

Message from the Managing Director

As the year comes to a close, researchers at the Justice Center presented at The American Society of Criminology meeting in New Orleans. Results from the Honest Opportunity Probation Enforcement Demonstration Field Experiment (HOPE DFE) were published in *Criminology & Public Policy*. NIJ Director Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D. and Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Glenn Sterner, Ph.D. presented at the Criminology Forums. Finally, Professor Emeritus and Center Affiliate Dr. John Kramer received the Lifetime Achievement Award From ASC.

PENN STATE
JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Gary Zajac, Managing Director

Dr. Gary Zajac

“Outcome Findings from the HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment” published in *Criminology & Public Policy*

The current issue of *Criminology & Public Policy* includes the “Outcome Findings from the HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment,” article. Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) is a probation program that involves swift, certain, and consistent sanctions. The team of researchers at the Justice Center for Research in collaboration with RTI, International tested the HOPE probation model in 4 sites across the country looking at the implementation of the program as well as recidivism outcomes. 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. Justice Center Director, Dr. Gary Zajac led the process evaluation component of the HOPE DFE along with Research Assistant Elaine Arsenault, and former Justice Center Director Dr. Doris Layton MacKenzie was a Co-PI on the outcome evaluation phase with RTI.

View the article here:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1745-9133.12248/full>

Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D., Director of the National Institute of Justice presented at the Criminology Forum

Dr. Rodriguez’ presentation “Strengthening Justice in the U.S.: The Impact of Scientific Research” emphasized the critical role scientific research plays in strengthening the criminal justice system. Dr. Rodriguez discussed how evidence-based knowledge can directly solve challenges faced by criminal justice practitioners, whether in law enforcement, corrections or the judicial system.

Justice Center Researchers present at ASC

Justice Center researchers presented at The American Society of Criminology meeting in New Orleans November 16-19. The following presentations were given by researchers from the Justice Center for Research:

- Results from the HOPE DFE Four-Site Randomized Control Trial- Pamela Lattimore, RTI International, **Doris MacKenzie**, PSU, **Gary Zajac**, PSU
- Considering Incentives in Money Generating Activities among an Incarcerated Sample- **Holly Nguyen**, PSU, **Jeremy Staff**, PSU, **Gary Zajac**, PSU, **Derek Kreager**, PSU, Thomas Loughran, University of Maryland
- From Cellblock to Community: A Longitudinal Analysis of Inmate Social Networks during Community Re-Entry- **Corey Whichard**, PSU
- Reflected and Peer Appraisals in Prison-Based Therapeutic Community- **Kim Davidson**, PSU
- Post-prison Social Networks and their Association with Recidivism- Hanneke Palmen, Leiden University, **Derek Kreager**, PSU, Sara Wakefield, Rutgers University, Anja Dirkzwager, NSCR, Paul Nieuwebeerta, Leiden University
- When Onset Meets Desistance: Cognitive Transformation and Adolescent Marijuana Experimentation- **Derek Kreager**, PSU, Daniel T. Ragan, University of New Mexico, **Holly Nguyen**, PSU, **Jeremy Staff**, PSU
- A different Method of Predicting Risk: Unpacking the Implications of a Statewide Sentencing Risk Assessment- **Julia Laskorunsky**, PSU
- The Impact of Religiosity and Self-Concept on Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes- **Brianna Jackson**, PSU

HOPE Panel Presentation at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

Justice Center researchers in collaboration with RTI, International presented at the 2016 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference on November 3 in Washington, DC. The panel "Results from the HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment Four-Site Randomized Controlled Trial," included the following presentations:

Implementation Fidelity and Experiences at Four HOPE DFE Sites- **Gary Zajac**, PSU, Debbie Dawes, RTI International, **Elaine Arsenault**, PSU, Susan Brumbaugh, RTI International

Does Swift, Certain, and Fair 'Work': Outcome Findings from the HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment- Pamela K. Lattimore, RTI International and **Doris MacKenzie**, PSU

What Does HOPE Probation Cost? - Alexander Cowell and Matthew DeMichele, RTI International

Researchers from PINS present at the 8th Illicit Networks Workshop at The Museum of London

Justice Center researchers presented at the 8th Illicit Networks Workshop at The Museum of London on December 7. Dr. Derek Kreager, Justice Center Faculty Affiliate, presented on the Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS) in a session on Policing, Prisons, and Courts.

'Network Mechanisms in a Prison-Based Therapeutic Community'- **Derek Kreager** (Pennsylvania State University), Martin Bouchard (Simon Fraser), George De Leon (New York University), David Schaefer (Arizona State University), Jacob Young (Arizona State University), Dana Haynie (Ohio State University), Michaela Soyer (Hunter College), **Gary Zajac** (Pennsylvania State University).

Dr. John Kramer Received Lifetime Achievement Award at ASC

Justice Center for Research Faculty Affiliate and Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Criminology Dr. John Kramer was selected as the recipient of the American Society of Criminology Division on Corrections and Sentencing's Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lifetime Achievement award honors an individual's distinguished scholarship in the area of corrections and/or sentencing over a lifetime. Dr. Kramer was recognized at ASC conference in November. Congratulations Dr. Kramer!

Glenn Sterner, Ph.D., Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar presented at Criminology Forum

Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar, Glenn Sterner was our speaker at the final Criminology Forum of the semester. The topic of his talk was be "Network of Influence: Exploring Criminal Justice Campaign Finance in Montgomery County, PA." Montgomery County had readily available public data that provided a convenience sample.

Post Citizens United, campaign contributions to elected officials in the US are a topic of great debate regarding the functioning of our democracy. The strongest opponents of financial contributions to elected official's political campaigns allege the ability for individuals and organizations to utilize these contributions as a way to "buy campaigns" or leverage influence on elected officials. Even more insidious is the allegation that contributors aim to influence a network of campaigns, to manipulate a greater section of the democratic system of government. Much of the critiques and analyses regarding campaign contributions are aimed at high profile officials, i.e. US President, US Congress, or Governors. Less attention is given to local officials, especially those within the criminal justice system. The presentation highlighted several preliminary findings from a pilot study that utilizes a social network approach to examine the network of campaign contributions to elected criminal justice system officials.

Justice Center for Research

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December 2016