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## Preface

### The Last Editors: Passing the Torch to the Next Editors of WSC's New Journal

Volume 15, no. 1 (April, 2014) is the last issue of the *Western Criminology Review*, which in future will be published as the *Journal of Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law and Society*. The journal will continue to be published online by the Western Society of Criminology and will start with Volume 15 no. 2 (August, 2014).

The first issue of the *Western Criminology Review* was published in June 1998. The then president of WSC, Barbara Bloom, stated in her Inaugural letter: "This landmark issue of the WCR includes an impressive collection of articles that reflect the 1998 WSC conference theme of restorative justice as well as an overview of the conference proceedings. Patrick Jackson, WCR Editor, has devoted the past year to the development and production of the journal." Indeed, Patrick introduced the first issue of the WCR, which included articles by some of the major researchers in the field of restorative justice, including Mark Umbreit, Allison Morris, John Gehm, Gordon Bazemore and Mara Schiff, with the following statement: "The restorative justice movement deserves our undivided attention as a potential alternative to present responses to crime. Today there is much discussion about restorative justice, numerous calls for its implementation, and some critical response. It is clear that the public, our political leadership, numerous organizations involved in crime control, mainstream criminology, and many others need to learn what restorative justice means and how victims, society, and offenders can benefit from it." While much has changed in the 16 years that WCR has been in production, Patrick's words about the role and value of restorative justice are still true today.

Patrick has been our hidden support person for unfathomable technical issues that we occasionally encounter, that he seems uniquely able to solve, and Sonoma State University, where he works, has hosted the WCR journal on its website from the outset. We thank him and the Sonoma State University Librarian, Paula

Hammett, for their support over the years. As Patrick framed that inaugural issue he stated: "This is a proud moment for the WSC. After a quarter century of work toward creating a more equitable and just society, we have finally seized the moment to charter a new course by publishing a free, peer reviewed electronic journal. It is sure to enliven and broaden our perspectives in profound ways over the years to come." This it has done, but it has also done something more important, which is to embrace new technology, and provide criminological research and analysis at no charge to the contributing authors or the readers of their articles.

We are also indebted to the other editors and universities who have kept the WCR torch alive over the years. Universities that have provided editors and funding support for publishing the journal include California State University San Bernardino, University of Alaska Anchorage and Sam Houston State University, as well as our own San Diego State University.

The journal receives articles from all regions of the United States, and 20% of submissions are international. Its acceptance rate varies between 15-21% depending on the year. The journal receives an average of 3,670 "hits" a day and over 110,500 "hits" a month.

In recent years the WSC has seriously explored the possibility of having a commercial publisher take over the journal and discussions occurred. But in the end, the recommendation of the publications committee, which included Hank Fradella, Kim Richmond, Paul Kaplan and Stuart Henry, was that at least in the short-term, the journal would continue to be published by the WSC and to continue to be made available for free online (which was one of the issues that commercial publishing would have compromised).

So while this is our last issue as WCR editors (for the past three years), we are passing the torch to the new editors of the retitled journal: Hank Fradella, Aili Malm

and Christine Scott-Hayward from California State University, Long Beach. We wish them every success in taking the journal to its newest iteration.

Before we turn out our lights, we'd like to thank the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State for funding the publication of the journal by supporting its managing editor (also Nicole L. Bracy) and its editorial assistants (Adrian Ehrlich, and Nicole Sherman). Thanks are also due to our co-editor for the first year, Karen S. Glover from California State University San Marcos.

The current and past issues of *WCR* are available at <http://wcr.sonoma.edu/>. Manuscripts for the new journal: *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law and Society* should be submitted to <https://scholasticahq.com/criminology-criminal-justice-law-society>.

This last issue of the *Western Criminology Review* opens with an article by Rick Ruddell, Dheeshana S. Jayasundara, Roni Mayzer, and Thomasine Heitkamp on crime in resource-based boom counties. Despite common perceptions that crime in these communities increases following a boom, the authors found little evidence of this when examining crime rates in oil-producing counties in Montana and North Dakota pre- and post-boom. They also discuss the challenges of doing this kind of research when longitudinal crime data don't exist in many of these small, rural, boom counties.

Kendra N. Bowen, Jennifer J. Roberts, Eric J. Kocian, and Aaron Bartula's article on Social Information Processing Theory (SIP), Emotions and Violence examines how SIP, emotions, and other individual and situational variables influence the escalation of violence in a sample of newly incarcerated offenders. Their results reveal that situations in which respondents report poor or ineffective SIP were more likely to end in violence, lending support for a situational-level examination of violence among adults and suggesting further research is warranted in this area.

Risk factors for violent, chronic adult offending are considered by Johanna M. Thomas, Shaun A. Thomas, Kyle A. Burgason, and Lillian C. Wichinsky in their article

which tests some of the assumptions of Terrie Moffitt's Developmental Theory of Crime. Examining the adult criminal records of a cohort of more than 500 youthful offenders twelve years after their release from juvenile correctional facilities, the authors found that age at first contact with the criminal justice system and intellectual functioning (as measured by the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children) were strong and robust predictors of chronic and violent offending over the life-course.

Finally, Jennifer Armstrong, Joseph Clare, and Darryl Plecas employed an experimental design to examine the physiological responses of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during scenario-based use-of-force simulations used in their skills refresher training. They found that heart rate patterns of officers during the training exercises were consistent with those generated during real world policing – reinforcing the utility of the simulations for helping officers prepare for actual situations when use of force is required.

In closing, we have enjoyed working collaboratively together in editing this journal for the last three years. We have managed to publish issues on time in line with our publication schedule, addressing substantive issues in the field, and innovated with some very interesting Special Issues. We respect and appreciate each other's incredible work ethic, and composure under stress, perhaps captured by our shared spirit of problem-solving rather than crisis-making. We are unanimous in the view that after the challenges and successes of the past three years we would welcome the opportunity to work together on other projects. That said we wish Hank, Aili, and Christine great success in their exciting new collaboration to move the *WSC* onto greater heights through the launch of its new journal.

Stuart Henry, Christine Curtis, and Nicole L. Bracy