

---

# JOHN JAY

Spring 2019

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

---

### Welcome Back!

Last year was an exciting one in the Sociology Department, with five major events involving outside speakers, four Analyzing the News events organized by Professors Andrew Karmen and Marisa Tramontano, in addition to our Annual Awards Banquet, our AKD Honors Banquet, and Jan Yaeger's Skills Building Workshops and Meet the Author events. We also had many substantial accomplishments in our department. Professor Amy Adameczyk won the 2019 Scholarly Excellence Award, and her book, *Cross-National Public Opinion about Ho-*

*moseuality* was awarded the 2018 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences International Section Outstanding Book Award. Susan Opotow was recognized this year as a fellow of Division 35 of the American Psychological Association Society for the Psychology of Women.

With roughly 1400 criminology majors and over 200 sociology majors, some 350 criminology minors and 200 sociology minors, we are proud to note that 14.6% of our Criminology graduates pursue further education one year after graduating, well above the John Jay overall figure of 11.8%. Well done!

---

### Professor Richard Ocejo publishes *Masters of Craft: Old Jobs in the New Urban Economy*

Professor Ocejo's book is based on six years of ethnographic research on commonplace manual labor jobs that have become "cool" today. He focus on four occupations: cocktail bartenders, craft distillers, upscale men's barbers, and whole animal butchers. At its most general, his book addresses the question: why do people choose the jobs that they do? Specifically, why do people who have the choice to do so (i.e., people with college degrees and professional backgrounds) refrain from pursuing "good" jobs in today's economy and instead take up typically low-status ones?

Readers of *Masters of Craft* will learn about the unique history and characteristics of each of these four jobs, workplaces, and industries, and the common features of these workers. Underlying the text is the tension between the positive revival and added social benefits of these jobs, and the negative exclusivity that surrounds them: the people who would most benefit from these jobs—people from working-class and low-income backgrounds—do not get them.



# Professors and Students Educate and Advocate for the Rights of the Undocumented and Deported



Conference organisers:  
Professors Yolanda Rodriguez-Ortiz, Shirley Leyro & Nick Rodrigo

On April 29, the Social Anatomy of a Deportation regime held its inaugural conference at John Jay College. Expert speakers, panelists, and participants were joined by over 200 attendees for the day's events. Entitled, "Immigration in the Age of Criminality, Precarity and Resistance," speakers addressed the difficulties facing undocumented migrants here in New York City and across the country, and the structures of resistance they are building with their allies. The conference began with introductory remarks from the Director of the Social Anatomy of a

Deportation Regime, David Brotherton, who introduced the conference themes. The first panel of the day was titled "Connecting Sanctuaries across North America: Grassroots Approaches." A vibrant and empowering panel, it informed

conference-goers of the multilevel framework of resistance being built by migrants and citizens through engagement and solidarity.

The second panel of the morning, moderated by Professor Shirley Leyro, showcased the work of Shirley and Professor Jayne Mooney concerning undocumented migrant women and domestic violence, as well as the work conducted by Victoria Stone-Cadena on the crisis of child detention at the border. The intersectional work of these researchers added fresh insights into issues of precarity and alienation being discussed throughout the day.

During the lunch break, undocumented students from the New York State Youth Leadership Council spoke passionately of their experiences, and eruditely of the need for academics to provide space and autonomy for their voices to be heard.

After the break, CUNY Graduate Center (GC) Ph.D. students Nick Rodrigo, Marianne Madore and John Jay Professor Marcia Esparza presented their fieldwork from the San Antonio Border security conference, honing in on the political economy of the militarizing border regime and the politics of remembering for Border Security officials. This presentation was followed by Monica Varsanyi's paper on the diffusion of immigration enforcement duties to local law enforcement, and GC Ph.D. candidate Marlene Ramos's work on the infrastructure of the immigrant detention industry in Jersey.

In the final panel of the day, Sarah Tosh, who has recently defended her doctoral thesis, presented on her qualitative data on the immigration court system, complemented by Edwin Grimsley's quantitative work on the same topic. Their panel exposed to attendees the hyper-racialized and suffocating bureaucracy of the immigration court system, and the tireless work lawyers are doing to navigate this.

Closing remarks by Dan Stageman, head of the John Jay Center for the Advancement of Research, reiterated the need for higher education institutions to shine a light on the criminalization of immigrants and the complicity of all in this process. Pensive remarks were rounded off with a performance by an undocumented student, whose rap and poetry performance underscored the bruising reality of living without "status," and the resilience of their resistance.

# Professor Susan Opotow was recognized this year as a fellow of Division 35 of the APA Society for the Psychology of Women



Susan Opotow posing with Silvia Canneto and Yuying Tsong

## Andrea Siegel builds a public art collection at Hudson County Community College

John Jay Sociology Adjunct Professor Andrea Siegel was an invited guest to conduct a podcast with Dr. Chris Reber, the President of Hudson County Community College, where she has been building a public art collection in the 10 campus buildings for the last 9 years.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohCxKF3MbyM&feature=youtu.be>



## John Jay Sociology Adjunct Professor and NYPD Detective Damon Gergar Brooklyn nabs Broadway producer Ben Sprecher on child porn charges

Professor/Detective Gergar, as depicted in the NYPost, nabbing another suspect.

# Thinking About White-Collar and Corporate Crime

In March, Professor Pontell gave an invited lecture to 250 students and faculty at Elon College in North Carolina, entitled: **Thinking About White-Collar and Corporate Crime**. It was sponsored by the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology, Political Science and Policy Studies, Criminal Justice Studies, The Pre-Law Program, The Center for Public Affairs, and The Martha and Spencer Love School of Business.



Students and Faculty at Elon College



- ◆ In February Prof. Pontell presented, "In-Your-Face Watergate: The War on White-Collar Crime" at the Meetings of the Western Society of Criminology in Honolulu.
- ◆ With Robert Tillman of St. John's University, in March he wrote an Op-Ed published in *The Guardian* on the sentencing of Paul Manafort and the punishment of white-collar crime. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/17/paul-manafort-sentencing-white-collar-criminals>

---

## Policing and preventing gendered violence: Lessons from Latin America

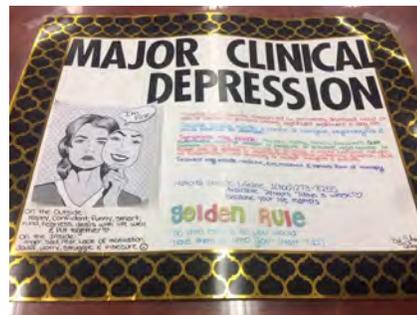
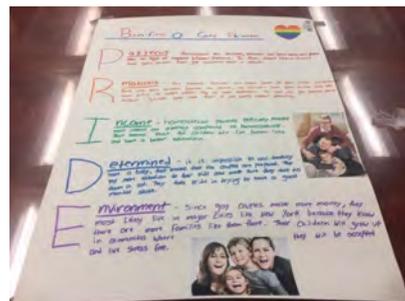
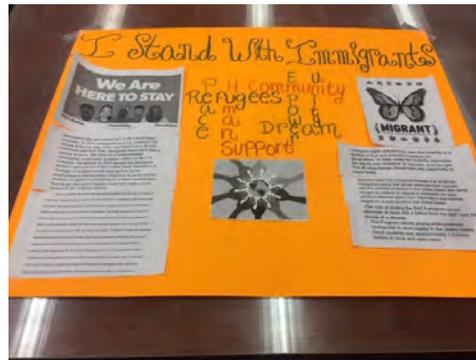


Professor Kerry Carrington, School of Justice, Faculty of Law, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

**On Wednesday March 20th, John Jay students were given a lecture by Professor Kerry Carrington on Violence Against Women and girls (VAWG).** The presentation analyzed original research to show how gendered violence has been prevented through the establishment of police stations for women in Argentina. These police stations were designed to enhance women's confidence in the criminal justice system, encourage reporting, prevent re-victimization, and send a message to the community that gendered violence was no longer tolerated and men who abuse women will be made accountable. Lessons could be learned for other parts of the world from understanding Argentina's innovative approach to preventing gendered violence.

# Professor McLean's students Advocate for Families and Mental Illness

The Students in Professor Joanne McLean's Sociology of the Family course showed how they would advocate for Heterosexual, Immigrant, Single Parent and Same Sex Families outside of the classroom. For her other course, Sociology of Mental Illness, students completed a project and paper advocating for the mental disorder they chose.



## Bestselling Poet and Novelist Jimmy Santiago Baca visits Dr. Jan Yager's Class

Mr. Santiago Baca, a formerly incarcerated gentleman, shared with the class experiences from his childhood, incarceration, his writing career, and life since his release several decades ago. He concluded by reading three poems aloud to the class: "I Applied for the Board," "The New Warden," and "The County Jail," from the anthology, *Prison Writing in 20th Century America*. Baca, who lives in New Mexico, stopped by John Jay for the guest presentations, along with his friend Tommy, who was also a speaker, and who had been released from prison six months before after serving 26 years for crimes he committed when he was 16. Baca was en route to Europe for a speaking tour.



---

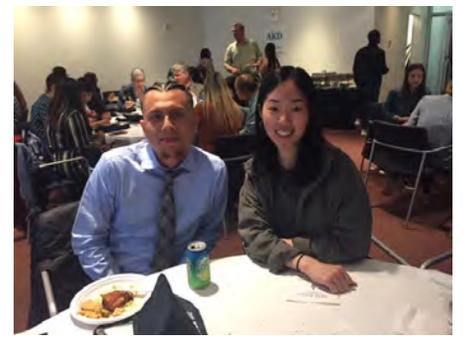
# JOHN JAY

---

## Photos from Alpha Kappa Delta Awards



Professor Crystal Jackson MCs a wonderful evening that she organized along with Rosemary Barberet and Antonio "Jay" Pastrana



---

# JOHN JAY

---

## Photos from 2018–2019 Student Adjunct Awards Celebration



Professors Amy Adamczyk, Robert Garot and Maria Volpe lead the ceremony; many proud students of dispute resolution receive their graduation stoles.

# Whom to Contact

## DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Robert Garot 212.237.8680  
rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu 520.34 HH

## DEPARTMENT DEPUTY CHAIR

Richard Ocejo 212.237.8687  
rocejo@jjay.cuny.edu 520.12 HH

## ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

Alisa Thomas 212.887.6123  
althomas@jjay.cuny.edu 520.01 HH

## DEPARTMENT SECRETARY

Theresa Rockett 212.237.8666  
trockett@jjay.cuny.edu 520.08 HH

## MEET THE ATF!

(Assessment-Advisement Task Force)

Mucahit Bilici 646-557-4629  
mbilici@jjay.cuny.edu 520.04 HH  
Office Hours: M, W, 2-3

Robert Garot (see above)  
Office Hours: M, Tu, 2-3

Andrew Karmen 212-237-8695  
520.19 HH

Jayne Mooney 212-237-2660  
Office Hours: F, 11-4 520.21 HH

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION CERTIFICATE AND MINOR

Coordinator and Advisor  
Maria Volpe 212.237.8692  
dispute@jjay.cuny.edu 520.40 HH

## CUNY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER

Maria Volpe 212.237.8692  
dispute@jjay.cuny.edu 520.40 HH

## BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Rosemary Barberet 212.237.8676  
rbarberet@jjay.cuny.edu 520.10 HH

## MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE

Jana Arsovska 646-557-4436  
jasovska@jjay.cuny.edu 520.41 HH

## DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Valli Rajah 212.237.8675  
vrajah@jjay.cuny.edu 636.03 HH

Amy Adamczyk 646.557.4695  
aadamczyk@jjay.cuny.edu 520.07 HH

## *A Final Word from a Student of Dispute Resolution ...*

“Taking courses in Sociology and learning the crucial steps which come with being a Dispute Resolution student, allowed me to develop a deeper understanding of human behavior and acquire a better sense of self. Dispute Resolution coursework pushes you to discover your biases and re-evaluate yourself, so that you can be the best mediator possible. Overall, I am thankful for the many experiences that these fields have exposed me to and the great opportunities ahead because of them.”

—Margarita San