*Message from the Director*

*Dear CJRC Friends, Affiliates, and Partners,*

*Happy Spring! I hope that you are all well*

*and feeling some sense of relief as we enter the*

*warmer months. For those that may not have*

*heard, my tenure as the CJRC director ends*

*this summer and I am excited to announce that Jeff Ulmer will become the incoming director beginning in January of 2022. Until then, the Center will be in the capable hands of Gary Zajac as the interim director and Megan Kurlychek as the associate director. It has been a great pleasure for me to lead the Center for the past four years and I see so many positive things in its future! When I joined the Center in the summer of 2017, it consisted of eight faculty, staff, and students. This fall, it will have grown to 17 people, including an associate director, four post-doctoral scholars, an outreach/enrichment coordinator, communications intern, and administrative support assistant at Abington campus (not including affiliates now at over eight campuses!). This growth represents the increasing impact and outreach of our mission that will only continue moving forward, particularly as the CJRC gets its own space and strengthens its identity in the new Liberal Arts building. I thank everyone who has worked so hard to keep the Center going, particularly under the challenging circumstances of the past year. Good luck and best wishes for the next chapter!*

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Description automatically generated*

*Derek Kreager*

*CJRC Director*

**PENN STATE**

*Criminal Justice Research Center*

Derek Kreager, Director

Gary Zajac, Managing Director

Megan Kurlychek, Associate Director

Elaine Arsenault, Docket Editor

The Docket May 2021

**The Criminal Justice Research Center is housed within the College of the Liberal Arts**

***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

## Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar, awarded Young Career Award

Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar at the CJRC, was recently awarded the Young Career Award from The American Society of Criminology (ASC) Division on White-Collar and Corporate Crime (DWCC). According to the DWCC, “The award recognizes outstanding contributions to scholarship to the broadly defined areas of white-collar and corporate crime by persons early in their professional careers.” In offering her the award, the Division noted “the ground-breaking nature” of her research and the high degree of rigor in her studies. Her work on white-collar crime includes studies related to definitional ambiguity and issues of validity in white-collar research, the role of regulatory failures in the opioid epidemic, federal prosecution and sentencing of white-collar crimes, and public support for white-collar crime policies. Her articles on white-collar crime have appeared in several top-tier journals, including *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal of Experimental Criminology and Criminology & Public Policy.* Congrats and great job Miranda!

## New Project Investigating the Impacts of Online Gambling Featured in Penn State News

CJRC Commonwealth Faculty Affiliate and Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Penn State Abington, Glenn Sterner discusses a new research project that was recently featured in the Penn State News. Glenn explains how the project will assess impacts of interactive, online gaming in PA. The grant was awarded from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program (DDAP). The Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) and the Survey Research Center (SRC) will help conduct a telephone survey that allows participants across the state to share their experiences with online gaming, better known as online gambling. Read more [here](https://news.psu.edu/story/634614/2020/10/07/research/impacts-gambling-pennsylvania-be-explored?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=635012_HTML&utm_content=10-11-2020-21-12&utm_campaign=Penn%20State%20Today).

## Spring Speaker Series

The following speakers presented at the Spring Speaker Series:

Dr. Mark Berg, Associate Professor of Sociology and Criminology, University of Iowa, “Retrospective and Prospective Measures of Childhood Adversities in Predictions of Adult Health Burden: What Is Learned from Different Representations of the Past?”

Mike LaForest, PA Department of Corrections Postdoctoral Scholar at the CJRC, Penn State University, “Parole Conditions and Early Release at the Margin”

Upcoming Speaker:

Distinguished Speaker Dr. Charis Kubrin, Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, University of California, Irvine, “New Directions in Research on Immigration and Crime” Thursday, May 13 at Noon

*The Speaker Series is co-sponsored by the Criminal Justice Research Center and the Department of Sociology and Criminology.*

Iman Said recognized with Jackson Lethbridge Tolerance Award



Iman Said, a doctoral student in criminology in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State, is the recipient of the University’s 2021 Jackson Lethbridge Tolerance Award. The award recognizes a junior, senior or graduate student for outstanding efforts to enhance the understanding of diverse cultures and create a community where all individuals are accepted and valued equally. Nominators said Said is an exceptional leader and advocate who goes above and beyond to increase diversity awareness to the benefit of those around her. She’s a first-generation Egyptian American who is active in the Muslim community, so she’s familiar with the challenges facing religious, ethnic and racial minority groups in the United States. Said’s research looks at religious conversion and community re-integration among previously incarcerated Black men. Said researches the impact religious programming can have on rehabilitating former prisoners. Her research will offer a more scientific view of prison religious programs and a holistic understanding of how religious conversion affects prisoners once they are released. Read more on Iman Said’s research and student leadership and advocacy in the Penn State News article [here](https://news.psu.edu/story/654837/2021/04/22/academics/said-recognized-jackson-lethbridge-tolerance-award?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=656427_HTML&utm_content=04-26-2021-08-48&utm_campaign=liberal%20arts%20headlines%20issue).

NIJ Graduate Research Fellow Kimberley Davidson Accepts Assistant Professor Position at FSU

Congratulations to Kimberley Davidson, NIJ Graduate Research Fellow, who recently accepted a tenure track assistant professor position in the College of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Everyone at the CJRC is so happy for Kim and excited to follow her career!

## CJRC 2021 Graduate Student Research Award

The CJRC received eight outstanding applications for our 2021 Graduate Student Summer Research Award program, which provides a summer stipend for work on a specific study.  This is record number of proposals submitted for this program.  We were able to make the following two awards based on available funding:

Christopher Seto - “Understanding Variation in Hate Crimes and Hate Organizations Across Time and Space: Evidence from Google Trends”.

Julia Dillavou - “Solidarity or Solitude? How Correlates of Incarceration Impact Friendship Among Imprisoned Women”.



*Christopher Seto and Julia Dillavou*

Chris and Julia are both in the Department of Sociology and Criminology.  We congratulate them both on their successful submissions and we look forward to reporting on their results in a future Docket.

## Criminal Justice Research Center Departure

Sharon Laskowsky, CJRC Administrative Support Assistant, retired from Penn State on April 2nd. Sharon spent 15 years with the University and all in the College of the Liberal Arts. She has been with the CJRC for the last two years, supporting our faculty research efforts. Everyone at the CJRC will greatly miss Sharon. Congrats on your retirement Sharon!

***OUTREACH AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES***

It’s finally spring here at University Park and, as always, it’s been a busy one! We all have our fingers crossed that we will be able to start moving back to in-person events in the fall semester though we have certainly thought more about how to reach students through a combination of programming.

This semester, as internships are still up in the air in many areas, we’ve worked to facilitate other connections between students and professionals. We hosted a student-alumni career panel which focused on less traditional careers in the criminal justice field which was well attended and prompted some great questions from the students! In two more weeks, we will be hosting a 1:1 student-alumni networking event which will allow students to meet with a variety of alumni individually. Events like these are the foundation to developing stronger connections with alumni and agency partners with the goal of creating a larger range of opportunities for students.

Shifting gears a bit, this past fall we initiated an undergraduate research assistant database that facilitates connections between students looking to gain research experience with our faculty seeking assistance in their own projects. This academic year has seen the placement of 10 undergraduates into research positions with at least one extending into the summer. We’ve also recently received a request for students through the database from another academic college on campus! We feel that this is not only a huge step in the visibility of this project but speaks to the early success of it.

As always, we welcome any input or involvement! If interested, feel free to reach out to me at rer201@psu.edu

**Rebecca Reitz, CJRC Outreach and Enrichment Coordinator**

## Kristin Gjelaj First CJRC Communications Intern

This semester, the Criminal Justice Research Center hired its first Communications Intern, Kristin Gjelaj. Kristin is a senior graduating this May studying Journalism and Spanish. Through­out the semester, Kristin has created flyers and graphics for the center and its events, brain­stormed ways to get undergraduates involved, created marketing packages for future events, wrote articles for the newswire and worked on the center’s overall branding. Kristin worked un­der the supervision of Outreach and Enrichment Coordinator Rebecca Reitz. Upon graduating, Kristin will be starting her career as an investiga­tive journalist.

***CAMPUS CONNECTIONS***

Spotlight on Research at Penn State Altoona

The Commonwealth Campus Center Nodes (C3N) initiative engages faculty from across Penn State who are conducting criminal justice research as part of the Criminal Justice C3N (CJ C3N). A main goal of the broader C3N program is to foster faculty relationships across Penn State in support of Commonwealth Campus faculty research activities by increasing Commonwealth Campus faculty connections with research resources available at UP. This month we would like to highlight the work of some of our C3N Faculty Affiliates at PSU Altoona.

**Nathan E. Kruis**,Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, examines provider-based stigma in the context of the American Criminal Justice System. As noted in three of his most recent publications, Kruis and his research team found that law enforcement officers hold relatively high levels of stigma, as measured by perceptions of dangerousness, blameworthiness, and desire for social distance, toward persons who use prescription opioids and heroin. Moreover, his team found that this stigma is associated with officers’ anticipated treatment of persons who experience an opioid overdose in that officers who hold high levels of certain variants of stigma (i.e., blame and fatalism) report being less willing to provide a full range of services to persons who experience an opioid overdose. Considering these findings, Kruis has recently joined with Jennifer Murphy and Brenda Russell, both of Penn State Berks, to launch a multi-campus study assessing the effects of an anti-stigma campaign directed at students in the social sciences. Their long-term goal is to help develop a training program that can be used to combat provider-based stigma of substance using persons in the criminal justice system. Related, He is also working with Katherine McLean of Penn State Greater Allegheny to further explore provider-based stigma among other actors in the American Criminal Justice System. Kruis’ other work has concerned evaluating the efficacy of Police Response Models (PRMs), testing theoretical propositions in non-American context, and exploring the victimization experiences of children of multicultural families. He hopes that his work can be used to help shed light on biases present in the system and to develop effective policies to combat injustice.

**Lacey Wallace**, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, studies both juvenile delinquency and gun policy.  Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wallace collaborated with Daniel Flannery, James Fox, Edward Mulvey and William Modzeleski to review school gun violence and the (in)effectiveness of policies currently in place to prevent school shootings.  During the pandemic, Wallace pivoted her research to focus on family functioning, a key correlate of delinquent behavior in adolescents and younger children.  She received funding from the Penn State Center for the Study of Sports in Society to examine associations between parenting practices and sports/ recreation.  Additional funding from Penn state Altoona allowed her to conduct a Pennsylvania-statewide survey of parents regarding social media use and parental monitoring behaviors.  She will be expanding this research in 2021 by exploring the impact of COVID-19 on parental monitoring and family functioning.  Along with co-Investigators Sam Tanner, Freyca Calderon, and Lauren Jacobson, Wallace will be conducting the 2020 Rural Youth Survey: Trends and Developments in the Attitudes and Aspirations of Rural Pennsylvania Youth.  This study, funded by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, investigates the future aspirations of high school students in 15 rural school districts across the state.  The study will resume in 2021 when more school districts are open for in-person instruction.

**Kim S. Ménard**, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, has two primary areas of research, stress in policing and interpersonal violence. Along with Michael L. Arter, also an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice in the program, she has examined stress and other negative outcomes reported by police officers stemming from their work in law enforcement. Regarding her interpersonal violence research, she recently worked with Grace Leri (undergraduate student at Altoona) and Aaron L. Pincus (Professor Psychology at University Park) to construct and validate the Post Traumatic Sexual Behavior Inventory a measure of post-assault behaviors commonly reported by survivors of sexual violence. Along with several colleagues both within and outside the Penn State system, Ménard is also examining factors that affect the victimization risk of stalking, sexual violence, and domestic violence among LGBT+ community members. Finally, in collaboration with Barry Ruback (Professor of Criminology and Sociology) and Keith Hullenaar (graduate student at University Park) she is examining the influence of mandatory reporting laws on county-level case processing of child sexual abuse cases.

“[Collecting Social Network Data in Prison and During Re-Entry: A Field Guide” Article](https://securep1.la.psu.edu/jcr/news/201ccollecting-social-network-data-in-prison-and-during-re-entry-a-field-guide201d-article-featured-in-moving-beyond-recidivism-expanding-approaches-to-research-on-prisoner-reentry-and-reintegration) Published

A new book titled *Moving Beyond Recidivism: Expanding Approaches to Research on Prisoner Reentry and Reintegration*features article on [“Collecting Social Network Data in Prison and During Re-Entry: A Field Guide.”](https://books.google.com/books?id=OAS5DwAAQBAJ&pg=PT55&lr=&source=gbs_toc_r&hl=en#v=onepage&q&f=false) The article discusses collecting prison network data and the authors include Corey Whichard, CJRC Graduate Student Alumni now an Assistant Professor at SUNY Albany, Sara Wakefield, Associate Professor at Rutgers University, and Derek Kreager, CJRC Director. This article stems from the Prison Inmate Network Studies (PINS) portfolio that has been a major project for the CJRC over the past six years. All co-authors were part of the PINS projects.

***CORRECTIONS AND RE-ENTRY***

Update from PA Department of Corrections Postdoctoral Scholar on Parole Conditions, Agent Relationships, and Racial Bias

While nearly 80% of U.S. prisoners are released under parole supervision, relatively little is known about the effects of supervised release. Michael LaForest, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and CJRC Postdoctoral Scholar at CJRC, is working with the Bureau of Planning, Research & Statistics (PRS) at the PADOC to investigate the effects of parole conditions and parole agent characteristics on parolee recidivism and employment.  In what settings are additional supervision conditions helpful or harmful?  How much does one's assigned parole agent matter, and are their signs of racial or gender bias in these relationships?

In addition, Michael is working with the PRS team to evaluate the effects of the "Thinking for a Change" cognitive behavioral therapy program in Pennsylvania prisons, and to estimate counterfactual COVID-19 mortality rates for the DOC prison population if they were temporarily released into the community until the expected end of the pandemic.

## [“In the eye of the beholder: Meaning and structure of informal status in women’s and men’s prisons” Published in Criminology](https://securep1.la.psu.edu/jcr/news/incarcerated-fathers2019-experiences-in-the-read-to-your-child-grandchild-program-supporting-children2019s-literacy-learning-and-education-published-in-the-journal-of-prison-education-and-reentry)

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A new publication from the Understanding Incarceration and Re-Entry Experiences of Female Inmates and their Children: The Women’s Prison Inmate Networks Study (WO-PINS) and the Prison Inmate Networks Study (PINS) projects was recently published in *Criminology*. The article titled [“In the eye of the beholder: Meaning and structure of informal status in women’s and men’s prisons”](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1745-9125.12260) compares the informal status systems in three women’s prison units and one men’s prison unit. The authors include Derek Kreager, CJRC Director, Jacob T.N. Young, Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University, Dana L. Haynie, Professor of Sociology at The Ohio State University, David R. Schaefer, Associate Professor of Sociology at University of California, Irvine, Martin Bouchard, Professor at the School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University, and Kimberly M. Davidson, CJRC NIJ Graduate Research Fellow.

## NIJ Director Discusses the Importance of Replication Studies to Science and Cites the RTI-CJRC HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment as an Exemplar of High Quality Replication

In December, then Director of NIJ Dr. David Muhlhausen discusses the importance of replication studies to science and cites the RTI-CJRC HOPE Demonstration Field Experiment, that was co-led by CJRC Managing Director Gary Zajac with research assistance by CJRC Researcher Elaine Arsenault as an exemplar of high quality replication that advances our understanding of evidence-based criminal justice programming and policy:

[https://nij.ojp.gov/general-message/replication-studies-are-vital-science-we-can-count?utm\_source=govdelivery&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=directorscorner](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnij.ojp.gov%2Fgeneral-message%2Freplication-studies-are-vital-science-we-can-count%3Futm_source%3Dgovdelivery%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Ddirectorscorner&data=04%7C01%7Cepa5015%40psu.edu%7C2f1ead8e437b4a070e3f08d8b1aee495%7C7cf48d453ddb4389a9c1c115526eb52e%7C0%7C0%7C637454711997765503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=GDgSCNoWRkYNAfndl390TzNny5J7zXzLRI2FHxyAfxc%3D&reserved=0)

## New article on Probationer Perceptions of and Experiences with the Honest Opportunity Probation with Enforcement Demonstration Field Experiment (HOPE)

A recent article in the *Journal of Crime and Justice* titled [“HOPE is a good thing? Probationer perceptions of and experiences with the honest opportunity probation with enforcement demonstration field experiment”](https://www-tandfonline-com.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/doi/full/10.1080/0735648X.2020.1835692) discusses participating probationer’s reception of the HOPE program. The article is by [Gary Zajac](http://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/people/gary-zajac/), Center Managing Director and Debbie Dawes, RTI, International.

# “‘The video is an upgrade from them all’: How Incarcerated Fathers View the Affordances of Video in a Family Literacy Programme” published in Learning, Media, and Technology

Tabitha Stickel, Ph.D. candidate, Esther Prins, Professor of Education, and Anna Kaiper-Marquez, Assistant Teaching Professor, recently published a paper on “‘The video is an upgrade from them all’: how incarcerated fathers view the affordances of video in a family literacy programme” in Learning, Media, and Technology. The Criminal Justice Research Center supported part of this work through a 2018 seed grant award for the “Read to Your Child/Grandchild: Family Literacy for Incarcerated Parents in Pennsylvania” project. Read the article [here](https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XXAXWRZJTJWAEFZSHFB2/full?target=10.1080/17439884.2021.1888117).

### Seed Grant Awarded to: Calls to Police: Contextual and Individual Determinants

Dr. Lacey N. Wallace (Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and C3N Faculty Affiliate at Penn State Altoona) will conduct a state-representative survey in Pennsylvania about calls to the police. The survey will examine the circumstances under which individuals are likely to call the police, perceptions of police legitimacy, and reactions to recent police-involved deaths and calls to defund the police. The study will further explore how determinants of calls to police differ between rural and urban areas.

***TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION***

## The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing Releases a New Report Examining Substance Use as a Driver of Probation Revocation and Resentencing in the Commonwealth

In October, The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing released a new report examining substance use as a driver of probation revocation and resentencing in the Commonwealth. Miranda A. Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Postdoctoral Scholar at the CJRC, is the lead author of the report. The report found that nearly one third (up to 30.5%) of all resentencing events for people sentenced to community supervision are attributable to substance use. Resentencing for these offenses resulted in significantly longer supervision time, estimated at up to 1.3 million supervision days for individuals sentenced to community-based sanctions in 2016-2017. The report recommends less reliance on incarceration as a response to substance-related violations by individuals under supervision and strengthening access to evidence-based treatment. Read the full report [here](http://pcs.la.psu.edu/publications-and-research/research-and-evaluation-reports/special-reports/role-of-substance-use-in-probation-outcomes-2020/view).

## New Study that will Examine Women with Opioid-Use Disorder in Criminal Justice System Featured in Penn State News

Read the recent Penn State News article [here](https://news.psu.edu/story/636861/2020/10/27/research/new-study-will-examine-women-opioid-use-disorder-criminal-justice?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=637122_HTML&utm_content=10-28-2020-22-05&utm_campaign=Penn%20State%20Today) to learn more about this new study led by principal investigator [Abenaa Jones](https://hhd.psu.edu/contact/abenaa-jones" \o "" \t "_self), assistant professor of human development and family studies, Consortium to Combat Substance Abuse (CCSA) co-funded faculty member, and  CJRC Faculty Affiliate. Carl Latkin, professor of health, behavior, and society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; and [Derek Kreager](http://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/people/derek-kreager/), director of the CJRC and Social Science Research Institute co-funded faculty member will serve as mentors on the project.

The Story Powered Initiative

The Share Your Opioid Story Initiative has advanced from focusing primarily on substance use and stigma and has transitioned into an initiative with a strong foundation in story-sharing and empowerment. What started as a Pennsylvania initiative focusing on opioid use disorder and the opioid epidemic has blossomed into a national movement featuring stories of all walks of life from all over the United States. We have established [The Story Powered Initiative](https://storypowered.org/) for individuals across the nation and beyond to share their experiences with all forms of stigma.

Through our work to address stigma associated with the opioid crisis, we realized now more than ever that stigma continues to impact many of our community members, not just those within the substance use disorder community. Individuals face discrimination and stigma daily regarding their race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.  We also recognize that those who are justice involved, have an intellectual or physical disability, experience a mental health diagnosis, and many others are often left behind. Through [The Story Powered Initiative](https://storypowered.org/) we invite those who have experienced stigma at a personal, social, or systemic level to share their story and let their voice be heard.

The Substance Use Stigma Reduction Collaborative, a working group within [The Consortium to Combat Substance Use](https://combatsubstanceabuse.ssri.psu.edu/) at Penn State University, has developed a collective of key faculty members and practitioners dedicated to research, outreach, and teaching surrounding stigma.  The Story Powered Initiative is one of many efforts, as part of the Collaborative, that seeks to enhance partnerships to engage in highly impactful research, create and implement evidence-based practices, and host community events that can reduce stigma.

Visit [The Story Powered Initiative](https://storypowered.org/) to learn more. Please contact [Dr. Glenn Sterner](https://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/people/glenn-sterner/) at [ges5098@psu.edu](mailto:ges5098@psu.edu) if you would like to be involved as we work to address stigma, one story at a time.

Check out the [The Story Powered Initiative](https://storypowered.org/) content on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/story_powered), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/storypoweredinitiative), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/storypoweredinitiative/).

Read the Penn State News article [*here*](https://news.psu.edu/story/651881/2021/03/22/impact/addressing-stigma-and-discrimination-one-story-time?utm_source=newswire&utm_medium=email&utm_term=652013_HTML&utm_content=03-22-2021-22-37&utm_campaign=Penn%20State%20Today) to learn more about this project founded and led by [*Dr. Glenn Sterner*](https://www.abington.psu.edu/glenn-sterner), Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at [*Penn State Abington,*](https://www.abington.psu.edu/) CJRC Commonwealth Faculty Affiliate and Postdoctoral Scholar Alumni, and [*Consortium to Combat Substance Abuse (CCSA)*](https://combatsubstanceabuse.ssri.psu.edu/) affiliated faculty member.

Sentencing Guidelines 8th Edition

The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing is currently engaged in a comprehensive review of the current sentencing guidelines. Through its partnership with Penn State, and more specifically, the CJRC, faculty, post-docs and graduate students have the exciting opportunity to conduct applied research that will provide the foundation for policy discussions among sentencing commission members, legislators, and key stakeholders in the criminal justice system. These analyses have the potential to significantly change sentencing policies and practices in the Commonwealth. Three specific initiatives are currently underway that involve the CJRC.

1. **Academic Review Panel**. In the fall of 2019, PCS created an academic review panel to meet biweekly to advise the comprehensive review of the current sentencing guidelines. Dr. Megan Kurlychek, Associate Director of CJRC, has been and continues to be an active member of this important panel. The panel, chaired by Supervising Judge Leon Tucker (Philadelphia), includes faculty members and researchers from across the nation who specialize in courts and sentencing as well as issues of disparity in the criminal justice system.
2. **Prior Record Score**. As part of the review to the guidelines, the Commission is reconsidering the way that prior convictions and adjudications are used to create prior record score categories and recommend the type and duration of sentence. Using historical sentencing data Jordan Zvonkovich, Dr. Matthew Kleiman (Deputy Director of PCS), and PCS staff examined alternative specifications of the prior record score and considered the racial impact of these alternatives.
3. **Juvenile Adjudications**. Dr. Miranda Galvin, Dr. Matthew Kleiman and Dr. Megan Kurlychek have undertaken an initiative to rethink how juvenile adjudications might inform adult sentencing practices. Currently all juvenile felony and some misdemeanor adjudications are counted as equal to an adult offense. In this project the researchers explore the impact that juvenile adjudications have on adult sentences and explore several alternatives that may mitigate the influence of prior juvenile adjudications with specific attention given to impact on racial and gender disparities in sentencing.

***COURTS AND SENTENCING***

New article by PA Commission on Sentencing and CJRC Postdoctoral Scholar Miranda Galvin and colleagues published in Journal of Experimental Criminology

PA Commission on Sentencing and CJRC Postdoctoral Scholar Miranda Galvin and colleagues recently published their article titled “Assessing the validity of white-collar crime definitions using experimental survey data” in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. Read the article [here](https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1007/s11292-020-09455-6?sharing_token=NmoRVpoEndgpWidaatxEYfe4RwlQNchNByi7wbcMAY4L7dvSs60z6XqXbz7kZwgNv7gWb14lbT1TLLsxvS6skWN4YDi7N7UEPsU4NMLA87eX2ZYcub_93KxlZkEatwnVHK7arNmiDeKJcpJGrZjIIqmvr2U0DAzxovbEzjj8sls%3D) to see how the authors examined public willingness for offenses to be labeled a “white-collar” crime. This work was supported by the CJRC Seed Funding Mechanism.

Seed Grant Awarded to: Use and Effectiveness of Rehabilitative-Intervention Approaches to Justice Involved Persons in Rural Communities: Cases Involving Opioids, Methamphetamines and Other Drugs

Dr. Pamela Wilcox, Professor of Criminology, Dr. Darrell Steffensmeier, Professor of Sociology and Criminology, and Dr. Miranda Galvin, PA Commission on Sentencing Post Doctoral Scholar at the CJRC, will conduct a study of drug related convictions in rural counties in Pennsylvania to explore patterns of usage of traditional prosecution and sentencing approaches versus a rehabilitative-intervention approach for drug related justice involved persons. The impact of these differing approaches on desistance and reoffending will be examined. This seed grant project is being funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing.

***PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIME PREVENTION***

# New Grant Awarded for Life Course and Intergenerational Effects of Criminal Justice Involvement: Identifying risks, the search for resilience, and the impact of the rise in opioid misuse and the Covid-19 pandemic

Megan Kurlychek, Associate Director at the CJRC, and her colleagues were recently awarded a grant for theLife Course and Intergenerational Effects of Criminal Justice Involvement: Identifying risks, the search for resilience, and the impact of the rise in opioid misuse and the Covid-19 pandemic from The U.S. Department of Justice. The project team consists of Dr. Megan Augustyn at The University of Texas at San Antonio, as Principal Investigator, Dr. Megan Kurlychek, as Co-Principal Investigator, and Kimberly Henry at Colorado State University, as Co-Investigator. This project seeks to extend data collection for The Rochester Youth Development Study (RYDS) and its intergenerational extension, the Rochester Intergenerational Study (RIGS). The original focal participants of RYDS are reaching their late 40s, and it is now possible to examine how patterns of risky behavior persist and/or desist in mature adulthood as well as examine the social, economic and health consequences associated with these behaviors. This work will help to better understand patterns of offending over the life course and will examine the impact of parental behavior on child outcomes as these youth transition into adulthood and face unique contextual circumstances (e.g., the opioid epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic). This study will have important implications for understanding the ongoing risk and potential deficits of this cohort as they enter late adulthood to inform future policy.

Criminal Justice Research Center

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May 2021

Seed Grant Awarded to: Examining the Impact of Clergy-Perpetuated Childhood Sexual Abuse on Adult Survivors

Michael Lavetsky (Lecturer, Rehabilitation and Human Services at Penn State Abington) and Dr. Glenn Sterner (Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Penn State Abington) will explore the impact of clergy perpetuated sexual abuse (CPSA) through qualitative analysis of over 100 in-depth clinical interviews of adult survivors of CPSA. Effects of this abuse throughout the lifespan of these survivors will be analyzed. An action based research agenda will emerge that can inform services offered to survivors and guide the development of future research on this topic.