



Western Association of Criminal Justice

2024 Annual Conference
October 9-11, 2024



The Silver Legacy

Reno, NV



Western Association of Criminal Justice

2024
Conference Program

*“Policies, Programs, and
Practices: The Real-
World Applications of
Criminal Justice
Research”*

The Silver Legacy
Reno, NV
October 9-11, 2024

WACJ on the Web at www.wacj.org



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1994-1995	Morris Sterrett	Weber State University
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1991-1992	Charlotte Shian-Yun Wong	San Jose State University
1990-1991	Karl Hutchinson	Sacramento City College
1989-1990	Paul Johnson	Weber State University
1988-1989	Judy Hails Kaci	California State University-Long Beach
1987-1988	Peter Unsinger	San Jose State University
1986-1987	Kenneth Allwine	Lewis-Clark State College
1985-1986	John Angell	University of Alaska-Anchorage
1984-1985	Glen Howard	Weber State University
1983-1984	Jay Summerhays	Southern Oregon State College
1982-1983	Ken Braunstein	University of Nevada-Reno
1981-1982	Skip Gillam	Casper College
1980-1981	John Kocher	Lane Community College
1979-1980	Bill Melnicoe	California State University-Sacramento
1976-1979	Karl Hutchinson	Ft. Steilacoom Community College



Western Association of Criminal Justice

History

The Western Association of Criminal Justice (WACJ) was organized in March 1977 (under the name Western and Pacific Association of Criminal Justice Educators) as a result of a decision of its parent organization, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), to regionalize in order to better serve its members. The official name of the organization was changed at the 2008 annual meeting to increase the range of scholarship beyond educational goals. WACJ is the Region V affiliate of the ACJS. It not only draws members from the states within its own region (Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, the Pacific Territories and Possessions, and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta) but also from all other ACJS regions.

Goals and Services

The WACJ is working to promote communication and dissemination of information among members, other associations of educators, and agencies of the criminal justice system.

The WACJ's aim is to develop standards of quality education and training in the administration of justice.

The WACJ encourages both limited and long-term planning and research in the criminal justice system.



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2024 Program at a Glance

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

3:00pm	WACJ Board meeting and Meeting w/ Hotel *WACJ Executive and Full Board members only- Meet in front of Silver Baron E at 2:45pm*	Silver Baron E
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Wednesday, October 9, 2024

11:00am-4:30 pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Silver Baron E
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12:30pm	Afternoon Beverages (Sponsored by: Boise State University, Criminal Justice)	Silver Baron E
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1:00pm-1:15pm	Opening Remarks: Shaun Gann, WACJ President	Silver Baron E
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1:15pm-2:00pm	Event # 1: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Current Issues in Policing I	Silver Baron E
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2:10pm-3:10pm	Event # 2: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Programming, Interventions, and Incentives	Silver Baron E
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3:15pm-4:30pm	Event # 3: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Innovations in Criminal Justice Curriculum	Silver Baron E
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4:30pm-5:30pm	Event # 4: Set-up and Judging for Student Poster Competition (only student presenters and judges in the room please)	Silver Baron C & D
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5:30pm	Event # 5: President's Reception (including announcement of the Student Poster Competition results) (Sponsored by: Boise State University, School of Public Service)	Silver Baron C & D
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Thursday, October 10, 2024

8:00am-12:00pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Silver Baron E
8:00am	Morning Refreshments (Sponsored by: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences)	Silver Baron E
8:30am-9:30am	Event # 6: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Current Issues in Policing II	Silver Baron E
9:40am-10:50am	Event # 7: ROUNDTABLE: Juvenile Life Without Parole	Silver Baron E
11:00am-11:15am	Event # 8: ACJS President Remarks	Silver Baron E
11:15am	Event # 9: WACJ General Business Meeting **All invited – nominations for Second Vice-President will be taken**	Silver Baron E
12:00pm-1:30pm	Event # 10: WACJ Luncheon Guest Speaker: Cary Heck, Denver Adult Probation (Sponsored by: The University of Nevada, Reno)	Silver Baron C & D
1:30pm-5:00pm	Registration/Hospitality Desk	Silver Baron E
1:40pm-2:50pm	Event # 11: FEATURED PRESENTATION: Nevada Gaming Control Board: History and Current Trends in Gaming Crime	Silver Baron E
3:00pm-4:00pm	Event # 12: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Special Issues Surrounding Juveniles: School-to-Prison Pipeline, Youth Participatory Action Research, and Recidivism	Silver Baron E
4:15pm	Event # 13: WACJ Quiz Bowl	Silver Baron E



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Friday, October 11, 2024

8:30am	Morning Refreshments (Sponsored by: University of Wyoming)	Silver Baron E
9:00am-10:00am	Event # 14: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Attitudinal Research: CJ Reform, Job Satisfaction, and Judges' Confidence in the Law	Silver Baron E
10:10am-11:10am	Event # 15: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Partnerships in Criminal Justice	Silver Baron E
11:20am-12:00pm	Event # 16: PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Contemporary Issues in Corrections	Silver Baron E
12:00pm	Closing Remarks: Shaun Gann, 2023-2024 WACJ President	Silver Baron E



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Wednesday, October 9

11:00am-4:30pm **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK** **Silver Baron E**

12:30pm **AFTERNOON BEVERAGES** **Silver Baron E**

Sponsored by: Boise State University, Criminal Justice

1:00pm - 1:15pm **OPENING REMARKS** **Silver Baron E**

Shaun Gann, WACJ President

1:15pm-2:00pm **EVENT # 1** **Silver Baron E**

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Current Issues in Policing I

Chair: Arthur Hayden, Kentucky State University

Use of Social Workers by Kentucky Law Enforcement Agencies in Crisis De-escalation

Arthur Hayden, Kentucky State University

The purpose of this exploratory study was to assess the use of social workers in crisis response among law enforcement agencies in Kentucky. Crisis response refers to calls for service to law enforcement due to a mental health and/or substance abuse emergency. Law enforcement officers are routinely dispatched to calls for service, and officers generally are unaware of minute details of those calls until arriving at the scene. Often, as first responders, officers encounter situations that ordinarily do not rise to criminal offenses but, nevertheless, require immediate interventions. These situations, individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse crises, account for up to two-thirds of emergency calls to law enforcement (Neusteter et al., 2020; Lum et al., 2021). Yet, law enforcement responses in these crisis situations sometimes results in “unnecessarily violent and tragic outcomes” (Dee & Pyne, 2022, p. 1, citing Fuller et al., 2015; IACP Law Enforcement Policy Center, 2018) for those whom officers encounter. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (2024) reports 22.8 percent (57.8 million) of adults in the United States experienced mental illness in 2021, while 7.6 percent (19.4 million) experienced a co-occurring substance use disorder and mental illness in 2021. As a consequence of these encounters, an estimated one-third of fatal shootings by law enforcement officers involve individuals experiencing mental health crisis or who were impaired by substance use (The Editorial Board, 2023). Public demands for professional mental health intervention to assist law enforcement has significantly increased (USA Facts, 2024). As a result, many law enforcement agencies throughout the United States have implemented models to improve crisis response referred to as co-responder programs (LaCivita, 2020). Co-responder models vary but typically include an officer and mental health professional who ride together during a shift, a mental health professional called to the scene by an officer, or mental health professional dispatched without an officer present (LaCivita, 2020). Several Kentucky law enforcement agencies, similar



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to agencies throughout the United States, have implemented co-responder programs, although this study found most Kentucky law enforcement agencies have not and solely rely on training from the academy and continuing education to provide officers with knowledge and skills for crisis response.

When Trained Observers Observe the Unknown

David Sexton, Great Basin College

The phrase "If you see something, say something" originated in the context of public safety and security, particularly in relation to terrorism and crime prevention. It was popularized by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority following the September 11 attacks. The campaign aimed to encourage the public to report suspicious activity to help prevent potential threats. Since its introduction, the phrase has been adopted by various government agencies and organizations across the United States, emphasizing the importance of public awareness and proactive reporting in maintaining security.

But what do you do when what you see is an unrecognizable light in the sky...

2:10pm-3:10pm

EVENT # 2

Silver Baron E

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Programming, Interventions, and Incentives

Chair: Taryn VanderPyl, Western Oregon University

Sex Trafficking of Female Prisoners: Establishing an Intervention

Taryn VanderPyl, Western Oregon University

In response to alarming revelations from adults in custody at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, and confirmed by staff and administration at the prison, a new program was created to focus on incarcerated women who are being recruited or forced into sex trafficking during their time in prison and/or upon their release. Staff and administration are trying to protect the AICs from these predators, but with extreme under-staffing, they are struggling with covering the most basic of needs at this time. Hear how this new program takes some of the burden off prison staff and administration by intervening with these concerns.

Probation Client Perceptions of the Quality of the Supervision Relationship and the Potential Influence of Incentive Use

Eric Wodahl, University of Wyoming

Kimberly Schweitzer, University of North Dakota

In June of 2022, a four-year study in partnership with the Denver Adult Probation Department (DAPD) was initiated to explore the influence of incentive use on supervision outcomes. As part of this study, surveys are being administered to probation clients to capture their perceptions of



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the quality their relationship with their supervising officer, as well as their experiences with receiving incentives while under supervision. This paper presents preliminary findings from approximately 400 surveys completed to date. Policy implications, study challenges, and future directions are discussed.

Letters And Learning: Letterwriting as A Tool for the Incarcerated

McKenzie Wood, Weber State University

Writing letters has long been a communication tool for those who are incarcerated. Historically, system-impacted individuals have written letters for one of three purposes: to serve as a makeshift coping mechanism in an isolated environment, to act as a mechanism to inform the "outside" world about inside happenings, or as an opportunity to promote social change. This research explores the pedagogical practice of pen-pal partnerships as a tool for students and imprisoned persons to connect and learn from each other. The pen-pal process, recruitment, outcomes, and limitations will be discussed.

3:15pm-4:30pm

EVENT # 3

Silver Baron E

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Innovations in Criminal Justice Curriculum

Chair: Jennifer Lanterman, University of Nevada, Reno

Anthologizing The Carceral Education Experience with A Jail-Based Inside-Out Program

Jennifer Lanterman, University of Nevada, Reno

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Programs facilitate sustained dialogue between traditional campus-based students and detained or incarcerated students for a semester-long course held in carceral institutions. The group project for the spring 2023 cohort of Inside-Out students who meet at the Washoe County Detention Facility is a semi-self-published piece of community-engaged scholarship focused on education, accountability, and redemption. There is a long history of self-publishing in prisons. In rare instances, campus-based undergraduate classes produce pieces of scholarship. Producing community-engaged scholarship in a jail-based Inside-Out course is uncommon. This presentation explores the semester-long scaffolding process, writing workshops, and peer feedback processes used to develop the anthology and the experiences of students as we embarked on this adventure.

Improving Mentor Confidence: Effects of Mentor Training on University Students in Criminal Justice Youth Mentoring Program

Nancy Brown, California State University, Stanislaus

This study addresses the importance of training university students mentoring K-12 at risk youth in a school-based setting. University students often have no previous mentoring experience prior to participating in a Mentoring Program at CSU Stanislaus. The purpose of this study is to



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examine whether training affects mentor effectiveness, confidence, duration of relationship, and outcomes when training of criminal justice university students is provided prior to beginning the mentor-mentee relationship. The study will employ the method of test-retest to examine if mentor training improves overall effectiveness and better outcomes when mentoring at-risk school-based students. “Mentor training affects mentor retention and youth outcomes. However, there are few, if any, evidence-based training programs” (DuBois & Karcher, 2014, p. 449).

Stimulating Career Development: Assessment of the Effects of Guest Speaker Learning Experiences on Students Enrolled in Criminal Justice College Courses

Sriram Chintakrindi, California State University, Stanislaus

This research study examines the impact of a guest speaker intervention on college students enrolled in criminal justice courses at a mid-sized university in California. Students in the study attended guest speaker presentations ranging from probation officers, correctional officers, academics, and public defenders. Students in the study were required to complete a pre-and post-survey throughout the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters that examined the students’ agreeableness, confidence, and knowledge with regard to their experiences with attending guest speaker opportunities and their knowledge about career pathways and academic concepts while pursuing a college degree. The results from this study indicate that many students find guest speaker opportunities to be both beneficial for advancing their knowledge of the criminal justice system and confidence in pursuing a career in criminal justice.

Enhancing Criminal Justice Curriculum Through Financial Literacy Integration

Jennifer Noble, California State University, Sacramento

Mercedes Valadez, California State University, Sacramento

Integrating financial literacy and wellness in criminal justice education can help students gain lifelong skills that will help support their professional and personal development. This study aims to gain a better understanding about students’ current financial wellbeing and whether financial literacy integration into criminal justice classes has a positive impact on their learning experience. Initial findings from surveys of 244 criminal justice majors suggest that most students found the course enhanced their financial literacy skills, and that the knowledge gained would help them avoid becoming victims of financial crimes and be better prepared to work with victims of financial crimes.

4:30pm-5:30pm

Event # 4:

Silver Baron C & D

Set-up and Judging for Student Poster Competition

Only presenting students and judges in the room at this time please.



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EVENT # 5

President's Reception, Student Poster Competition & Awards

**5:30pm
Silver Baron C & D**



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STUDENT POSTERS

The Impact of Thwarted Belongingness on Suicidal Behaviors Among Jailed Women

Dayana Escobedo, Weber State University

Thwarted belongingness is an interpersonal risk factor linked to both suicide and suicidal ideations. While belongingness has long been studied in the general population, less is known about how feelings of belonging and inclusion interact among incarcerated populations. Of specific interest is the role thwarted belongingness plays in the suicidal behaviors of imprisoned females. The current study examines data from over 140 system-impacted women who attempted suicide during their time incarcerated. Homeless upon intake, mental health treatment, and legal status all emerge as significant factors related to sense of belonging. Prevention efforts and correctional policies will also be discussed.

A Case Study of Cultural Marxism: Conspiracy, Extremism, and Hate

Ariel Meyer, Washington State University

Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

This article uses a case study example of Cultural Marxism (CM) to demonstrate the interconnectedness of conspiracy theories, extremism, and hate as related to recent conservative laws and policies. CM is a conspiracy theory that a group of people (including, notably Jews) are waging a “culture war” against conservative/traditional Christian family values. The article’s purpose is to introduce the concepts of conspiracy beliefs, extremism, and hate—and how these can affect laws, policies, politics, and citizens. Understanding the overall mindset, goals, and values of people who believe the CM conspiracy helps explain how hateful and extreme policies are justified and rationalized.

“Poor Excuses” or Difficult Life Situations? A Mixed Methods Analysis of Interactions Within a Mental Health Court

Madi Uhrik, University of Nevada, Reno

Emily Berthelot, University of Nevada, Reno

This study examines interactions within a mental health court (MHC) to determine if there is differential treatment of the court’s male and female participants by the courtroom workgroup. These interactions, which have taken place during observed court hearings, have been measured through an observed interaction measure where the lower the number, the more negative the interactions are between the participants and the courtroom workgroup. These quantitative measures in combination with qualitative examinations through focal concerns theory and attribution theory suggest the general presence of some differential treatment of male and female participants in the observed MHC.



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The Effects of Perpetrator Accounts on Rape Allegations and Abortion Access

Ava Doyle, University of Nevada, Reno

Laura Pazos, University of Nevada, Reno

Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

Daniella Cash, Sam Houston State University

The recent overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has eliminated women's constitutional right to abortion, leaving states to regulate abortion access. Some states now permit abortions under certain conditions including pregnancy resulting from rape. The credibility of a rape account can significantly influence whether a woman is granted access to an abortion. Research has shown that the type of account an alleged perpetrator provides on a situation affects how others perceive their guilt and involvement¹. This study explores how the perpetrator's account of the sexual encounter affects the perceived credibility of the victim and, consequently, her access to abortion. Participants were presented with one of four accounts given by the perpetrator—apology, excuse, justification, or denial. Data is currently being collected.

The Sociology and Psychology of QAnon: Inputs and Outputs

Jaydon Mullins, University of Nevada, Reno

Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

The conspiracy group QAnon took the world by storm in the months leading up to and following the 2020 election. The meteoric rise of the group following the January 6th insurrection caused many scholars to study the makeup of the group and what sociological and psychological factors contribute to one's membership. The present work examined QAnon as a case study to determine what sociological and psychological factors influence individuals to believe in conspiracy groups. The consequences of these beliefs in QAnon from familial relationships to national security threats are discussed.



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Thursday, October 10

8:00am-12:00pm **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK** **Silver Baron E**

8:00am **MORNING REFRESHMENTS** **Silver Baron E**

Sponsored by: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

8:30am - 9:30am **EVENT # 6** **Silver Baron E**

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Current Issues in Policing II

Chair: Kenneth Christopher, National University

Race, Space, and Attitudes about Police Militarization

Adam Dunbar, University of Nevada, Reno

Brandon Kyle, University of Nevada, Reno

Extant research finds the public is mixed regarding their opinion about police militarization. This study examines how the description of a community affects support for the use of various equipment by the local police. Findings indicate variation in support across standard and military-style police equipment, with the least amount of support for equipment associated with police militarization. Although participants were randomly assigned to learn that the community was affluent, suburban, inner-city, or impoverished, support for military-style police equipment did not vary based on where the equipment was likely to be used. Findings have implications for public opinion and policy.

Autonomous Technology is Here to Stay: Managing the Capabilities (and Threats) in the Public Safety Environment

Kenneth Christopher, National University

Driverless cars. Unmanned aircraft. Robotic vessels. What are their capabilities? Who is operating them?

Do public and private sector organizations—especially those responsible for critical infrastructure security--- have the capabilities for operating autonomous technology, and assessing their threats?

Two Questions Emerge:

1. How do police and security organizations develop the capacity to deploy, operate and maintain these assets?

2. What are the threats to public safety when this technology is used for nefarious purposes?

This paper will explore both the opportunities and threats associated with autonomous technology which public law enforcement and private security organizations must consider.



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Citizens Expect "Protect and Serve" but Legal Realism Emphasizes "No Duty to Protect" in American Policing

Ron Helms, Western Washington University

Maria Del Rosario Benavides, Texas A&M International University

This paper explores the divergence between public expectations of police protection and the legal doctrine that police have no constitutional duty to protect individuals, as established in the key cases of *DeShaney v. Winnebago* (1989) and *Town of Castle Rock v. Gonzales* (2005). It examines the implications of this doctrine, including its impact on public trust, the prevailing "warrior" vs "guardian" concepts, and the consequences for vulnerable populations such as domestic violence victims, those manifesting mental illness, and those who are victims in school shootings. The paper acknowledges many reforms that have sought to better align police practices with public expectations while also enhancing police accountability. The foundational political philosophy of limited government and the rule of law under the US Constitution sets limits on the legal accountability of state officials regarding protecting citizens from private violence. Educating the public to that reality will go a great distance in bridging the gap between what citizens expect and what the law provides in American policing.

9:40am - 10:50am

EVENT # 7

Silver Baron E

ROUNDTABLE: Juvenile Life Without Parole

Moderator: Shaun Gann, Bureau of Justice Statistics

Discussant: Taryn VanderPyl, Western Oregon University

Discussant: James Binnall, California State University, Long Beach

Discussant: Dan Fetsco, University of Wyoming

The United States is the only nation that allows children to be sentenced to life without parole. Through a trilogy of cases from 2005 to 2012, the U.S. began the process of declaring juvenile life without parole sentences to be unconstitutional. This roundtable will explore charging juveniles as adults, experiences testifying in juvenile resentencing hearings, how juries react to juvenile defendants, experiences with the adult system from a child's perspective, extreme sentences, and stories of juveniles released in the wake of these cases. Session attendees are invited to participate in the discussion.

11:00am-11:15am

EVENT # 8

Silver Baron E

ACJS President Remarks

Bitna Kim, Sam Houston State University



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11:15am

EVENT # 9

Silver Baron E

BUSINESS MEETING

Future Directions by WACJ Executive Board

Financial Report by Andrew Giacomazzi, Treasurer

Organization Updates by Marianne Hudson, Secretary

Nominations for Second Vice President

*****ALL INVITED---NOMINATIONS FOR SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT WILL BE
TAKEN*****



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EVENT # 10

WACJ LUNCHEON

12:00pm - 1:30pm, Silver Baron C & D

“A Plea for Help: How Applied Research Can Really Benefit Criminal Justice Agencies and the Communities They Serve”

Guest Speaker: *Cary Heck, Ph.D.*

Dr. Cary Heck currently serves as the Chief Probation Officer for Denver Adult Probation. Over the past ten years, Dr. Heck has worked to get Denver Adult Probation focused on the mission of helping clients achieve long-term, pro-social behavioral change. Additionally, he is working with the local criminal bench and other agencies to embrace and actively participate in evidence-based practices related to client outcomes and success. Dr. Heck is also currently involved in grant funded research designed to answer questions regarding the effectiveness of probation practices. Previously, he has worked as a practitioner, administrator, researcher, and tenured professor in the field of Criminal Justice. Dr. Heck has served as the Director of Research for the National Drug Court Institute and been instrumental in developing and publishing materials related to drug court evaluation and performance measures. Dr. Heck has also served as a consultant for several states and localities on substance abuse and crime issues including policy formulation, program administration, and management information systems.

Sponsored by: The University of Nevada, Reno



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1:30pm-5:00pm **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK** **Silver Baron E**

1:40pm-2:50pm **EVENT # 11** **Silver Baron E**

FEATURED PRESENTATION: Nevada Gaming Control Board: History and Current Trends in Gaming Crime

Jake Castro, Nevada Gaming Control Board

This featured presentation will provide a brief history and information to familiarize the audience with the Nevada Gaming Control Board and gaming law in Nevada, along with recent gaming trends.

3:00pm – 4:00pm **EVENT # 12** **Silver Baron E**

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Special Issues Surrounding Juveniles: School-to-Prison Pipeline, Youth Participatory Action Research, and Recidivism

Chair: Kevin Wolff, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Examining the Relationship Between School Quality and Incarceration: The School-to-Prison Pipeline in Northern Nevada

Faven Stoner, University of Nevada, Reno

Brangelitee Orozco Ayala, University of Nevada, Reno

Matt Leone, University of Nevada, Reno

Disparities in school quality and educational opportunities drive school failure, potentially making crime more likely and even necessary for survival (Pesta, 2018). These disparities, however, are not applied evenly across school districts. Urban schools with greater Black, Hispanic, and poor student populations are more likely to be disadvantaged relative to their suburban counterparts, which has been shown to be related to punitive responses (rather than restorative responses) to student misbehavior (Ann Payne & Welch, 2010). While studies have shown that adult incarceration may result from structural racism in schools, (recognized as the school-to-prison pipeline), the relationship between school suspension in adolescence and later interactions with the criminal justice system remains poorly resolved (Novak, 2019). Further, the relationship between real and perceived disadvantage and dropping out has not been fully explored. A better understanding of this pipeline could result in policy changes and fewer incarcerations. This study will examine the perceptions and experiences of high school aged residents in the Reno/Sparks area and compare them with the perceptions and experiences of inmates in the Washoe County Regional Detention Facility (WCRDF). The proposed study will employ two different data collection strategies. For the high school aged youth, data will be collected via snowball sampling wherein respondents will provide the QR code which leads to the Qualtrics survey to their friends. The inmates from the WCRDF will be interviewed via video at the jail and their responses will be recorded on paper and entered into the Qualtrics database at a later date. The data will be used to test the interconnections between school discipline and



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incarceration, and to identify the impact of real and perceived disadvantage to school failure and ultimately the school-to-prison pipeline.

Youth Participatory Action Research: A Youth-Centered Look at Parental Incarceration

Britni Adams, University of Nevada, Reno

Michelle Abraczinskas, University of Florida

Erin Vines, University of Florida

The growing population of parents experiencing incarceration continues to stimulate research and programming to address the collateral consequences that create and exacerbate inequalities for families. Much of this research and programming are designed by adults for youth, without youth input. This project centers youth perspectives using a youth participatory action research (YPAR) approach to understand youth needs around parental incarceration. Promoting a strengths approach, the youth research team is investigating experiences and needs of youth with incarcerated parents. Data collection highlights how designing projects with youth is an invaluable opportunity to generate new and youth-relevant ideas for programming and research.

ACEs, Risk and Recidivism. The Exploration of Gender Differences

Kevin Wolff, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY

Jessica M. Craig, University of North Texas

Nina Papalia, Swinburne University of Technology

This study examines the interplay between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and criminogenic risk factors in predicting juvenile recidivism, with a focus on sex differences. Utilizing data from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, we explore how ACEs and criminogenic risk factors jointly influence the likelihood of reoffending among youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Findings highlight differential impacts of these factors on male and female youth, underscoring the necessity for gender-specific approaches in addressing the unique pathways through which ACEs and criminogenic risks contribute to recidivism.

4:15pm

EVENT # 13

Silver Baron E

WACJ QUIZ BOWL

Moderator: Andrew Giacomazzi, Boise State University

Do you have what it takes to be crowned the 2024 champs? Form a team of 2-4 members, then get ready for a face-paced game where your speed in answering questions could be the difference between winning and losing. Lots of CJ/Criminology/WACJ/Reno specific questions. See you at WACJ QUIZ BOWL!



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Survey Investigating Judges' Confidence in Their Understanding of Hate Crime Laws

Teyah Gianneta, University of Nevada, Reno

Katie Cunius, University of Nevada, Reno

Monica Miller, University of Nevada, Reno

Hate crimes are bias motivated crimes committed against a victim because of their race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, or ethnicity. However, protected groups and punishments for hate crimes vary. Therefore, judges' confidence in their knowledge of hate crime laws might vary. This study used secondary data investigating 212 judges' confidence in their knowledge of hate crime laws. Most judges stated they were somewhat confident in their knowledge of hate crime laws. Forty judges responded to the open-ended question which was coded into the following major themes: cannot be coded, judge type, relevance to the judge and jurisdiction, rationalization, and issues/recommendation. Judges commonly explained they did not preside over hate crime cases, consulted with their colleagues, or stated the crime received another charge. Judges might have limited hate crime law knowledge to reduce their cognitive load. However, judges stated they referred to other professionals or the law to rationalize their decisions, instead of using stereotypes in their cognitive toolbox—reducing the likelihood of biases affecting their decision. These findings can help create policies and practices to ensure judges who preside over hate crime cases have adequate knowledge of their jurisdiction's laws to render law-based decisions.

10:10am-11:10am

EVENT # 15

Silver Baron E

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Partnerships in Criminal Justice

Chair: Alexis Harper, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

The Public Safety Institute and Academic-Practitioner Partnerships in Memphis

Amaia Iratzoqui, University of Memphis, Public Safety Institute

For practitioners, the creation of strong and meaningful partnerships with academics is essential for the creation of “best practices”, and for academics, the opportunity to direct program development and implementation can be beneficial for later program evaluation. The Public Safety Institute is a nonprofit research center housed at the University of Memphis which connects faculty and practitioners in Memphis and Shelby County on funding and research opportunities to drive academic-practitioner partnerships, centered around program development, evaluation, or applied research on issues related to public safety. This presentation reviews some examples of local partnerships, project successes, and goals for future expansion.



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Colorado Trusted Interoperability Platform (CTIP) Development and Deployment

Alexis Harper, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

The Colorado Trusted Interoperability Platform (CTIP) is being developed to improve health and safety outcomes and enhanced record accuracy. CTIP provides the capacity for secure data sharing between jails and other criminal justice partners in the State of Colorado. The lack of exchange of information between and across justice entities and community providers creates delays in services that pose serious health and safety risks for individuals and justice professionals. This new information exchange opportunity hopes to disrupt cycles of justice involvement, and promote a continuum of care, and more efficient and effective processes and use of resources.

11:20am-12:00pm

EVENT # 16

Silver Baron E

PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Contemporary Issues in Corrections

Chair: Chandrika Kelso, National University

Climatology and Responsibility: Benefits of Creating Earth Friendly Correctional Landscape

Chandrika Kelso, National University

Anthropocentrism is explained as an ethical framework that bestows on humans the moral standing, and obligations to fellow humans and our environment. As society progresses and advances, climate change continues to be an on-going discussion topic, however, no discussion on climate change or environment is complete without including our confined population. This paper does a deep dive into the environmental and inmate mental health impacts of prison design, and architecture, the positive outcomes of reducing the carbon footprint of prisons and also the on-going changes being implemented by Bureau of Prisons to achieve inmate, community and earth friendly climate goals.

Restorative Justice in the U.S. Correctional System: Proposing an Integrated Model

Josephine Smith, Western Oregon University

High recidivism rates and harsh prison conditions in the United States led to an interest in improving incarceration outcomes. As incarceration will continue to be utilized within the U.S., restorative justice has been suggested as a possible solution. This study serves to provide an updated review of the literature on restorative justice within correctional facilities, to offer effective recommendations for the United States. This professional paper examined 177 secondary sources, extracting common themes and findings to guide the structure of this study and its recommendations. The findings indicate that further integrating restorative justice within correctional facilities will, at the least, have no impact on incarceration outcomes. The literature examined suggests that creating a centralized system with a planning committee, focusing on



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evidence-based programming, and increasing the availability of programming to adult and serious offenders will improve outcomes for victims, offenders, and the broader correctional system.

12:00pm

CLOSING REMARKS

Silver Baron E

Shaun Gann, 2023-2024 WACJ President



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