



The Western Criminologist

Fall 2025

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CONTACT US

Western Society of Criminology

c/o California State University, Long Beach

School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, & Emergency Management

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Visit us at <https://westerncriminology.org>
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Amin Asfari

*University of Regina
Regina, SK, Canada*

When I think back on the years I lived in Denver, I can't help but smile. Most people picture the Rocky Mountains when they think of the city, and it's easy to see why. Look west on any given day and the peaks dominate the horizon, changing constantly with the light. The skies stretch endlessly, and even after a snowstorm the sun often reappears to brighten everything up.

Despite its reputation as a winter wonderland, Denver itself isn't as frigid as you might expect. Locals are quick to point out that you'll often see people jogging in shorts by the afternoon. Still, February will be colder than my hometown in North Carolina, so I recommend packing warm layers, a good coat, and a hat. Denverites don't let the weather slow them down; you will see people out walking, biking, and grabbing coffee no matter the temperature.

If you enjoy the outdoors, Denver is an ideal launching point. Before or after the conference, you could head up to the Rockies to ski, snowshoe, or simply breathe in the crisp mountain air (if you are sensitive to elevation, be cautious and prepared). If you'd rather stay in the city, Denver offers plenty to explore. The Denver Art Museum, History Colorado Center, and Clyfford Still Museum are all worth a visit, as is the zoo. Baseball fans can tour Coors Field even in the off-season and, if coffee is your thing, the city has no shortage of excellent roasters. I was always partial to the Bardo Coffee House, which has several locations. For something more global, check out [The Mango House](#), a food hall that supports refugees and features dishes from around the world.

This year, WSC is proud to partner with the [Denver Justice Project](#), a grassroots organization working to transform policing, end mass incarceration, and build community-based safety strategies. Their work centers on community and policy advocacy, collaborative education, direct action, and promoting health and healing for those most impacted by the criminal legal system. A portion of your registration fees will go directly to support their efforts. We're also planning a pre-conference activity on Thursday afternoon that may connect with the organization or highlight other community efforts; details will be shared soon.

Our Program Committee is already hard at work reviewing submissions and building a lineup of panels and presentations you won't want to miss—special thanks to Brooke Nodeland, Carlena Orosco, and Andrea Guiffre for their efforts. Beyond the sessions, the conference is also about connecting with colleagues and friends. The President's Reception on Thursday evening will have food and plenty of space to catch up. Coffee, a light breakfast, and the luncheon are included in the program and provide a great chance to meet new people, so don't skip them.

Students, be sure to join our Graduate Student Board member, Laney Van, for a casual night out on Friday evening. It's a good way to unwind, make connections, and learn from each other. On Saturday we'll also hold the Book Exhibit sale, with students getting first pick. Proceeds go toward WSC student scholarship awards.

Between the conference sessions, the chance to explore Denver, and the opportunity to support an impactful local organization, we're looking forward to an engaging and memorable few days together.

I can't wait to welcome you in the Mile High City!

FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Sarah Yercich

Capilano University
North Vancouver, BC, Canada

As we embark upon the new academic year, I am sure you all have a lot on your plates and minds – including the WSC’s upcoming 2026 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado! Denver is near and dear to my heart and a place I once called home. There are so many amazing things to do, see, and eat in the city and I echo many of Amin’s suggestions. The Denver Art

Museum is one of my favourite spots, and there are many wonderful places to explore a little ways outside of the city like the Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre, the quaint town of Estes Park, and the Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs.

As you prepare for the upcoming conference, there are a couple of important deadlines to keep in mind:

- **2026 conference abstract submission** – are you interested in presenting at the WSC 2026 Annual Conference? Abstract submissions are due no later than **September 19, 2025**.
- **Student awards** – submissions for the *June Morrison Scholarship Fund* (travel award), *Travel Award for Justice System-Impacted Students*, and *Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition* are due no later than 5:00pm PST on **September 26, 2025**.

There is also the opportunity to become more involved in WSC by applying for the position of Editor(s) of *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society (CCJLS)*, the official journal of the Society. Applications must be received by **October 1, 2025**.

As newsletter editor, it is my aim to continue amplifying the work of WSC members by expanding the WSC Community Features section. I am excited to share that the Spring 2026 newsletter will include two compelling features, a piece on far-right movements and our inaugural Teaching and Learning in Criminology column.

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Please consider submitting your work to be featured in upcoming editions of the *Western Criminologist*. The focus of community features is to translate and mobilize knowledge related to criminology and criminal justice including, but by no means limited to, opinion pieces, research, the scholarship of teaching and learning, creative expression like artwork, and emerging and innovative practices, programs, and tools.

I would like to invite practitioners, academics, and those with lived experience in the field of criminology and the criminal legal system to consider sharing your work and/or contributing your thoughts on a topic that is of interest to you and the WSC readership to be included in future issues of our newsletter. Please send your contributions and/or questions to:

Dr. Sarah Yercich

The Department of Sociology and Criminology
Capilano University
sarahyercich@capilanou.ca

SEEKING NEW EDITOR FOR CCJLS



New Editor Sought for *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society*

The Western Society of Criminology (WSC) invites applications for the position of Editor(s) of *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society* (CCJLS), the official journal of the Society, which is a diamond open access journal. It is anticipated that new manuscript submissions will transfer to the new Editor around January 2026 for a three-year term.

The Editor is responsible for the timely and substantive publication of the journal, including the solicitation of manuscripts, supervision of the peer-review process, selection of articles for publication, and the final publication process (including proofreading and typesetting). The WSC supports this process by paying for the following expenses: CCJLS's manuscript submission and processing system (Scholastica) and copy-editing. The Editor's supporting institution might propose to provide office space, file storage, equipment, and funds to cover graduate student assistance and release time for the Editor.

Interested applicants may contact the current Editor, Jennifer Lanterman, for additional information regarding the logistics or operational details of editing and producing the journal or to discuss their application before submission. Application materials should include: (1) a statement of editorial philosophy; (2) *curriculum vitae* of all proposed personnel; and (3) assurances and details of institutional support. Application materials should be sent **by email** to:

Jennifer Lanterman, Editor
Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society
 c/o Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nevada, Reno
 1664 N. Virginia Street, MS 0214, Reno, N.V. 89557
jlanterman@unr.edu

Applications must be received by **October 1, 2025**

RUN FOR ELECTION TO THE WSC EXECUTIVE BOARD

This year, the Western Society of Criminology will elect two Executive Counselors to serve three-year terms. And, the WSC will also elect one person to serve three consecutive years as the Vice President, President, and Immediate Past-President.

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, *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. Zachary Rowan, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for more information:

Dr. Zachary Rowan
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
778-782-6656
zrowan@sfu.ca

CALL FOR WSC STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS

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. We encourage all students to apply, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award.

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

Submission Requirements:

1. A résumé or curriculum vitae
2. A cover letter, indicating your intent to apply for the award, including the following information:
 - a. Your full contact information, including your name, address, phone number, and email address;
 - b. The name of your college or university, as well as the school or program housing the degree program in which you are enrolled;
 - c. Whether you are matriculated in a graduate or undergraduate program;
 - d. The title of your paper presentation;
 - e. A summary of other funding sources available to you, if any;
 - f. A brief explanation of how conference attendance will be valuable to your career development (including how it will relate to future career plans); and
 - g. 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 intend to present at the conference, such as use in project, thesis, or dissertation; submission for publication to a specific journal; etc.).
3. An e-mail message from a faculty sponsor from your school to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee, Dr. Khadija Monk, indicating their support of your request for travel funds.

Note: Please use "June Morrison Travel Award" in the header of your e-mail.

E-mail the information to Dr. Khadija Monk

kmonk2@calstatela.edu

by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, September 26, 2025

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025

Travel Award for Justice System-Impacted Students

About the Travel Award: The WSC recognizes the ongoing barriers that justice system-impacted individuals face in accessing academic and professional spaces. To support such access, the WSC provides funds to support the costs of justice system-impacted students who are attending and presenting a paper or poster at the annual conference. Please note that this scholarship is not related to the Student Paper Competition. This year, one student award will be given in the amount of \$300.

Eligibility: This award is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are currently or formerly justice system-impacted and enrolled full-time or part-time in an academic degree program. Applicants must be presenting a paper or a poster at the annual WSC.

How to Apply: E-mail the following information to the chairperson of the Awards Committee, Dr. Khadija Monk:

1. Your résumé or curriculum vitae (CV); and
2. A cover letter indicating that you are applying for the award. This cover letter must contain all of the following information:
 - a. Your full contact information, including name, address, phone number, and e-mail address;
 - b. The name of your college or university, as well as the school or department housing the degree program in which the student is enrolled;
 - c. Whether you are matriculated in a graduate or undergraduate program;
 - d. The title of your paper or poster presentation;
 - e. A brief explanation of how attending and presenting at the conference will be valuable to your educational or career development (including how the presentation fits into your broader education, research, or career interests); and
 - f. A brief discussion of your funding need, including a summary of other funding sources available to you, if any.

Note: Please use "System-Impacted Travel Award" in the header of your e-mail.

Email the information to Dr. Khadija Monk

kmonk2@calstatela.edu

by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, September 26, 2025

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025

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. We encourage all students to apply, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award. 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, et cetera. 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 that the cash award must be used to fund travel or hotel expenses for the award recipient to attend the WSC conference. An award winner who does not attend the conference will not receive the cash stipend.

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. Papers are welcome from students matriculated at any college or university anywhere in the world, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award.

Note: Please use "Student Paper Competition" in the header of your e-mail.

E-mail the information to Dr. Khadija Monk
kmonk2@calstatela.edu

by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday September 26, 2025

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025

2026 CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



2026 Annual Conference
February 5-7, 2026

Grand Hyatt Denver
Denver, CO

1759 Welton St.
Denver, CO 80202

People wishing to present at the conference will be able to submit proposals through our online [abstract submission system](#). **Abstracts must be submitted no later than September 19, 2025.** We encourage the submission of complete panels of four (4) papers.

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
- FORENSIC SCIENCE
- SEX, GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME
- RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
(CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, & EVIDENCE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- PEACEMAKING CRIMINOLOGY
- POLICING
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE
EDUCATION
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

In deciding the most appropriate topic area for your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper or presentation 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. 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. Please note that all presenters are required to preregister and prepay the nonrefundable conference fees no later than December 5, 2025. Failure to do so will result in presentations being removed from the final program.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

The WSC is deeply indebted to its 2025 institutional sponsors:

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- ◆ San Deigo State University
- ◆ Seattle University



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Silver Sponsor: A contribution of \$250 to \$499.

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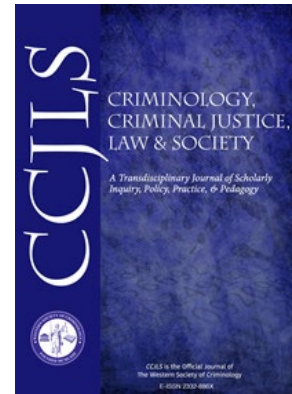
CCJLS: CALL FOR PAPERS

Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society (CCJLS) is the official journal of the Western Society of Criminology. This open-access, peer-reviewed journal builds on the mission of its predecessor, *Western Criminology Review (WCR)*, 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.

CCJLS invites all of the following:

- theoretical and empirical research on criminology, criminal justice, and criminal law and society;
- practice-oriented papers (including teaching/pedagogical issues);
- essays and commentary on crime, law, and justice policy;
- replies and comments to articles previously published in *CCJLS* or *WCR*;
- book, film reviews, and scholarly article reviews;
- historical and contemporary perspectives are encouraged, as are diverse theoretical and methodological approaches.

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the journal's portal on [Scholastica](#). 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, YouTube 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—Jennifer Lanterman and managing editor Nicholas Mantera—via email at CCJLS@WesternCriminology.org.



CCJLS proudly processes manuscripts in a timely manner

Outcome	Average Days to Decision
Accepted	140
Desk Rejected	8
Rejected After Review	4

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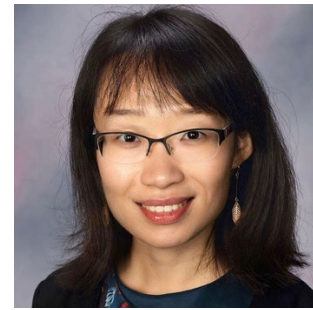
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WSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Julie Sriken, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Regis University, where she teaches forensic psychology, community psychology, women and gender studies, and research methods and statistics. She received a Ph.D. in Community Research and Action from Vanderbilt University, and an M.A. in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY. Her research focuses on social constructions of victimization and the acknowledgement of victimization experiences. As an educator, Dr. Sriken's works to increase the inclusion of marginalized communities in contributing to collective knowledge.

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