The Western Criminologist

Fall 2026

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. Kimberly Kras

San Diego State University
San Diego, CA, United States

San Diego's many borders have always shaped the way I experience and understand this remarkable region. It is a city marked by the meeting of land and sea, urban and natural environments, local and global communities, and the United States and Mexico. These boundaries are not simply geographic. They inform how people experience opportunity, mobility, safety, punishment, and justice. For those of us who study criminology, criminal justice, law, and society, San Diego offers an especially meaningful place to gather and reflect on these issues.

While San Diego is well known for its beaches and year-round sunshine, the region has much more to explore including a remarkable range of cultural, historical, and community spaces. Balboa Park is home to museums, gardens, and the San Diego Zoo, while the waterfront provides opportunities to walk, explore, and enjoy the city's views. In Barrio Logan, Chicano Park's murals tell powerful stories about community identity, activism, and resistance. The neighborhoods throughout the region also offer an extraordinary variety of food, from longtime family-owned restaurants to vibrant markets featuring cuisines from across the world.

San Diego's location along the U.S.-Mexico border makes it an important place for conversations about migration, border enforcement, transnational crime, human rights, and the criminalization of movement. At the same time, the region's diverse communities invite us to consider how local histories, racial and economic inequalities, and institutional practices influence people's experiences with the legal system. I hope our time together will encourage scholarship and dialogue that are attentive to these complexities and grounded in the lived experiences of the communities most affected.

Preparations for our annual meeting in San Diego are in full swing. Our Program Committee is developing a lineup of panels, professional development opportunities, and presentations. Many thanks to Carlena Orosco, Andrea Guiffre, and Vickie Jensen for their efforts in creating an exciting agenda. The conference is also a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends and build new relationships! Join us for numerous hosted events:

- President's Reception on Thursday evening
- Coffee and a light breakfast on Friday morning
- Luncheon during the Awards Ceremony on Friday afternoon
- Happy Hour during the Poster Session on Friday evening
- Keynote Brunch on Saturday morning

All of these events are included in the program and offer additional opportunities to meet fellow attendees—we hope you'll take advantage of them!

WSC is also a home for our amazing students. Our Student Counselor-at-Large, Amaya Lopez, and Student Ambassadors, Elisabeth Gill-Melendez, Lauren Gomez, Michelle Penagos, Madison Wilkins, have been leveraging their creativity and energy to develop great resources and networking opportunities. Be sure to follow

us on social media (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn) to get prepped for the conference and stay connected to all the events! We especially look forward to hosting students on Friday evening during a student-only gathering. It's a good way to unwind and make new connections. On Saturday we'll also hold the Book Exhibit sale, with students getting first pick. Proceeds go toward WSC student scholarship awards.

Our annual meeting will provide many opportunities to share research, strengthen professional relationships, and learn from colleagues working across different areas of the field. I am especially looking forward to the range of perspectives represented in our panels and presentations, including work that bridges research and practice and creates space for students, practitioners, community members, and scholars.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to San Diego in February. I hope you will enjoy the region's beauty and culture, but I also hope you will leave with a deeper appreciation for the communities, histories, and justice-related work that make this place distinctive. I look forward to seeing you, learning with you, and sharing an engaging and memorable meeting together.

Dr. Kimberly Kras
School of Public Affairs
San Diego State University
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REQUEST FOR DONATIONS: WSC STUDENT AWARDS

As you may know, the WSC welcomes and encourages student participation at our annual conference, and we have created several cash awards to support students attending and presenting at WSC. We have long had the Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition and the June Morrison Scholarship Fund (a travel award). In 2025, we added a travel award for Justice System-Impacted Students. More information about each award is available on our website.

In the past, we have used general funds as well as proceeds from the Book Exhibit to fund these awards, but in recent years, the book exhibit proceeds have declined, and we have expanded our award offerings, which has put pressure on our finances. For these reasons, the WSC Board voted to solicit contributions to a scholarship fund that will support all three of our awards.

If you are able, we would be grateful if you could contribute to this fund. All donations are tax-deductible, and you can obtain an official donation receipt by emailing Treasurer@WesternCriminology.org. Donations can be made by visiting https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=H99SPUE3HQSJ6 or scanning the QR code below:

You can also make donations by check, made by payable to The Western Society of Criminology and mailed to:

Attn: Christine Scott-Hayward
School of CCJEM, CSULB
1250 Bellflower Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90840

Thank you for your support of WSC!

FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Sarah Yercich

Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, BC, Canada

and

Capilano University
North Vancouver, BC, Canada

Welcome to the fall 2026 issue of *The Western Criminologist*!

With the 2027 Annual Conference just a few months away, this issue is all about getting ready for San Diego. Be sure to read Dr. Kimberly Kras' message from the President for a warm welcome to the region, along with highlights of the hosted events planned for this year's meeting. You'll also find everything you need to plan your trip, including registration and hotel details.

This issue also includes a tribute to Dr. Randall G. Shelden, a past president of the WSC who passed away in June. I am grateful to Daniel Macallair for sharing such a thoughtful reflection on Randy's scholarship, mentorship, and many contributions to our society and our field.

There are a few important deadlines to keep in mind:

- **Presenter registration:** all presenters must register for the 2027 conference no later than Monday, December 7, 2026.
- **Early registration:** early registration closes on Sunday, January 10, 2027.
- **Conference hotel rate:** the conference rate at The Westin San Diego Bayview is available through Tuesday, January 12, 2027.
- **Online registration:** online registration closes on Saturday, January 30, 2027.

I also want to encourage you, if you are able, to contribute to the WSC Student Awards fund, which supports students attending and presenting at our annual meeting.

I look forward to seeing you all in San Diego this February!

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

There is still space for WSC Member Features and Teaching and Learning in Criminology pieces in the Spring 2027 issue. If you have research, a commentary, a reflection on teaching, creative work, or an innovative practice or program you'd like to share with the WSC community, I would love to hear from you. Please send your contributions and/or questions to:

Dr. Sarah Yercich
School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University
syercich@sfu.ca

Department of Criminology, Capilano University
sarahyercich@capilanou.ca

2027 CONFERENCE

Join us in 2027 for the WSC's Annual Conference in San Diego, California



2027 Annual Conference
February 4-6, 2027

The Westin San Diego Bayview San Diego, CA

1501 Columbia St.
San Diego, CA 92101

Join us in sunny San Diego this February for three days of research, conversation, and connection with colleagues from across the field. Here's what you need to know to plan your trip.

Key Deadlines

- **December 7, 2026:** All presenters must be registered
- **January 10, 2027:** Early registration closes
- **January 11, 2027:** Late registration begins
- **January 12, 2027:** Last day for the conference hotel rate
- **January 30, 2027:** Online registration closes

Registration

Registration for the 2027 conference is now open. **Register and pay here.**

Note that **presenters must register by December 7, 2026** to stay on the program.

Accommodations

The Westin San Diego Bayview
1501 Columbia St., San Diego, CA 92101

We've arranged a conference rate of **$249 per night** (plus a $15 destination fee). It's available through **January 12, 2027**, and rooms tend to go quickly, so we recommend booking early. **Book your room here.**

Health Protocols

Under current guidelines, vaccination will **not** be required to attend. If regional or local guidelines change before February, we will follow them and update attendees.

We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

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The WSC is deeply indebted to its 2025 institutional sponsors:

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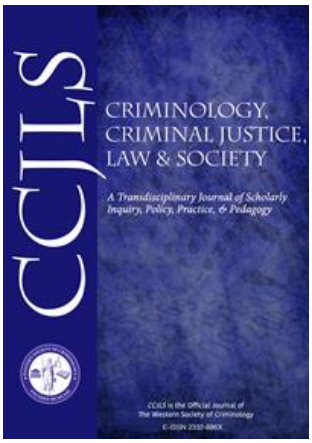
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CCJLS: CALL FOR PAPERS



Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society (***CCJLS***) is the official journal of the Western Society of Criminology and one of the only diamond open access journals in the field. 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; and
- 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, Seventh Edition* (2020). 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 Interim Editor, Christine Scott-Hayward, at christine.scott-hayward@csulb.edu.

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IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Randall G. Shelden

Daniel Macallair remembers longtime colleague, friend, and former Western Society of Criminology President Dr. Randall G. Shelden.

It is with great sadness that I share the passing of my longtime friend and colleague, Dr. Randall G. “Randy” Shelden, who died on June 19, 2026.

Randy was a longtime member and past president of the Western Society of Criminology and a familiar presence to generations of WSC members. His career embodied many of the qualities that have distinguished the Society: a commitment to serious scholarship, intellectual independence, mentorship, and a willingness to challenge conventional thinking about crime, punishment, and the criminal justice system.

Over a career spanning more than 50 years, Randy became a widely recognized criminologist and criminal justice scholar. He authored or co-authored more than 20 books and published more than 50 scholarly articles and book chapters, in addition to numerous research reports, essays, and commentaries. His work examined juvenile justice, crime and inequality, gangs, incarceration, and the political and economic forces shaping criminal justice policy. Throughout his scholarship, Randy insisted that the study of crime and justice should never become detached from the lives of the people most affected by the institutions we study.

Randy joined the faculty at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1977 and devoted 46 years to teaching and mentoring students before retiring in 2024. He played an important role in the development of UNLV’s criminal justice program and helped establish its master’s degree program. He was an extraordinarily dedicated teacher, receiving UNLV’s Outstanding Teacher Award six times. Generations of students remember him not simply for what he taught, but for encouraging them to question assumptions, examine institutions critically, and think independently.

For more than 25 years, Randy was also a Senior Research Fellow with the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco. His contributions to CJCJ were enormous. He served as a researcher, writer, editor, mentor, and trusted advisor whose scholarship and commitment to justice helped shape the organization’s work for more than two decades.

I had the privilege of knowing Randy for nearly four decades. His scholarly accomplishments were considerable, but they tell only part of the story. Randy possessed remarkable intellectual curiosity and integrity. He was never reluctant to question accepted wisdom, including ideas that had become conventional within criminology itself. At the same time, his criticism was grounded in a deep concern for fairness and for the people whose lives were affected by the policies and institutions we study.

Those who knew Randy also knew his generosity, warmth, and quiet humor. He was remarkably generous with students and younger scholars and remained deeply engaged with ideas throughout his life. Even as his health declined in recent years, he continued to write, exchange ideas, and find reasons for optimism.

For the Western Society of Criminology, Randy’s passing represents the loss of a colleague who contributed to the Society not only through his leadership as president but through decades of participation in the intellectual community that WSC represents. For those of us fortunate enough to call him a friend, the loss is much more personal.

Randy leaves an enduring legacy through his scholarship, his students, and the many colleagues and advocates he influenced over the course of his career. His willingness to ask difficult questions – and his conviction that criminology should ultimately contribute to a more just and humane society – will remain an important part of that legacy.

He will be deeply missed.

Daniel Macallair
Executive Director, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
Practitioner in Residence and Lecturer Emeritus, Criminal Justice Studies, San Francisco State University

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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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