



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Spring 2015

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Editor: Dr. Paul Kaplan, School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-4505

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Ryan G. Fischer
California State University, Long Beach

I would like to welcome everyone to spring 2015! It is a very busy time for most of us associated with the WSC. For those in the academic sector, it is a time when many of us are asking ourselves: how did this academic year go by so fast, will this school year 'ever' end, and how will I find the time to finish all this work before the end of the semester? Ironically, all of those thoughts seem to occur simultaneously. On the other hand, many practitioners are asking themselves: why are those academic folks complaining when they have summer right around the corner?

Regardless of the questions that fill our minds this time of year, we are all working in a fascinating field, and we are all playing a part in keeping this wonderful Society alive and thriving. We recently wrapped up our 42nd annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, and I am delighted to be at the helm as we steer toward our upcoming 43rd annual conference next February in Vancouver, British Columbia. I would like to personally thank everyone who attended our conference in Phoenix. The hotel, the panels, the speakers, and the weather were all terrific. Despite a few rather loud rumblings and musical effects that emanated from rooms being used for other events taking place at the Sheraton during a few of our panels, all went well. A clear sign of the WSC's continuing success was illustrated by our attendance rate, as we had over 190 participants.

I would also like to thank our plenary and keynote speakers. The opportunity to hear both research oriented and personal reflections from so many well respected individuals in our field is a pleasure and a great learning opportunity for all attendees. With that in mind, I personally thank Jonathan Simon, Mary Fan, Susan Coutin, Maria Beatriz Velez, and Malcolm Feeley. The WSC is truly honored by your

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willingness to share your thoughts and expertise with our members. Additionally, I would like to thank Father Greg Boyle. His plenary speech served as a reminder that the WSC is not only about research, academics, and the issues facing practitioners, but also that our work in all of those areas is ultimately aimed at assisting the individuals who face the horrors of crime, drug abuse, gang violence, discrimination, and physical abuse. As the founder and executive director of Homeboy Industries, Father Boyle provided us with amazing anecdotes and messages about individuals impacted by crime and deviance, and yes, it is true that only a few dry eyes were observed at the end of his talk.

We had quite a few amazing individuals recognized as award winners this year. The Paul Tappan Award went to Malcolm Feeley, the Joseph D. Lohman Award went to Stuart Henry,

the June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award went to Father Greg Boyle, the Meda Chesney-Lind Award went to Jill Rosenbaum, the Richard Tewksbury Award went to Dana Peterson, the Fellows Award went to Jonathan Simon, the W.E.B. DuBois Award went to Michelle Alexander, and the President’s Award went to Valerie Jenness. Additionally, Janne Gaub, Anna Diaz-Villella, and Michelle Iacoboni were all recipients of our student awards. These are all individuals who have either made significant contributions to their fields or are up and coming stars in criminology. We are very proud to recognize them.

The conference was supported this year by many generous sponsors. To our great fortune, we had four Diamond-level Sponsors: Arizona State University; Simon Fraser University; San Diego State University; and the University of California, Irvine. We also had two Platinum Sponsors: California State University, Dominguez Hills and the University of Missouri, Saint Louis. Our Gold Sponsors were: California State University, Long Beach; the University of California, Berkeley; Royal Roads University; and the University of San Francisco University. Our Silver Sponsors were the University of Wyoming and Seattle University. The conference, our journal, and our Society could not exist without the help from all of these generous institutions. We deeply thank each of them

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Board members: Matt Hickman, Bill Sousa, Bryan Sykes, Rosann Greenspan, John Vinson, Ashley Hewitt, and Chantal Fahmy. We are very proud to see new faces on our Board, and we are even happier to see a growth in the representation of graduate students and practitioners on the Board. I would also like to thank each of our continuing board members for your hard work and dedication to the WSC (I do not have the space to mention each of them by name here, but I encourage readers to visit our newly updated website to see the list of this fantastic group). Additionally, I would like to thank Justin Ready, Erich Schellhammer, and Sam Vickovic as their terms come to an end. Fortunately, each one of them has graciously volunteered to provide mentoring to our incoming Board members. And perhaps most importantly, I want to thank Kimberly Richman as her presidential term comes to an end. She has been an amazing leader of this Society and we owe her a very big round of applause for her service.

I look forward to this upcoming year for the WSC. Our journal, *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law & Society* is doing well after recent title and editorial changes, our annual conference attendance rates continue to improve, and our wonderful Board members are working harder than ever to maintain the quality of WSC. Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing everyone in Vancouver next February.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dr. Paul Kaplan

San Diego State University

This issue of *The Western Criminologist* arrives a bit later in the spring than usual. Why? Because your intrepid editor is on sabbatical! One might think this equates to plenty of time for editing of newsletters, but in reality ‘sabbatical mind’ set in and yours truly found himself lost in writing mode and neglecting just about everything else in life, including putting together this issue! Hopefully the membership will forgive.

Our new president Ryan Fischer kicks off this issue with customary updates about our conference, awards, sponsorship, and our Board. The newsletter continues with reminders about running for the Board, nominating scholars and students for awards, and calls for participation in the conference and for paper submissions to the WSC journal, *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law & Society*. And of course, it wouldn’t be the *Western Criminologist* without *Miki’s Reflections*. This time around Miki Vohryzek-Bolden offers timely and interesting thoughts on drug-sentencing reforms around the country.



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.

Jennifer Sumner, Ph.D

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California State University, Dominguez Hills
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Carson, CA 90747-0005
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COME JOIN US!

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



Hotel: Four Seasons Vancouver

791 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6C 2T2
(604) 689-9333

Rate: \$199 CAN per night for superior rooms
\$349 CAN per night for deluxe executive suites

Book: http://www.fourseasons.com/vancouver/western_society_of_criminology/

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 2015!



June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award:
Father Greg Boyle



Paul Tappan Award:
Malcolm Feeley



Joseph D. Lohman Award:
Stuart Henry



Western Society of Criminology Fellows Award:
Jonathan Simon



President's Award:
Valerie Jenness



W.E.B Dubois Award:
Michelle Alexander



Richard Tewksbury Award:
Dana Peterson



Meda Chesney-Lind Award:
Jill Rosenbaum

WSC AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please submit your nomination for WSC Awards by 5:00 p.m. PST on Friday, June 5, 2015:

- **Paul Tappan Award** for outstanding contribution to the field of criminology.
- **June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award** for significant improvement of the quality of justice.
- **Joseph D. Lohman Award** for outstanding service contributions to the Western Society of Criminology.
- **Fellows Award** conferred upon individuals generally associated with the Western region who have made important contributions to the field of criminology.
- **W.E.B. DuBois Award** for significant contributions to the field of racial and ethnic issues in criminology.
- **Meda Chesney-Lind Award** for significant contributions to the intersection of gender, crime, and justice.
- **Richard Tewksbury Award** for significant contributions to the intersection of sexuality, crime, and justice.

Nominees do not need to be WSC members.

Nomination letters summarizing why the person is deserving of the award must be sent to Dr. Keramet Reiter via e-mail to reiterk@uci.edu.

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. Keramet Reiter, 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:
 1. your full contact information, including your name, address, phone number, and email address;
 2. the name of your school, department, and whether you are a graduate or undergraduate student;
 3. the title of your paper presentation;
 4. a summary of other funding sources available to you, if any;
 5. a brief explanation of how conference attendance will be valuable to your career development (including how it will relate to future career plans); and
 6. 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. Keramet Reiter, 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
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- 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/>

CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Special Sessions at the Vancouver WSC Meetings

Like last year, critical criminology and social justice panels will be highlighted in the annual conference. If you are interested in participating, simply follow the normal paper proposal submission process and submit an abstract by October 2, 2015 through our online submission system:

http://westerncriminology.org/abstract_submission_gateway.htm

Then send the same title/abstract/contact email to stuart.henry2@gmail.com indicating that you want to be on one of the critical criminology and social justice panels.



MIKI'S REFLECTIONS

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden

One of the more exciting changes in criminal justice policy in recent months dealt with the sentencing of drug offenders to state and federal prison. On July 18, 2014, the U.S. Sentencing Commission decided that nearly 46,000 federal drug offenders in prison would be eligible for reduced sentences. In my opinion, this move was way overdue. In an effort to be fully transparent, I should mention that this issue is a very personal issue for me since a relative was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for 'conspiracy to send drugs through the mail.' A tragic loss for him and his parents.

This emerging shift in how we handle illegal drugs is changing from a tough-on-drugs focus to an increased emphasis on treatment. The Drug Policy Alliance has been a powerful advocacy organization for identifying and promoting health-centered alternatives to "harmful, punitive drug laws." Another organization, The Sentencing Project in Washington, D.C. works actively to reform the federal mandatory penalties for crack and powder cocaine offenses to make them more equitable and fair.

A December 17, 2014 article in *The Los Angeles Times* reported that President Obama commuted the sentences of eight prisoners serving lengthy terms for drug charges, only a fraction of the almost 6,500 who applied for his help. The Justice Department is recruiting lawyers to help federally-incarcerated drug offenders seek presidential clemency after being sentenced under harsh sentencing laws. Attorney General Eric Holder's has pushed to reduce the U.S. prison population, particularly among African Americans serving

disproportionally longer sentences for crack cocaine possession.

According to The Sentencing Project, there are three states – New York, New Jersey, and California – that have reduced their prison populations in the range of 25 percent and saw their crime rates generally decline even faster than the national average. In California, we are all well-aware of the Federal Courts requirement to reduce our prison population [which apparently we just reached, at least temporarily], which has been partially managed through the Prison Safety Realignment Act. Realignment shifted thousands of inmates from state prison to county jails. This shift of inmates to the counties was primarily designed to relieve prison overcrowding by returning lower-level offenders to local authorities who can better manage them with locally-driven and designed programs.

California voters also passed Proposition 47 that reduces the classification of most 'non-serious and non-violent' property and drug crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor. The initiative also permits re-sentencing for anyone currently serving a prison sentence for any of the offenses that the initiative reduces to misdemeanors [up to 10,000 inmates by some estimates]. The passage of the ballot with a 58 percent victory margin suggested that voters may now acknowledge that there should be a clearer link between the severity of an offense and the punishment.

These efforts mark the beginning of what I hope will be an on-going review of our sentencing policies to ensure that justice is achieved for all.

THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

We thank the following sponsors for institutional support in 2015 at the following levels:

DIAMOND

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

PLATINUM

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI—ST. LOUIS

GOLD

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SILVER

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



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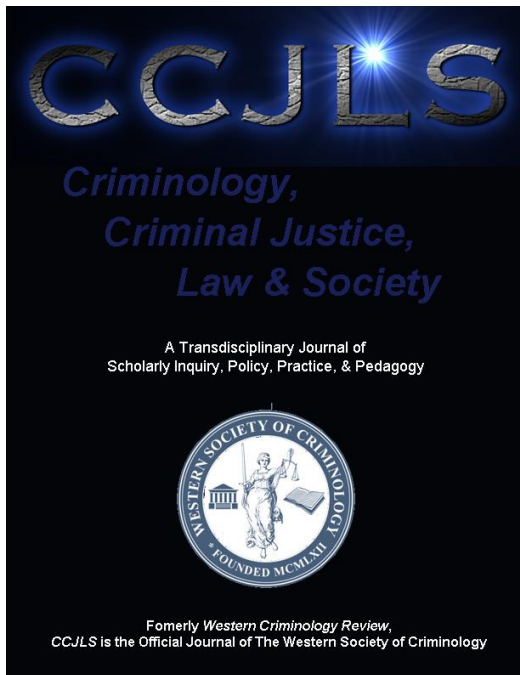
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Newsletter Editor: Paul Kaplan - pkaplan@mail.sdsu.edu

Membership Info: Stuart Henry - stuart.henry2@gmail.com

WSC Webpage: <http://westerncriminology.org/>

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;
- replies and comments to articles previously published in *CCJLS* or *WCR*;
- 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) ([https://scholasticahq.com/criminology-criminal-justice-law-](https://scholasticahq.com/criminology-criminal-justice-law-society)

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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WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

2016 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Dates: February 4, 2016 through February 7, 2016

Hotel: [Four Seasons Vancouver](#)
791 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada, V6C 2T2
(604) 689-9333

Rate: \$199 CAN per night for superior rooms.
\$349 CAN per night for deluxe executive suites

Reservations: Click this link to be taken to a customized portal to reserve rooms for the 2016 WSC conference: http://www.fourseasons.com/vancouver/western_society_of_criminology/

For additional membership or conference information visit us online at:

<http://westerncriminology.org/>

Submission Deadline for Abstracts – October 2, 2015



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