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Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Newsletter



Domestic Violence Against Women in India: Issues and Challenges of Data

By Shreejata Niyogi, Anamika Das, and Sneha Biswas, PhD

A recent report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) on behalf of the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Violence Against Women Estimation and Data (2021) suggested that globally, one in three women is subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in her life. The world has witnessed an increase in the number of cases of family violence and/or intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 era. With an increase in the cases of domestic violence globally

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(Usta et al., 2021), it is important to investigate the issue of domestic/family violence in India (Taskin, 2021). However, the main difficulty with conducting research on domestic and family violence in India is the lack of information in the existing data set, as well as difficulties collecting primary data. The objective of this paper is, thus, to understand the availability of secondary data sources and address the methodological challenges related to data that arise while conducting a primary study on domestic violence in India.

In India, domestic violence has been recognized as a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code since 1983 (IPC § 498-A). However, a comprehensive definition of domestic violence against women covering the physical, emotional, sexual, and economic aspects came into existence only after the implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA) in 2005. The PWDVA defines domestic violence as “any form of abuse causing harm or injury to the physical and/or mental health of the woman or compromising her life and safety or any harassment for dowry or to meet any other unlawful demand and a threat to cause injury or harm” (Das & Lakshmana, 2020). While the legal prohibition against domestic violence includes live-in partners or intimate partner relationships, the cultural taboo associated with intimate partner relationships outside the bond of marriage has restricted the studies on cases of domestic violence involving unmarried partners. Consequently, a large number of research papers and academic

reports have only studied the cases of spousal violence, excluding a large number of research objects in their data set.

Currently, there are two major sources of large-scale data on domestic violence in India: the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). The NCRB publishes two different data sets yearly, namely, Crime in India (CII) and Prison Statistic in India (PSI). CII deals with the registered criminal cases in India; PSI provides details of the prisons in India, the inmates residing inside, and their cases. However, both CII and PSI data fail to comprehend the actual number of cases of family violence, as both data sets focus only on the registered offences. Hence, both the data sets suffer from limitations. First, they lack clarity in defining domestic violence, cruelty, or torture and second, criminal charges are laid only in the context of dowry torture and death. Another large-scale data set on domestic violence in India is the NFHS, which collects data from households all over India. However, the NFHS only started including questions on domestic violence as part of the women’s questionnaire in 2005-06 after the implementation of the PWDVA. The survey includes detailed information on the physical, sexual, and emotional experiences of “ever-married” women of reproductive age (i.e., 15–49 years), but it excluded questions related to economic violence from its fourth round of surveys in 2015-16 (NFHS-4). NFHS thus excludes the women who are aged beyond 49 years and who are unmarried. Added to this issue, NFHS is conducted



at an interval of every 5 or 10 years, making it difficult to obtain an in-depth understanding of yearly cases of domestic violence, which creates a huge discrepancy among these data sets. For example, in 2020, the National Commission for Women received 5,297 complaints of domestic violence, one of the highest recorded in the last few years. However, when we compare domestic violence data in both the NCRB data sets for 2019 (553 cases) and 2020 (446 cases) and the NFHS reports for 2015–16 (31.2% of women) and 2019–21 (29.3% of women), the numbers seem to have declined.

Although there are certain conceptual and secondary data–related methodological challenges, obtaining reliable primary data on domestic violence is also a problematic task. As the phenomenon of domestic violence is rather intimate in nature and takes place within the domestic sphere, it is impossible to observe the phenomenon directly. Added to this issue, identifying and addressing the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence is also difficult. Due to a lack of awareness and the culturally constructed notions of a women’s loyalty to her husband and shame, the cases of domestic violence are underreported in India. Consequently, identifying the respondent group is complex. The sociocultural notion of being an ideal wife in a patriarchal society has also, to some extent, normalized violence in the domestic

sphere. During the data collection process for their respective doctoral research work, two of the authors of this paper, Niyogi and Das, have encountered this problem. Among 31 participants of Niyogi’s study, 8 had encountered sexual violence from their husband. However, 6 of those 8 respondents refused to acknowledge sexual violence as a criminal offence. The culturally constructed gender role has led them to perceive sexual violence inflicted by an intimate partner or spouse as the “right of the spouse or partner.” In a similar manner, during data collection¹ for Das’s study, among 155 ever-married women, 90 responded that they had experienced sexual violence by their husbands. Due to severe physical and sexual violence during pregnancy, 88 women² out of the 155 experienced reproductive health consequences that led to fetal loss (abortion and miscarriage), and 9 women experienced anemia during their pregnancies. Such experiences from the field further explain how Indian women fail to recognize sexual violence or marital rape as a criminal offence and rather attempt to justify domestic violence under the sociocultural pretext that is in consonance with the NFHS report.

As we have witnessed increased cases of domestic violence during the COVID pandemic, it is important to address the problem and suggest suitable recommendations. To begin with, the NFHS questionnaires should include all women

¹ The field survey was conducted in South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal state, India. A total of 155 ever-married women (15–49 years) with at least one child (0–14 years) who had ever experienced domestic violence after their marriage were interviewed.

² The question related to problems faced during pregnancy due to domestic violence and was self-reported by respondents and not tested clinically.



as research objects, irrespective of their marital status and age, and should also include questions on economic violence, which were removed from the recent round of surveys. To counter the issue of lack of a large-scale data set, the government agencies have to include the data of other agencies or data provided by nongovernment agencies or statutory bodies like the National Women's Commission. Second, marital rape should be criminalized under the IPC as an offence against the human body. As we have mentioned earlier, the cultural constraint to address marital rape or sexual offences in an intimate-partner relationship is the prominent barrier, thus criminalizing marital rape has to be normalized. And this issue can only be normalized with a large-scale awareness campaign; there is an urgent need to strengthen the PWDVA by appointing more protection officers at the village or block level. These protection officers should play a more active role by involving police, Panchayat members, and nongovernmental organizations to provide counseling and justice on time to the victims of domestic violence. Such an awareness campaign also needs resources, both financial and staffing, for which international collaboration might be one of the best possible solutions. ■

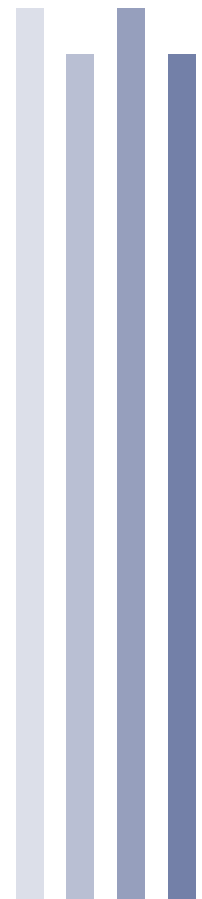
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Shreejata Niyogi

is a PhD scholar pursuing her degree in Sociology at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, India. Her ongoing work is on

female offenders and the correctional mechanism in the state of West Bengal. She has received the University Grants Commission (SVSGC) fellowship for her research. Her interests center broadly on gender, feminist criminology, and intersectional identities.



Anamika Das is a PhD scholar in the Development Studies at Population Research Centre (PRC), Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC),

Bangalore. She received a bachelor's degree in Geography from Calcutta University, Kolkata, India and a master's degree in Geography from Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, India. Her current research is in "Domestic Violence against Women and its effect on Women and Child Health in West Bengal". She has

published one research article and two working paper series related to status of domestic violence against women in West Bengal as well as in India. She is enthusiastically interested to work on women-centric research.



Sneha Biswas,

PhD, earned her degree in Development Studies from the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru, India. Her research

interest includes socio-economic vulnerability, gender vulnerability, disaster studies, community and local governance in adaptation. Her research work attempts to understand how the pre-existing socio-economic condition contributes to people's vulnerability. She is the author of "An assessment of socio-economic vulnerability at the household level: A study on villages of the Indian Sundarbans." In addition to research articles, she has authored book reviews, special articles and working papers. She is currently positioned as a Research Fellow at Karnataka Evaluation Authority, Bengaluru where she is involved in policy evaluation studies.

JUSTICE ACJS EDITOR POSITION OPENING: JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences is seeking applications for the position of Editor of Journal of Criminal Justice Education, one of the three ACJS journals.

The Editor of the **Journal of Criminal Justice Education (JCJE)** will be responsible for ensuring high-quality intellectual content of the journal for the membership of the Academy and for overseeing the review process to ensure it is thorough, fair, and timely. The Editor will set editorial policy, solicit materials, consider unsolicited submissions for publication, develop features of interest to the membership, and manage the journal. The Executive Board of the Academy will appoint the Editor for a three-year term. JCJE is published four times a year.

The editorial duties will begin on July 1, 2023, and the new Editor's first issue will be determined by the date of appointment and in consultation with the current editor. There is a \$10,000 yearly stipend for the Editor. In coeditorships, stipends would be shared.

Applicants must meet the following **criteria**:

- Demonstrated record of scholarly activity as measured by such indicators as publications in refereed journals, book publications, and research.
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- Commitment to the ACJS Code of Ethics, particularly to Section III.C regarding research and publication.
- Earned Ph.D. or terminal degree in area of specialization.
- Senior (associate or above) academic rank at the host institution for editing journals.
- Formal declaration of support from the host institution, including release time, space, and other support services the institution will commit to editorship.
- ACJS membership in good standing for three continuous years at the time of application.
- Upon assuming their editorial position, the editor may not be an editor of any other academic journal.

Those interested in being considered should provide the following information to the Editor Search Committee no later than November 15, 2022:

- Letter of application;
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The ACJS policy regarding editor duties and the policies regarding the editor search and selection are available for review in the ACJS policy manual found here: <https://www.acjs.org/page/PolicyManual>.

Application materials must be submitted via email to bitna.kim@shsu.edu. Please address requests for additional information to:

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bitna.kim@shsu.edu

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The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences is seeking applications for the **position of Editor of Justice Evaluation Journal**, one of the three ACJS journals.

The Editor of the **Justice Evaluation Journal (JEJ)** will be responsible for ensuring high-quality intellectual content of the journal for the membership of the Academy and for overseeing the review process to ensure it is thorough, fair, and timely. The Editor will set editorial policy, solicit materials, consider unsolicited submissions for publication, develop features of interest to the membership, and manage the journal. The Executive Board of the Academy will appoint the Editor for a three-year term. JEJ is published two times a year.

The editorial duties will begin on July 1, 2023, and the new Editor's first issue will be determined by the date of appointment and in consultation with the current editor. There is a \$7,500 yearly stipend for the Editor. In coeditorships, stipends would be shared.

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- Prior editorial experience as measured by such indicators as editorial responsibilities for other scholarly publications and past experience as a referee or associate/deputy editor of an academic journal, or other editorial experience demonstrating the applicant's ability to implement and maintain the integrity of blind review, to improve or maintain the quality of the publication, to communicate effectively, and to behave in a professional manner that is supportive of the mission and goals of the ACJS and consistent with the ACJS statement of ethics.
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DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR TWO IMPORTANT AWARDS!

ACJS MINORITY MENTORSHIP GRANT AWARD

The ACJS Minorities Mentorship Grant Award was created to provide opportunities for mentorship of minority doctoral students or junior faculty by senior criminal justice professors at the same or another institution within the ACJS organization. The goal is to facilitate a mentoring relationship between new or junior faculty and senior faculty to facilitate the former's professional development for a productive criminal justice academic career. The Awardee will receive an award check and a certificate. The Mentee will receive a certificate.

The ACJS Minorities Mentorship Grant Award of \$1,000 can be used for expenses of the mentor involved in working with the mentee, such as telephone, postage, travel, honorarium, or other training expenses needed to develop a focused program of mentorship. Applications should be submitted by the mentor with the agreement of a designated mentee who has agreed in writing to be mentored for one year.

A list of criteria can be found [here](#).

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Nominations sent to: Carlos Posadas, cposadas@nmsu.edu

Copy nomination to: Claire Renzetti, claire.renzetti@uky.edu

2022 ACJS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' Student Affairs Committee is accepting nominations for the ACJS Student Scholarship Awards. Two students (one at the Masters level and another at the Ph.D. level) will receive funding in the amount of \$600 each to apply towards travel to the annual ACJS conference. The award is to support meritorious scholarship by students (as evidenced by the paper the student will present) and to enable them to present their research at the Annual Meeting. The student need not have the recommendation of a faculty member in order to be considered. Self-nominations are welcome. While a nominee may submit a single paper for multiple awards, a single paper may only be the basis for one ACJS scholarship award in a given year.

A list of criteria can be found [here](#).

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2022

All papers and nomination materials should be submitted to:

Dr. Veronica Herrera, Student Affairs Committee Chair

California State University, Fullerton

veherrera@fullerton.edu

Copy papers and nominations to: Claire Renzetti, claire.renzetti@uky.edu



Past ACJS President and Prominent Scholar in Violence Against Women Elected as President of the World Society of Victimology

By Dawn Beichner, PhD

Dr. Janice Joseph, Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at Stockton University, has been a lifelong leader and member of ACJS. Dr. Joseph served as the 47th ACJS President (2009-2010), during which time she created the Outstanding Mentor Award. Dr. Joseph made ACJS history as the first president of African descent and as the first official UN NGO Representative for ACJS. Her tenure as the official NGO Representative of ACJS spanned more than a decade and included working with UN personnel, high-ranking government officials, NGO representatives, academics, practitioners, and survivors of crime. Among the numerous highlights of her UN-related service, she served as a member of the team that drafted the UN Resolution on Femicide – United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/191: Gender-related killing of women and girls which passed in 2013.

Dr. Joseph is a prominent scholar and activist in Violence Against Women. She has published over 70 articles—many of which are globally focused—in the areas of violence against women, minorities and crime, juvenile delinquency, and gangs. She is the editor of the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, which is affiliated with the Minorities and Women Section of ACJS. ACJS awards the Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award annually to recognize outstanding contributions by new minority and female scholars.

In June 2022, at the 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology in San

Sebastián, Spain, Dr. Joseph was elected president of the World Society of Victimology. She is the first person of African descent to be elected to this position in the organization.



Dr. Janice Joseph delivering her presidential speech at the 17th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology, held in San Sebastián, Spain (June 9, 2022).

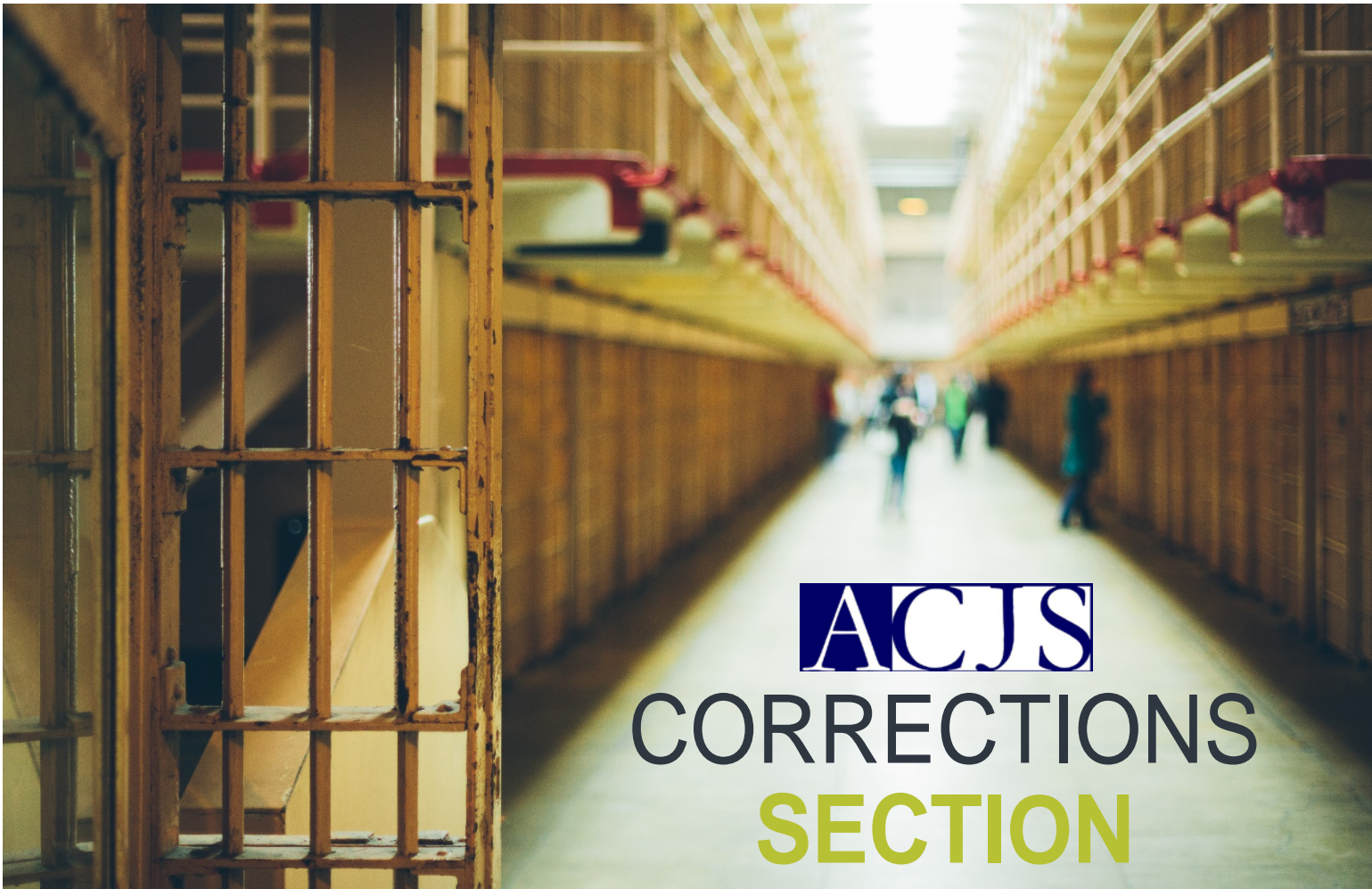


Dr. Janice Joseph Elected WSV President

Prior to her role as WSV president, Dr. Joseph served the WSV in a number of different positions. Most recently, she served as vice president of the organization and chaired the Scientific Committee for the 17th International Symposium. She also served as Chair of the United Nations Liaison Committee and the Standards and Norms Committee.

The World Society of Victimology (WSV) is an international non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, as well as the Council of Europe. The WSV is comprised of victim assistance practitioners, social scientists, social workers, physicians, attorneys, civil servants, academics, and students from around the world. The organizational headquarters are in Monchengladbach, Germany.

The WSV's purpose is to advance victimological research and practices around the world; to encourage interdisciplinary and comparative work and research in the field of Victimology, and to advance cooperation between international, national and local agencies and other groups who are concerned with the problems of victims. The next WSV International Symposium will be held in 2024 at The National Forensic Sciences University, in India. You can learn more about the benefits of membership and watch for announcements for the 2024 WSV International Symposium at the [World Society of Victimology website](https://www.worldsocietyofvictimology.org/). ■



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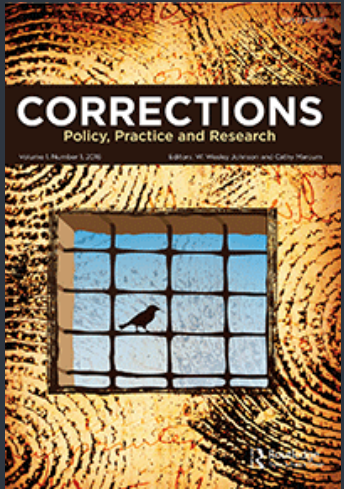
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¹ Based on a limited sample of self-reported data from Kent State alumni from graduating cohorts between 2016-2020.

² Retrieved on July 28, 2022, from premium.usnews.com/best-colleges/kent-state-university-305/overall-rankings

³ Retrieved on July 28, 2022, from bestcolleges.com/blog/how-many-colleges-in-us/



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Utilization of Wellness Programs for Police Officer Stress

By Dragana Derlic, PhD and Jennifer Wyatt Bourgeois, PhD

INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement stress has been linked to depression and intimate partner violence, among other things, like poor decision making and negative interactions with community members (Gershon et al., 2009; Queirós et al., 2020). Law enforcement stress has also frequently been noted as a factor in the use of excessive force and is noted to have a negative impact on officers' physical and mental health (i.e., sleep difficulties, anxiety, flashbacks, and panic attacks), which can result in unsafe working conditions (Queirós et al., 2020). Failing to acknowledge the concerns of police officer stress has a detrimental impact on the officer, police department, and community. Research shows that 62% of law enforcement agencies do not provide wellness programming for their officers, although these programs can enhance the officers' well-being, departments' standing, and community relationships (Taylor et al., 2022).

With the ongoing epidemic and strained police-community relationship, many are calling for police reform. What this police reform will look like is yet to be determined. But a good start is providing law enforcement officers with the necessary skill set to handle stressful situations by aiding their mental, physical, and emotional health.

POLICE OFFICER STRESS

Due to the nature of their stressful duties, police officers are more likely than other professionals to suffer from anxiety, acute and posttraumatic stress disorder, and depression (Johnson, 2017). In fact, a recent study has noted that 26% of police officers report some type of symptoms for mental illness, with only 17% of them seeking helpful services (Jetelina et al., 2020). To date, research has documented that successful and functional policing demands from officers not just the physical and cognitive skills necessary to perform the job, but also the

emotional and interpersonal skills needed to deal with the daily stressors of police work (Blumberg et al., 2019). Because policing is a stressful job, law enforcement officers need ways to detox from their daily work life. Unfortunately, not all police departments instill mental health support or programs for police officers, nor have they acknowledged the need for these programs until recently.

The more time officers spend on duty the more exposure they have to work-related stressors such as critical events, horrific atrocities, mass casualties, suicides, acts of domestic violence, motor vehicle accidents, and post-traumatic symptoms, to name a few (Craddock & Telesco, 2022). In fact, years of service are significantly correlated with traumatic events and post-traumatic stress symptoms (Craddock & Telesco, 2022). This is important as job-related stressors are linked to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), increased substance



use, suicidal ideation, depression, and aggressive conduct (Craddock & Telesco, 2022). Aside from the daily stressors of work life, it has been well established that law enforcement agencies give preference to applicants with veteran status, regardless of combat exposure and potential for PTSD (Decker & Huckabee, 1999). Although veterans are rigorously screened for PTSD before duty, extensive rescreening rarely occurs. This is problematic as PTSD can develop over time and be triggered by exposure to violence (Reingle Gonzalez et al., 2019), something police officers face daily. Regardless, 19% of all sworn officers in the United States report current or prior military service (Hussey, 2020). Consequently, the job duties of a police officer can increase the risk of officers developing PTSD (Spence et al., 2019). While policing scholars look deep into the matter to highlight the main cause of such behavior, it is imperative to provide police officers with some tools while they wait. Today, a plethora of research exists on the use of yoga, mindfulness, and

meditation to aid PTSD and other stressors.

WELLNESS PROGRAMS FOR POLICE OFFICERS

Although not all law enforcement agencies utilize officer mental health and wellness initiatives, the ones that do offer services such as mental health wellness check-ins, in-service training, peer support programs, and psychological services (Taylor et al., 2022). To encourage officer well-being, several strategies have been suggested, for example, Pillar Six of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015), which focuses on officer well-being and safety. The United States Department of Justice (2022) also provides mental wellness resources for officers and includes strategies such as mindfulness. Additionally, cities such as Houston, Knoxville, New Castle, and San Leandro have implemented programs for law enforcement officers in hopes of reducing stress and improving community relations. Rarely, however, are programs like yoga and meditation utilized, even though the practice has

been shown to reduce job stress and increase the level of coping among officers (Papazoglou & Andersen, 2014). In fact, yoga has been shown to be a key element in helping reduce officer stress (Koch et al., 2022). At the forefront, the practice of yoga can be used as a mind-body approach to resilience training. Thus, we recommend police agencies consider implementing yoga programs, during the police academy and afterward, because doing so will ensure wraparound services for incoming and current police officers.

RECOMMENDATION #1: IMPLEMENT YOGA PROGRAMS WITHIN THE POLICE ACADEMY

A good way to ensure that officers are ready for duty mentally, physically, and emotionally is by offering resources during their academy training. These resources could include programs such as yoga. Thus, while preparing for the job mentally (operations, firearms, and legal education) and physically (self-defense and use of force), officer trainees would also get the opportunity to train their emotional well-being



through the practice of yoga. Hence, police academies can implement, and have been implementing, yoga programs during officer training. Jeter and colleagues (2013) evaluated the effects of yoga on stress, mood, and mindfulness among police academy trainees and found that the program resulted in the reduction of stress, tension, and fatigue among participants. Moreover, the six-class yoga program improved the mood among the trainees and increased their mindfulness. Importantly, the findings on stress reduction among the trainees are consistent with other studies that looked at the impact of yoga on stress in the workplace (Hartfield et al., 2011). Furthermore, learning such skills in the academy may have long-term benefits for officers and their communities (Acquadro Maran et al., 2018).

RECOMMENDATION #2: IMPLEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Agencies must be prepared to collect and analyze data, so pre- and post-measures of anxiety, stress, and depression are

a good place to start. While the increased attention on officer wellness in the profession of policing is good, it is critical to assess whether these reform efforts have measurable outcomes, such as improving officer mental health, improved community relations, and reducing the use of force. Ultimately, the implementation of officer wellness policies and programs should be evidence based. Furthermore, although there is a significant amount of research that discusses the benefits of yoga for lowering perceived stress (Koch et al., 2022), there are fewer studies that assess police yoga programs and their potential to improve police officer wellness, improve relationships between police officers and the community, and reduce use-of-force incidents. Thus, data collection and program evaluation is important.

RECOMMENDATION #3: OFFER WRAPAROUND SERVICES

The practice of yoga should not only be offered at the academy level but also in the police department itself to further

support incoming officers as well as officers already on the job. By doing so, police departments would have the opportunity to offer wraparound services, giving officers the opportunity to continue the practice of yoga from one setting to the next. This is imperative for the police officers as they will continuously have an outlet that helps reduce stress and improve their overall well-being. Not only that, but with continuous practice, officers will improve their coping skills. Overall, the wraparound services can help reduce the levels of stress among officers and should be considered for current and future services (Jeter et al., 2013).

CONCLUSION

Police reform should be mindful and so, too, should the utilization of wellness programs. With instances of police misconduct in the headlines almost daily and greater public scrutiny, police departments should consider moving toward evidence-based wellness programs to help officers cope with the stressors of their everyday lives. The practice of yoga has been deemed



effective and has the potential to reduce stress, improve officers' mental health status, and potentially improve community relationships and reduce the use of force. It is thus important to note that although yoga may seem like a new endeavor for police departments, the practice of yoga has been around since 3000 B.C. and, to date, has been offered to firefighters, veterans, adults, youth, and several underserved populations including incarcerated individuals (Derlic, 2020). The practice of yoga to improve well-being and reduce stress is not new, but instead has just not been explored and implemented in the criminal justice system. With that said, it is important to note that police officers, among other professionals (i.e., first responders in general), cannot avoid stress and thus should be trained and should be offered additional resources focused on handling stressful situations. ■

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Jennifer Wyatt Bourgeois, PhD, is Professor of Criminal Justice at Lone Star College -CyFair, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Justice Research at Texas Southern University. Dr. Bourgeois research interests include risk and resilient factors associated

with children and youth impacted by family and/or parental incarceration, the intersection of race, class, and gender disparity within the criminal justice system, criminal justice program evaluation, and the intersection of yoga and social justice. Jennifer has been published in the *Journal of Black Studies*, *Lone Star Forensic's*, and *Drug Science, Policy, & Law*. Additionally, she has co-authored two nationally recognized reports in the areas of pretrial diversion and prosecutor case-loads. She can be contacted at jennifer@center4justice.org.



ACJS 60th Annual Meeting Sessions, Events, and Networking!

We invite you to join us for the **60th ACJS Annual Meeting** in National Harbor, MD, March 14 – 18, 2023. The theme for the annual meeting is ***60 Years of ACJS: Critical Connections between Civil Rights, Crime, and Social Justice.***

Along with 300+ educational sessions, the annual meeting has tours, workshops, and special events like Trivia Game Night, Breaking Bread: Cooking Class with Chef Chad Houser, the President's Reception, and more! Attendees will have ample time to learn, network, and have some fun.

SAVE on the conference rate by registering before the cutoff date, **February 6**. Please don't wait until the last minute! Go to <https://www.acjs.org/page/AnnualReg2023> to learn more.

Hotel information and reservation link -
<https://www.acjs.org/page/2023HotelTransportation>

Exhibitor Information - <https://www.acjs.org/page/ExhibitsACJSAnnual2023>

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ACJS Quality Standards for Academic Programs: An Update

ACJS Academic Review Committee

The ACJS voted to adopt quality standards for criminal justice higher education programs in 2005. Many programs at colleges and universities have used these standards as benchmarks for program reviews. Every academic program must undergo periodic external review as required by either the state and/or accrediting-agency standards (every 5, 7, or 10 years). Rather than having external parties conduct reviews according to unknown standards, ACJS stepped into this space in 2005. The Standards themselves remain quite relevant, and a periodic review of them recently occurred, when the ACJS Academic Review Committee completed an update to the standards, focusing primarily on online course delivery and evolving library standards.

The ACJS Executive Board voted in 2018 to discontinue its academic program “Certification” efforts, but individual academic programs at the Associates, Bachelors, and Masters levels continue to need external reviews. In 2022, the Executive Board approved to apply a “Seal of Approval” to those programs that undergo an external review, using a ACJS-trained reviewer and whose programs are deemed to have either met or exceeded criteria laid out in the ACJS Quality Standards. The ACJS Academic Review Committee maintains a list of certified academic reviewers from past ACJS trainings

who can serve as external reviewers using the ACJS Standards as benchmarks for their site visit. There remains a significant need in our field to ensure that criminal justice and criminology programs are able to distinguish themselves in the competitive landscape of higher education. We encourage any ACJS member who is anticipating the need for an external review to contact the chair of the ACJS Academic Review Committee for additional information.

ACJS is the only national organization with a specific focus on criminal justice education. More than ever, criminal justice programs need to differentiate themselves from the growing crop of weak, adjunct-laden, and for-profit programs around the country taught by under-qualified faculty. The current situation is important to consider when some of the degree programs with which you now compete spend more money on marketing than they do on instruction. Academic quality standards is what distinguishes your program from theirs, and an external review should point to that distinction.

The Academic Review Committee is planning several events at the 2023 Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MD (including during the Pre-Conference) to provide information to members about the Program Review Process. Many ACJS members are not well informed about pro-



Quality Standards for Academic Programs

gram reviews until they face one, so these sessions will be useful to those interested in learning about the revised Program Review Process, and especially so for those facing the pressures of a pending external review. In addition, the ARC has recently completed a survey of all ACJS members that helped us gather information about members' views of the external Program Review process and the Quality Standards. This information is being used by the ARC to guide further refinements to the Program Review process and the Quality Standards themselves.

In the meantime, we encourage you to review the ACJS Quality Standards (posted on the ACJS website) and note that they emphasize that criminal justice is a broad-spectrum field with specific substantive specialties and cognates important for all graduates to understand. The scope and importance of the field is sometimes not recognized by university administrators. The ACJS Standards offer guideposts around teaching, faculty, students, and administration that make it clear that programs that are over enrolled and under resourced cannot meet the standards set by your peers in the field (as reflected in the ACJS Standards). Therefore, the Standards can be useful in defending resource requests and in responding to calls for external reviews.

Please direct any inquiries about the Standards or external reviews to the chair of the ACJS Academic Review Committee, Jeff Bouffard, at jab088@iastate.edu. ■

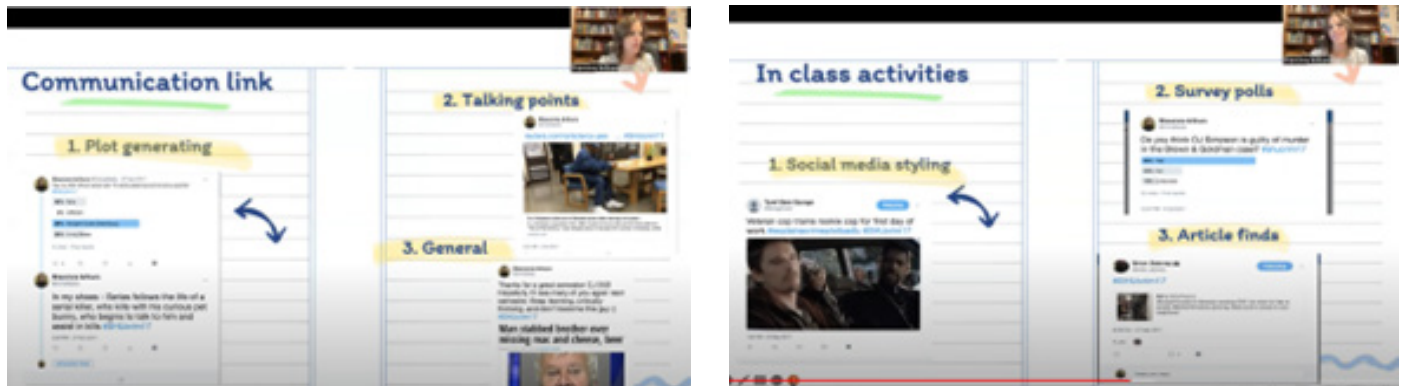
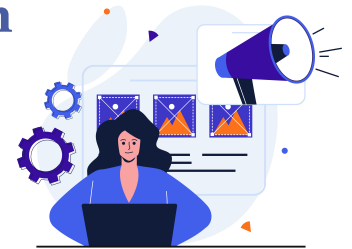




Teaching Tips: Social Media in the Classroom

By Shavonne Arthurs, PhD

ACJS Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship Section



Video can be viewed here.



Shavonne Arthurs, PhD, joined Seton Hill in the fall of 2017. She is the current secretary of the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS), the 1st Vice President of the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators (PACJE), and the Chair of the Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship (TLS) section of ACJS. She is also a member of the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), and Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators (PACJE). She currently teaches in areas of statistics, research methods, restorative justice, program and policy analysis, policing, theory, and deviance. Her research interests are in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, jury decision making, policing, social deviance, and interpersonal violence. She has a recent co-authored publication in the *Journal of Sexual Aggression* and is completing a book entitled “Moral Deviance and Personalized Panics” through Kendall Hunt Publishing (Fall, 2020). Additionally, she is a member and official visitor for the Pennsylvania Prison Society (PPS) and the advisor of the Criminal Justice Club, Alpha Phi Sigma, and SHU Winterguard.



JUSTICE QUARTERLY

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Jeffery T. Ulmer, Eric Silver & Lily S. Hanrath

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Rachel Novick, Kelly M. Socia & Justin T. Pickett

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The Moderating Role of Thoughtfully Reflective Decision-Making on the Relationship between Information Security Messages and SMiShing Victimization: An Experiment

Eden Kamar, C. Jordan Howell, David Maimon & Tamar Berenblum

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Jim McKee, Barak Ariel & Vincent Harinam

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Besiki Luka Kutateladze & Lin Liu

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Ryan M. Labrecque, Jill Viglione & Michael Caudy

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Yi Li, Brandon Wagner & Guang Guo

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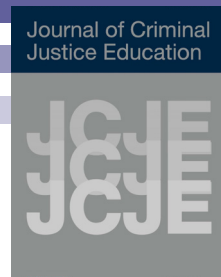
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JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

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Brittany L. Acquaviva, Brittany E. Hayes & Shelly L. Clevenger

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Vanessa Lynn & Anna T. Chase

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Michaela M. McGuire & Danielle J. Murdoch

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Nathan Krus, Katherine McLean, David Bish & Bobur Rakhmatullaev

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Compassion Fatigue among Criminology & Criminal Justice Interns

Carly M. Hilinski-Rosick, Kathryn A. Branch & Anayah Walker

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JUSTICE EVALUATION JOURNAL

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James Richardson & Lorenn Walker

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The Impact of Technological Support on Citizen Searches for Missing Persons

Jerôme Lam, Nicolien Kop & Celest Houtman

Published online: August 19, 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1080/24751979.2022.2109502>

A Systematic Review of Project Safe Neighborhoods Effects

Davis Sheller, Christi L. Gullion, Chris Guerra, Yan Zhang & Jason R. Ingram

Published online: August 17, 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1080/24751979.2022.2109190>



Recent Publications: August 16–October 15, 2022





SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER (CONTRACT POSITION)

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) is seeking a Social Media Manager to work in concert with our Ad-hoc Social Media Committee to:

- Share announcements about the Academy of Criminal Justice Science's annual meeting and regional meetings across social media accounts
- Take pictures and videos at conferences for posting across social media outlets
- Post summaries for recently published articles in *Justice Quarterly*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, and *Justice Evaluation Journal*
- Promptly respond to questions and comments from followers of social media accounts
- Attend regular meetings with the Social Media Committee to plan strategic outreach and visibility initiatives

The Social Media Manager is expected to work strategically on increasing visibility for: 1) the ACJS Annual Meeting, 2) Membership, and 3) Curated Criminal Justice Research Hot Topics, across all social media platforms (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, etc.). A digital marketing plan with goals and metrics will be required.

This position is an independent contract with a yearly stipend of \$10,000.00.

Send a cover letter and resume detailing your social media experience to: Chad Posick at cposick@georgiasouthern.edu for screening by the ad hoc ACJS Social Media committee.



Jan Yager's *Essentials of Victimology: Crime Victims, Theories, Controversies, and Victims' Rights*

ASPEN PUBLISHING

ISBN-13: 978-1-5438-2933-4

Review by Nina Tenten

Opening up a vast platform for new discussions on a topic that is lacking attention, Dr. Jan Yager's new textbook *Essentials of Victimology* takes a multidisciplinary approach. All too often, we learn about victims of crime and the psychological effects they are left with by reading quick statistics from psychologists who specialize in trauma. Dr. Jan Yager allows readers to immerse themselves in material in an engaging way. The concepts of victimology are displayed, organized, and accompanied by real life problems that are being faced today. By bringing discussions into the chapters' concepts, they are easily comprehended so that readers are constantly understanding each chapter as they continue.

Whether one is studying psychology, criminal justice, or even medicine, *Essentials of Victimology* is beneficial for many disciplines and studies. The key terms and review questions help students reflect on the chapters so that there is a seamless transition onto the next. Dr. Yager does not let topics slip through the cracks as she created sections for the less talked about victims (i.e., cruise ship victims, homicide against pregnant women, and secondary victims to rape and sexual assault). Yager also states, in one of the subsections of

the chapter about child victims, that studies of child sexual abuse by first cousins is "yet to get the attention of other forms of child sexual abuse." In doing so, Yager opens the door for students, researchers, and others to change that.

When reading this textbook, you will feel as if Dr. Yager is speaking to you directly in the same room. There is an intimate style of learning with this textbook and each chapter follows the same structure for easy reading. Dr. Yager begins the textbook with real stories of victims to answer the question "Who are victims?" Dr. Yager even includes her own story about the murder of her older brother during her senior year of college. This tragic story led to her personal interest in studying crime victims. If you were to ever wonder what impact the current judicial system has had on victims, Yager includes an entire chart of past Supreme Court cases and how they may have impacted, expanded, or hindered victims' rights. Throughout the book, Yager uses quotes from her interviews with victims, which allows readers to put the topics into perspective. In her chapter on sibling sexual abuse, Yager includes quotes from an interview with a 51-year-old survivor who endured abuse from her older brother. Not only does Yager include the survivor's experiences, she also describes why the survivor may have explained the abuse the way she did. There is a greater sense of understanding different victims and it shows how victimology supports each and



every one of them on a more elevated level. In the last chapter, Dr. Yager describes all the various careers in victimology, which allows students to observe opportunities that they may have never known about or considered. Even if students are not considering going into those specific fields, victimology is beneficial in so many other careers and in other classes as well.

If you are considering adding victimology to your studies, Dr. Yager's new textbook *Essentials of Victimology* offers an engaging, structured, and an easily digested read. I would definitely recommend this textbook for any college student interested in the social sciences. ■



Nina R. Tenten is a graduate from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a BA in Criminology and a Certificate in Dispute

Resolution. She is currently obtaining her master's degree in Criminal Justice with an advanced certificate in Criminal Investigations. From 2011 to 2017, Nina was involved with the Long Hill Township's Police Explorer program and held the position of Chief for 2 years.

Nina is currently employed with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office and aspires to help lessen the impact of the criminal justice system on victims and their families.

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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.