



# The Western Criminologist

Spring 2025

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....	2
FROM THE EDITOR.....	4
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS! .....	5
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS! .....	13
RUN FOR ELECTION TO THE WSC EXECUTIVE BOARD.....	14
CALL FOR WSC AWARD NOMINATIONS.....	15
CALL FOR WSC STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS .....	16
2026 CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS.....	19
CCJLS: CALL FOR PAPERS .....	21
SEEKING NEW EDITOR FOR CCJLS .....	22
WSC MEMBER FEATURE.....	23
<i>WHITHER POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN CANADA?</i> .....	23
CONTACT US.....	26
<i>EXECUTIVE OFFICERS</i> .....	26
<i>PUBLICATIONS &amp; MEMBERSHIP</i> .....	26
WSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA .....	27

## CONTACT US

### Western Society of Criminology

c/o California State University, Long Beach  
School of Criminology, Criminal Justice, & Emergency Management  
1250 Bellflower Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90840

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Dr. Amin Asfari

*University of Regina*

*Regina, SK, Canada*

Welcome to a new Spring, WSC members! I am honored to connect with you through this newsletter and share a few thoughts as we enter an exciting year.

Here in Regina, Canada, I am told the weather is unpredictable, and I can now confirm as I settle in for my first year—one day, the sun teases us with warmth, and the next, winter reminds us it's not entirely done. It's like the seasons can't quite make up their mind! But just as the seasons shift, so does our momentum as a society, and I couldn't be more excited about what lies ahead.

Reflecting on our recent conference in Seattle, I'm struck by the energy and engagement that defined our time together. With hundreds of attendees, diverse panels, and an incredible lineup of posters and presentations, the event reinforced what makes WSC such a vibrant intellectual home. The rich discussions, well-attended sessions, and connections formed between emerging and established scholars were a testament to the strength of our community. Against the backdrop of Seattle's dynamic urban landscape, which I hope you enjoyed as much as I did (despite the surprise snowflakes), and speckled with wonderful local attractions, our conference served as a reminder of the impact of our collective work.

In the spirit of reflection, I want to acknowledge the pressing realities shaping our academic and professional landscapes—realities that cannot be ignored. We find ourselves in uncertain times as shifting geopolitical dynamics influence higher education and research, with students and faculty across disciplines facing new challenges in funding, policy, and broader societal tensions. For those of us committed to evidence-based research, our work has never been more critical in informing public safety decisions grounded in rigorous scholarship.

As a society, the WSC remains steadfast in fostering scholarly inquiry that informs fair, effective, and equitable approaches to justice. To that end, I encourage each of us to reflect on the impact of our work and the students we shape into future professionals who will confront challenging issues throughout their careers. Recent events have raised significant legal and ethical questions, testing the principles of justice and civil liberties. As educators and scholars, we must emphasize the importance of ethical reasoning in our classrooms and public engagements. This is not a matter of activism versus scholarship (a false dichotomy) but rather a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to justice in all facets of our profession.

If we claim to be building a more just society but fail to define what justice truly means, our calls for justice risk becoming hollow. As someone once quipped about academics, we often critique everything but fail to take a strong stand on anything—and while I believe this is an exaggeration, it carries an important lesson. The belief that scientific inquiry must remain morally neutral is not only misleading but detrimental. I urge each of us to find our place at the intersection of ethically principled action and scientifically rigorous research, teaching, and service to both our discipline and the broader community.

Speaking of principled colleagues, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our Immediate Past President, Elaine Gunnison, our Executive Director, Christine Scott-Hayward (WSC's backbone), and our outstanding Program Chair, Brooke Nodeland, along with Co-Chairs Danielle Boisvert and Jenn Macy, for their dedication in making the conference such a success. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to our Officers, Executive Counselors, Counselors-at-Large, and the Editors of the Western Criminologist newsletter and our journal, *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law & Society*. Their hard work ensures that WSC continues to thrive as a space for rigorous scholarship and meaningful engagement, and I am truly grateful for your contributions.

As I step into this role, I am deeply committed to WSC's mission of fostering rigorous scholarship and a strong sense of community. I've seen firsthand how the society bridges academia and practice, creating a space where students, faculty, and practitioners feel a sense of belonging. This spirit of inclusivity and collaboration will guide my vision for the year ahead. My presidency will center on engagement—creating spaces for diverse voices and perspectives to be heard. WSC has always been a home for critical discussions, and I aim to expand opportunities for year-round engagement, from virtual forums to mentorship initiatives. I invite you to reach out and explore ways we can enhance our collective efforts moving forward.

Looking ahead, I invite you all to join us in Denver, Colorado, for our 2026 annual meeting. Denver (aka the Mile High City) offers a stunning backdrop of the Rocky Mountains, a vibrant arts and culture scene, and countless opportunities to explore the outdoors. Having lived in Denver for a few years, I can vouch for its unique charm and all the incredible things it has to offer. Whether you're into checking out world-class museums, strolling through historic districts, or just soaking in the mountain views, there's no shortage of fun stuff to do when you're not at the conference. You've got to check out Red Rocks or Chautauqua Park in Boulder (Flatirons)—it's an experience, or if you're craving something sweet, Little Man Ice Cream is a must!

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as your President and build upon the incredible work of those who came before me. Let's continue pushing boundaries, fostering meaningful connections, and ensuring that WSC remains a hub for critical thought and transformative scholarship.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Denver!

## FROM THE EDITOR



## Dr. Sarah Yercich

*Capilano University*  
North Vancouver, BC, Canada

Welcome to the spring 2025 issue of *The Western Criminologist*!

The 2025 Annual Conference was a great success! One of the highlights of this newsletter is an overview of the winners of the WSC awards and student awards. Please take a few moments to check out the winners and

learn about their important work and meaningful contributions to criminology. My heartfelt congratulations to all of the winners!

As newsletter editor, my aim is to amplify the work of WSC members by expanding the WSC Community Features section. The focus of community features is to translate and mobilize knowledge related to criminology and criminal justice including, but by no means limited to, opinion pieces, research, the scholarship of teaching and learning, creative expression like artwork, and emerging and innovative practices, programs, and tools. For instance, enclosed in this edition of the newsletter is a WSC Community Feature from Dr. Jeff Shantz in which he discusses his work related to police accountability in Canada. Do you have something you would like to include in an upcoming newsletter? If so, please reach out to me.

There are a few important deadlines to keep in mind:

- **Award nominations** – submissions for the WSC awards are due no later than 5:00pm PST on June 2, 2025.
- **Student awards** – submissions for the *June Morrison Scholarship Fund* (travel award), *Travel Award for Justice System-Impacted Students*, and *Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition* are due no later than 5:00pm PST on September 26, 2025.
- **2026 conference abstract submission** – are you interested in presenting at the WSC 2026 Annual Conference? The abstract submission portal is open between July 1 and September 19, 2025.

I hope to see you all at the 2026 Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado! As a former Denver resident, the city holds a dear place in my heart, and it is the perfect location to come together, connect, and share knowledge.

## AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

I would like to invite practitioners, academics, and those with lived experience in the field of criminology and criminal justice to consider sharing your work and/or contributing your thoughts on a topic that is of interest to you and the WSC readership to be included in the Fall 2025 issue of our newsletter. Please send your contributions and/or questions to:

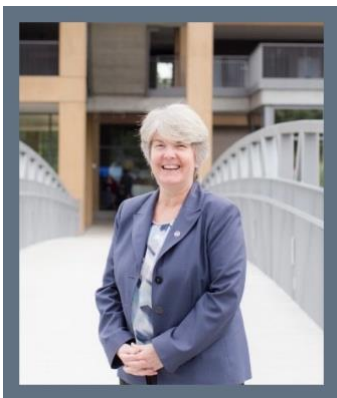
**Dr. Sarah Yercich**  
Sociology and Criminology Department  
Capilano University  
[sarahyercich@capilanou.ca](mailto:sarahyercich@capilanou.ca)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS!



Pictured left to right: Jessica Raskauskas (Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition); Jacqueline B. Helfgott (President's Award); Cody Telep (June Morrison – Tom Gitchoff Founders Award); Cristal Hernandez (June Morrison Travel Award); David MacAlister (Joseph D. Lohman Award); Valerie Jenness (Paul Tappan Award); Richard Leo (Henry F. Fradella Award)



### Dr. Valerie Jenness

#### Paul Tappan Award

*To honor outstanding contributions to the field of criminology*

**Valerie Jenness** is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). She is a world-renowned scholar. Her research has focused on prostitution, hate crime, transgender prisoners, prison violence and grievances to explore the links between deviance and social control, the politics of crime control, social movements and social change, and corrections and public policy. Her research has been funded by the National Academy of Sciences, the

National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, the California Policy Research Center, the California Department of Mental Health, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the universities with which she has been affiliated.

Dr. Jenness is the author of four books and the coeditor of two more. She has researched and written dozens of articles that were published in leading criminology, sociology, law, and gender studies journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Annual Review of Criminology*, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, *Law & Society Review*, *Punishment & Society*, *Social Problems*, *Social Forces*, *Gender & Society*, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Current Issues in Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, *Journal of Contemporary*

*Criminal Justice, Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, Stanford Law & Policy Review, and the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology.* Numerous pieces of this impressive body of research have been honored with awards from the American Sociological Association, Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Pacific Sociological Association, the American Society of Criminology, the Law and Society Association, and the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America. Moreover, this work has informed public policy through Dr. Jenness' service on the California Governor's Rehabilitation Strike Team and her work with the Los Angeles Police Department, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Dr. Jenness is also an award-winning teacher and mentor. She has received teaching awards from UCI, the American Society of Criminology and the American Sociological Association, the University of California, Irvine's Academic Senate's Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching, and the WSC's President's Award for her mentoring. Despite her active engagement as a researcher, public policy advocate, teacher, and mentor, Dr. Jenness finds time to serve the profession in a myriad of ways—from acting as an expert witness and editing journals to serving as the chair or vice-chair of numerous divisions of professional associations and as the President of the American Society of Criminology. For her outstanding contributions to criminology, the WSC honors Dr. Jenness with the Tappan Award.



## Dr. Cody Telep

### 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*

**Cody Telep** is an Associate Professor in, and Associate Director of, the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University. He earned his Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society from George Mason University in 2013. His research focuses on assessing “what works” in policing; partnering with agencies to examine the impact of police practices on crime, disorder, and citizen perceptions

of legitimacy; and examining and increasing receptivity to research and evidence-based practice in policing. In addition to co-authoring *Place Matters: Criminology for the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge University Press), his nearly 40 articles have appeared in top-tier general journals, as well as in learning specialty venues, including the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, *City & Community*, *Crime & Delinquency*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Justice Research and Policy*, *Police Practice and Research*, *Policing and Society*, *Policing: An International Journal*, *Police Quarterly*, and *Violence Against Women*. He also research and wrote 12 book chapters and nearly 20 research reports. This work has been funded by nine grants totaling more than \$5.25 million from Arnold Ventures, the U.S. Bureau of Justice

Assistance, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Women & Philanthropy, and the California Department of Finance.

Importantly, Dr. Telep uses his research skills to improve the lives of citizens by improving the practice of policing. Much of his work has been conducted in partnership with law enforcement agencies, helping them to embrace and improve problem-oriented and intelligence-based policing strategies. He also served on the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office LGBTQ Advisory Committee; numerous committees of the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the International Association of Chiefs; and the editorial boards of *Criminology*, *Criminology & Public Policy* (as Associate Editor), and *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*.

Dr. Telep's work has previously been honored by three of the ASC's divisions, including the Division of Policing's Early Career Award, the Division of Experimental Criminology's Outstanding Young Experimental Criminologist Award, and the Division of Communities and Place's Robert J. Bursik Junior Scholar Award. He was also the recipient of the Academy New Scholar Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. For his work improving the quality of justice, the WSC honors him with the June Morrison-Tom Gitchoff Founders Award.



## Dr. Danielle Slakoff

### Fellows Award

*To honor a person generally associated with the western region who has made important contributions to the field of criminology*

**Danielle Slakoff** is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). She is a nationally recognized expert on the media's portrayal of the criminal justice system. Dr. Slakoff utilizes her degrees in journalism and criminal justice to provide a foundational basis for her research. She has published extensively on the topic of the Missing White Woman

Syndrome and how women and girls of color are differentially portrayed in crime news compared to white women and girls. Her recent work has focused on examining media portrayals within the true crime genre. Additionally, she conducts research on intimate partner violence, with recent research exploring service providers' experiences working with marginalized clients.

In 2023, she received the Outstanding Teaching Award from the College of Health and Human Services and was a faculty awardee of the Woman of Influence Award at CSUS. In November 2022, Dr. Slakoff received the Saltzman Award for Contributions to Practice from the American Society of Criminology's Division of Feminist Criminology. Dr. Slakoff's research has been published in top journals in the fields of criminal justice and mass communications, including *Violence Against Women, Race and Justice*, *The Journal of Family Violence*, and *Feminist Media Studies*. She is also the co-editor of *The (Mis)Representation of Queer Lives in True Crime*, an edited volume published by Routledge in 2023. For her substantial contributions to criminology, the WSC recognizes her with its Fellows Award.







## Dr. Thaddeus Johnson

### W.E.B. DuBois Award

*For significant contributions to advancing awareness of racial and ethnic issues in criminology and criminal justice*

**Thaddeus Johnson** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State University. He specializes in the study of police policy, urban violence, crime control, and racially disparate justice outcomes. Within only a few years of earning his Ph.D., Dr. Johnson established himself as an important scholar-activist working to champion racial justice. His scholarship has appeared in *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, *Psychology of Violence*, the *Federal*

*Sentencing Reporter*, *Government Information Quarterly*, and the *Marquette Law Review*. He is the lead author of the book, *Deviance Among Physicians: Fraud, Violence, and the Power to Prescribe* (2019). In addition to a previous award from the National Institute of Justice, his current research examining the impact of state criminal justice reform on racial and ethnic disparities in national and state corrections populations received funding from Arnold Ventures.

Dr. Johnson's community-engaged work distinguishes him from many other scholars at their early stages of their careers. To wit, he authored four research reports on justice system disparities for the National Council on Criminal Justice; more than a dozen impactful pieces of public criminology published in *Scientific American*, *TIME*, *The Conversation*, *USA Today*, *Crime and Justice News*, and *MSNBC News*; and appeared on numerous broadcast radio and TV news programs in the US and Europe. Most of this work engages with transdisciplinary research and public policy as applied to violence against people of color, particularly within the realm of racialized policing and the need for police reform. Dr. Johnson has already made significant contributions to racial justice in the spheres of criminology and criminal justice and will undoubtedly continue to do so. For these contributions, the WSC recognizes him with its W.E.B. DuBois Award.



## Dr. Breanna Boppre

### Meda Chesney-Lind Award

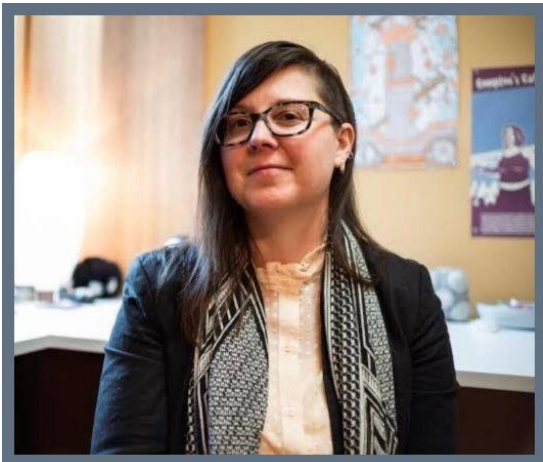
*For significant contributions to scholarship or activism on the intersection of women and crime*

**Breanna Boppre** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University. Previously, she was a faculty member in the School of Criminal Justice at Wichita State University. Since earning her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2018, Dr. Boppre has secured nearly \$250,000 in funding to support her research on intersectional feminist explorations of victimization, adversity, and trauma and their combined effects that lead to system-involvement.



She has published more than 50 articles, chapters, and reports in venues that include *Justice Quarterly*, *Feminist Criminology*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Women & Criminal Justice*, *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *Victims & Offenders*, *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*, *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*, and the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*. In addition, she regularly contributes to the handbooks and newsletters, including ASC's *The Criminologist* and the newsletters of three ASC divisions: the Division of Feminist Criminology (formerly the Division for Women and Crime), the Division of Victimology, and the Division of Corrections and Sentencing. Dr. Boppre also engages in public criminology, often writing about how the pandemic had gendered impact on the families of incarcerated people, in outlets that include *The Hill*, *Nevada Current*, *Cleveland Scene*, and the *Scholars Strategy Network*.

Dr. Boppre's achievements have previously been recognized by the ASC Division on Women and Crime and the ASC Division of Victimology, as well as by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. For her work to advance sex and gender equality in the criminal legal system, the WSC honors Dr. Boppre with the WSC's Meda Chesney-Lind Award.



## Dr. Aimee Wodda

### Richard Tewksbury Award

*For significant contributions to scholarship or activism on the intersection of crime and sexuality*

**Aimee Wodda** is an assistant professor of Criminal Justice, Law, and Society at Pacific University, where she holds an affiliated appointment in the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. She is also a Research Affiliate with the Center for Positive Sexuality. Dr. Wodda researches at the intersections of criminology, law, gender, and sexuality studies.

In 2021, Routledge published Dr. Wodda's book, *Sex-Positive Criminology*. This scholarly monograph, co-authored with Vanessa R. Panfil, elucidates a theoretical perspective for humanizing the study of sexuality in criminal justice in ways that support well-being. The authors highlight the importance of human dignity when critically examining how agents of formal social control—especially government, education, and medicine—cause harm and perpetuate stigma through the legal regulation of sexuality and gender identity. They investigate a range of topics, especially how respect and autonomy—and their legal operationalizations in the right to privacy and the doctrine of consent—are devalued when they intersection with LGBTQ+ identities in criminal law, sex education in schools, reproductive justice in communities and institutions, and restrictions on sexuality in total institutions—especially juvenile detention centers, immigrant detention facilities, jails, and prisons. In doing so, they trailblaze a framework for LGBTQ+ respect in sociolegal contexts that is reminiscent of how David Wexler and Bruce Winick did the same for people with mental illness when they formulated therapeutic jurisprudence.

Dr. Wodda has also published a book chapter in the *Routledge Handbook of Social, Economic, and Criminal Justice*, and a number of articles that have appeared in leading social science and legal journals alike, including *Crime & Delinquency*, *Feminist Criminology*, *Critical Criminology*, *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, *Sociology Compass*, *Albany Law Review*, and the *Journal of Family*

*Strengths.* She currently serves as the Chairperson of the American Society of Criminology's Division of Queer Criminology and is also active within the division serving on the awards and DQC journal committees.

On campus, Dr. Wodda works closely with the Reproductive Justice Action Team (RJAT), a collective of students, staff, and faculty at Pacific University dedicated to promoting reproductive justice through education, outreach, and action. The team has organized a number of events, including campus-wide educational campaigns, fundraisers for local reproductive justice organizations, and a month-long installation of photographer Roslyn Banish's traveling exhibit, "Focus on Abortion: Americans Share their Stories." In addition, Dr. Wodda was part of the push to organize the first Lavender Graduation honoring queer students in 2021 and co-organized the fourth annual Lavender Graduation on campus in 2024. For all her contributions, the WSC recognizes her with its Richard Tewksbury Award.



## Dr. Richard Leo

### Henry F. Fradella Award

*For significant contributions to empirical scholarship on the legal aspects of criminal justice*

**Richard Leo** is the Hamill Family Professor of Law and Psychology at the University San Francisco School of Law. He was previously a tenured professor of psychology and criminology at U.C. Irvine for a decade (1997-2006), and a professor of sociology and adjunct professor of law at the University of Colorado, Boulder (1994-1997). For more than 30 years Prof. Leo has consistently published outstanding, paradigm-shifting, and award-winning empirical scholarship in leading scientific & legal journals on

various legal aspects of criminal justice, particularly on wrongful convictions, that has changed the way criminologists and policy-makers think about this subject.

Dr. Leo is one of the leading experts in the world on police interrogation practices, the impact of *Miranda*, psychological coercion, false confessions, and the wrongful conviction of the innocent. Dr. Leo has authored more than 100 articles in leading scientific and legal journals as well as several books, including the multiple award-winning *Police Interrogation and American Justice* (Harvard University Press, 2008); *The Wrong Guys: Murder, False Confessions and the Norfolk Four* (The New Press, 2008) with Tom Wells; and, most recently, *Confessions of Guilt: From Torture to Miranda and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2012) with George C. Thomas III. He is currently working on a book that is tentatively entitled, *The Innocence Revolution: The American Movement Against Wrongful Convictions* (with Tom Wells). Dr. Leo has won numerous individual and career achievement awards for research excellence and distinction. He has also been the recipient of Soros and Guggenheim fellowships, as well as a Fellowship from the Center for the Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. In 2011 he was elected to the American Law Institute. According to the University of Chicago Leiter rankings, Dr. Leo is one of the most-cited criminal law and procedure professors in the United States. In 2016, the *Wall Street Journal* named him as one of the 25 law professors most cited by appellate courts in the United States.

Dr. Leo has been featured and/or quoted in hundreds of stories in the national print and electronic media, and his research has been cited by numerous appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court on multiple occasions. He is regularly invited to lecture and present training sessions to lawyers, judges, police, forensic psychologists, and other criminal justice professionals. Dr. Leo is also often called to advise and assist practicing attorneys and has served as a litigation consultant and/or expert witness in hundreds of criminal and civil cases. Dr. Leo has worked on many high profile cases involving false confessions, including the cases of Brendan Dassey, Michael Crowe, Earl Washington, Kerry Max Cook, Martin Tankleff, the Beatrice Six, Jessie Misskelley, Jr. of the West Memphis 3, and two of the Central Park jogger defendants. The work Dr. Leo did to help free four innocent prisoners in Virginia (known as the “Norfolk 4”) was the subject of a story in *The New Yorker* magazine in 2009 and a PBS Frontline documentary in 2010. Dr. Leo has also worked on behalf of numerous lesser-known victims of coercive interrogation and false confession in cases that never received any media attention. For all these contributions, the WSC honors him with the Fradella award.



## David MacAlister

### Joseph D. Lohman Award

*To honor a person who has provided outstanding service to the Western Society of Criminology*



**David MacAlister** is an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He earned an MA in criminology from SFU, a J.D. from the University of British Columbia, and an LL.M. from Queen’s University. His research interests include substantive criminal law; criminal procedure and evidence; civil liberties and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; sentencing; policing and police powers; criminal justice accountability; wrongful convictions;

legal responses to terrorism; philosophy of law; and legal aspects of youth justice.

Professor Macalister has been involved with the WSC for many years. He served as an Executive Counselor before being elected to serve a three-year term as the Vice-President, President, and Immediate Past-President of the Society. He then ran again and is the only person to have served in these leadership roles twice in the WSC’s more than fifty-year history. For his outstanding service to the WSC, we honor him with the Joseph E. Lohman Award.







## Dr. Jacqueline B. Helfgott

### President's Award

*For contributions to the field of criminology and positive influence on the current WSC President's career*

**Jacqueline B. Helfgott** is a Professor and Director of the Crime and Justice Research Center in the Department of Criminal Justice, Criminology and Forensics at Seattle University. She earned her B.A. in Psychology/Law and Justice from the University of Washington, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in the Administration of Justice/Graduate minor in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining Seattle University in 1993, she worked at Montana State University. Before serving as the Director of the Crime and Justice Research Center, Jackie served as Chair of the

department for 16 years. Her research has focused on criminal behavior, corrections/reentry, policing and public safety, restorative/community justice, and crisis intervention in law enforcement. She is the author of over 40 peer-reviewed research articles in critically acclaimed journals, over 30 research reports, and nearly 30 book chapters, encyclopedia entries, op-eds, or other publications. Jackie is also sole and/or co-author of six books, including: *No Remorse: Psychopathy and Criminal Justice*; *Criminal Behavior: Theories, Typologies, & Criminal Justice*, *Criminal Psychology*, Volumes 1-4; *Offender Reentry: Beyond Crime and Justice*; and *Women Leading Justice: Experiences and Insights*. Her most recent sole-authored book is entitled, "Copycat Crime: How Media and Digital Technology Influence Criminal Behavior." Finally, she served as Co-Editor of *Criminology*, *Criminal Justice*, *Law & Society* for six years.

Jackie has served as principal investigator on over 35 applied research grants that span policing, courts, corrections, and victim services. She is currently principal investigator on the Seattle Police Department's Micro-Community Policing Plans (MCCP), the Seattle Police Department's "Before the Badge" Law Enforcement Training Program, the Seattle Police Department's "Before the Badge" Community-Police Dialogues, and Seattle's Community Assisted Response and Engagement (CARE) Community-Focused Public Safety Responders Initiative Program Evaluation. Apart from her prolific publishing portfolio and grant work activities, Jackie has a solid record of research dissemination and consistently engages with practitioners, community members, students, and the media to shape criminal justice reforms. Jackie has presented her research at over 75 academic national and international conferences, and she has provided her expertise as an invited speaker or panelist on over one dozen occasions. Additionally, she is the most active scholar in the department to provide media interviews to assist in educating policymakers and community members about important criminal justice topics. Jackie also engages in service to engage practitioners in her research and to assist their agencies in making evidence-based policy decisions. Since 2013, Jackie has been a member of the Crisis Intervention Committee for the Seattle Police Department. Most recently, Jackie is serving on the Advisory Panel on





Sexual Assault and System Reform for the Seattle Mayor's Office (this was an appointed position). Her work has not gone unnoticed and she received the prestigious Seattle University Provost Award for Excellence in Scholarly Activity for a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in 2023 as well as the Seattle University College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Excellence Award for Research in 2009.

Impactful is the best word to describe Jackie's efforts. Her work has impacted the Seattle community as well as hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students who she mentored on her many research projects. Her mentoring has extended to her colleagues as well in both professional and personal endeavors. On a personal level, if you ever need Jackie, she is always there to help and pitch in, and she always has a zest for trying new things. In her "free" time, she enjoys running marathons, running around Lake Union, spending time with her daughter, Zalia, and walking her Newfoundland dog, Lita.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS!

### Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition

**Jessica Raskauskas**

*Arizona State University*



### June Morrison Travel Award

**Cristal Hernandez**

*Sam Houston State University*



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

**Dr. Zachary Rowan**  
 School of Criminology  
 Simon Fraser University  
 778-782-6656  
[zowan@sfu.ca](mailto:zowan@sfu.ca)

## CALL FOR WSC AWARD NOMINATIONS

**We invite you to nominate a deserving person for a WSC award.**

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

- **Paul Tappan Award** for outstanding contribution to the field 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.
- **Henry F. Fradella Award** for significant contributions to empirical scholarship on the legal aspects of criminal justice
- **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.

*Neither the nominator nor the nominee needs to be a member of the WSC.*

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

Please submit your nomination via the WSC online submission portal  
<https://westerncriminology.org/awards/nominate-someone-for-an-award/>

If you have questions, please email the Chairperson of the Awards Committee:

Dr. Khadija Monk  
[kmonk2@calstatela.edu](mailto:kmonk2@calstatela.edu)

## CALL FOR WSC STUDENT AWARD APPLICATIONS

### June Morrison Scholarship Fund

Using money raised from the Book Exhibit, the June Morrison Scholarship Fund provides supplemental funds to help defray the cost of student members' participation at the annual meeting, provided that they are presenting papers at the conference. Typically, one or two awards are made to students attending the annual meeting of the WSC. The amount of the awards varies by year (usually between \$200 and \$300), depending on the sales of books at the Book Exhibit the prior year. Please note that this scholarship is not related to the Student Paper Competition. We encourage all students to apply, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award.

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

#### Submission Requirements:

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

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

**E-mail the information to Dr. Khadija Monk**  
[kmonk2@calstatela.edu](mailto:kmonk2@calstatela.edu)

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

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025



### Travel Award for Justice System-Impacted Students

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

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

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

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

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

**Email the information to Dr. Khadija Monk**

**[kmonk2@calstatela.edu](mailto:kmonk2@calstatela.edu)**

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

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025

### Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition

Students are invited to compete in the Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition sponsored by WSC each year. Appropriate types of papers include, but are not limited to, policy analyses, original research, literature reviews, position papers, theoretical papers, and scholarly commentaries. We encourage all students to apply, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award. Please note that papers co-authored by faculty will not be considered.

**Eligibility:** Any student currently enrolled full-time or part-time in an academic degree program at either the undergraduate or graduate level is eligible to submit a paper. Students from all majors are eligible; however, all entries must be related to criminology, criminal justice, or criminal law and society. Papers must not exceed 30 pages, including abstract, text, references, tables and figures, notes, et cetera. Papers exceeding this limit will not be considered. Papers must be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font on pages using one-inch margins, and conform to a standard format for the organization of papers and citation (e.g. APA, ASA, Bluebook). The WSC Awards Committee is responsible for evaluating papers meeting the guidelines described above.

**Award Prize:** Students selected for this award will be recognized at the WSC's annual conference; will receive a reimbursement of student conference fees (less membership dues); and will receive a cash award of between \$125 and \$250 for first place, depending on whether the paper was sole-authored or co-authored. Additionally, if the award recipient desires, the best paper will be submitted for review to the journal of *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society*. In rare circumstances, a cash award of up to \$100 may be awarded to a second place paper. Please note that the cash award must be used to fund travel or hotel expenses for the award recipient to attend the WSC conference. An award winner who does not attend the conference will not receive the cash stipend.

**Please Note:** The paper that students submit to compete in Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition need not be the same paper that they present at the conference. We recognize that conference presentations may be works in progress or may be a result of joint efforts with faculty mentors. In contrast, papers submitted for the Student Paper Competition must be completed papers that were written by a student (or co-authored by two or more students) without the assistance of faculty. Papers are welcome from students matriculated at any college or university anywhere in the world, but preference will be given to students who have not previously received an award.

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

**E-mail the information to Dr. Khadija Monk**  
[kmonk2@calstatela.edu](mailto:kmonk2@calstatela.edu)

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

Winners will be notified in writing by November 7, 2025

## 2026 CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

# WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



**2026 Annual Conference**  
**February 5-7, 2026**

**Grand Hyatt Denver**  
**Denver, CO**

**1759 Welton St.**  
**Denver, CO 80202**

People wishing to present at the conference will be able to submit proposals through our online [abstract submission system](#) between July 1 and September 19, 2025. We encourage the submission of complete panels of four (4) papers.

## Panel Topics

- COURTS AND JUDICIAL PROCESSES  
(INCLUDING SENTENCING)
- CORRECTIONS
- CRIME ANALYSIS  
(INCLUDING GEOGRAPHY & CRIME AND SOCIAL NETWORKS & CRIME)
- CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY
- CYBERCRIME
- DRUGS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CRIME
- FORENSIC SCIENCE
- SEX, GENDER, SEXUALITY, & CRIME
- RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES
- JUVENILE JUSTICE
- LEGAL ISSUES IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
(CRIMINAL LAW, CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, & EVIDENCE)
- ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS
- PEACEMAKING CRIMINOLOGY
- POLICING
- SEX CRIMES
- TEACHING & ASSESSMENT IN JUSTICE  
EDUCATION
- TERRORISM
- WHITE COLLAR CRIME

In deciding the most appropriate topic area for your abstract, think about the main focus of your paper or presentation and how it might fit within a panel organized around a larger topical theme. For example, if your paper examines both race and juvenile issues, think about whether you would like to be placed on a panel with other papers discussing race issues or other papers dealing with juvenile issues and then submit it to the topic area in which you think it fits best.

All presenters are asked to submit an abstract of 1,100 characters or fewer to only one of the panel topics listed above. In addition to the abstract, please include the name, mailing address, email address, and phone number for all authors on the submission for the participant directory. Please note that all presenters are required to preregister and prepay the nonrefundable conference fees no later than December 5, 2025. Failure to do so will result in presentations being removed from the final program.

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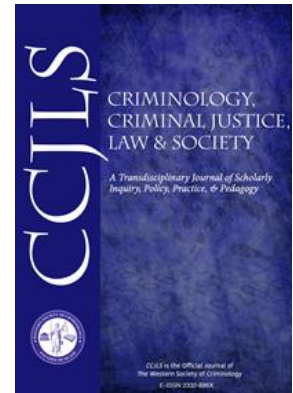
## CCJLS: CALL FOR PAPERS

**Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society (CCJLS)** is the official journal of the Western Society of Criminology. This open-access, peer-reviewed journal builds on the mission of its predecessor, *Western Criminology Review (WCR)*, by promoting understanding of the causes of crime; the methods used to prevent and control crime; the institutions, principles, and actors involved in the apprehension, prosecution, punishment, and reintegration of offenders; and the legal and political framework under which the justice system and its primary actors operate.

### CCJLS invites all of the following:

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

Manuscripts must be submitted electronically through the journal's portal on [Scholastica](#). Submissions should be formatted according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition* (2009). All correspondence is conducted online to speed the review process. There are no page, color, or appendix restrictions, although a 30-page upper limit for the body of papers is recommended. Additionally, authors may, at their discretion, include images (in .jpg. or .gif formats), as well as hyperlinks to web pages, source documents, YouTube videos, and similar multimedia materials on the Internet to take full advantage of the digital nature of the journal. Our evaluation process involves an internal review by editorial staff, followed by a blind assessment by two external reviewers. Inquiries about *CCJLS* should be directed to the editors—Jennifer Lanterman and managing editor Nicholas Mantera—via email at [CCJLS@WesternCriminology.org](mailto:CCJLS@WesternCriminology.org).



### CCJLS proudly processes manuscripts in a timely manner

Outcome	Average Days to Decision
Accepted	20
Desk Rejected	9
Rejected After Review	4

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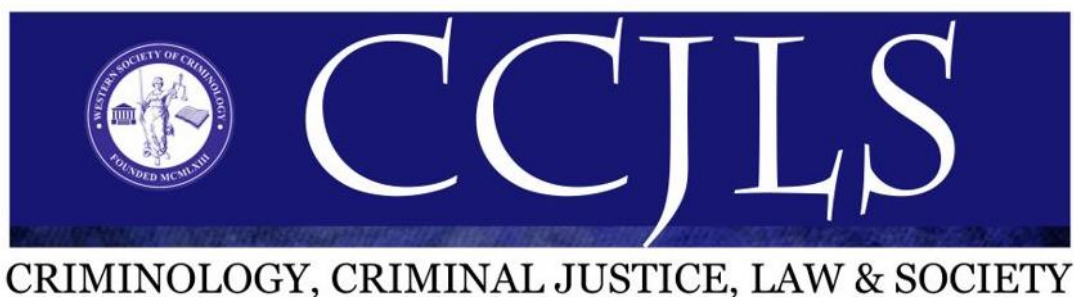
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## SEEKING NEW EDITOR FOR CCJLS



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

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

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

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

Jennifer Lanterman, Editor  
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[jlanterman@unr.edu](mailto:jlanterman@unr.edu)

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

## WSC MEMBER FEATURE

### WHITHER POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY IN CANADA?

Dr. Jeff Shantz

#### Introduction

The mass protests that happened following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers in 2020 moved issues of police misconduct to the forefront of public debates. More than that, they fundamentally raised questions about the nature of policing—so-called police culture—and the gap between public perceptions of accountability and oversight and the so often unsatisfactory reality.

In the years since, important shifts have occurred, with more attention to issues of police misconduct and promising developments, such as non-police response teams for mental health calls in some cities. Yet many problems remain. Not only has police funding not been decreased with funds going to community resources, in cities across Canada police budgets have increased. Even more there is little sign that police cultures have changed fundamentally, and even less that public scrutiny has led to increased accountability for offending officers.

#### The OPCC Report in British Columbia

The release of the 2023 report of the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner (OPCC) in British Columbia makes this clear. It raises a number of deeply troubling questions, about police behaviour and about accountability for egregious police misconduct.

First, the sheer number of cases, more than 1,500 files, should make the public wonder about policing cultures more broadly. This is heightened given how few of the confirmed OPCC cases saw discipline beyond reduction in rank or brief suspension.

It is disturbing to read about a Saanich officer making unwanted contact with a former partner and using police databases to make 92 unauthorized queries on the former partner and her family members. We should ask why this officer was not named publicly and charges pursued, as would be the case with a non-police stalker. Instead, he was allowed to retire and potentially join another force.

Perhaps most troubling was an officer who was found only to have committed discreditable conduct when he had a sexual encounter with a woman who was not “an equal and consenting participant.” Excuse me, but criminologically speaking this sounds like sexual assault and is more than discreditable. Again, why was the officer merely suspended, not named and charged?

In Vancouver the story is much the same. VPD officers were disciplined in 2022 and 2023 for a range of offences that should be disqualifying for police, such as stealing fentanyl and kissing youths. Thankfully in those cases the officers were fired, but no charges were pursued. The OPCC reports that VPD officers abused their authority on numerous occasions. Also documented were cases of unlawful arrest and racism.

#### Limits to Accountability

The problems are not limited to British Columbia. We see significant issues elsewhere. A 2020 report found that across Canada, charges were laid or forwarded to Crown prosecutors for consideration in only three to nine per cent of the cases undertaken by the provincial agencies (Smart 2020).

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of Ontario is considered the “gold standard” of police accountability in Canada. The SIU’s latest report noted that in 2022-2023, the SIU closed 335 cases, including re-opened cases. The SIU Director laid criminal charges in 11 cases, against a total of 13 officers, representing only about 3% of the total cases. The previous report showed 2021-2022 was the busiest in the history of the agency, with investigation files opened in 430 cases—a 10 percent increase from the previous year’s 390 cases. Criminal charges were laid by the SIU Director in 14 cases, against a total of 14 officers.

In 2019, the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of Ontario closed 363 cases, and laid charges in just 13. BC's Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has a similar record. Of 127 investigations in 2018-19, it referred three cases for potential charges to the Crown.

Beyond these complaints there is also the issue of oversight and accountability in the most extreme cases—where police kill. The situation in BC reflects this inadequacy of oversight. Between 2012, its first year, and early 2023, the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) has investigated 220 deaths and recommended that charges be laid in only 14 cases (Cox and Keller 2023). In fiscal year 2021-2022, the IIO received a total of 323 notifications, for all incidents, but referred only 12 to Crown.

Even worse is the record of the Crown in BC, where they have only actually taken one case to trial so far (with one more scheduled), declining charges in almost every case the IIO has brought to them. By contrast, more than three quarters of charges recommended by police against civilians last year were approved.

### **Gaps in Knowledge**

Communities still know too little about police killings in Canada (Shantz 2023). There remains no official database or formal and consistent documentation and reporting process covering all police forces across the country. That onerous work is left to families of victims, community advocates, and criminologists. A couple of criminological and grassroots documentation projects include the websites Killer Cops Canada (<https://killercopscanada.wordpress.com/>) and La Coalition contre la répression et les abus policière (<https://www.lacrap.org/>). These are the most thorough and complete sources.

My own tracking of police killings, based on oversight agencies' reporting, police communications, media reports, and, in some cases family reporting, has documented at least 94 police-involved deaths in 2024 (at time of writing). There were at least 97 police-involved deaths in 2023 and 117 police-involved deaths in 2022. In 2021 there were at least 104. In 2022, Ontario's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) publicly reported 12 firearm deaths, 14 in-custody deaths, four vehicle deaths, and one death listed as "other." This followed 2021, during which the SIU publicly reported 11 firearms deaths, 34 in-custody deaths, 10 vehicular deaths, and five deaths listed as "other."

Other attempts at documentation focus on lethal force instances, such as shootings, so they do not include instances in which people die in police encounters, whether falls by people in distress or in-custody deaths, so there are significant undercounts in the record. The CBC Deadly Force website (2000-2020) excludes in-custody deaths and deaths in police pursuits, for example. We have very little information about people who die after a police encounter, following release from custody, or due to injuries from a police encounter. These may be unknown to police and not reported as police-involved. As a result, among the things we have limited knowledge of are race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or mental health status of victims. Most police forces in Canada do not track such demographic factors and information is often only released through the initiative of family members.

### **Community Accountability?**

If we are going to see some meaningful changes a few things could start that process. One would be a publicly accessible list of offending officers. Families and community members have called for this is the matter of police who kill. Surely the public has a right to know who is on their streets while armed and what their histories are. Another possibility is the creation of a civilian, non-police, oversight body. This should center the involvement of people who are disproportionately impacted by police violence and misconduct—Indigenous and Black communities, unhoused people, drug users.

Many investigators within these civilian organizations are former police officers themselves – in BC half of the IIO investigators are former police officers. A Canadian Press (2020) review found that of the 167 members involved in investigative units across Canada, 111 were former police officers.



All of this asks us to look deeply at police culture and at cultures of accountability. Not only why such acts occur repeatedly, but why discipline for offending officers is so out of step with what civilians would face. Once again, the fundamental call of the George Floyd protests comes to the foreground.

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- Jeff Shantz is a faculty member in the Department of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, British Columbia (traditional Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo territories).

### About the Author



*Jeff Shantz is a faculty member in the Department of Criminology at Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Surrey, British Columbia (traditional Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo territories).*

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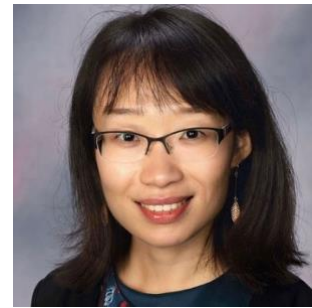
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## WSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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

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