

Message from the Managing Director

As the leaves fall, the researchers at the Justice Center have been busy collecting data, publishing papers, and presenting their work. This issue of The Docket highlights the WO-PINS grant award, the results from the Honest Opportunity Probation Enforcement Demonstration Field Experiment (HOPE DFE) summary, and our new Graduate Research Assistants.

PENN STATE
JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Gary Zajac, Managing Director

This month we are excited to debut our new website!

Dr. Gary Zajac

The Women's Prison Inmate Networks Study (WO-PINS) Grant Funded

Dr. Derek Kreager and a team of researchers including, Justice Center Director Dr. Gary Zajac, Dr. Dana Haynie, (OSU), Dr. Sara Wakefield, (Rutgers), Dr. Michaela Soyer, (Hunter College and former Justice Center post doc) and Justice Center adjunct Dr. Jeffrey Beard recently received a three-year grant for \$686,000 from the National Institute of Justice for their project "Understanding Incarceration and Re-Entry Experiences of Female Inmates and their Children: The Women's Prison Inmate Networks Study (WO-PINS). This study will explore the prison and re-entry experiences of female inmates incarcerated in two Pennsylvania prisons. In Phase 1, investigators will reveal each unit's informal organization and culture using innovative social network data that maps the unit's friendship network, status hierarchy and romantic ties. Network analyses will test hypotheses for the sources of prison status and the associations between inmate social position and outcomes such as prison victimization, mental health, official misconduct, and family visitation. In Phase 2, parole-eligible inmate respondents will be administered semi-structured qualitative and network interviews to garner their future expectations, social capital, and preparations for community re-entry. Women's expected social networks provide a unique glimpse into the re-entry process that can later be compared to actual networks upon release. This phase of the project has clear implications for family reintegration, employment, post-release program participation, and relapse/recidivism. Contemporaneously, child and caregiver interviews will be conducted for inmate respondents who are mothers. These interviews will capture the well-being, fears, aspirations, and preparations of inmates' families and surrogate parents prior to prison release. During Phase 3, investigators will conduct two post-release community interviews of Phase 2 respondents to understand how the previously imprisoned women, their children, and caregivers have adjusted to life after prison and if their envisioned plans come to fruition. Additionally, analyses of long term arrest and reincarceration will be conducted for all surveyed prison units. The goals of this phase will be to identify and drill down the mechanisms underlying successful prison re-entry and criminal desistance. The project also involves the following Penn State Criminology graduate students and research associates: Corey Whichard, Kim Davidson, Ted Greenfelder, Brianna Jackson, Elaine Arsenault, and Gerardo Cuevas. And, in related news, data collection is proceeding apace for the Therapeutic Community Prison Inmate Network Study (TC-PINS) at SCI-Chester and will continue through next spring.

Honest Opportunity Probation Enforcement Demonstration Field Experiment (HOPE DFE) Summary

Summary results of the evaluation of the Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement Demonstration Field Experiment (HOPE DFE) are now available. The HOPE DFE was implemented with a high degree of fidelity to design at all the sites, with relatively few major implementation barriers. The outcomes for the study were null overall. This project has replicated the original Hawaii HOPE model of swift, certain, and fair sanctioning in probation in four states (Arkansas, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas). Learn more about the project and view the results here: <http://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/research>

Incentives and Money Generating Activities Pilot Completed

Data collection for Dr. Holly Nguyen's Prison Employment pilot project at SCI-Laurel Highlands concluded in September. This summer Dr. Nguyen, Criminology Graduate Students Brandy Parker and Brianna Jackson (new Justice Center Graduate Research Assistant), and Justice Center Research Assistant Elaine Arsenault administered the instrument. Now that the pilot is complete this will be used to support future grant applications. This work was supported by the Justice Center's Faculty Resource Program.

Check Out the New Justice Center for Research Website

This summer, Justice Center personnel worked with the IT LA Web Team of Greg Giles, Benjamin Bryan, and Tracy Tomei to help us create a new website. We encourage you to check out our website that showcases the Justice Center's research projects, news announcements, and funding opportunities. A big thanks to the IT LA Web Team for creating the site for us! Check out the new website: <http://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/>

Penn State Mini-Conference on Social Networks, Infectious Disease, and Hidden Populations

Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Glenn Sterner and Faculty Affiliates Shannon Monnat and Ashton Verdery participated in a panel presentation at the Penn State Mini-Conference on Social Networks, Infectious Disease, and Hidden Populations on "Brainstorming Discussion of Methods for Sampling Rural Opiate Users."

Glenn Sterner, Ph.D. Publishes Paper on Rural Broadband Access

Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Glenn Sterner recently published an article titled “Unequal Access: An Examination of the Barriers Rural Areas Continue to Face in Broadband Development” in the peer reviewed volume *Management of Sustainable Development in Rural Areas: At Local and Regional Scales*. The article can be found here: <http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/handle/239325>

Justice Center Welcomes New Graduate Research Assistants

The Justice Center is excited to welcome Corey Whichard and Brianna Jackson to our team as Graduate Research Assistants.

Corey Whichard is a doctoral candidate in the department of Sociology and Criminology at Penn State University. His research interests include corrections, prisoner re-entry, life course studies, and social network analysis. His research has appeared in *Criminology* and the *Journal of Research and Crime and Delinquency*. Recently, Corey has assisted in collecting both survey and qualitative data from inmates in multiple prisons as part of the Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS), Re-Entry Prison Inmate Network Study (R-PINS), and Therapeutic Community Prison Inmate Network Study (TC-PINS). For his dissertation, Corey is collecting longitudinal network data from soon-to-be –released inmates that tracks the evolving structure and content of their social relationships during the first year of their release. Corey’s dissertation research is part of the larger mixed-methods R-PINS study, which uses a combination of in-depth interviews and egocentric network data to examine how re-entrants’ social relationships influence the re-entry process. Before joining the Justice Center in Fall of 2016, Corey received his M.A. in Criminology from Penn State University and his B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Creative Writing from the University of Houston.

Brianna Jackson, a second year student in the Criminology Ph.D. program at Penn State, joined the Justice Center for Research in July 2016. Prior to her time at Penn State, Brianna completed her Master’s in Criminal Justice and an Advanced Certificate in Crime Prevention and Analysis from John Jay College CUNY in 2015. While attending John Jay, she was a research assistant at the Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics and primarily worked on a project on sexual victimization, disclosure, and accountability within the Boy Scouts of America. She received the Tow Policy and Advocacy Fellowship during her second year at John Jay and worked at the New York Policy Office of the Drug Policy Alliance to conduct research and policy analysis with a focus on the areas of drug courts, opioid overdose deaths, safe access to medical marijuana legislation, and racial equity in policy making. She assisted with a multi-method investigation of national compensation statutes for wrongful convictions with the Research Foundation of the City University of New York during the summer between completion of her Master’s and beginning the Penn State Ph.D. program in Criminology. Brianna is currently involved with two projects at the center- an investigation of the structure and dynamics of a therapeutic community in a medium security men’s prison and a pilot project exploring rewards and incentives of legal and illegal work among incarcerated males. She is completing independent thesis research examining the impact of religiosity and spirituality on desistance from problematic substance use.

Distinguished Lecture Series Speaker Dr. Andrew Papachristos, Ph.D.

We were honored to have Dr. Andrew Papachristos present at the Distinguished Lecture Series on September 19th. Dr. Papachristos talk was titled "Connected in Crime: The Enduring Effect of Neighborhood Networks on the Spatial Patterning of Violence." Following the talk, Dr. Papachristos was presented with the Justice Center for Research Distinguished Lecturer Award.

Upcoming Criminology Forums

- On October 21st Michaela Soyer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Hunter College and Justice Center for Research Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni, will present on her book *A Dream Denied: Incarceration, Recidivism, and Young Minority Men in America*.
- November 10th Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D., NIJ Director, will present as part of the fall Criminology Forum.

Justice Center for Research

The Pennsylvania State University
304 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802
814-867-3292
www.justicecenter.la.psu.edu

October 2016