

THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

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From The President

Paul Brantingham

Simon Fraser University

Introduction

I attended my first Western Society of Criminology conference during Bill Amos' presidency a quarter century ago. Over the years, WSC has been marked by three defining characteristics. *First*, it focuses on issues important to criminologists in the western United States and western Canada. These range broadly across the crime patterns and criminal justice problems associated with growing cities and towns that are separated by vast distances; with distinctive mixtures of cultures and economic activities; and with climate and weather patterns that differ from those in the eastern part of the continent. *Second*, the WSC welcomes all points of view. It is a forum where academics and practitioners really do get together to share ideas and experiences. *Third*, the WSC mounts a conference that is friendly in spirit and manageable in size. At WSC, people have time to attend sessions in their own areas of expertise, talk with old friends and make new ones, and still have the opportunity to attend sessions in new and different areas of practice and research.

I consider it both an honour and a privilege to serve as President for 2001-2002 and look forward to the year with great enthusiasm.

WSC Secretary -Treasurer

Michael Day of the Administration of Justice Division at Portland State University has become Secretary-Treasurer of the Society.

Executive Board Committee Work

We have an energetic and collegial executive board whose members handle most of the WSC's continuing work. For 2001-2002, the work of the society is being done through nine committees: Charles Tracy of Portland State University and John Berecochea of the California Department of Corrections comprise the constitution and resolutions committee. Linda Humble of the Office of the Federal Defender in Sacramento heads the nominations committee. Libby Deschenes of Long Beach State University, our Vice-President, and Kim Rossmo of the Police Foundation make up the membership committee. Angel Ilaraza Fuentes of Texas Christian University and Neil Boyd of Simon

Fraser University form an active site selection committee, currently looking into conference locations for 2003 and 2004. The student representative on the executive board for 2001-2002 is Christopher Giles of Simon Fraser University. Chris is working with Angel and Neil on site selection and will be planning student functions for the 2002 conference in San Diego.

Several WSC committees focus on the upcoming San Diego conference which will be held at the Red Lion Hanalei Resort, February 22 and 23, 2002. Patricia Brantingham of Simon Fraser University and Gisela Bichler-Robertson of California State University, San Bernardino form the program committee. If you would like to organize a panel for the conference or submit a paper, check out the call for papers included in this newsletter or check out the WSC web site.

Darlanne Mulmat, our immediate past president, and Gisela Bichler-Robertson are handling local arrangements in San Diego. The awards committee, comprised of Clarice Bailey of the Oregon Department of Human Services and David Huizinga of the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado will be nominating candidates for the Tappan, Morrison-Gitchoff, Lohman, and DuBois awards. They will also be nominating new WSC Fellows. Miki Vohryzek-Bolden of CSU Sacramento (CSUS) will again supervise the student paper competition. Sue Cote of CSUS and Neil Boyd are running the book exhibit committee with the experienced guidance of Angel Ilaraza Fuentes.

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The publications committee is anchored by Miki Vohryzek-Bolden, editor of this newsletter, and by Patrick Jackson, founding editor of the Society's journal, *Western Criminology Review*. This year, in addition to its normal work, the publications committee will be conducting a search for a new editor for *WCR*. Patrick has become department head at Sonoma State University and has asked WSC to release him as editor.

Reflections on 2001 conference

The 28th Annual Conference was held in Portland, Oregon February 23 and 24. The conference theme — Programs that work, Theories that illuminate – was implemented beautifully by the tandem of Program chair Clarice Bailey and Local Arrangements chair Charles Tracy. The theme was illustrated especially well by the keynote speaker, Dr. Kim Rossmo of the Police Foundation, who spoke on how the theories of environmental criminology have been developed into the powerful new investigative technique of geographic profiling.

The range of interests among WSC members never fails to amaze me. Participants from 11 states and 2 Canadian provinces gave papers and presentations ranging from the implications of advancing technology for the operation of the criminal law to the use of vipassana meditation in correctional settings, from cybercrime to restorative justice. A panel on spirituality and activism was so well received, we ran it twice.

Michael Gottfredson, Executive Vice Chancellor, University of California Irvine was presented the Paul Tappan Award for outstanding contributions to the field of criminology. The Morrison-Gitchoff Award for actions that have significantly improved the quality of justice went to Karin Bedi, Commissioner of Police (Training), India. Jimmy Brown of the Multnomah County, Oregon, School Attendance Initiative received the W. E. B. DuBois Award for significant contributions to scholarship or activism on crime and race or ethnicity. Martha-Elin Blomquist, past President of WSC, and Miki Vohryzek-Bolden, long time Editor of the *Western Criminologist*, were dual winners of the Joseph D. Lohman Award for significant service to the WSC. Jeremy Travis of the Urban Institute and Detective McCullan Gallinen of the Lafayette, Louisiana, Police Department became Fellows of the WSC. Then-President Darlanne Hocter Mulmat selected Christine Curtis to receive the President's Award for contributing to the field of criminology and serving as a positive influence on her career.

It was, all-in-all, an exciting conference that was made even better by the charming character of Portland and the excellent facilities provided by the Portland Marriott City Centre Hotel. The fact that one of the most spectacular bookstores in the world was a short walk from the hotel contributed to many extra heavy bags being packed home by attendees. This problem was compounded by the sale of book exhibit books to students that traditionally ends the conference and provides funds to the June Morrison fund to support student travel to the WSC. We hope that the conference will be even better in San Diego.

San Diego Conference Theme

In my view, the fields of criminology and criminal justice must be interdisciplinary in character. Crossing the boundaries of professional disciplines is, as any one who tries it knows, a difficult business. Each discipline has its own perspective on the world, its own key issues, its own unique terminology for even the most mundane terms. I studied government and then law before being retrained as a criminologist in a Ford Foundation experiment that thought, for some strange reason, that teaching formal criminology to lawyers would be a good idea. That required me to learn a lot of sociology and psychology. Subsequently my interests in crime patterns required me to learn something about urban planning and geography. More recently, I have been working with an economist and have had to relearn a lot of stuff – beyond “demand and supply” — I thought I had put behind me when I finished my B.A. Each of these efforts has been rewarding, allowing me to see new aspects of the crime problem.

As a result of my personal beliefs about and experiences with interdisciplinary criminology, the 2002 WSC Conference theme is ***Crossing Boundaries, Increasing Knowledge***. The program will focus on the benefits of crossing boundaries between disciplines to pursue better understanding of crime and crossing agency boundaries to increase knowledge of how to deal with crime problems.



The Labyrinth



At the 2001 WSC Conference, Advocates for Women In Prison (AWIP) did a panel on spirituality and activism, “Healing Through the Bars.” AWIP is a non-profit agency composed of Portland State University students and community members dedicated to promoting healing and social change in the lives of Oregon's incarcerated women and their children. Their work includes projects and issues critical to our understanding and awareness of women caught in the justice system in an effort to bring community focus and resources.

They described The Labyrinth as a powerful tool for medita-

tion, self-discovery, and discernment for the women incarcerated in Oregon prisons. They are planning to install a canvas Labyrinth for regular use at the new Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, as well as to install an outdoor labyrinth in the garden area of the new institution. The following is taken from the documents made available by AWIP at the conference.

In 1990, a revolutionary project was begun by a group of people from Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. They discovered an ancient and beautiful walking path, called a labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. After much research into the historical origins and uses of the labyrinth, a project was begun to bring the labyrinth to the United States.

The purpose of the project was to give people from all walks of life a place to retreat from the pressures of their lives, to have a place to reduce stress, quiet the mind, and open the heart. Since installing a permanent Labyrinth at Grace Cathedral, under the guidance of Dr. Lauren Artress, the labyrinth has gained recognition in several parts of the world as a powerful tool for healing and joy. There are now labyrinths available for walking all over the United States, both in permanent locations and on 'traveling' canvas formats.

The labyrinth, usually 42 feet in diameter, has one path in and back out. There are eleven concentric circles for walking, with the twelfth being the center of the labyrinth. There are no tricks or decisions to make when walking. A person can enter the labyrinth path, walk the curving pathway to the center, stop for reflection and then return out by the same path. The length of the walk is approximately one quarter of a mile.

People's reactions to walking the labyrinth vary widely, yet a common theme emerges in reaction to this experience:

- I found a sense of peace that I had not experienced since childhood.
- I had been impatient with people lately and it was beginning to affect my work. After walking the labyrinth, I realized I needed to be more patient with myself.
- The turns in the labyrinth enlightened me to the 'turning points' of my life.
- Walking in the labyrinth is a profoundly moving experience that offers the opportunity for spiritual and psychological growth. Each walk is different for each person and is different each time you walk it.

Brief History About the Labyrinth

The labyrinth is a universal symbol, which has been found in many ancient sites around the world, as long ago as 4500 B.C. Various cultures (e.g., Romans, Grecian, Egyptian, Scandinavian, British, Mexican and Native American) have used the spiral path as a tool in their search for meaning and guidance. For example, some ancient spiritual centers had a labyrinth etched into the wall at the entryway. Before entering the

center, persons could trace the path with a finger to help them focus and gain peace of mind. The labyrinth symbol was so important in ancient cultures that it was often embossed on coins and pottery. In the 11th and 12th centuries, it was common for cathedrals of Europe to lay out labyrinths in wood or stone, as a source of walking meditation. Such a labyrinth still exists at Chartres Cathedral in France.



Student Award Papers

Mr. Mopas' paper was given the first place Student Award at the 2001 Western Society of Criminology Conference in Portland, Oregon.

The Self-Regulating Net: A Theoretical Discussion of Neo-Liberal Governance in Cyberspace

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Abstract

With the development of computer technology and the advancements in communications, the domain of cyberspace has quickly emerged as a new terrain for human activity. However, as more and more people connect to this virtual world, concern has often been raised regarding the lack of formal regulation on the Internet. Nevertheless, by looking only at formal bodies of social control (i.e. State control), these critics fail to recognize the various forms of regulation and discipline that already exist within this new social sphere. Most importantly, we neglect to realize how users and those who operate on the 'Net' informally regulate themselves and those around them. Thus, perhaps the question that must be asked is not whether cyberspace can be regulated and controlled, but how this new non-physical realm is already being governed. By doing so, connections can be drawn to the theoretical framework of neo-liberalism to better conceptualize and explain this system of "cyber-governance". This paper explores the major ideas brought forth by neo-liberalism and applies them to our understanding of the Internet to help illustrate how the new terrain of cyberspace is regulated and controlled by the belief in self-governance, community empowerment and active citizenship described in neo-liberal discourse.

Editors Note: *Please contact Mr. Mopas for the complete paper.*



Mr. Yacoubian's paper was given the second place Student Award at the 2001 Western Society Criminology Conference in Portland, Oregon.

The Relationship between Gang and Other Group Involvement and the Use of Illicit Drugs: Findings from Maryland's Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS) Program

George S. Yacoubian, Jr., research associate with the Center for Substance Abuse (CESAR) and a doctoral student in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland
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Abstract

During the past three decades, several scholarly works have examined the relationship between gang involvement and the use of illicit drugs. To date, however, only one study has examined this association with an objective measure of drug use. Moreover, no studies have collected biological specimens from members of groups that call themselves something other than a gang. In the current study, we explored whether the drug-using behaviors of 'gang' members are comparable to 'other group' (e.g., crew and posse) members and to non-group members. Self-report drug use data and urine specimens were collected from 297 juvenile offenders interviewed through Maryland's Offender Population Urinalysis Screening (OPUS) Program between April 10, 2000 and August 31, 2000. Bivariate and logistic regression analyses indicate that 'other group' members are more likely to use marijuana than 'gang' members and non-group members. Theoretical and policy implications are discussed in light of the current findings.

Editors Note: Please contact Mr. Yacoubian for the complete paper.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Western Society of Criminology 2002

The 29th Annual Conference of the Western Society of Criminology is scheduled for February 21 – 24, 2002 at the Red Lion Hanalei in San Diego, California. The conference theme is *Crossing Boundaries, Increasing Knowledge*. The Program Chair is Patricia Brantingham, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Canada. Please contact Dr. Brantingham or check out our website – www.sonoma.edu/cja/wsc/main/html for detailed information on the conference.

• In Their Own Words • Voices from Conference Attendees

Chris Giles, doctoral student, Simon Fraser University

Students are very uncomfortable with presenting at conferences, especially for first timers and others who are inexperienced. Western Society of Criminology (WSC) is a very student friendly and supportive environment in which to present. You will enjoy it.

Jeremy Travis, Senior Fellow, The Urban Institute

The WSC conference is a unique setting for exploring the intersection between good research and good practice. In accepting his Fellows Award, he stated that "He accepted on behalf of my colleagues at NIJ who helped transform the Institute into a vibrant center for research.

Louise Bauschard, Washington County Community Corrections, Hillsboro, Oregon

We had a great opportunity to network with people who work in this field full-time and to hear about some awesome programs in the community and in the prison setting. It was a very upbeat time together and full of friendly, stimulating conversation. What was most significant was having feedback about our ideas. This really made a difference in our own determination to make our compassion felt by the women behind bars. Let me share one final note about the Labyrinth: The journey on the labyrinth is a walking meditation based on the circle, the Universal symbol of unity, healing and wholeness. Labyrinths are a part of many faith traditions, serving as metaphors for the spiritual journey....the path of life.



A First-Timer's Impressions of the 28th Annual WSC Conference in Portland

*Carrie Petrucci,
Masters of Social Work, Ph.D. Student*

If you feed me and treat me nice, chances are good I'll stick around. Based on my first experience at WSC, I think I'll probably be back. The opening remarks ended up being a Native American singing and drum ceremony, quite unique and a good way to be sure we were awake. I sat at a table with three people I'd never met before. I ended up seeing each of them several times throughout the two days, which speaks to the manageable size of this conference and its ability to foster friendly exchanges precisely because it isn't as big as those 'other big conferences.'

Panel presentations ranged from practitioner-based presentations to completed papers. I attended panels on community courts, integrated family and drug courts, over-representation of people of color and innovations in Oregon corrections. Who knew that so many cutting-edge innovations were happening in Oregon? All the panels provided interesting information by people who came across dedicated and genuinely interested in what they were doing. I was thrilled to see concepts like ‘community justice’ meaning more than a victim restitution payment. And then there was that ‘new age’ stuff that I would not have attended if it weren’t recommended to me. Once again, my preconceptions were proved wrong. I found myself sitting next to a gentleman who ran a men’s facility who was considering integration of the meditation model. While I didn’t see him tear up (of course I did) during an emotionally charged video of jail inmate-participants talking about their 10-day meditation experience, I was struck by the fact that this forum had appeal to intervention researchers like myself, as well as people on the front lines (my past life).

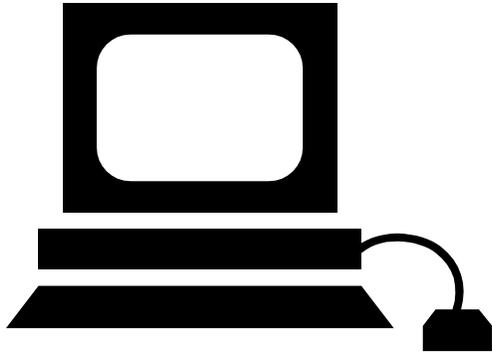
From my perspective, this was probably the most exciting aspect of this conference – that it is a forum for researchers and practitioners to talk to each other and share information.

The plenary session speakers personified this dichotomy quite well, with Jimmy Brown and his team from the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice and Kim Rossmo, a police officer-gone-Ph.D., who managed to explain geographic profiling in an accessible and interesting way (no small feat). Some practitioner panels openly asked for researcher involvement, while others had already made those connections. The opportunities are few and far between that we can meet and talk to each other, and yet it is always so worthwhile when we do. It was exciting to see it all happen in this friendly and unassuming environment. For every break-out session, there were always two places I wanted to be at once (even during my own presentation).

Presenting at this conference was also a positive experience. People asked questions, gave suggestions, and just generally did what is supposed to happen at a conference presentation – give feedback. I’d say it’s worth another go next year for the 29th annual meeting in San Diego.



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Internet Access

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Acknowledgment of Sponsors

The Executive Board of the Western Society of Criminology, on behalf of itself and all of the members of the association, wishes to express thanks and appreciation to all of the individuals and groups who supported the 2001 annual conference in Portland, Oregon. We realize that without your ongoing support of our organization, we would not be able to maintain a reasonable dues structure while still providing the membership with a newsletter and an exciting and intellectually engaging annual program.

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to all of the sponsors: Administration of Justice Division, Mark Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University; College of Urban and Public Affairs, Portland State University; and the Dean, College of Health and Human Services, California State University, Sacramento.



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