FROM THE PRESIDENT
Dr. Ryan G. Fischer
California State University, Long Beach

Welcome to the start of the fall season. Classes are back in session, and most of us are neck deep in teaching and research projects. For me, the beauty of this time of year is the anticipation that comes with meeting new students and identifying those who will make amazing contributions to our field in the coming years, either as practitioners, researchers, or instructors. I have always been a firm believer in the importance of introducing both graduate and undergraduate students to organizations such as the WSC. As much as we love to hear about cutting edge research from those well established in the field at our annual conference, I am also amazed by the passion and quality of research that so many of our student presenters bring to our conferences. I would like to thank all of our members who mentor these creative minds, and I encourage all of us to look to them for the spark of energy that will keep us going when transcribing hours of interviews, travelling to remote locations for data collection, or negotiating research arrangements with government agencies may wear us down. It is the enthusiasm for research and the passion for understanding that helps the WSC thrive and makes our conferences so successful.

On that note, I am hoping to see many of you at our upcoming conference in Vancouver, British Columbia in February 2016. Over the last several years, we have seen a consistent increase in the attendance rates at our conferences, and I would like to thank our executive board members for that success. The executive board has worked hard to secure great locations for our conferences, they have brought in some of the top names in our field as plenary speakers, and they have ensured that the conference environment was inviting to all of those who have an interest in the fields of criminology and criminal justice. So to all current and former board members, I say ‘thank you.’

I would also like to enthusiastically thank our sponsors, without whom the WSC would not be able to continue to put on our exceptional conference and publish our outstanding journal. Our 2015 Diamond Sponsors are Arizona State University’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, San Diego State University’s School of Public Affairs, Simon Fraser University’s School of Criminology, and the University of California, Irvine’s School of Social Ecology and Department of Criminology, Law, & Society. Our 2015 Platinum Sponsors are California State University, Dominguez Hills’ Criminal Justice and Public Administration Programs and the University of Missouri, St. Louis’ School of Public Affairs. Our 2015 Gold Sponsors are California State University, Long Beach’s School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, and Emergency Management, Royal Roads University, and the University of San Francisco’s Department of Sociology. Our 2015 Silver Sponsors are the University of...
California, Berkeley, Sacramento State University’s Division of Criminal Justice, Seattle University’s Criminal Justice Department, and the University of Wyoming’s Department of Criminal Justice.

In closing, I am very thankful to the WSC for the opportunity to serve in this role over the past year. My time on the executive board and serving as president has been a terrific experience, and I see the WSC going in a positive direction. I am very excited for our upcoming conference, and I hope to see the WSC continue to grow over the coming years.

FROM THE EDITOR
Dr. Paul Kaplan
San Diego State University

This issue of The Western Criminologist marks my final issue as Editor. I have been on the Board of the WSC since 2010, served as President of the Society (2013-2014), and enjoyed editing the newsletter for the last two years. These have been fantastic years, and I plan to continue my involvement in one way or the other indefinitely. The WSC is my favorite academic organization. But the time has come to pass the newsletter editing duties to another faithful member of the Society.

President Ryan Fischer kicks off this issue with a reminder of how welcoming the WSC is to students and young scholars, along with customary thanks to the Board and our sponsors. The newsletter continues with announcements about running for the Board, attending the annual conference, this year’s award winners, nominations for awards, and calls for paper submissions to the WSC journal, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society. Former WSC President and frequent newsletter contributor Hank Fradella returns to these pages with some wise words about the recent traffic stop and subsequent death while in custody of Sandra Bland in Texas. And of course, it wouldn’t be the Western Criminologist without Miki’s Reflections. Sadly, this time around will be the last for Miki, as she is retiring the column.

RUN FOR ELECTION TO THE WSC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Each year, the Western Society of Criminology elects two or three Executive Counselors to serve three-year terms. And, each year, the WSC also elects one person to serve three consecutive years in the offices of Vice President, President, and Immediate Past President, respectively.

Board Members:

- form the policies of the WSC;
- determine the date, location, and general program of the Annual Meeting;
- ratify the budget for the WSC;
- review the accounts and disbursements of the WSC;
- act on resolutions submitted by the Resolution Committee;
- coordinate a book exhibit to raise scholarship funds for students each year;
- select editors for our journal, the Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; and
- select award recipients from the slate of people nominated by the general membership of the Society.

We hope that you will choose to get more involved with the WSC by running for election to the Board! Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. Please contact Dr. Jennifer Sumner, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for more information.

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We encourage you to mark your calendar for the 43rd Annual Conference of the WSC!

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The Program Chairs are:
- Dr. Samantha Smith-Pritchard, The Leidos Company, sam.smith.phd@gmail.com; and
- Dr. Joshua Chanin, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-4505, jchanin@mail.sdsu.edu

The official Call for Participation appears below, but you may also want to contact Dr. Smith-Pritchard, Dr. Chanin, or check out our website for additional information about the conference:

http://westerncriminology.org/conference-3/

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WSC AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2016!

June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award: Michael Romano

Paul Tappan Award: Philippe Bourgois

Joseph D. Lohman Award: Paul Kaplan
Kimberly Richman

Western Society of Criminology Fellows Award: Martin Andresen

President's Award: Connie Ireland

W.E.B DuBois Award: Beth E. Richie

Richard Tewksbury Award: Tod W. Burke

Meda Chesney-Lind Award: Jody Miller
WSC STUDENT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition:
Students are invited to compete in the Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition sponsored by WSC each year. Appropriate types of papers include, but are not limited to, policy analyses, original research, literature reviews, position papers, theoretical papers, and scholarly commentaries. Please note that papers co-authored by faculty will not be considered.

- **Eligibility**: Any student currently enrolled full-time or part-time in an academic degree program at either the undergraduate or graduate level is eligible to submit a paper. Students from all majors are eligible, however, all entries must be related to criminology, criminal justice, or criminal law and society. Papers must not exceed 30 pages, including abstract, text, references, tables and figures, notes, etc. Papers exceeding this limit will not be considered. Papers must be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font on pages using one-inch margins, and conform to a standard format for the organization of papers and citation (e.g. APA, ASA, Bluebook). The WSC Awards Committee is responsible for evaluating papers meeting the guidelines described above.

- **Award Prize**: Students selected for this award will be recognized at the WSC's annual conference; will receive a reimbursement of student conference fees (less membership dues); and will receive a cash award of between $125 and $250 for first place, depending on whether the paper was sole-authored or co-authored. Additionally, if the award recipient desires, the best paper will be submitted for review to the journal of *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society*. In rare circumstances, a cash award of up to $100 may be awarded to a second place paper.

- **Please Note**: The paper that students submit to compete in Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition need not be the same paper that they present at the conference. We recognize that conference presentations may be works in progress or may be a result of joint efforts with faculty mentors. In contrast, papers submitted for the Student Paper Competition must be completed papers that were written by a student (or co-authored by two or more students) without the assistance of faculty.

Deadline: A completed, final paper should be emailed to the chairperson of the Awards Committee, Dr. Jennifer Sumner, by **12:00 noon on Friday, October 19, 2015**. Award winners will be notified in writing by **December 5, 2015**.

June Morrison Scholarship Fund: Using money raised from the Book Exhibit, the June Morrison Scholarship Fund provides supplemental funds to help defray the cost of student members' participation at the annual meeting, provided that they are presenting papers at the conference. Typically, one or two awards are made to students attending the annual meeting of the WSC. The amount of the awards varies by year (usually between $200 and $300), depending on the sales of books at the Book Exhibit the prior year. Please note that this scholarship is not related to the Student Paper Competition. All students attending the annual meeting are encouraged to apply.

- **Eligibility**: Any student currently enrolled full-time or part-time in an academic degree program at either the undergraduate or graduate level is eligible to apply for this award, provided that they are presenting a paper at the annual conference. Conference registration and student membership dues must be paid prior to the scholarship being awarded.

- **Submission Requirements**:
  - A résumé or curriculum vitae
  - A cover letter, indicating your intent to apply for the award, including the following information:
    - your full contact information, including your name, address, phone number, and email address;
    - the name of your school, department, and whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student;
    - the title of your paper presentation;
    - a summary of other funding sources available to you, if any;
    - a brief explanation of how conference attendance will be valuable to your career development (including how it will relate to future career plans); and
    - a brief summary of how your presentation fits into your larger research trajectory (i.e., what, if any, are your plans for the project you plan to present at the conference, such as use in project, thesis, or dissertation; submission for publication to a specific journal; etc.).
  - An e-mail message from a faculty sponsor from your school to the chairperson of the Awards Committee indicating his/her support of your request for travel funds.

Deadline: Email the information above to the chairperson of the Awards Committee, Dr. Jennifer Sumner, by **12:00 noon on Friday, October 19, 2015**. Award winners will be notified in writing by **December 5, 2015**.
CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY
43ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 4TH-7TH, 2016 • VANCOUVER, BC

* Please note that the deadline to submit abstracts is Friday, October 2, 2015 *

** PANEL TOPICS **

- COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES (INCLUDING SENTENCING)
- CORRECTIONS
- CRIME ANALYSIS (INCLUDING GEOGRAPHY & CRIME AND SOCIAL NETWORKS & CRIME)
- CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY
- CYBERCRIME
- DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CRIME
- GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME
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- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIMINAL LAW & CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- PEACEMAKING CRIMINOLOGY
- POLICING
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING (PEDAGOGY & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE EDUCATION)
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

The Abstract Submission System will be online soon. To access it:

1. From our **Home Page**, select **Submit an Abstract** under the **Conference** tab to be taken to our online Abstract Submission System.
2. Alternatively, the Abstract Submission System can be accessed directly at the following URL: http://westerncriminology.org/conference-3/abstract-submission-gateway/ (note the dashes).

In deciding the most appropriate topic area for your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper and how it might fit within a panel organized around a larger topical theme. For example, if your paper examines both race and juvenile issues, think about whether you would like to be placed on a panel with other papers discussing race issues or other papers dealing with juvenile issues and then submit it to the topic area in which you think it fits best.

All presenters are asked to submit an abstract of 1,100 characters or fewer to only one of the panel topics listed above (on or before October 2, 2015). In addition to the abstract, please include the name, mailing address, email address, and phone number for all authors on the submission for the participant directory. Note that all presenters must pre-register for the conference by Monday, January 4, 2016.

**All proposals must be electronically submitted through the WSC's online Abstract Submission System:**

http://westerncriminology.org/conference-3/abstract-submission-gateway
Thoughts on the Traffic Stop of Sandra Bland

Henry F. Fradella
Arizona State University

On July 10, 2015, Texas State Trooper Brian Encinia stopped Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old African-American woman, for failing to signal when changing lanes. That stop led to Bland’s arrest. Three days later, Sandra Bland was found dead in her jail cell. The specific circumstances of her death are unknown, although Texas officials initially ruled her death a suicide. Her family and friends challenge that conclusion, pointing out that it is unlikely that Ms. Bland would hang herself with a plastic bag after she had recently secured a promising new job. They have called for a second, independent autopsy. As of this writing, federal investigators and a special independent investigative committee are looking into Bland’s arrest and subsequent death. There is little use in speculating about what that investigation will find. For now, I would like to offer some insights regarding Trooper Encinia’s stop and subsequent arrest of Sandra Bland—most of which was captured on video by the dashboard camera on the Trooper’s police vehicle.

At the outset, there is no doubt that Trooper Encinia’s initial stop of Ms. Bland for failure to signal was legal. The Fourth Amendment permits police to make vehicle stops for traffic violations, even for ones that may seem very minor to some people. In contrast to the initial stop, some of the Trooper’s subsequent actions are highly questionable.

First of all, in the aftermath of Sandra Bland’s death, Trooper Encinia revealed that after his initial conversation with Ms. Bland (during which he obtained her driver’s license), he returned to Bland’s car to issue her a warning. If that’s the case, then he should have given her the warning and terminated the encounter. Ms. Bland should have been free to leave at that moment. All reasonable suspicion ended at the moment Trooper Encinia returned to Bland’s car with the written warning, even if he did not disclose his intention to Sandra Bland. But he did not do that. Instead, he asked Bland to extinguish her cigarette.

To be clear, Bland had the right to smoke a cigarette in her car. Yet, Trooper Encinia asked her to put it out. His reasons for doing so are not clear. But a request is not the same as a command. Bland had the right to refuse his request. At that point, Trooper Encinia could have then ordered Ms. Bland to extinguish the cigarette. Why? It is possible, however unlikely, that the cigarette could have been used as a weapon. But this is a close call, legally speaking. Nonetheless, an officer behaving professionally, however, would have said, “Mam, I am uncomfortable with any driver holding something burning, like a cigarette, during a traffic stop because it could injure either of us. For both of our safety, I am directing you to put out the cigarette.” Professionalism isn’t that hard. And explaining one’s reasoning helps prevent citizen–police encounters from escalating. Note, however, that Trooper Encinia never actually issued such a directive. After Sandra Bland refused his request to put out her cigarette, he immediately jumped to ordering her out of her car. Trooper Encinia’s attitude and tone of voice strongly suggest that he was goading Sandra Bland into getting frustrated. That allows an officer to articulate a generalized concern for his or her safety, which arguably might justify ordering a driver out of a vehicle. Is that why officer issued the exit order to Bland? It’s hard to tell. But once that order was issued, Bland should have exited the car when the officer directed her to do so, but it is not clear-cut.

Trooper Encinia may have issued a lawful order for Bland to exit her car, but it could have been an illegal order that violated the Fourth Amendment if the order had been motivated by reasons of retaliation for failing to extinguish the cigarette and for questioning his authority. An order to exit a vehicle during a routine traffic stop is permissible to protect the safety of a police officer. This is typically accomplished so that the officer can “pat down” the driver to make sure he or she is not armed. But there is no basis in the limited video evidence released to date to lead a reasonable person to form such a belief, which genuinely calls into question whether the order was retaliatory and impermissible. But even if Trooper Encinia’s order to exit the vehicle were legal, it was still unprofessional, bad policing.

Trooper Encinia then reached in the car in an attempt to remove Ms. Bland. He told her that she was under arrest. In Texas, the “resisting arrest” statute does not require the putative arrestee to have any physical contact with the officer. In other words, being verbally combative with an officer might, in fact, constitute resisting arrest in Texas. The fact
that the arrest may or may not have been legal is of no consequence.

But Trooper Encinia escalated the situation unnecessarily. Why reach in and grab Bland? That is, at minimum, rude and unnecessarily aggressive behavior, and, at worst, it represents the illegal use of force to effectuate a retaliatory arrest. Most police use of force policies require the officer to tell the person what actions are going to be taken not just because that is part of police professionalism, but also because it can de-escalate the situation. Yet again, Trooper Encinia failed to live up to the standards of professional we rightfully expect of our law enforcement officers. He then threatened Bland by saying “I will light you up” (presumably a threat to taze Ms. Bland). Such language is unprofessional. And I can’t help but wonder if such orders and language would have been used against me—a middle-aged White male who drives an Infiniti.

Thus far, investigators have determined that Trooper Encinia violated both his department’s traffic stops procedures and its courtesy policy. Whether he also violated the law has yet to be determined. In short, there is a difference between a law enforcement officer’s lawful conduct and an officer’s professional conduct. The technical legality of this Trooper Encinia’s actions are debatable; his lack of fairness and professionalism are not.

MIKI’S REFLECTIONS

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

I have spent the last few weeks contemplating how to write this article that will actually be my last. It has been a struggle because it is like letting go of a good friend that you have hung out with for quite a while. However, my future path is pulling me towards a life of service to others—whether through my cooking for cancer patients and their families, conducting train-the-trainer workshops to encourage families to embrace more healthy food options, and/or providing support and love as part of one’s end-of-life journey.

The Western Society of Criminology (WSC), its board and members, have my heartfelt thanks for providing me with this

venue to share my thoughts and reflections on significant criminal justice policy issues. My early career with the California State Legislature, county and regional government associations was focused on policy issues. WSC also played a significant role as I pursued my teaching career at California State University, Sacramento and engaged in numerous criminal justice research activities with my colleagues and students.

I was honored when the WSC named the Student Paper Competition after me—a recognition of how much I valued the importance of nurturing and strengthening our students’ methods of inquiry, research skills, and writing.

It is time to move on. I am hopeful that the WSC Board will provide another member the opportunity to share their perspective on significant issues of concern to all criminal justice professionals. Thank you.
THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society (CCJLS), formerly Western Criminology Review (WCR), is the official journal of the Western Society of Criminology. This peer-reviewed journal builds on the mission of its predecessor by promoting understanding of the causes of crime; the methods used to prevent and control crime; the institutions, principles, and actors involved in the apprehension, prosecution, punishment, and reintegration of offenders; and the legal and political framework under which the justice system and its primary actors operate. Historical and contemporary perspectives are encouraged, as are diverse theoretical and methodological approaches.

CCJLS publishes
- theoretical and empirical research on criminology, criminal justice, and criminal law and society;
- practice-oriented papers (including those addressing teaching/pedagogical issues);
- essays and commentary on crime, law, and justice policy;
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- book and film reviews; and
- scholarly article reviews.

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the journal’s portal on Scholastica (https://scholasticahq.com/criminology-criminal-justice-law-society). Submissions should be formatted according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition (2009). All correspondence is conducted online to speed the review process. There are no page, color, or appendix restrictions, although a 30-page upper limit for the body of papers is recommended. Additionally, authors may, at their discretion, include images (in .jpg. or .gif formats), as well as hyperlinks to web pages, source documents, You Tube videos, and similar multimedia materials on the Internet to take full advantage of the digital nature of the journal. Our evaluation process involves an internal review by editorial staff, followed by a blind assessment by two external reviewers. Inquiries about CCJLS should be directed to the editors—Henry F. Fradella, Aili Malm, and Christine S. Scott-Hayward—via email at CCJLS@WesternCriminology.org.

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