

## Message from the Director

Welcome back to campus! We have had an active Summer, including the first network data collection in a women's prison! We are also actively pursuing opportunities to understand and ameliorate PA's opioid crisis. Look for new initiatives in this and other areas over the coming months. Researchers, make sure to check out our new center themes and RFP for funding. We are looking to support innovative work! Finally, students (graduate and undergraduate) stay tuned for upcoming opportunities for funding and service activities. There will be many more ways to get involved in research and community outreach. It's going to be a great year!

### PENN STATE JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Derek Kreager, Director  
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

*Dr. Derek Kreager*

#### "Where "Old Heads" Prevail: Inmate Hierarchy in a Men's Prison Unit" published in American Sociological Review

Derek Kreager (Justice Center for Research Director), Jacob Young (ASU), Dana Haynie (OSU), Martin Bouchard (Simon Fraser University), David Schaefer (UC Irvine), and Gary Zajac (Justice Center for Research) recently published an article in *American Sociological Review*. The article titled, "Where "Old Heads" Prevail: Inmate Hierarchy in a Men's Prison Unit" uses narrative and social network data from inmates in a Pennsylvania prison to support the proposition that older and more experienced inmates ("old heads") serve as role models on the unit, fostering a positive and stable peer environment, as has been suggested by previous prison ethnographies.

The article is now available online:

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0003122417710462>

#### The Women's Prison Inmate Networks Study (WO-PINS) Data Collection

In June data collection commenced for the WO-PINS project, this study investigates the incarceration and re-entry experiences of female inmates and their children. The project team includes investigators: Derek Kreager (Justice Center Director), Gary Zajac (Justice Center), Sara Wakefield (Rutgers University), Dana Haynie (Ohio State University), and Michaela Soyer (Hunter College). During the first phase of this project, interviews were conducted with inmates at a PA women's correctional facility to reveal each units' informal organization and culture using innovative social network data that maps the unit's friendship network, status hierarchy, and romantic ties. The interview team consisted of: Kim Davidson (Justice Center Graduate Student Assistant), Corey Whichard (Justice Center Graduate Research Assistant), Elaine Arsenault (Justice Center for Research, Research Assistant), Ted Greenfelder (Criminology Graduate Student), and Sade Lindsay (Ohio State University Graduate Student).

## Justice Center for Research Founding Director, Doris L. MacKenzie receives the Distinguished Achievement Award in Evidence-Based Crime Policy

Justice Center for Research Founding Director, Doris L. Mackenzie, was awarded the Center for Evidence Based Crime Policy Distinguished Achievement Award in Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University on June 26. “This award recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions by individuals in academia, practice, or the policy arena who are committed to a leadership role in advancing the use of scientific research evidence in decisions about crime and justice policies. This role includes notable efforts in connecting criminology, law and society researchers with criminal justice institutions, or advancing scientific research more generally in crime and justice. The award is conferred yearly.” Congratulations Doris!

<http://cebcp.org/distinguished-achievement-award/>



Top: Doris L. MacKenzie, Doris L. MacKenzie standing with Gary Zajac; Bottom: Cynthia Lum (CEBCP Director), Doris L. MacKenzie, and David Weisburd (CEBCP Executive Director)

## Glenn Sterner and Diane Felmlee publish article on the social networks of cyberbullying on Twitter

Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar, Glenn Sterner, and Center Affiliate, Diane Felmlee's article "The Social Networks of Cyberbullying on Twitter" will be published in the next issue of the International Journal of Technoethics.

**Abstract:** This research applies a social network perspective to the issue of cyber aggression, or cyberbullying, on the social media platform Twitter. Cyber aggression is particularly problematic because of its potential for anonymity, and the ease with which so many others can join the harassment of victims. The authors examined thousands of Tweets to explore the use of denigrating slurs and insults contained in public tweets that target an individual's gender, race, or sexual orientation. Findings indicate cyber aggression on Twitter to be extensive and often extremely offensive, with the potential for serious, deleterious consequences for its victims. The authors identify six social roles that users can assume in the network, noting differences in these roles by demographic category.

- <http://www.igi-global.com/article/the-social-networks-of-cyberbullying-on-twitter/181646>

## Justice Center Graduate Student Julia Laskorunsky Defends Dissertation

Justice Center Graduate Student Assistant, Julia Laskorunsky defended her dissertation titled, "The Color of Risk: Unpacking the Implications of Actuarial Risk Prediction at Sentencing," on June 16. Her dissertation committee consisted of Jeffery Ulmer (Justice Center for Research Faculty Affiliate), Eric Baumer (Justice Center for Research Faculty Affiliate), Gary Zajac (Justice Center for Research Managing Director), and Christopher Zorn (Political Science). Congratulations to Dr. Laskorunsky on her hard work!



From Left to Right: Christopher Zorn, Jeffery Ulmer, Julia Laskorunsky, Gary Zajac, and Eric Baumer

## Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Glenn Sterner featured in DOJ OJP Diagnostic Center Blog

Glenn Sterner, Ph.D., discusses the Opioid Crisis in the DOJ OJP Diagnostic Center blog. In the blog, Dr. Sterner highlights current work with the Pennsylvania State Police and offers suggestions for the future on how we can examine drug trends. Check out Dr. Sterner's blog piece [here](#).

## Upcoming Opioid Addiction Listening Sessions in Dauphin, Franklin, and York Counties

As part of the Justice Center for Research's project "Identifying and Informing Strategies for Disrupting Drug Distribution Networks" (<http://justicecenter.psu.edu/research/opiate-epidemic>) coordinated by Drs. Glenn Sterner, Ashton Verdery, Shannon Monnat, Pete Forster, and Gary Zajac, public listening sessions on opioid addiction will be held in Dauphin, Franklin, and York Counties.

At the Listening Sessions, local and state officials will discuss available local and state resources for opioid addiction available for public access. In addition, there will be opportunities for the audience to highlight their perspective on additional services needed in their community to combat the opioid crisis.

The Listening Sessions are a collaboration between the Dauphin County Drug and Alcohol Services, York County Coalition, Franklin County Overdose Drug Task Force, and The Pennsylvania Coalition for Addressing Heroin and Opioid Addiction (PaCHOA). Justice Center for Research Postdoctoral Scholar, Glenn Sterner, Ph.D., will be hosting and coordinating the event in his role as a Chair of PaCHOA.

## Justice Center Postdoctoral Scholar Glenn Sterner, Ph.D., presents at the International Network for Social Network Analysis

Justice Center for Research Postdoctoral Scholar, Glenn Sterner presented at the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) in Beijing, China on June 3. His poster titled "Networks of Influence: Exploring Criminal Justice Campaign Finance in a Pennsylvania County." The presentation highlighted several findings from a study that utilizes a social network approach to examine the network of campaign contributions to elected criminal justice system officials in one county in Pennsylvania (PA). The study focused on two main research questions: do donors contribute to more than one elected criminal justice official in this county in PA? and is there a network of donors contributing to elected criminal justice officials in this county in PA?

## Justice Center Welcomes New Graduate Student Assistant

Kim Davidson is a doctoral candidate in the department of Criminology at Penn State University. Her research interests include prison programming, substance use treatment, and prisoner re-entry. Kim has assisted in collecting survey data in prisons as part of the Prison Inmate Network Study (PINS) and the Therapeutic Community Prison Inmate Network Study (TC-PINS). She has conducted qualitative interviews for the Re-Entry Prison Network Study (R-PINS) and the Therapeutic Community Re-Entry Prison Network Study (TCR-PINS). Kim's dissertation research is focused on the re-entry experiences of ex-inmates who have a history of substance use disorders, with an emphasis on their prior and current experiences in treatment programs.

Kim received her M.A. in Criminology from Penn State University and her B.M. in Music Therapy from the University of Kansas. Prior to coming to Penn State, she worked with individuals in halfway houses, substance use rehabilitation programs, sex offender treatment programs, and individuals with mental health diagnoses as a board certified music therapist.

## Justice Center Departures

The end of summer brought the departure of two valued Justice Center for Research team members.

Julia Laskorunsky, Criminology graduate student and Justice Center Graduate Student Assistant for 6 years, defended her dissertation in June. Dr. Laskorunsky is currently a Research Fellow at The Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota Law School.

John Crum, Justice Center Research Assistant, primarily assisted on the Center's projects focusing on Addressing the Opiate Epidemic in Pennsylvania. John is currently a graduate student in Penn State's Criminology program.

Best of luck to Julia and John!

## Crime and Punishment in Black America: A Book Talk with Author James Forman Jr.

Author [James Forman Jr.](#), professor of law at Yale Law School, will discuss his book "[Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America](#)," at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12, in the Sutliff Auditorium of the Lewis Katz Building.

The talk is free and open to the public; however, attendees are asked to [register online](#) at [pennstatelaw.psu.edu/formanbooktalk](http://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/formanbooktalk). Following the talk, Forman will sign copies of his book, which will be available for purchase.

Forman's talk is co-sponsored by [Penn State Law](#) and the [Rock Ethics Institute](#).

## Participate in a Colloquium to establish The Consortium for Public Scholars

To connect individuals dedicated to addressing public issues, sharing knowledge, and working with communities, a colloquium is being held to develop The Consortium for Public Scholars. This colloquium will include university professionals, community professionals, community residents, and advanced high school, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in the Philadelphia region.

Public scholarship refers to knowledge generation and transfer initiatives developed and conducted with and for the public. When engaged in such endeavors, both local and expert knowledge is appreciated and utilized to develop a more nuanced understanding of an issue for public benefit. This paradigm challenges higher education professionals to see their work for the university as embedded parts of external systems in which their skills, knowledge, and resources are insufficient without the skills, knowledge, and resources of local community members. It also requires community professionals and residents to examine their role in their communities, exploring how they can meld their expertise and experience to address public issues. Public scholarship products reflect a critical, discursive, dialogic perspective that tethers knowledge with action; encourages local results with an eye toward broader application; and requires sharing of both knowledge and process in ways that are publicly accessible in terms of language and distribution.

While initiatives exist that bind together individuals who are dedicated to outreach and/or engagement, there are relatively few opportunities for all types public scholars to collaborate and share knowledge across disciplines, interest areas, and categories of work. This colloquium aims to address this concern by developing a consortium of public scholars across institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, private businesses, and the community in the Philadelphia region. We use the term scholar broadly to include any individual interested in sharing their knowledge of their work in addressing public issues, not only those involved in academia. The organizing purpose of this colloquium is to share examples of best practices for public scholarship, and co-develop a path forward for the consortium.

This meeting is supported by the Justice Center for Research as a way to extend its outreach mission, and connect scholars across disciplines dedicated to engaging with the public on issues that affect communities in Pennsylvania and beyond. The colloquium is also sponsored by Pennsylvania Campus Compact, Penn State Abington, and The Penn State Center Philadelphia. The colloquium is chaired by Justice Center for Research's Postdoctoral Scholar Dr. Glenn Sterner.

The colloquium will take place at the Penn State Center Philadelphia, and will be October 12, 2017, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., and October 13, 2017, 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

### **Registration Fee\*:**

Regular: \$35 until September 18, 2017

Late: \$50 until October 1, 2017

Same day: \$75

Learn more: <http://www.cvent.com/events/a-colloquium-to-establish-the-consortium-for-public-scholars/event-summary-65d18a26e7414ed8ae1d058bf7cf69c9.aspx>

## College of the Liberal Arts Office Olympics

The 2017 College of the Liberal Arts Office Olympics were held on 8/1 on the Moore Building Lawn. The Oswald Ocelots, consisting of staff members from the Department of Sociology and Criminology: Amy Schmoeller, Renee Kennedy, and Eunice Hockenberry and Justice Center for Research team members: Laura Reddington Moser and Elaine Arsenault took home the bronze medal in the "Rubber Band Snap" challenge. Teams participated in fundraising efforts throughout the year and raised over \$16,000 for the Centre County United Way. The Oswald Ocelots were the third place team in the fundraising challenge.



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