

ACJS *today*

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Newsletter



Welcome to the New [Academic] Year: Greetings from ACJS 2022–2023 President Denise Paquette Boots

Greetings, ACJS Members!

I want to extend a warm welcome to our members as we start this new academic year. I hope that you had a productive summer and that you also got to explore beyond your backyard as travel restrictions have eased due to COVID. My adventures this summer included leading a five-week study abroad trip with 20 UT Dallas students to gorgeous Switzerland (this Texan really struggled with no air conditioning); it was a treat to travel internationally again.

It is a tremendous privilege to be serving as President of ACJS

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this year and our leadership team is hard at work planning our upcoming annual meeting in beautiful National Harbor, Maryland in March of 2023. I wanted to share a sneak peek with you regarding events we are planning for our upcoming meeting, but first, let me introduce myself and my Program Co-chairs to those of you who we have not had the pleasure of meeting before now.

This August I start my 17th academic year here at the University of Texas of Dallas, where I currently serve as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the School of Economic, Policy & Policy Sciences, Professor of Public Policy and Political Economy, and the Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Urban Policy Research. I am a proud three-time Bull alumna, receiving my doctorate from the University of South Florida in 2006. I am also a former practitioner, having previously served as a U.S. Border Patrol Agent trainee and a Level 4 juvenile counselor for adjudicated youth.

My research and teaching focus on issues related to interpersonal violence, with an emphasis on domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, campus sexual assault, mental health, capital punishment, human trafficking, gendered pathways to crime and victimization, parricide, and outcome and process evaluations of courts and criminal justice programs. I am a

frequent consultant and invited speaker on my areas of expertise, and I am very invested in student mentoring and success, having won several major teaching awards such as the Minnie Piper Professor of Texas Award and UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. I am extremely honored to be representing ACJS this year as President, and I will be traveling this fall to the European Criminology, Southern Criminal Justice, and Western Association of Criminal Justice



**ACJS 2022–2023 President
Denise Paquette Boots, PhD**

Association conferences, as well as the American Society of Criminology meeting. Heather Pfeifer (Immediate Past President) and Anthony Peguero (1st Vice President) have graciously agreed to represent ACJS at the Southwestern, Midwestern, and Northeastern Criminal Justice regional conferences as well. We look forward to visiting with board leaders, members, and students at these meetings!

I have been fortunate to work alongside my two dedicated Program Co-Chairs (as well as our ever-so-patient Association Manager Letiscia Perrin and long-time active ACJS member Stephanie Mizrahi) for the past three years, both of whom have given generously of their time to support ACJS and our meeting programming, especially as we have transitioned to a new submission and registration system.



Stacy L. Mallicoat is Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of the University Honors program at California State University, Fullerton. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2003. She is active in study abroad programming and has developed faculty-led programming for Italy, Australia, and the Netherlands. Her research areas of specializations include feminist criminology, capital punishment, and program evaluation. She is the author of several books with Sage Publications including *Women, Gender and Crime: Core Concepts, Crime and Criminal Justice: Concepts and Controversies*, and *Criminal Justice Policy*. Her recent book, *Survivor Criminology: A Radical Act of Hope* with Rowman and Littlefield (co-edited with Kimberly Cook, Jason Williams, Renee Lamphere, and Alissa Ackerman), is a trauma-informed approach to the study of crime and justice that stems from the lived experiences of crime survivors. Stacy and I are also the co-founders of the Ph.D. Mamas/Parents roundtables that are offered annually at ASC and ACJS annual meetings, seeking to support parents as they navigate balancing work and life.

My Program Co-Chair Jennifer Wareham and I met during our first year of the master's program in Criminology at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa. When we progressed into the doctoral program in Criminology, our mentors, John Cochran and Christine Sellers, conspired to have Jenn and I work together preparing for our comprehensive exams. At the time, we resisted being forced to team up to prepare for something

we viewed as independent study; however, we grew to be the best of friends and colleagues (and are grateful to have mentors who brought us together). I've since collaborated with Jenn on many projects and publications over the years, and so she was a natural choice to tap for as a Program Co-Chair for our conference. Jenn earned her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in Criminology from USF, receiving her doctorate in 2005. After graduate school, she joined the faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice at Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit as an assistant professor; she was promoted to full professor in 2020. During her time at WSU, Jennifer has served in various service roles, including Graduate Director of the Criminal Justice M.S. program and interim director for the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program. She has been an advocate of diversity, equity, and inclusion at her institution and within the profession. Jenn's research focuses on juvenile delinquency, intimate partner violence, mental health, and program evaluation. She has co-authored over 70 peer-reviewed articles and several technical reports and book chapters. Recently, she has served as a faculty mentor on a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) grant in her department.

This has been a very busy year for our team as we have begun to finalize plans for the 60th annual meeting of ACJS which will be held March 14-18, 2023. We are striving to build a program with rich content, various workshops to support our professional academic, practitioner, and student



ACJS Presidential Greeting

members, and outstanding keynote and plenary panels which highlight our theme: “60 Years of ACJS: Critical Connections between Civil Rights, Crime, and Social Justice.” Held at the beautiful and spacious Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, the hotel is situated directly on the scenic Potomac River and accessible to Washington, DC, and Alexandria, Virginia via taxi or ferry. There are shops, restaurants, and a Ferris wheel surrounding our conference hotel, and informal meeting

featured in the 2023 meeting, with 12 presidential topic areas ranging from constitutional issues and civil rights- to health disparities and COVID-19- to healing and restorative justice practices- to critical conversations on criminal justice reform. If you have not submitted them yet, please make sure to get your entries in before the September 30, 2022, paper and panel submission deadline. Our Local Arrangements Chair, Kristy Artello, has also been hard at work creating a wealth of information on transportation, dining, attractions,



ACJS 60th ANNUAL MEETING March 14-18, 2023 ★ National Harbor, MD

Critical Connections between Civil Rights + Crime + Social Justice



spaces throughout the facility. For those who may be interested, I share this [short video](#) here of the highlights of our spectacular meeting location.

I am grateful to all of you who have reached out to express your excitement for our conference theme and who have submitted papers, panels, and roundtables to support our upcoming meeting—and who have volunteered to serve ACJS this year on standing committees and our national program committee. We will have 73 unique topic areas

and other helpful information to make your visit to National Harbor as memorable as possible. In addition, she has helped to coordinate two great tours that we will offer before and during the conference: (1) a DC at Dusk Monuments Tour and (2) a History of Black Georgetown and Civil Rights Tour. These will be limited seating and pre-paid ticketed events, so keep an eye out for announcements and purchase your seats early! We will also offer several pre-conference workshops on the Tuesday before the conference, including



a continuing education class related to mental health and self-care for academics, assessment, and the Sage Professional Development Teaching Workshop. Additional workshops during the meeting will offer training, roundtable discussions, and support on topics such as program review, grant writing and funding opportunities with national criminal justice agencies, employment tips, and professional development, and press media, social networking and social media, and writing for media and op-eds. While we will finalize the program and schedule in the coming months, I am thrilled to share news of our featured keynote speaker, Chef Chad Houser, who hails from my current hometown of Dallas. Chad is an accomplished executive chef, and the CEO and founder of the non-profit Café Momentum you can see more about this organization [here](#). The mission of Café Momentum is to break the cycle of incarceration and violence by offering upward opportunities for education, support, and enrichment to justice-involved youth from the ages of 15-19. They partner with the Dallas County Juvenile Justice Department to provide a 12-month internship program that seeks to support each youth holistically. Their youth interns immerse in learning about operations, support, and marketing for the thriving and award-winning restaurant, food truck, and catering business, with equal attention by assigned case managers to each youth's financial, socioemotional, mental health, and occupational development needs. With a brick-and-mortar restaurant in the heart of downtown Dallas, Café Momentum offers a real-time classroom for customers to enjoy

culinary delights while also supporting criminal justice reform by bringing community partners to the table to break bread with these youth (and I mean this literally).

I met Chad less than a year after he founded Café Momentum when his crew catered an event for our research group IUPR at UT Dallas; his energy and commitment to social justice, giving back to his community, and providing hopeful pathways for young people is truly inspiring. He is the epitome of the power of one person having a dream and acting on it to make a positive difference, and he was a perfect fit to headline our meeting keynote address and complement our meeting theme. With an ambitious plan in action to expand to other US cities annually, Café Momentum is now operating in Pittsburgh and Nashville and his organization is receiving broad support from high-profile partners nationally. Chad will be traveling to National Harbor with several of his youth interns and some of his staff to address our membership about his work as a criminal justice reform warrior. As a very special treat, we have also scheduled a small-class cooking class where you can learn how to make the best southern biscuits, break bread, and meet Chad and the youth in his program. Keep an eye out for announcements about opening for registration for this evening-cooking event, as seats will go very fast. In addition, the Café Momentum team will offer a private screening of a documentary about their work on an evening of our meeting. We will have a tasty treat bar for documentary attendees and conduct a giveaway of goodie



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bags. I hope you will be able to join us for one or all of these events, meet Chad and his youth interns, and hear about the critical social justice work that is being done by Café Momentum.

Other events I hope you might be able to attend include the Presidential Address on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 15th, followed by the Presidential Reception. This event is free and open to all attendees, but seats will be limited. I also encourage all our new members and students to attend our complimentary breakfast that Wednesday morning—many of our ACJS Executive Board will be in attendance and we want to meet you! And calling all trivia experts out there—get your team of two to 10 people registered for our 2nd annual Trivia Night event on Wednesday, March 15th where you can win great prizes! The ACJS Employment Exchange will open at mid-day on Wednesday, and we are considering offering professionalization workshops to support students who are on the market for academic- and practitioner-related positions. Our exhibit hall will have publishers, vendors, agencies, and institutional partners available each day, too. Friday, March 17th, we are working to develop an exciting slate of plenary and keynote events which will culminate at the ACJS Awards Luncheon. Claire Renzetti is chairing the Awards Committee this year and I am very grateful to her for taking on this enormous service role (and I also want to thank the many award committee chairs and members as well!). Come celebrate our award winners across the Academy who will be recognized for their stellar contributions to

scholarship, practice, service, and teaching! As a lover of good coffee and treats, we are also planning several coffee and sweet treat events to provide some sustenance for a busy conference.

In closing, the Program Committee and the entire ACJS leadership team are working hard to provide a memorable, fun, enriching annual meeting with opportunities for all our Academy members. I want to recognize the tremendous support I have received from our amazing ACJS Executive Board members, our regional association and section leaders, ACJS Executive Director John Worrall, Letiscia Perrin as ACJS Manager, the Assistant-to-the-President, Charanjit “Jeet” Singh, and my standing committee chairs and program topic chairs. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Immediate Past President Heather Pfeifer, 1st Vice President Anthony Peguero, and 2nd Vice President Bitna Kim as we move toward the annual meeting and in continuing to serve ACJS. I hope that this sneak peek of our planned events and activities for National Harbor gives you something to look forward to, and I am excited to see many of you at meetings in the months to come. Wishing each of you continued success, good health, and a productive fall. ■



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Your research matters! There is no better place to showcase it than the **60th ACJS Annual Meeting** in National Harbor, MD. Be sure to respond to the **Call for Presentations** on or before the deadline to ensure your abstract submission is included in the review process. Topic Chairs anxiously await your submissions, so please don't wait until the last minute. **Hurry, because the deadline is quickly approaching!**

To view the topic areas, instructions on submitting your abstract, and other details, visit <https://www.acjs.org/page/2023CallforPresentations>.

Submission Deadline preferred: September 30, 2022

Final Deadline: October 10, 2022

Remember: Register as soon as possible to get the best price on the meeting registration fee and to secure your spot at this highly anticipated event. **For an Overview of the meeting and registration details visit:** <https://www.acjs.org/page/2023AnnualMeeting>. Scroll down the page to view information on workshops and other special events.

Interested in Exhibiting during the 60th ACJS Annual Meeting? Find out how you can become an Exhibitor and invest with your target audience by visiting the Exhibits page - <https://www.acjs.org/page/ExhibitsACJSAnnual2023>.

Sponsorship Opportunities - <https://www.acjs.org/page/AnnualSponsor2023>

Advertising Opportunities - <https://www.acjs.org/page/AnnualAdvertising2023>

SAVE with Advance Registration!!! Deadline: Monday, February 6, 2023. To Register, visit <https://www.acjs.org/page/AnnualReg2023>.



What's in a Name? On Journal Article Titles

By Peter S. Lehmann, PhD

One of the most consequential decisions an author must make in the course of writing an academic journal article is choosing a title. For better or worse (probably the latter), first impressions matter in academic writing (Haggan, 2004; Silvia, 2008), and crafting a title for an article provides authors with the unique opportunity—and challenge—to communicate to editors, reviewers, and readers several key pieces of information in only a few words. While the titling of one's work is a matter of personal taste, some stylistic guidelines can aid authors with the selection of titles that enhance readers' interest and, hopefully, garner scholarly attention.

Empirical Research on "Good" Titles

Psychologists have long investigated the effects of titles and other methods of organizing text information (e.g., Dooling & Mullet, 1973; Filipatou & Pumfrey, 1996; Schwarz & Flammer, 1981). Unsurprisingly, experimental research reveals that participants who are presented with passages preceded by informative titles demonstrate improved comprehension and recall. In academic literatures as well, effective titles activate readers' schema—structured background knowledge—that enhance understanding and contribute to the social construction and sharing of meaning within scientific communities (Bazerman, 1985). Titles can have a motivational effect as well, fostering readers' interest and encouraging them to read beyond the title itself (Sadoski et al., 2000). This issue is particular-

ly relevant in criminology and criminal justice, as the rapidly expanding literature in our field creates fierce competition for scholars' time and attention. Thus, a thought-provoking and attention-grabbing title might have effects on the long-term visibility of a given piece of work, as researchers frequently do not read beyond the title to ascertain a study's key findings for citation purposes (Mabe & Amin, 2002).

Although myriad factors are likely to influence citation counts, there is a rather sizeable body of empirical work examining relationships between articles' citation trajectories and the various features of their titles; however, this literature has produced a dizzying array of contradictory patterns (Rossi & Brand, 2020). Nonetheless, readers of academic work have preferences regarding the content and structure of titles (Hallock & Bennett, 2021; Hartley, 2007; Lippman et al., 2019). Since researchers skim far more titles than they read full papers, the title is a pivotal way that the focus and relevance of a piece of writing can be shared with others quickly. The choice of title, then, simultaneously represents a factual description, an expression of scholarly identity, and an act of salesmanship (Bowman & Kinnan, 2018; Haggan, 2004). Accordingly, some scholars have offered various recommendations for crafting effective titles. Below, I summarize these tips and highlight several studies published in *Justice Quarterly* that, in my view, exemplify these best practices.

Tips for Crafting an Effective Title

Tip #1: Be concise, captivating, and catchy. In addition to avoiding jargon and obscure acronyms, authors typically need not provide too many study-specific details in their titles. Instead,



a strong title gives readers just enough information about the article to be intrigued and want to know more (Letchford et al., 2015; Schmidt, 2021). Authors, therefore, are faced with a rather daunting challenge: attract curious readers while communicating as much information as possible without relying on unnecessary words. Though recent issues of *Justice Quarterly* are rife with punchy, effective titles, one article that accomplishes these tasks notably well is the paper by Brandon Applegate (2017) titled “Advancing Justice Through Our Students.” This approachable and straightforward title invites the reader to reflect on the meaning of “justice” itself and consider how our teaching can accomplish such a goal—even before reading the article. Another great example is the modestly titled “Becoming an Informant” (Miller, 2011), which piques curiosity without any superfluous words or esoteric theoretical concepts.

Tip #2: Emphasize grammatical subjects. Following closely from the above tip, Schmidt (2021) recommends that researchers should use their titles to emphasize grammatical subjects, that is, to name the concepts of interest and situate those terms early in the title. In so doing, authors can limit such phrases as “the effects of,” “the consequences of,” “the characteristics of,” “examining,” “investigating,” and “disentangling,” which typically convey little information yet often add substantial weight to the word count of the title. The inclusion of a colon may help break up information for ease of reading, but it can sometimes compromise this simplicity of focus (Lewison & Hartley, 2005; van Wesel et al., 2014). Excellent examples of this suggestion are two article titles that read simply “Prison Visitation and Recidivism” (Mears et al., 2012)

and “Auto Theft and Restrictive Deterrence” (Jacobs & Cherbonneau, 2014). Not a single word is wasted, yet there is no ambiguity.

Tip #3: Ask compelling questions. As one scholar contends, “Using a question as a title may serve as a stylistic spice, but the majority of your readers are looking for answers, not for questions” (Schmidt, 2021, p. 2642). Others, however, have suggested that interrogative titles may be effective in certain contexts (e.g., Hartley, 2005). While a title framed as a question may be considered redundant given the inherent aims of scientific inquiry, some titles ask important questions that demand answers. Specifically, if the question is of general interest to the discipline or relates to some unresolved theoretical dispute, calling immediate attention to it can be a successful rhetorical technique that renders a paper more memorable and more easily located via search engines. Good examples abound, but the recent titles which ask, “How Powerful is the Evidence in Criminology?” (Barnes et al., 2020), “For Whom Do Sanctions Deter or Label?” (Morris & Piquero, 2013), and “A War on Cops?” (Maguire et al., 2017) do so very effectively.

Tip #4: Use clichés and colloquialisms judiciously. Although some scholars advocate for the total abandonment of metaphors, clichés, cultural references, and wordplay (e.g., Goodman, 2012; Sagi & Yechiam, 2008), a case can be made that these tools may be used appropriately in certain instances (Subotic & Mukherjee, 2014). Specifically, if this lexical choice does not undermine the seriousness of the subject matter, is directly relevant to the article’s focus, and will help readers remember the article’s title, such a



decision can be justified. Examples of titles in which puns and colloquialisms are used successfully are those which refer to “The Path of Least Desistance” (Cochran & Mears, 2017) and “The Shocking Empirical Reality” surrounding police use of stun guns (Terrill & Paoline, 2012). The phrases “A Plague on Both Your Houses” (Moreto et al., 2014) and “A Liberal Is Someone Who Has Not Been Mugged” (Unnever et al., 2007) also work particularly well.

Tip #5: Be non-neutral. Not all scientific endeavors are conciliatory. Sometimes, authors must make strong claims about the empirical veracity of a classic theory, critique widely held assumptions about a body of literature, advocate for the fieldwide acknowledgment of a social problem, or defend one’s work against aspersions from other scientists. In these instances, it can be prudent to strike a tone of principled non-neutrality in the title, thereby alerting readers to the key finding from the study or identifying the crux of the author’s position on some issue (Schmidt, 2021). Titles which take this approach can be rather subtle (“The Questionable Advantage of Defense Counsel in Juvenile Court”; Burruss & Kempf-Leonard, 2002) or more direct (“Focally Concerned About Focal Concerns”; Lynch, 2019). Along these same lines, one of my favorite titles pointedly asks, “Where Is Latisha’s Law?” (Kulig & Cullen, 2017).

Conclusion

Constructing a concise, interesting, and poignant title that also clearly describes the focus of the article is a difficult task. While the long-term effects of articles’ titles on scholarly impact remain equivocal, a successful title can engage relevant schema, increase motivation to read

further, and improve comprehension. As a result, this highly personal and subjective choice can have downstream consequences for the consumption of scientific knowledge, as an attractive title can allow a piece of academic work to better compete with other research for readers’ limited time and attention. While far from a definitive list, I hope these tips are helpful for authors as they work to craft this small but crucial point of initial contact between themselves and their audience. ■

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The Stockholm Prize and the Spirit of Altruism: A Travelogue

By Liqun Cao, PhD

It was such an amazing conference held in such a beautiful city during such a pleasant summertime. What I meant was the 2022 Stockholm Criminology Symposium in conjunction with the ceremony of Stockholm Prize in Criminology 2021 and 2022. My mentor and friend Francis T. Cullen was one of the two recipients of the 2022 Stockholm Prize in Criminology. Queen Silvia of Sweden personally presented the plaques to all laureates in the Blue Hall of the Stockholm City Building—one of the most grandiose city halls in the world.

The symposium is a three-day event from Monday to Wednesday, held annually in early June since 2006. The symposium grew out of the efforts by Professor Lawrence Sherman, acting on behalf of the American Society of Criminology, to create a new prize for criminology and with a seed grant from The Jerry Lee Foundation (Sherman,

2022). The idea of such a prize resonated well with Professor Jerzy Sarnecki of Sweden. With the concerted efforts of Stockholm University and the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, the Prize and Symposium became a reality in 2006. Afterward, the Swedish Ministry of Justice and the Torsten Söderberg Foundation jointly established a permanent foundation: the Stockholm Prize in Criminology Foundation. The Hitachi Mirai Foundation joined as co-founders. Regular support is also received from the Japanese Correctional Association.

The Stockholm Prize in Criminology is awarded “for outstanding achievements in criminological research or for the reduction of crime and the advancement of human rights.” The Prize has been a smashing success, thanks to the jury that rigorously selects candidates for the award each year.

According to international award reputation surveys (Jiang & Liu, 2018), the Stockholm Prize in Criminology is the most prestigious international academic award in *the field of law*. That’s right, “in the field of law,” not in criminology as a part of behavioral sciences. Traditionally, the law was *par excellence* in the career open to talent. Within academia, law professors have a higher salary and lower teaching load (Cao, 2020). Seeing the Prize through the lens of prestige “logically” leads the public to the conclusion that criminology is “in the field of law.”

With the Prize, criminology has surpassed its peer academic disciplines, such as law and sociology, in prestige and status. Over the years, the laureates of the Prize include scholars from law, psychology, and sociology. In fact, more scholars from other disciplines have received the Prize than those trained as criminologists. This is a good sign, however, because it indicates that criminology has outgrown its peer disciplines. What is more, it is a manifestation that



the goal of criminology is to promote an inclusive and supportive society (Cullen, 1994; Young, 2011).

I did not pay much attention to the significance of the Prize until Frank was selected as a recipient this year. I decided to attend this year's ceremony and to contribute a paper to the symposium, which I paid for myself. Most universities such as mine do not allocate any travel funds beyond a single professional conference.

The Kingdom of Sweden has led the democratic world in many aspects. As a welfare society, it ranks highly in per capita income, quality of life, the protection of civil liberties, economic competitiveness, and gender equality. No matter how a nation is measured, Sweden ends up near the top, positively. The nation's homicide rate has been about 1 per 100,000 for the past 10 years and the prison population rate is about 70 per 100,000. In comparison, the homicide rate in the USA hovers around 5 per 100,000 and the prison population rate is approximately 900

per 100,000.

My wife Meiling and I arrived in Stockholm on the sunny morning of Wednesday, June 8. During the trip, the airline required all passengers to wear masks. At the Stockholm Arlanda Airport, there was no mask-wearing mandate and no need to declare your vaccination status. Entering customs was easy and pleasant. The signs at the airport are clearly marked in Swedish and in English. It is easy to find your way into the city with a taxi, train, or bus.

We wandered in the city for several days, visiting the ABBA Museum, Skansen Open Air Museum, Vasa Museum, Summer Palace by boat, and Noble Museum. We noticed that Stockholm's population was more diverse than anticipated, especially in its new generation.

My friend Emil Plywaczewski of Poland arrived on Saturday. As a member of the jury selecting the winners of the Stockholm Prize, he is well-known across the globe. He introduced me to many international dignitaries beyond the circle of criminologists.

The symposium began on Monday. All presentations were in English, showing the versatility of scholars from various nations. Each time slot in the symposium was divided into four simultaneous sessions. One panel in the late afternoon that attracted my attention was "Questioning Criminology—A case of scientific populism?" I entered the packed room. Emil greeted me and whispered that this session was a surprise gathering to celebrate the birthday of the symposium's Swedish initiator, Jerzy Sarnecki. I learned that Jerzy was born in Poland and immigrated to Sweden when he was in college, following his Jewish parents. I was delighted to get a copy of the edited book *A Life in Criminology: Jerzy Sarnecki*.

After the day's conference, there was a reception party. I was hanging out with Frank when Larry Sherman came by to give Frank a copy of the volume honoring Jerzy. He exhorted to Frank, "Read it and it is very interesting" before leaving in a hurry. I could not but wonder why Larry had not won the Stockholm Prize. Frank told me



that Larry relinquished his right to receive the Prize. I was surprised to learn this and did not believe it at first. On second thought, I realized that it must be true because Larry is fully qualified for the Prize.

Larry is a sociology-trained criminologist. He made the list of the most-cited scholars in five international journals from 2016–2020 (Farrington et al., 2022). Not only is he a police pundit, but also a pathbreaking figure within criminology. When he was in charge of the scientific committee of the International Society of Criminology, he created the “Young Scholar Award.” In 1997, I was one of the winners of the Award in Seoul, Korea. Larry has many more accomplishments that I and most other criminologists are not aware of. The Stockholm Prize in Criminology, for example, is one of them.

On the day of the gala event on Tuesday, I asked Larry whether it was true that he relinquished his right to the Prize. He confirmed it. He said that someone believed that he was so enthusiastic in promoting the idea of a

prize because he would be one of beneficiaries. To eliminate such concern once and for all, he pledged that he would not be eligible to receive the Prize. His purpose for the Prize is to promote criminology as a credible discipline. Our conversation was interrupted by the award ceremony, but my reaction to such an altruist act was enormous. I could not believe that such an action had not been known more widely in the criminological community.

I regard Larry and Jerzy’s action as altruism, which is the moral practice for the happiness of other human beings, resulting in an improved quality of life both materially and/or spiritually. Establishing a prize for others constitutes such an act.

The evening ceremony was simple and grandiose. The winners of the Prize waited outside the Blue Hall to greet the Queen of Sweden. Queen Silvia shook hands with every winner and then her arrival was announced to the audience sitting in the hall. All attendees stood up. Her majesty led the winners (Elijah Anderson, Francis T. Cullen, and

Cheryl L. Jonson on behalf of Peggy Giordano) into the hall and walked to her chair. Every laureate of the Prize gave an acceptance speech. Frank, in his speech, mentioned every former PhD student who attended the ceremony, including me.

My mind flashed back 30-plus years ago at the University of Cincinnati. I was a graduate assistant in the Department of Sociology, where Frank’s wife Paula Dubeck was the Chair. The best decision in my life was to do my master’s thesis and PhD dissertation under the guidance of Frank. In doing my master’s thesis, I went often to his office located in an old, shabby two-storied building called “French Hall”—the lobby was dark and dank. The trash cans outside the offices made the hallway even more narrow. This was where the Department of Criminal Justice was originally located. Frank introduced me to Ed Latessa and to a group of dynamic criminologists. I began to feel their energy. Now a School of Criminal Justice had embarked on a rags-to-riches success story: these



criminologists reset the button of rehabilitation (Cullen & Gilbert, 1982) at a time when the scholarly landscape was dominated by conservatives calling for the punishment of the “wicked,” and they made their dream true by creating a leading PhD program in criminology over the next decade. Sporting a well-kept beard that is his signature for all these years, Frank is a great public speaker. With a cautious and academic mien, he never loses his sense of humor even on important occasions, such as the Stockholm Prize ceremony.

After the ceremony was over, the Queen departed, and we all proceeded upstairs to Golden Hall for dinner, during which there were performances by musicians and a female singer originally from Canada.

The Stockholm Prize is not simply a beacon to all criminologists, but also to the entire academic world. Because of it, criminology’s prestige exceeds other academic disciplines, such as sociology—its parent discipline with a longer history (Cao, 2020; Dooley, 2019). There are few issues in pop culture

that garner more interest and intrigue than an award or prize. International awards not only are a sign of personal excellence, but also play a significant role in evaluating the performance of institutions as well as nations.

In its formative years, Thorsten Selin (1938, p. 3) satirized criminology as “a bastard science grown out of public preoccupation with a plague.” I was attracted to the study of crime by a group of ambitious criminologists who were convinced that they could make a difference, and indeed they have! I am delighted to find that this “bastard science” has outgrown its parent in terms of international prestige!

Criminology in the United States has been a divided academic discipline. The early division between criminology and criminal justice is largely over (Hunter, 2011), but the issue of whether criminology should remain within sociology or become independent has never been settled (see Savelsberg & Sampson, 2002; Laub, 2006). In addition, there are internal

fights, a phenomenon that Barak (2003, p. 219) attributed, in part, to “the fact that both inside and outside the academy, most criminologists—establishment and anti-establishment—have always experienced a relative sense of insecurity and marginality regarding their value, place, or relevance in society.” I argue that criminology as a discipline is no more divided than, say, evolutionary biology—a field that was described as one “that seems to lapse into discord every decade or so” (Lehrer, 2012, p. 40)—or its parent discipline, sociology (see Abbott, 2018). Criminology has always been and will remain an open academic discipline (Cao, 2020).

I returned from Stockholm with a renewed confidence for the future of criminology/criminal justice. The Stockholm Prize helps legitimate criminology as a credible discipline. As a practice-oriented discipline, we are fortunate to have two uncrowned kings of criminology—Jerzy Sarnecki and Lawrence Sherman—who do not simply say what they believe is



a good society (Cullen, 1994; Young, 2011) but also put what they believe into reality. They are the unsung heroes for all criminologists to emulate. ■

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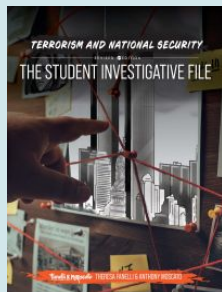
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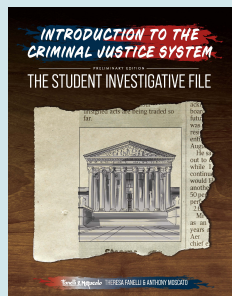
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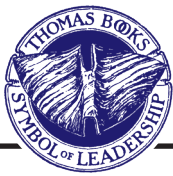
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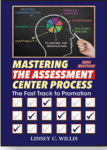
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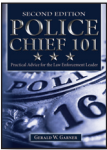
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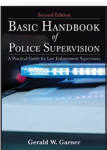


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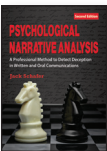
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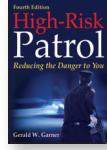
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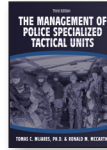


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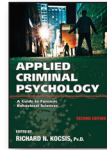
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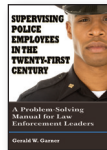


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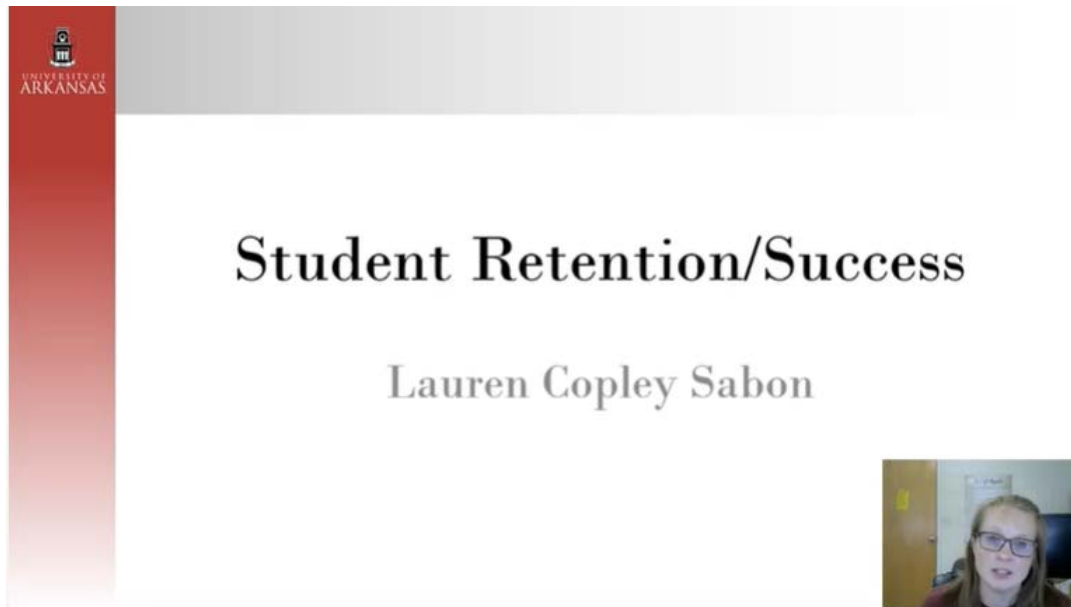




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The video may be accessed [here](#).



Lauren Copley Sabon, PhD, is Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Arkansas. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Dr. Sabon teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate level, particularly introductory, corrections, and specialized courses on juvenile justice and the death penalty. She currently serves as the Chair of the UA One Book One Community Committee- leading the common reading effort on her campus along with being the faculty advisor for the campus chapter of LAE. Dr. Sabon has been extensively involved with professional development at the University of Arkansas, earning numerous commendations from her university's

Teaching and Faculty Support Center. She was also recognized with the 2017 *Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award* from the Affirmative Action Committee of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

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The United Nations and Its Connections to ACJS and ASC

By Philip Reichel, PhD and Jay Albanese, PhD

We welcome this opportunity to explain a bit about the relationship ACJS and ASC have with the United Nations and to encourage members to consider opportunities the UN offers in areas of research, teaching, and service. As explained below, both organizations have official representatives to the UN (your authors) and this article highlights some key links between the UN, professional organizations, and your work.

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UN meetings are not open to the general public, but civil society can participate in various ways. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), which can include academic and other established civil society groups, can have a role in formal UN deliberations through a relationship with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Both ACJS and ASC have applied for that affiliation and have been granted ECOSOC Special Consultative Status to the UN. This status allows each organization to have an official representative and attend and participate in select UN events, and also approve other ACJS

and ASC members who may wish to attend various UN meetings. Another related organization with ECOSOC status is [Criminologists Without Borders](#), which has some people from ACJS and ASC as members.

ECOSOC is the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues and for formulating policy [recommendations](#). To carry out its mandate, ECOSOC carries out its work through nine functional commissions, three of which have direct relevance to issues of crime and justice:

(1) **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** (CCPCJ) acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,

(2) **Commission on Narcotic Drugs** (CND) functions as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and assists ECOSOC in supervising the application of the

international drug control treaties, and

(3) **Commission on the Status of Women** (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The CCPCJ and CND meet annually at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria. These events are hosted by the UNODC to develop policy on crime through resolutions and decisions, standards



Drs. Jay Albanese and Philip Reichel

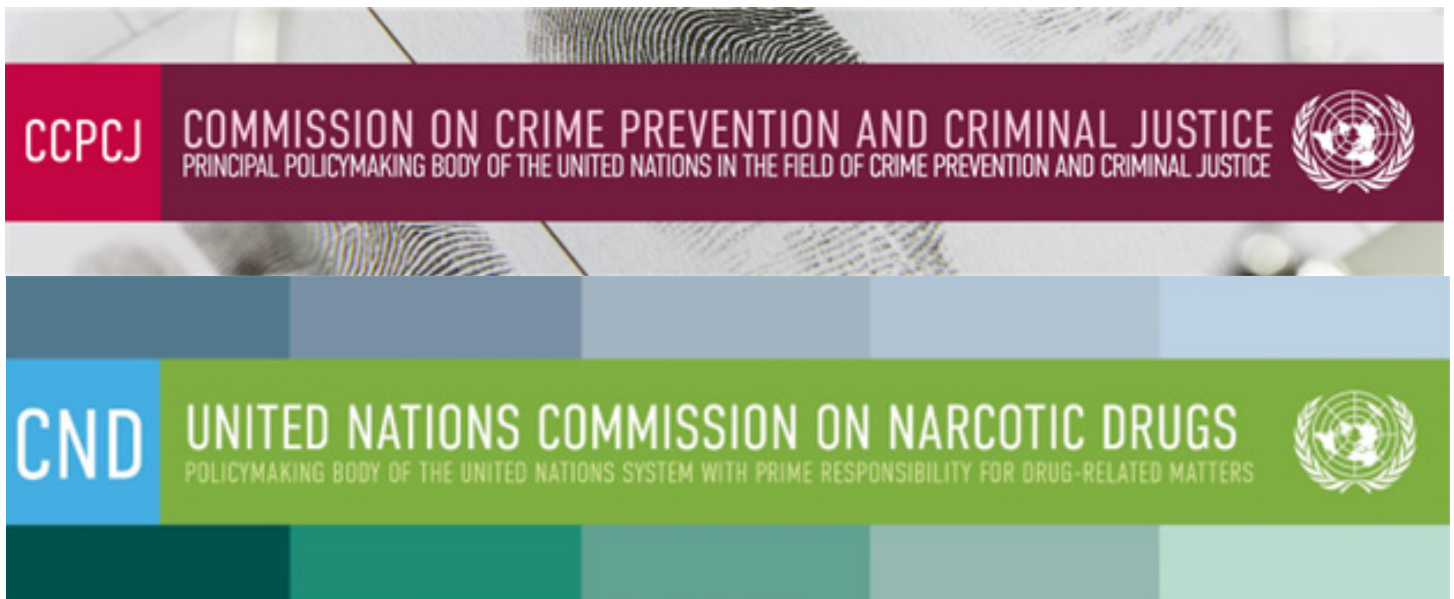


Connections with the United Nations

and norms, as well as thematic discussions and expert groups.

Because the [CCPCJ](#) is most closely aligned with the broad interests of ACJS and ASC, both organizations try to sponsor panels (referred to as “side events”) appropriate to that year’s theme. These sessions feature subject matter experts

organized crime, corruption, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, firearms trafficking, drug trafficking, terrorism, and related issues that involve multiple countries. There is currently a discussion of potential new international agreements on cybercrime, wildlife crime, and other emerging issues that respond to the concerns of the member states of the United Nations.



on the topic under consideration that year. As an international organization, United Nations focuses on crime and justice issues of international concern, so there is a heavy focus in the work of member states on issues such as transnational

The [CSW](#) also meets annually and it is one of the largest Commission meetings, given the broad nature of its mandate. Most UN commission meetings take one week (Monday-Friday), whereas the CSW covers two full weeks. It meets in New



York at UN headquarters. In recent years, several Divisions of ASC, including the Divisions of Women and Crime, International Criminology, and Cybercrime, have organized panel session side events during these meetings.

Due to the COVID pandemic, many UN meetings have been held online during the last two years. It is expected that most will be in-person meetings in the future. When meetings are virtual, the location of participants does not matter, although when they are in person, participants must travel to the Commission site at their own expense. The benefit of these meetings is to meet and interact with NGO representatives, practitioners, international colleagues, and some member state representatives, who are doing work on the ground in providing direct service, research, and training on important issues of international consequence.

The UN as a Pedagogical Resource

There are also ways that the UN can provide classroom assistance. Two initiatives are of particular interest: SHERLOC and E4J.

SHERLOC (Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime) is a knowledge management portal designed to facilitate the dissemination of information about the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its

three protocols as well as the international legal framework against terrorism. Students, researchers, and teachers preparing course lectures will find a wealth of information in the various SHERLOC databases. For example, the Case Law Database has summaries of cases relating to organized crime and terrorism. Searching by keyword, country, or crime type, users will find how nations are tackling organized crime cases and records of successful law enforcement operations. The Database of Legislation collects relevant domestic laws to implement UNTOC and allows searching by country, UNTOC article, crime type, and cross-cutting issues. The [Bibliographic Database](#) is an annotated bibliography providing a synopsis of key articles searchable by country, research method, and keywords. Each of these, and other SHERLOC databases, can be very helpful as one searches for information about transnational crime and terrorism.

The Education for Justice (E4J) Initiative was developed over the last 5 years as a mechanism to promote a culture of lawfulness and awareness through education designed for the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. The University-level (tertiary) materials are especially relevant to ASC and ACJS members because they have developed open-access modules and entire courses

UNIVERSITY MODULE SERIES





on topics of central concern to the United Nations (and about which improved global awareness is sorely needed) to produce better-informed citizens and professionals on these subjects. There are full courses on the following topics: Anti-Corruption, Integrity and Ethics, Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice, Organized Crime, Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, Firearms Trafficking, Cybercrime, Wildlife Crime, and Counter-Terrorism.

Each course contains complete narratives, references, classroom questions, project ideas, video links, and related resources. All this content was developed internationally using expert groups from multiple countries. It is available [open access](#). ■

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