

Message from the Director

While it may be a season for tulips & daffodils outside, in here it's grant submission season and Center researchers are busy putting the finishing touches on a number of proposals. It seems an excellent time to remind our faculty affiliates of the many

Justice Center resources available to facilitate your research objectives, including grant preparation support and the Faculty Fellowship Program. Visit our website at www.justicecenter.psu.edu/faculty-resources to learn more about it. Now here's what's on the DOCKET this month.

PENN STATE JUSTICE CENTER FOR RESEARCH

Doris L. MacKenzie, Director
Gary Zajac, Managing Director

Professor Doris MacKenzie

Documentary Screening on April 2nd

On April 2nd, the Justice Center will welcome documentary filmmaker Joshua Rofé to campus for a screening of his recent documentary, *Lost for Life*, a film focusing on juveniles receiving life without parole prison sentences. In June 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that this practice constituted "cruel and unusual punishment." However, Pennsylvania is not retroactively enforcing this ruling for the adults who were sentenced as juveniles many years ago. Pennsylvania has more juvenile lifers than any other state, making this a highly relevant issue for student and community discussion. *Lost for Life* is appearing in film festivals and receiving very favorable reviews since its debut at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC this past summer. A panel discussion with the filmmaker will follow the screening and will focus on the relevance, ethical/moral conflicts, and policy implications of this timely issue.

Panelists:

Judge Timothy S. Searer, former President Judge, 58th Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Michael Burroughs, Ph.D., Assistant Director, The Rock Ethics Institute

Michaela Soyer, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, The Justice Center for Research

Joshua Rofé, Documentary Filmmaker

When: Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30 PM

Where: Carnegie Cinema, 113 Carnegie Building

This event is co-sponsored by: The Justice Center for Research, The Rock Ethics Institute, The Department of Film-Video and Media Studies, The Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, and the Department of Sociology and Criminology.

All faculty, students, and guests are invited to attend.

Website Addition: External Funding Opportunities

The Justice Center is announcing the addition of a new section on our website for our faculty affiliates. Under "Faculty Resources," we have added new pages that list current funding opportunities from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). On these pages you will find brief descriptions of the research solicitations, application deadlines, and the amount of the awards. Clicking on the titles of the projects will link you directly to the solicitation application.

- NIJ – Funding Opportunities: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/faculty-resources/faculty-resources/nij-funding>
- NSF – Funding Opportunities: <http://justicecenter.psu.edu/faculty-resources/nsf-funding-opportunities>

Please visit our [Faculty Resources](#) page to learn more about the ways our Center can assist faculty.

Justice Center Post-Doc Featured in Blog

Justice Center post-doc, Michaela Soyer, recently contributed to the Mobilizing Ideas blog, which is hosted by the Center for the Study of Social Movements at Notre Dame. This blog publishes “interdisciplinary perspectives on social movements, social change, and the public sphere.” Dr. Soyer’s essay was among three other scholars’ work on the topic of social trauma, emotions, and activism. Her essay talks about why resistance against the Nazi’s was such a rare occurrence during the Holocaust.

In 2008, Dr. Soyer conducted numerous interviews with Holocaust survivors and analyzed archival oral history data on this topic. Her findings have been published in the newest issue of Mobilization journal. Her blog post can be found here:

<http://mobilizingideas.wordpress.com/2014/02/03/social-trauma-emotions-and-activism/>

Recent Publications

Soyer, M. (2014). “We knew our time had come”: The dynamics of threat and microsocial ties in three polish ghettos under Nazi oppression. *Mobilization*, 19, 489-507.

Criminology Forum Lecture Series: Dr. Corina Graif

On Monday, March 24th, the Justice Center for Research hosted a lecture from Assistant Professor of Sociology and Criminology, Corina Graif. The title of Dr. Graif’s lecture was “Incorporating Spatial and Network Perspectives in the Study of Neighborhood Effects on Crime.”

Upcoming lectures will be streamed live through Adobe Connect. Look for an email with more details prior to the next presentation.

Justice Center Researchers in the News

- Dr. Kate Staley, Associate Director of the Justice Center, was interviewed by the Philadelphia Inquirer about the prevalence of sexual abuse by youth coaches. The article describes several cases in the Philadelphia area in which youth sports coaches have abused their players. The full article can be read [here](#).
- Dr. Gary Zajac, Managing Director of the Justice Center, was interviewed by the Kansas City Star newspaper about a man who “held up” a convenience store for the sole purpose of getting sent back to prison. Dr. Zajac commented on the likelihood of an event like this as well as some of the challenges that inmates face when returning to the outside world after being incarcerated for many years. Click [here](#) for the full article.

JASI Event – *Whole of Government Approach*

The Justice and Safety Institute (JASI), an Outreach partner with the Justice Center, co-hosted an interactive session on “An Innovative Approach to Crime Reduction, Community Safety, and Community Well-being, Whole of Government Approach” at the Penn State Harrisburg Campus on March 4, 2014. Gary Zajac was in attendance at the event. In 2011, a city in Saskatchewan, Canada instituted a new program to address crime and community dysfunction. This program works by identifying early risks and responding with appropriate government action. The “whole of government” approach brings together local agencies that provide public services in the area of community well-being. For example, school districts, mental health services, and probation/parole could all be involved in a community “hub” that works together to address crime reduction. Saskatchewan government officials presented some preliminary evidence of the effectiveness of this program (i.e., reduced recidivism).

The first test site has been selected and plans are in motion for training and implementation to begin soon. Penn State will join the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina as part of the “Knowledge Network” which will provide research and evaluation support to the project. Ultimately there is potential for further implementation of this program across the state of Pennsylvania and the United States.

National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference

Dr. Kate Staley was recently accepted to lead a 2 hour workshop at the National Children’s Alliance Leadership Conference which will take place in June in Washington, DC. The conference aims to provide continuing education, networking opportunities, and exposure to innovative programs and ideas for child advocate leaders. Dr. Staley will be joined by Dr. Amy Marshall, Associate Professor of Psychology, to provide an interdisciplinary perspective on their topic: *Child exposure to intimate partner violence: Theory, impacts, and co-occurring parent-to-child violence.*

Justice Center for Research

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Grant Awarded to Center Post-doc

Dr. Michaela Soyer was recently awarded the American Sociological Association’s *Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline*. ASA’s goal for the \$7,000 award is to provide seed money for innovative research that has the potential for “challenging the discipline, stimulating new lines of research, and creating new networks of scientific collaboration.”