SAGE Publishing & ACJS

Jr. Faculty Development Workshop Agenda

Welcome to the sixteenth annual SAGE/ACJS Junior Faculty Development Workshop. The focus of each session is on helping you develop teaching strategies and address challenging issues in the classroom, as well as discussing career advancement issues. We hope you not only gain from the exchange of ideas but also establish long-lasting relationships with other attendees and the presenters.

By signing up for this workshop, the expectation is that you will attend all of the workshop sessions. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please notify the workshop coordinator, Trisha Rhodes, trhodes@unomaha.edu, so that individuals who have been placed on the waiting list can attend.

March 3, 2026
Franklin Hall 12, Marriott Downtown Philadelphia
5:30pm-8:00pm

Welcome and Introductions . . . .**5:30pm – 5:45pm**
Sarah Koumourdas, SAGE Publishing, Acquisitions Editor
Trisha Rhodes, Instructor, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Dana Radatz, Professor, Niagara University
Stephanie Mizrahi, Professor and ACJS President, California State University, Sacramento

***Thinking* about Lecture Planning.** . . . . **5:45pm – 6:30pm**
Robert D. Lytle, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock
> *Dr. Lytle's research interests focus on institutional and community corrections, public opinion about crime and justice, and penology. Bob is also a UA Little Rock Faculty Excellence in Teaching award winner and has taught undergraduate and graduate level coursework for more than ten years.*
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> *This session explores practical strategies for planning effective and engaging instruction with attention to various approaches to the traditional lecture. Participants will examine ways to organize and present material thoughtfully and reflect on how instructional choices can support student learning.*

Generative AI in the Criminal Justice Classroom. . . . .**6:30pm – 7:15pm**
Brad Lehmann, Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University
> *Dr. Lehmann's research focuses on authenticity, relationships, and care. Additionally, he focuses on ethical decision making in criminal justice education and professional development. In 2025, he was awarded the VCU Excellence in Pedagogical Innovation award and he is currently co-authoring a person-centric ethics textbook for criminal justice courses.*
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> *This session examines the role of generative AI in the criminal justice classroom, emphasizing ways educators can engage with these tools. It explores best practices, ethical considerations, and policy implications, including issues of academic integrity, student use, and responsible implementation. Grounded in a human-first approach, the session encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and practical strategies for using AI to augment – not replace – teaching and learning.*

Teaching Sensitive Topics Through Vignettes:

Engaging Students in Victimization and Repeat Victimization. . . . . 7:15pm – 8:00pm

Dr. Bailey Saldaña, Visiting Assistant Professor & Program Coordinator, Avila University

Dr. Saldaña's research focuses on violent and sexual victimization, gender, and inequality, with an emphasis on both qualitative and quantitative methods. Bailey's qualitative research includes discourse, policy, and content analyses; and her quantitative research includes analysis of large-scale datasets and survey experiments.

This session highlights the use of vignette-based activities to teach sensitive topics related to victimization and repeat victimization in an engaging, student-centered way. Through character development and guided scenarios, students analyze risk factors, consequences, and prevention strategies while building empathy and critical thinking. The session demonstrates how structured vignettes can foster meaningful discussion of complex and emotionally charged content.

March 4, 2025
Franklin Hall 12, Marriott Downtown Philadelphia
8:00am-Noon

Reimagining Criminal Justice Education in the Age of AI:

Community-Engaged Learning for Deep Impact. . . . . 8:00am – 8:45am

Dr. David Taylor, Professor, Niagara University

Dr. Taylor served as the inaugural director of the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M. Institute for Civic Engagement, which he co-founded in 2011. In his role at the Levesque Institute, Dr. Taylor worked to expand the university's community partnerships and to strengthen service-learning and community-based research at the university. Dave teaches courses on race, gender, and class, homeland security, introduction to criminal justice, and careers in criminal justice. He has received several awards for service, and recently directed the creation of Niagara University's Master of Arts program in Criminal Justice Administration in Ontario, CA.

The rapid growth of AI is seen by some as the death knell for the future of higher education and learning, but it actually offers opportunities to reinvent and reimagine what we do with our students. This workshop presents strategies and high impact practices that can be done across several different criminal justice courses that allow students to work on real-world problems, collaborate with peers, and develop their soft skills. The facilitation of active and experiential learning moves us away from the transmission of knowledge model to foster curiosity and promote deep learning.

Writing & Publishing Through a Changing Political Climate. . . . . 8:45am – 9:30am

Dr. Lorenzo M. Boyd is the Steward Professor of Criminal Justice and Community Policing at the University of New Haven

Dr. Boyd is a former ACJS president and nationally recognized scholar in police-community relations and urban policing. He is a Life Member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE). He served for 14 years as a Sheriff's Deputy in Suffolk County (MA), which has shaped his approach to teaching, research, and training of police commanders and officers. Widely published, most recently Lorenzo co-authored the book, "Police in the U.S.: Past Present, and Future," and he currently has a book contract in progress with SAGE.

This session presents a comprehensive and timely examination of the challenges of publishing criminal justice manuscripts and texts in the current state of American politics. Presented from a practical perspective, this presentation offers a realistic look at the struggles of writing contemporary scholarship when some of the normative legal practices have changed or have been altered.

Leveling Up Graduate Education:
Using Gamification to Teach Research, Pedagogy, and Professional Development. . . . . 9:30am – 10:00am
Dr. Wanda Leal, Associate Professor, Assistant Department Chair, Sam Houston State University

Dr. Leal is one of the 2026 Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award winners. Dr. Leal will present on a series of gamified teaching tools designed to enhance graduate student engagement, professional development, and pedagogical training in criminal justice. Her innovations include Game of Life: Academia Edition, Faculty Guess Who, and Research Methods Clue. These activities help graduate students better understand academic career pathways, build connections with faculty, and develop effective teaching strategies for undergraduate courses. By transforming professional development and research methods instruction into interactive, game-based experiences, these tools promote active learning, critical thinking, and teaching confidence while modeling creative pedagogy that can be adapted across disciplines.

From Theory to Practice: Learning from Wrongful Convictions. . . . . 10:00am – 10:30am
Kenya Brumfield-Young, MLS, MSCJ, PhD Candidate (ABD), Associate Professor, Saint Louis University

Kenya Brumfield-Young, MLS, MSCJ, PhD Candidate (ABD), is an Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Saint Louis University and a 2026 Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award winner. Her teaching and scholarship focus on wrongful convictions, criminal justice ethics, and experiential pedagogy. She is the creator and supervisor of the Wrongful Conviction Review Internship, a two-semester program in which students engage in structured academic review of post-conviction innocence claims in partnership with Innocence Projects.

Kenya's work examines how trauma, race, and structural inequality shape justice system outcomes, with particular attention to juvenile justice and post-conviction review. She has been consulted on legislative and policy efforts related to wrongful convictions and juvenile justice reform and is the recipient of multiple institutional awards for teaching, service, and engaged scholarship.

In this session, Kenya will present on the Wrongful Conviction Review Course, a two-semester course built around teaching ethics and criminal justice procedure through wrongful conviction work. The first semester is classroom-based and focuses on theory, ethical frameworks, and the broader conditions that contribute to wrongful convictions. The second semester is fully hands-on. Students work with case records submitted by individuals asserting innocence and engage with the material in a guided, trauma-aware setting. Throughout the course, the emphasis is on responsibility, reflection, and care, ensuring that students approach the work with respect for the people at the center of these cases while connecting ethical ideas to real-world consequences.

Making Teaching Fun and Easy with Vantage!. . . . . 10:30am – 11:00am
Angela Lally Seither, LMS Specialist, SAGE Publishing

Angela Seither MBA, has worked for Sage for over five years, and has been working in college technology for more than 30 years. She is a senior technical trainer at SAGE and also teaches at Delgado Community College. She teaches classes such as business computer applications, entrepreneurship, business math, introduction to business and business communication. She is slated to graduate with her Masters in Instructional Design and Technology in May 2024.

This session introduces Vantage, SAGE's online learning management system, as a tool to make teaching more efficient and engaging. Participants will explore practical features and strategies for using Vantage to streamline course management, enhance student interaction, and simplify everyday teaching tasks. The session highlights how technology can support instructors in creating a more dynamic and enjoyable learning experience.

Distribution of Sage Certificates, and Final Comments . . . . 11:00am – 12:00pm
Sarah Koumourdas, SAGE Publishing, Acquisitions Editor
Trisha Rhodes, Instructor, University of Nebraska-Omaha
Dana Radatz, Professor, Niagara University