



THE WESTERN CRIMINOLOGIST

Spring 2017

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Editor: Ashley Hewitt, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Hadar Aviram

UC Hastings College of the Law

Dear WSC Friends and Colleagues,

It was a pleasure to see everyone at our wonderful (and very well-attended) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, and to catch up on your groundbreaking and world-improving work. As usual, we had a great mix of faculty and students, and the panels were everything WSC is proud of: an opportunity to interact, learn from each other, get inspired, and mentor others.

The highlights of the conference were the three plenary talks given by our awardees. Michael Bien or Rosen, Bien, Galvan & Grunfeld, LLC, the recipient of our Founders Award, spoke of the unintended consequences of his landmark litigation effort on behalf of California inmates: in the aftermath of the success in the Plata/Coleman cases, the proportion of seriously mentally-ill inmates in California prisons rose. Together, we examined possible causes and ways to approach this issue through both scholarship and litigation. Alex Piquero of University of Texas at Dallas, our President's Award recipient, gave a timely and thought-provoking talk about the nexus between crime and immigration. And Cassia Spohn of Arizona State University, our Tappan Award recipient, spoke of her research on case processing in sexual assault cases, highlighting an unhealthy alliance between the police and the prosecution that leads to the dismissal of most such cases.

As always, we are immensely grateful to our sponsors, without whom we could not have hosted such a successful and interesting event: Diamond sponsors San Diego State University, Seattle University, Simon Fraser University, and UC Hastings College of the Law; Platinum sponsor

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Gold sponsors California State University, Dominguez Hills, California State University, Long Beach, Texas State University, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Irvine,

University of Northern Colorado, University of Toronto Press, and University of Wyoming; and Silver sponsors University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and University of San Francisco. We hope that we can count on your support to continue our work in the future.

Speaking of the future, we are living in interesting times, and as the news inform us every morning, the initial signaling from the federal government regarding the war on drugs, federal sentencing, and immigration policy are a source of grave concern to those of us who have spent years conducting empirical research in criminology and criminal justice. Please, remain hopeful and engaged. Your scholarly contributions are more important now than ever. We must address incidents of unsubstantiated panic, hatemongering, scapegoating, and unfounded policies with strong and clear messaging that facts matter, and that we can, and should, pursue criminal justice reform from a foundation of solid science. We know that the nexus between immigration and threats to public safety is unfounded in research; we also know that the immense expenditure and suffering caused by the War on Drugs have not led to any abatement in use or trafficking. WSC stands firmly by you and your research in these troubling times, and as your new President I look forward to being of service in any way I can to amplify your voice, so that your informed professional contribution will grow manifold. For this end, next year we hope to offer special workshops on disseminating your findings in the printed, televised, and social media. Please feel free to reach out to the WSC leadership with any ideas on how we can best support your important and valuable work.

FROM THE EDITOR

Ashley Hewitt

Simon Fraser University

The Spring 2017 issue begins with a message from the new WSC President, and follows with congratulatory remarks for this year's award winners from our annual meeting, and a solicitation for your help in nominating individuals for next year's WSC awards. Please read the descriptions of the awards and put forth the name of a potential recipient before the deadline of Friday, June 2nd. For students, please consider applying for the June Morrison Scholarship Fund, or submitting a paper to the Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition. Papers are welcome from students matriculated at any college or university anywhere in the world. The deadline for both awards is Friday, October 13th. Detailed information about each of these opportunities is available below.

The newsletter continues with information about our 2018

conference in Long Beach, California, and a reprinted article from the American Society of Criminology's newsletter, *The Criminologist*, by Dr. D. Kim Rossmo who discusses the fine print of journal reviewing. Natalie Todak features her first solo authored article that examines how individuals make the decision to become police officers in the context of a police legitimacy crisis and how men and women's decision-making processes may be different. Allison Fernandez outlines strategies on how to prevent cheating on exams, and Dr. Obed Magny discusses the establishment of the American society of evidence-based policing. Dr. Obed Magny and Chief Eric Jones of the Stockton Police Department then continue with a discussion of a new social media campaign that shows the positive interactions taking place between police officers and members of the public in what is known as Cops4Communities. David Thompson also contributes two articles that discuss why innocent people confess, and the making a murderer effect.

Lastly, in this issue we wish to thank our 2017 institutional sponsors for their support, and you will also find the WSC's contact information as well as a call for submissions to the WSC's official journal, *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society*. If you come across a story that you would like to be posted or tweeted, please contact the WSC's social media director, Natalie Todak. Natalie can also be contacted regarding job opportunities to circulate, new research or books by WSC members, or any other announcements that you may have for our membership.

AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

As Dr. Yvette Farmer, former Editor of this newsletter, so eloquently wrote, "The scholarly exchange of ideas and experiences that takes place between academics and professionals in Criminology and Criminal Justice enriches all of us." (*The Western Criminologist*, Spring 2013, p. 8). In keeping with this, I invite both practitioners and academics to consider contributing your thoughts on a topic that is of interest to you and the WSC readership to be included in the next issue of our newsletter. Please send your article, or any questions, to:

Ashley Hewitt
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
ahewitt@sfu.ca



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, *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 David MacAlister, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, for more information:

David MacAlister, LL.M.
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive
Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6
(778) 782-3019
dmacalis@sfu.ca

COME JOIN US!

We encourage you to mark your calendar for the 45th Annual Conference of the WSC!



Hotel: [Hilton Long Beach](#)

701 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, CA, United States 90831-3102
(562) 983-3400

Rate: \$189 USD per night plus taxes and fees

Book: A link to book within the WSC's room block will be added to the website during the summer of 2017. Please visit <http://westerncriminology.org/conference-3/> for more details.

The Program Chairs are:

- Dr. Jennifer Sumner, California State University – Dominguez Hills, 1000 E. Victoria Street, SBS D-308, Carson, CA 90747-0005, jsumner@csudh.edu;
- Dr. Edith Kinney, University of California – Berkeley, 525B MacQuarrie Hall, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95192-0050, edith.kinney@sjsu.edu.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WSC AWARD
RECIPIENTS FOR 2017!**



DR. CASSIA C. SPOHN

PAUL TAPPAN AWARD:

TO HONOR OUTSTANDING
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF
CRIMINOLOGY



DR. CHARLES KATZ

FELLOWS AWARD:

TO HONOR A PERSON GENERALLY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE WESTERN
REGION WHO HAS MADE IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD OF
CRIMINOLOGY



MICHAEL BIEN, ESQ.

**JUNE MORRISON – TOM
GITCHOFF FOUNDERS
AWARD:**

TO HONOR A PERSON WHO,
THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP AND/OR
ACTIVISM, HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF
JUSTICE IN THE UNITED STATES



DR. YVETTE FARMER

JOSEPH D. LOHMAN AWARD:

TO HONOR A PERSON WHO HAS
PROVIDED OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF
CRIMINOLOGY



DR. ROBERT CRUTCHFIELD

W.E.B. DUBOIS AWARD:

FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO
ADVANCING AWARENESS OF RACIAL
AND ETHNIC ISSUES IN CRIMINOLOGY
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE



DR. JENNIFER FRASER

MEDA CHESNEY-LIND AWARD:

FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO SCHOLARSHIP OR ACTIVISM ON
THE INTERSECTION OF WOMEN AND
CRIME



DR. HENRY F. FRADELLA

**RICHARD TEWKSBURY
AWARD:**

FOR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS
TO SCHOLARSHIP OR ACTIVISM ON
THE INTERSECTION OF CRIME AND
SEXUALITY



DR. ALEX R. PIQUERO

PRESIDENT'S AWARD:

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIELD
OF CRIMINOLOGY AND POSITIVE
INFLUENCE ON THE CURRENT
WESTERN SOCIETY OF
CRIMINOLOGY PRESIDENT'S CAREER

WSC STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Miki Vohryzek-Bolden
Student Paper Competition:

*Vigilante Justice in Jail: Extending Sex Offender
Punishment Beyond Incapacitation*

Jordan Nichols

Abstract: Criminal justice literature richly documents offenders' use of five primary "techniques of neutralization" (ways of rationalizing their behavior/criminal activity) (Sykes & Matza, 1957; Scully & Marolla, 1984). Using qualitative data collected from inmates during six months in a local jail, the following paper finds evidence of these techniques and – with a particular inmate population – an exceptional form of one of these justifications: the denial of victim. In this correctional setting, inmates justify their actions against sex offenders as a means of vigilante justice. This technique of neutralization uses societal values, in this case the exceptional treatment of sex offenders both in the media and post-release, to fuel the other inmates' justification for extending the punishment of sex offenders inside correctional facilities. In much the same way as society believes that typical sanctions for monitoring inmates post-release are inadequate for sex offenders, many jail inmates believe that incapacitation in a facility as "comfortable" as jail is an inadequate punishment in light of the way that sex offenders uniquely offend against society. These inmates extend the punishment of sex offenders within the jail through harassment and, in extreme cases, physical violence. This extension of punishment, though justifiable in the minds of participating inmates, may ultimately induce further harm to society by increasing the likelihood that sex offenders do not or cannot rehabilitate and instead return to custody post-release.

June Morrison Scholarship Fund:

Jennifer Kusz

WSC STUDENT SOCIAL

This year's student social was a great success! 30 students were able to ride in a private pod on The High Roller observation wheel at the LINQ!



WSC AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominations for each of the following WSC Awards are currently being accepted:

- **June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award** for significant improvement of the quality of justice.
- **Paul Tappan Award** for outstanding contribution to the field of criminology.
- **Joseph D. Lohman Award** for outstanding service contributions to the Western Society of Criminology.
- **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.
- **Richard Tewksbury Award** for significant contributions to the intersection of sexuality, crime, and justice.
- **Meda Chesney-Lind Award** for significant contributions to the intersection of gender, crime, and justice.

Nominees do not need to be WSC members.

The deadline for submissions for each of these awards is Friday, June 2, 2017, by 5:00 p.m. PST.

Please submit your nomination letters summarizing why the person is deserving of the award to the Chairperson of the Awards Committee, [Dr. Aili Malm](#).

WSC STUDENT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Dr. Aili Malm, indicating his/her support of your request for travel funds.

Email the information to [Dr. Aili Malm](#), by 12:00 noon PST on Friday, October 13, 2017. Winners will be notified in writing by December 15, 2017.

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, 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.

A completed, final paper should be emailed to [Dr. Aili Malm](#), by 12:00 noon PST on Friday, October 13, 2017. Winners will be notified in writing by December 15, 2017.



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 1-3, 2018 • LONG BEACH, CA

❖ Please note that the deadline to submit abstracts is Friday, October 6, 2017 ❖

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 AND FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
- GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (CRIMINAL LAW & CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- PEACEMAKING CRIMINOLOGY
- POLICING
- RACE, ETHNICITY, AND CRIME
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING (PEDAGOGY & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE EDUCATION)
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

The Abstract Submission System *will open during the summer of 2017* and will remain open for submission until Friday, October 6, 2017, which is the deadline to submit abstracts. Once the system opens this summer, you may access it in one of two ways:

1. From our **Home Page**, move your cursor over the **Conference** tab page and press on text in the drop-down menu that says “**Submit an Abstract.**”
2. 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 6, 2017). 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 and pre-pay for the conference by Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

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

THE FINE PRINT OF JOURNAL REVIEWING

Dr. D. Kim Rossmo

Texas State University

Reprinted from *The Criminologist* (2017), 42(1), 8.
Used with permission.

I was recently asked to review a manuscript for a well-known scholarly journal. In order to accept the review invitation, I had to create an account with the publisher and check a box indicating I'd read and understood their registered user agreement. Doing so meant I agreed to be bound by its terms and conditions. If I chose not to do so, there was no way to continue the review.

The agreement was five pages of legal language containing a number of requirements and restrictions, virtually all of which had nothing to do with peer reviewing. Amongst other clauses, the reviewer agrees to indemnify the publisher, its suppliers, and its licensors, against any and all third-party claims of liability, losses, damages and costs, including attorneys' and legal fees, arising from any violation (or alleged violation) of their terms.

While the agreement may not appear to mean much in practice, in principle why should a reviewer agree to such terms and accept legal liability in order to provide a free service for a for-profit business? Reviewed manuscripts must be treated as confidential¹ of course, but the publisher's terms and conditions went far beyond that.

The legal agreement also bound the reviewer to the publisher's privacy policy. This particular publishing company collects comprehensive personal information that, absent an opt-out, can be used to send special offers, promotions, surveys, products, and events from their affiliates and non-affiliated third parties including sponsors. The company can also share your personal information with relevant agents, representatives, joint venturers, licensees, *et cetera*, to assist them in developing and operating their businesses, systems, and

applications, and in marketing and promotions (as if we needed more junk mail).

The business tactics of certain publishers – many of which are now owned by multinational parent companies – have generated considerable controversy. To help maintain large profit margins, they charge high individual journal prices, pressuring university libraries to purchase publication bundles containing unwanted journals (rather like the cable television model). In some cases, their political support for legislation restricting free information exchange has resulted in protests and boycott movements from the academic community.

Most of the journals criminologists publish in are professional and provide value; perhaps the relatively small size of our field has helped protect us from more predatory practices. However, in the modern world of acquisition and mergers, publishing companies are increasingly owned by large corporations with objectives misaligned with those of scholars and researchers. It is important for academics to know what lies beneath the impact factor.

Open source journals, high profit margins, and corporate ethics in academic publishing involve complex issues that won't be resolved in the near future (Aaronson, 2007). However, the exploitation of reviewers who donate their time to support the process is something that can be responded to individually and immediately. We are in a strategic position. Read the fine print and refuse to agree to anything you believe is unreasonable. If editors of problematic journals find it difficult to obtain reviews, editorial boards might pressure their publishers to amend sneaky agreements.

References

Aaronson, S. (2007). The access principle by John Willinsky. [Review]. *ACM SIGACT News*, 38(4), 19–23.

¹ Several scholarly associations have adopted a code of ethics detailing how the publication and review process should be conducted (<http://www.asc41.com/ethicspg.html>).

Postscript – January 2017

The publisher of the journal mentioned in the preceding article is Elsevier. Their terms and conditions can be found here: <https://www.elsevier.com/legal/elsevier-website-terms-and-conditions>; and their privacy policy here <https://www.elsevier.com/legal/privacy-policy>. Their treatment of scholars who donate their time to support the publishing process is remarkably arrogant.

Elsevier's multinational parent company develops sophisticated information-based analytics and sells personal data collected from millions of consumers. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has taken action against the company for failure to provide reasonable security for sensitive information in a database containing Social Security numbers.

The “disproportionately expensive” (in the words of Stanford University's Senate) pricing of Elsevier's journals and their support for measures restricting the free exchange of information has led to boycotts by higher education institutions and a protest against publishing, refereeing, or performing editorial work for them (<http://www.thecostofknowledge.com>).

PUBLICATION FEATURE

Natalie Todak

Arizona State University

Arizona State University Ph.D. student Natalie Todak published her first solo authored journal article in *Women and Criminal Justice* (2017; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08974454.2016.1256804>). Ms. Todak interviewed 42 criminal justice college students who wanted to become police officers after graduation. She found the students were both concerned about and motivated by the current crisis in American policing. Specifically, they felt that citizens had especially critical views of the police and looked forward to proving that officers were trustworthy and fair. Further, women in the sample felt they would face additional challenges associated with being a female in a male dominated profession. They were, however, also particularly motivated to become police officers to prove that they could overcome these gendered barriers. The paper draws implications for how agencies can identify more quality candidates and increase the representation of women in the police profession.

PREVENTING CHEATING ON EXAMS

Allison J. Fernandez

Texas State University

Cheating seems to be prevalent among most college students (Jensen, Arnett, Feldman, & Cauffman, 2002) with estimates as high as 90% in college samples (Graham, 1994). With several online sources instructing students how to cheat, specifically on exams, it is not surprising to find students accustomed to academic cheating. Despite how common cheating may be, however, there are preventative measures that can, and should, be taken to minimize academic cheating.

Several of the sources available online regarding how to cheat instructs students to make small ‘cheat sheets’ and look at them when the professor or instructor is not looking. Surprisingly, many videos share the same notion: professors only walk around or stand in the back of the classroom for a few minutes. After about five minutes, the professor will retreat to his/her desk for the rest of the exam time, providing the prime conditions for students to refer to their ‘cheat sheets’. The first preventative measure that should be taken to prevent cheating during exams is to be present rather than reading or otherwise being inattentive while students finish their exams.

Other methods used to cheat on exams include looking at someone else's exam or purchasing a test bank from past students who have taken the course. In order to minimize the opportunity students have to look over at someone else's exam, a blank sheet of paper should be passed out along with the exams. Students should be instructed to keep answers covered with this blank sheet throughout the exam. Further, if the size of the class allows, students should skip seats so that no two students are sitting directly next to one another.

Overcoming the complications of students buying past exams admittedly requires more work than the other suggestions thus far. Regardless, there are still steps that can be taken to remedy this problem. The simplest way to address this issue is to avoid distributing exams back to students. However, there may be students in the class who take photos of the exam with their cell phone in order to acquire a copy of the exam irrespective of your actions. In this case, one could administer different exams each semester. Alternatively, creating different

versions of exams may be a more viable solution. In this case, if a student distributes an exam to a future student with the intent to cheat on an exam, it is likely the answers are memorized (i.e., 1. A, 2. D, 3. B), rather than the full-text answers to the specific questions. If different versions of exams are created, the student who purchased a prior semester's exam will most likely not receive the same version exam.

A discussion of academic cheating would not be complete without the discussion of technology, which can also be used to cheat. Prior to exams, students should be instructed to put up all electronic devices and anything that is unnecessary for the exam, including phones and smartwatches, which can store text and photos. Any other items unnecessary for the completion of exams should also be set aside (i.e., snacks and drinks) as text on labels can be altered and replaced with look-alike labels that contain exam information. Calculators should also be put away, unless required for the exam, as they can be programmed to store text as well.

While there are various methods students may use to cheat on exams, preventative measures can be taken as outlined above. This list of proposed preventative measures to decrease cheating during exams is certainly not exhaustive and the basics should not be overlooked either. If students are not interested or do not understand the material, they may be more inclined to cheat. Aside from test day, instructors should attempt to engage students in the material as much as possible, offer assistance when needed to understand the material, and clearly communicate the sanctions and university policies regarding cheating in the class syllabus and throughout the course.

References

- Graham, M. A. (1994). Cheating at small colleges: An examination of student and faculty attitudes and behaviors. *Journal of College Student Development, 35*(4), 255–260.
- Jensen, L. A., Arnett, J. J., Feldman, S. S., & Cauffman, E. (2002). It's wrong, but everybody does it: Academic dishonesty among high school and college students. *Contemporary Educational Psychology, 27*(2), 209–228.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING

Dr. Obed Magny

Sacramento Police Department

With all the controversies going on in law enforcement today, the profession is under more and more scrutiny. Some media outlets and other interest groups have showed countless video footage of police officers acting in a manner that has contributed to the eroding trust that is lacking in many communities today. Police officers are held to a higher standard because it is the profession preventing society from falling into chaos. It is a noble profession that few people are privileged to experience.

With that being said, the perception of the profession is being questioned regularly. From community activists, to consent decrees, to officers being caught on video behaving badly, many people are now wondering if there is a systemic problem in policing that is out of control. As with any profession, you will have those people (and/or organizations) that poorly reflect on everyone else. Some officers sometimes wonder why their superiors are implementing a new policy on solving crimes, and other neighborhood problems, utilizing methods that seem incoherent and without explanation? Because of some of these anecdotal approaches (such as zero tolerance approaches, arresting everyone to solve a problem, etc.) managers use in fighting crimes, sometimes to no avail, the gap of trust deteriorates with the communities they serve. This lack of legitimacy of law enforcement is harmful to the profession. We need to create a culture that increases legitimacy in being transparent, and forward thinking about the way we solve neighborhood problems and keeping our communities safe.

In the medical field, the American Medical Association (AMA) was created to promote the best research beneficial to doctors and patients alike. In the field of psychiatry and psychology, the American Psychological Association (APA) was created for the same reason. These organizations serve one purpose, providing guidance and recommendations... based on research. Whether it's a new drug being introduced to the market or a new medical procedure being performed, their endorsement of anything is rooted in scientific research and nothing else. Another aspect of these organizations is that they are independent third parties of subject

matter experts in the field, adding to their credibility as an organization.

If organizations such as the AMA and APA exist in their respective professions, why isn't there something similar in law enforcement? One thought is that police officers are a tight group and are weary of people outside the profession telling them what they should be doing. Although there's some merit to this reluctance, the thinking has to change. But how do we do that? We know there must be a proactive move on law enforcement's part in embracing this new idea.

Scientific research in law enforcement is not new. In other areas of the world such as the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada, evidence-based policing organizations have played a crucial role in guiding law enforcement in the best methodologies in solving crimes and other issues in the profession. In the United States, the idea of having a standard-bearer organization supporting the interests of law enforcement by advancing evidence-based research is new. Officials at all levels of government are recognizing the benefits of using an evidence-based approach in policing, especially in transparency in the approaches of solving problems. Some cops are told to fix a problem in their neighborhood, but aren't given access or resources to solving neighborhood problems. Oftentimes, the approaches they use are not researched-based, and when the public is on the other end of a bad approach, the consequences can be detrimental to increasing trust.

This organization is called the American Society of Evidence-Based Policing (ASEBP), and they want evidenced-based practices to be the new norm in policing. The mission of the ASEBP is to drive the national conversation towards ensuring the least harmful, most effective, fairest and safest research-based strategies are employed to prevent crime, reduce harm and improve community wellness.

The ASEBP aims to accomplish this by **EDUCATING** others about evidence-based practices, **ADVOCATING** for their use in everyday policing, and **FACILITATING** the use and dissemination of research useful to front-line officers, commanders, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

If you're interested in learning more about the ASEBP, please visit their website:

<http://americansebp.com/home/>

In addition, the ASEBP is hosting a conference at Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ, on May 22-23, 2017.

COPS4COMMUNITIES: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE ABOUT POLICING – A SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTING ALL THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF POLICING

Officer Obed Magny^a & Chief Eric Jones^b

^aSacramento Police Department

^bStockton Police Department

Introduction

Police officers are held to a high standard and are widely respected. How often does the media publicize the positive interactions occurring daily between police officers and citizens? With all of the recent headlines regarding police misconduct and excessive force, maintaining trust between law enforcement and their communities continues to be a constant challenge. Almost weekly, there's a new story reported about police officer misconduct. These negative news stories can cause an erosion of public trust. With the rise of social media, more and more videos continue to surface showing police officers in a negative light while in the scope of their duties. So how did this narrative change to a negative image of this profession?

For starters, it's important to note that accusations alleging police brutality are not new. During the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 1960s, you can find endless video footage of police officers mistreating peaceful protestors. The ill-treatment included protestors being hosed down, bitten by police dogs, and beaten with batons. For many people (especially persons of color), the police were not seen as a legitimate entity during these types of incidents (Goldsmith, 2005).

On March 3, 1991, a citizen videotaped the beating of Rodney King by police officers following a high-speed pursuit and apprehension. A citizen caught the incident on camera:



After the four officers involved had been found not guilty of excessive force, a large number of people were upset. Some members of the public did not see legitimacy with the police and the justice system, and riots ensued for six days on the streets of Los Angeles. Cities such as Ferguson (MO), Baltimore (MD), and other municipalities have seen similar aftermaths based on the negative interactions of their police departments. Countless stories of negative interactions between the police and public have since followed.

Other high-profile cases in the media, such as the federal investigations uncovering a culture of racism and discrimination in some municipalities, have fed into the perception of police corruption (Sherman, 2002). Because of the slow response of law enforcement leaders to publicly denounce the “bad apples,” the message portrayed is that law enforcement executives condone the negative actions of a small fraction of these individuals. The United States Department of Justice found that the Ferguson Police Department (MO) was engaged in the systemic targeting of people of color via traffic violations to generate revenue. Other agencies have found themselves under Consent Decree for similar practices. In other high-profile cases, police officers posted comments on social media that brought discredit upon themselves and their agencies. Unfortunately, these incidents not only affect those individual departments but also bring discredit to the profession as a whole. The combination of these actions undermines the policing profession.

One of the many challenges facing police organizations today is police officer recruitment. Police recruitment has become a challenge because many potential applicants lack interest in becoming police officers. They no longer see the benefits of getting into law enforcement because they don’t want to find themselves unfairly scrutinized for doing their job. The discernment has caused people on both sides of this issue to believe

that it will take a miracle to bridge the trust gap between both entities.

Trust is a two-way street where the community and police believe in each other. When that trust is broken, citizens no longer see legitimacy in the law enforcement officers sworn to protect them. But the law enforcement community is the glue that keeps society from chaos and anarchy. It takes consistent collaboration between the public AND police for communities to be safe.

What can be done to help bridge the trust gap when some members of the community no longer feel the police are there to protect and serve? How can law enforcement proactively help change the narrative and accurately depict what police officers actually do?

Social Media

The media plays a major role in influencing the portrayal of police. Arguably, social media can play a bigger role in promoting how the public sees the police. Some agencies, such as the Sacramento Police Department (CA), use social media as a form of their community policing strategy. Some community policing approaches include, but are not limited to, working with the public in searching and locating missing persons, alerting citizens of street closures and detours, informing people of suspicious activities in their neighborhoods, and disseminating information to citizens concerning crimes committed in their areas.

Policing has advanced from the days of using wanted posters as a community policing strategy to connect with citizens. Thanks to the advancement in technology, there are many ways police use social media sites to connect with citizens. These social media sites include Instagram, Periscope, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook.



Use of these sites demonstrates law enforcement’s ability to adapt to the changing world today and become more current and effective in communicating with the public.

Social media can be a great tool for law enforcement, but undoubtedly, it also has a downside when not used properly. There is ample documentation of negative and disparaging postings made by officers. Citizens will not only think the officers are speaking for themselves but on behalf of their respective organizations too.

Citizens today are pulling out their cellphones frequently to record police officers in the scope of their duties, some with the hopes of catching them doing something wrong. Unfortunately, some of these interactions often posted show only a snippet of the exchange between the officer and citizen and do not show the whole incident in its entirety. Because of the high frequency of these occurrences, the public's view of law enforcement becomes tainted.

Law enforcement officers around the country are increasingly concerned that video recording of their interactions with the public will be used against them in a negative light. There are two separate events related to this phenomenon. The first is called the "Ferguson Effect," which is the idea that increased scrutiny of police following the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown has led to an increased murder rate in major U.S. cities (Wolfe & Nix, 2016). The second event is called the "YouTube Effect," which is the idea that more prevalent smartphone video postings have caused officers to become concerned about becoming involved in interactions that will reflect negatively on them and their respective agencies.

James Comey (FBI Director) recently suggested that the rise in crime in the United States might be attributed to these types of occurrences (Comey, 2015, October 23). With many people in the U.S. carrying smartphones, the use of social media has given the average person the instruments needed to document and report incidents of police misconduct, sometimes in real time.

Although the "Ferguson Effect" and the "YouTube Effect" have been debated nationwide, not all agencies are affected by this phenomenon. Police agencies can manage these events through leadership, policies, and practice. Dialogue within police agencies is key. Police managers MUST have a pulse of their rank and file officers and provide reassurance and support, which is paramount for keeping morale up in such challenging times. For example, the Stockton Police Department (CA) conducted an internal examination showing neither effect to be occurring. But it is critical that law

enforcement executives understand the immense challenges from the explosive change in social media live streaming and raw video postings, reaching a larger audience than ever and doing so immediately. Raw imagery emotionally and psychologically impacts us all. Positive leadership can address these issues; agencies can and should showcase their positive and successful interactions to tell the whole story better. Law enforcement executives can use social networking to their advantage in creating an online presence to increase trust, humanize police departments, enhance community policing, and increase the flow of needed information to their police departments.

Cops4Communities

The earth has become more global. With the touch of a few buttons on a cell phone and computer, an instant connection is made to the world. Many people obtain news from social media, and not from the media outlets like radio and television.

Law enforcement officials need to reach out locally to tell the story of what police officers do on a regular basis. Leaders in policing must take a proactive stance to increase transparency and expose the good work performed by the men and women who protect the communities they serve.

Some agencies on social media have posted numerous positive interactions occurring between police officers and their communities. These are heartwarming stories (e.g., officers buying bicycles for young persons so they won't have to walk great distances each day to go to school or work; or officers volunteering at a local Boys and Girls Club). One person, in particular, is Officer Tommy Norman of the North Little Rock Police Department (AR). Officer Norman frequently posts his positive interactions with the citizens in his community, and his message of community policing has become very popular. In fact, Officer Norman has over one million followers on his Instagram account.

The American Society of Evidence-Based Policing (ASEBP) has created a social media campaign to show the positive interactions taking place between police officers and members of the public. The campaign is called Cops4Communities. Here's how it works: Police officers having positive interactions with citizens can capture these moments via photos (or minute-long videos) and post them on Twitter, Facebook, and

Instagram. They need to ensure to use the following hashtags:

- #cops4communities
- #c4c
- #communities4cops

Cops4Communities, hosted by the ASEBP, is an excellent platform to tell the often untold story of the great job the men and women in law enforcement are doing each and every day.



As mentioned, the public does not always hear these stories, yet experience has shown that they, in fact, crave them.

People associate the often-used term “transparency” with putting out challenging or difficult information, which is, of course, important. But being transparent also means highlighting what law enforcement officers do on a daily basis that often goes unrecognized. If the goal is transparency, more information should be made known for public consumption. Posting this type of information desired by the public allows the sharing of a different perspective. New audiences can be reached for information sharing, increasing tips for crime solving, and hiring the next generation of police officers. The public will know law enforcement is striving for better communication with a common goal of safety in mind.

A platform such as Cops4Communities not only humanizes police officers, it also shows law enforcement officers being more accessible and approachable than ever; even when faced with the extreme dangers of their profession. Police officers must walk a high wire by remaining vigilant, due to increased attacks and ambushes nationwide, while also being approachable to community members – that is a difficult balancing act, yet police officers do it every day.

For the most part, American citizens have a great deal of respect for the police. Controversies involving police misconduct will continue to be in the forefront for the foreseeable future. Law enforcement leaders have a responsibility to do their part in showing the daily positive interactions their officers have with citizens. To continue building trust, police officers must show what they are doing on a regular basis. This shows they are not just saying they want to build trust, but rather are doing it, every day.

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Obed Magny is a police officer at the Sacramento Police Department 5770 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95822, obed.magny@gmail.com. He is a National Institute of Justice, Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science, Scholar, and a Policing Fellow with the Police Foundation. Dr. Magny is also an adjunct professor at Brandman University, and Personal and Executive Coach.

Eric Jones is police chief of the Stockton Police Department, 22 East Market Street, Stockton, CA 95202, eric.jones@stocktonca.gov. He developed and led “Principled Policing” with the California State Department of Justice for statewide training. He led Stockton to be one of only six sites for the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. His work was profiled in the New York Times in July 2016.

I DID IT?! WHY INNOCENT PEOPLE CONFESS

It is hard to imagine why someone would confess to something they didn't do. To voluntarily provide information that results in incarceration, embarrassment, loss of employment, restitution or loss of freedom seems unfathomable. However, not only are there several cases of this actually occurring but it continues to happen throughout the widespread field of interrogations.

Most confessions provided by a guilty subject include their rationalization for their actions as an attempt to gain an understanding of why they may have done something they normally wouldn't do. Investigators have heard thousands of stories of a subject stealing money impulsively without thinking it through, burglarizing a property due to financial pressures or giving away trade secrets because someone else pressured them into it. If we can acknowledge that someone may commit a crime due to pressures in their life, then we should be able to understand why an innocent subject may admit to their involvement in a crime because of other pressures being applied.



Taking into consideration research done by groups such as the Innocence Project, Wrongful Conviction Center for Youth and other academics across the world, there are several reasons why a confession may occur involuntarily and even be false. Many of the reasons are due to the strategy of the interrogation and behavior of the investigator.

To truly understand how subjects may confess to crimes they didn't commit, or even exaggerate their involvement, let's review some of the common reasons why this may occur.

Suggestion of Leniency and False Promises

One of the toughest concepts to understand is why an innocent subject would confess when they know that their confession will result in some form of punishment. This punishment can vary depending on the crime, but it may involve lengthy prison sentences, reputational damage, financial burdens and countless others. Often in a false confession case, it is found that the investigator made several suggestive comments that relieve any consequences if the subject admits. Statements such as "honesty will set you free" or "if you tell us the truth we can handle that between us" provide the subject an opportunity to disclose untruthful information without any real consequence. This false sense of security may cause innocent subjects to confess just to avoid furthering the interrogation's progress and assuming they will be able to leave freely after their admission.

Length of Interrogation

Simply put, the longer any person is kept in an undesirable situation – the more desperate they may become to escape it. Many organizations and agencies have implemented timeframe guidelines on the interrogation process due to this issue. Additionally, lengthy interrogations that result in a mentally exhausted, physically tired, hungry and dehydrated subject can easily result in unreliable information obtained by the interviewer. This is especially obvious when the interrogator offers an incentive to admitting, such as a glass of water or a "break" in the interrogation if a subject admits.

Removal of Intent

Most crimes, acts of dishonesty or other unscrupulous events in a subject's life are internally rationalized allowing a person to relieve feelings of guilt. These rationalizations, however, still carry the intent of the action they committed. An example of this could be a subject who stole money from somebody else's wallet because they needed to pay their mortgage on time. They were able to explain why they committed the act, but still had the intent and ensuing consequences attached to it. A common theme of false confessions is when the interrogator provides the subject themes that remove intent completely, therefore minimizing the perceived consequences. Telling the subject that their act was an accident, a mistake, or that they must have "blacked-out" may directly remove any intent and consequences for their actions. If an innocent subject feels as though they are guilty based on the investigator's narrative, and then are told it must have been an "accident" they may have memory distrust and confess to something they did not do. These topics of rationalizations should only be accepted by the investigator if the evidence actually supports their truthfulness. Regardless, if an investigator continues to accuse the subject of their guilt over a lengthy interrogation but then offers them an excuse that removes any consequences; even an innocent subject may take advantage of that escape.

Threats and Emotional Pressure

This topic may seem self-explanatory, but from the perspective of a subject in front of someone of authority, threats and emotional pressure may be more apparent than the investigator realizes. From the extreme example of "enhanced interrogation techniques" or torture, all the way to a parent telling their child "tell me what happened or you are going to your room"; people are susceptible to providing any information that allows them to escape an undesirable situation. Threats or excessive confrontation that suggest extreme punishment or harm to someone's family may force an innocent person to reveal untruthful information to appease the investigator.

The above cautions are only a few of the many potential causes of involuntary confessions and often carry even more risk when the subject is of a young age or has any intellectual disabilities. On occasion, subjects may offer a voluntary confession that is false for a variety of reasons such as notoriety or to conceal another crime.

As Certified Forensic Interviewers (CFI), and thought leaders in the industry, our goal is to continue to evolve and utilize techniques that provide a guilty subject the opportunity to tell the truth while not incentivizing an innocent subject to confess. Understanding the dangerous power of persuasion combined with the emotional pressure of being interrogated is essential to investigators when obtaining the truth with great caution.

Investigators have a difficult mission of identifying the truth from subjects who typically don't want to share it. Determining the right strategy, while being cognizant of the potential risks and ultimately substantiating any confession with a thorough investigation will help investigators reach their goal. In addition to the importance of preventing a false confession is the admissibility of a truthful confession. Investigators realize that the interview or interrogation is simply a piece of the entire investigation, and not necessarily the conclusion. Following up on details provided during a confession, and thoroughly vetting the information to either disprove or corroborate will further secure a truthful confession, and simultaneously prevent the investigator from accepting a false one. When investigators follow their appropriate training protocol, utilize video recording and maintain high ethical standards it should also allow for the increased credibility of the confessions they do obtain.

Investigators and leaders in the field of interrogation should continue to educate themselves on these risks and potential pitfalls of interrogation techniques. Challenging oneself, or team members, on how they obtained a confession, rather than focusing primarily on the outcome is an important first step in identifying a need for change.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view this article online.



David Thompson, CFI®, is an instructor and Director of Investigations, Research and Innovation with **Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc. (WZ)**. He manages a variety of investigations as well as conducts interview and interrogation training across a wide spectrum of clients and diverse cases. As a speaker for WZ, David has presented at seminars, hosted a variety of webinars as well as conducted live broadcasts of training. He is also an active member of the International Association of Interviews (IAI) and has contributed blogs, video tips and hosted webinars to support the continuing education of its members.

Dave Thompson, CFI

dthompson@w-z.com

@DThompsonWZ

800.222.7789 x125

THE MAKING A MURDERER EFFECT



Interrogation methods used improperly can cause a multitude of issues including involuntary or false confessions and make it increasingly difficult to identify the truth or obtain reliable information in an investigation. This topic has been widely discussed in the recent months due to the popular Netflix documentary "Making a Murderer" in regard to the interrogations of Brendan Dassey.

Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, the Juvenile Law Center and University of Virginia Professor of Law, Brandon L. Garrett filed an amicus brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on behalf of Dassey in December, 2016. **The WZ team is proud to have stood behind the integrity of ethical, moral and legally acceptable interview and interrogation methods.**

The Amicus Brief was provided to the Seventh Circuit in response to the State of Wisconsin's appeal of an August 12, 2016 decision by a Federal Magistrate Judge. The decision supported the claims by Dassey that his confession was involuntary for a variety of reasons as noted within the amicus brief.

The brief highlights critical risks that interrogators have made when dealing with a subject such as Dassey; making false promises or suggestions of leniency, threats of consequences, and lack of considerations of his age, intellectual capacity and social behaviors when dealing with authority.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view a full copy of the brief and for more information from the Juvenile Law Center regarding the case **[CLICK HERE](#)**.

Written by: David Thompson, CFI®, who is an instructor and Director of Investigations, Research and Innovation with Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates, Inc. (WZ).

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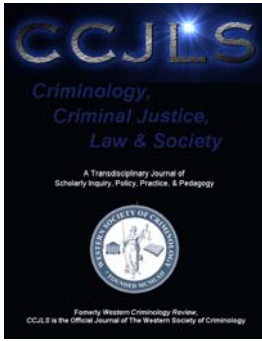
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Natalie Todak is a doctoral candidate in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University and is the social media director for the WSC. If you come across a story that you would like Natalie to post or tweet, please send her an email at natalie.todak@asu.edu. Furthermore, Natalie can be contacted regarding job opportunities to circulate, new research or books by WSC members, or any other announcements or questions that you may have for the WSC.



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