynamic Family Solutions LLC, a company devoted to providing the best evidenced-based curriculum to alleviate issues families and youth are enduring. You can check out Dynamic's latest programs and curriculums at [dynamicfamilysolutions.net](https://dynamicfamilysolutions.net).

# 2022 ACJS ACADEMY AWARD RECIPIENTS



## Bruce Smith Sr. Award

Daniel Mears,  
Florida State  
University



## Academy Fellow and Outstanding Book Award (Shopping While Black: Consumer Racial Profiling in America)

George Higgins,  
University of  
Louisville



## Founders Award

Holly Ventura  
Miller, University of  
North Florida



## Outstanding Book Award (Shopping While Black: Consumer Racial Profiling in America)

Shaun Gabbidon,  
Penn State University



## Academy New Scholar Award

Caitlin Cavanagh,  
Michigan State  
University



## The Michael C. Braswell/Routledge Outstanding Dissertation Award

Nathan Connealy,  
The City University  
of New York





# 2022 ACJS ACADEMY AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Donal MacNamara Award** (Childhood Material Hardship and Externalizing Behavior. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(3), 454-478.)

Paul E. Bellair,  
The Ohio State University



**Donal MacNamara Award** (Childhood Material Hardship and Externalizing Behavior. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(3), 454-478.)

Thomas L. McNulty,  
University of Georgia



**Donal MacNamara Award** (Childhood Material Hardship and Externalizing Behavior. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(3), 454-478.)

Vincent J. Roscigno,  
The Ohio State University



**Donal MacNamara Award** (Childhood Material Hardship and Externalizing Behavior. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(3), 454-478.)

Man Kit (Karlo) Lei,  
University of Georgia



**Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award**

Breanna Boppre,  
Sam Houston State University



**Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award**

Danielle Rudes,  
George Mason University



# 2022 ACJS ACADEMY AWARD RECIPIENTS



## Academy Leadership and Innovation Award

Bryan Wright,  
Founder and Owner  
Dynamic Family  
Solutions, LLC



## ACJS Outstanding Mentor Award

Leah E. Daigle,  
Georgia State  
University



## ACJS Outstanding Mentor Award

Olena Antonaccio,  
University of Miami



## ACJS Outstanding Mentor Award

Jesenia M. Pizarro,  
Arizona State  
University



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Bryan Lee Miller,  
Clemson University



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Cincinnati



## ACJS Outstanding Mentor Award

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Montclair State  
University



## ACJS Outstanding Mentor Award

Salih Hakan Can,  
Penn State Schuylkill



# Edward J. Latessa



With deepest sorrow, the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute announces the passing of our Director, Dr. Edward J. Latessa, on January 11, 2022 at 5:55pm ET after a long and fierce battle with cancer. Dr. Latessa was a devoted leader and a trusted advisor to corrections agencies worldwide, and the tremendous loss of his presence throughout the field will be felt in the hearts of many for years to come.

Dr. Latessa leaves behind a wife and four children. The UCCI team offers our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to each of them, who were by his side providing endless support to him every step of the way.

The lives of many individuals were enhanced through their work with Dr. Latessa. Should you wish to express your personal sentiments, you are invited to leave a public message [here](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider honoring Dr. Latessa's legacy through a donation to the Edward J. Latessa Fund for Doctor Student Support [www.foundation.uc.edu/latessa](http://www.foundation.uc.edu/latessa).

*By the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute*



You can also find a recently published essay by Dr. Francis T. Cullen in *Victims & Offenders* on the life and legacy of Dr. Latessa [here](#).



### Alan J. Lizotte

Alan J. Lizotte, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice and resident of Bristol, RI, passed away suddenly on January 24 while doing what he loved most: teaching. He was 74.

An internationally recognized criminologist, Dr. Lizotte was devoted to the School of Criminal Justice (SCJ) and most importantly to the many students he mentored long into their own careers in academia, government and research. After 36 years at SCJ, his legacy includes more than \$25 million in research funding, 41 chaired Ph.D. student committees and six years in the SCJ Dean's office. Prior to his tenure at SCJ, Dr. Lizotte served on the faculties of Emory University, Indiana University and Rutgers University.

Dr. Lizotte's research focused primarily on gun ownership and delinquency in the life course. In the mid 1980's, he co-founded the Rochester Youth Development Study which continues to shape and inform research and national policy to this day. His research in these areas was recognized when he and his co-authors were honored with the American Society of Criminology's Michael J. Hindelang Outstanding Book Award for *Gangs and Delinquency in Developmental Perspective*. In 2009, he won the UAlbany President's Award for Excellence in Research and in 2014, was named a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology. It was through student nominations that he received University at Albany's Bread and Roses Award for Excellence in Promoting Gender Equality, for which he was especially proud.

Alan was born in Fall River. As a two and a half tour Vietnam combat veteran, Alan returned to Fall River

where his mentoring instincts were honed by Helaine Schupack at Bristol Community College (BCC). Under her guidance Alan applied to Brown University where he was admitted with a full scholarship. He earned his BA in Sociology from Brown, followed by his MA and Ph.D. from University of Illinois, also in Sociology.

In 2018, Alan established the Helaine Schupack Endowed Scholarship Fund at BCC to help adult learners. He is survived by Lisa Jackson, his beloved wife of 37 years, and his many friends, colleagues and former students.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his honor to the [Helaine Schupack Scholarship fund](#) at Bristol Community College or by check to Bristol Community College Foundation, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720 (please indicate on memo line: Helaine Schupack Scholarship Fund).

For full obituary and online condolences, please visit: <https://www.sansonefuneralhome.com/tributes/Alan-Lizotte>





# Clayton Mosher

It is with great sadness we share with you that Clayton Mosher, professor of sociology at Washington State University (WSU) Vancouver, passed away unexpectedly.

Clay was a champion for racial equity and justice. He grew up in rural Ontario, Canada, where he witnessed the mistreatment of local Aboriginal/First Nations people by both law enforcement and citizens, which in turn spurred his interest in studying sociology.

As a WSU faculty member, Clay built connections across campuses and with communities. He joined the University in 1995 as an assistant professor at our Pullman campus and transferred three years later to our Vancouver campus, where he also taught in the public affairs program. He was promoted to associate professor in 2001, and professor in 2011.

Clay's research interests spanned many aspects of law and society, including bias in policing, drug courts, racial disparity in criminal justice, and substance and mental health services. Most recently he collaborated with fellow sociology professors at WSU Pullman to examine how state-level reforms driven by the urbanized western side of the state interact with local dynamics in the rural eastern side.

During his distinguished career, Clay served in leadership for the Department of Sociology and as research coordinator for WSU Vancouver's Collective for Social and Environmental Justice. He also contributed his expertise as a member of numerous city, county, and state committees.

Clay will be remembered for his humor, his generosity of time and spirit, and the deep connections he nurtured among the faculty, staff, and students he encountered.



*By Todd Butler and Julie Kmec*



### Elmar Weitekamp

Our friend and colleague, Elmar Weitekamp, born December 16, 1954, passed on February 5, 2022, at sixty-seven. We saw Elmar as an unstoppable force with an indomitable spirit. We were wrong on the first count, but correct on the second, as we believe his spirit lives on in his work.

Elmar grew up in a German village, a place to which his cremains were returned. The journey in between was epic. Elmar briefly attended a Catholic boarding school in Belgium, returning to Germany to finish his education after a heated “disagreement” with several priests. Although he rarely talked about his military service, Elmar served in the German Navy. When pressed he would only say that he achieved several “policy changes” in the Navy, the first of many such changes. A part of Elmar’s propensity to challenge the status quo derived from this eclectic upbringing. But most of it was pure Elmar.

Elmar received an MSW degree from Fachhochschule Niederrhein (Mönchengladbach, Germany). He later earned a Ph.D. in criminology from the University of Pennsylvania’s Warton School. It was at Penn that Elmar developed an interest in cross-national and longitudinal studies, thanks to mentors Marvin Wolfgang and Thorsten Sellin. It is no coincidence that Elmar’s dissertation was on restitution as an alternative punishment. His examination of justice

philosophies continued throughout his career, as he turned his critical-thinking skills to restorative justice, both at the Eberhard Karls Universität’s (Tübingen, Germany) Institute of Criminology, where he was a senior research associate, and as a Professor of Criminology, Victimology, and Restorative Justice with the Faculty of Law at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). In recognition of his international work, Elmar was awarded the Gerhard O. W. Mueller Award from the ACJS in 2006.

Elmar was a co-founder of the Eurogang Group, an international collaboration of scholars, practitioners and others interested in the youth/street gang phenomenon, serving as co-organizer of the five EG meeting. His efforts were instrumental in the development of this collaborative group of researchers, including his co-editorship of the first collection of Eurogang research.

Elmar saw himself as a victimologist. For many years, Elmar participated in the Post Graduate Course on Victimology, Victim Assistance and Criminal Justice at Dubrovnik’s Interuniversity Center. During the Balkan Wars (1993-1997), he moved with the course to the Vrije Universiteit (Amsterdam). After returning to Dubrovnik, he served as co-director well into the second decade of the 21st century.

Over his career, Elmar presented hundreds of presentations on victim’s rights, social justice, and restorative justice worldwide. He engaged in original

longitudinal and cross-national research of criminal justice practices. Two examples are worthy of note. First, Elmar and his colleagues at the Institute of Criminology developed a knowledge base about xenophobia, hate crime, and right wing violence just as Germany reunited in the 1990s. Second, Elmar’s contributions to the restorative justice literature are both broad and deep. He was particularly proud of his contributions to the literature on Truth and Reconciliation Conferences for victims and survivors of mass violence.

Elmar always fostered “Gemütlichkeit” and group cohesion through social events. A workshop or course was not complete without either a collective outing to a cultural/historical site or a meal at a local restaurant (or both). And, to all who had a beer (or two) with Elmar, you will remember the Final-Final. Here’s to Elmar!

*By Finn Esbensen, Tom Winfree, and Hans-Juergen Kerner*



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## Publication Schedule

- January
- March
- May
- September
- November

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## Submissions

### DEADLINES

- December 15th
- February 15th
- April 15th
- August 15th
- October 15th

*The editor will use her discretion to accept, reject or postpone manuscripts.*

### ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Articles may vary in writing style (i.e., tone) and length. Articles should be relevant to the field of criminal justice, criminology, law, sociology, or related curriculum and interesting to our readership. Please include your name, affiliation, and e-mail address, which will be used as your biographical information. Submission of an article to the editor of ACJS Today implies that the article has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under submission to another publication.