

# Sociology Newsletter

## Sociology Department Newsletter



Note from the editors:

We are excited to share some of the latest Sociology Department news and developments with you. In this edition, you will learn about events hosted during Summer & Fall of 2016. In addition, you will also find various contributions from our faculty. This edition reveals the diverse interests of our faculty as they engage their sociological imaginations in researching complex social issues. We also included information on Study Abroad Programs; the NYC-Dispute Resolution Roundtable Breakfasts; new books, projects and articles; the role of various professional organizations and societies; and so much more.

We hope that you find the *Sociology Department Newsletter* interesting and informative, and we welcome you to submit pieces for upcoming issues.

Please send news, updates, and information to:

Jana Arsovska @ [jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu)  
 Gail Garfield @ [ggarfield@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:ggarfield@jjay.cuny.edu)

WELCOME FROM  
THE INTERIM CHAIR

STUDY ABROAD  
EXPERIENCES

WHY I BECAME A  
SOCIOLOGIST



### In this issue:

- NYC-Dispute Resolution Roundtable Breakfasts
- Books and Awards
- Sexuality and Activism
- Sociology Talks
- International Sociology Honor Society (AKD)
- The International Sociological Association

*Any so much more...*



## Welcome from the Interim Chair

Dear students:

I hope you are having a good semester. At this point in the term the leaves are falling and the weather is beginning to turn cool. Many of you have now taken your midterms and may be on the downward slope of the semester.

I am the interim chair of the department, stepping in for Professor Henry Pontell, who will be back during the Spring 2017 semester. I have been teaching at John Jay College for nine years. Initially trained as a quantitative sociologist, I now do a lot of mixed methods research. My subject areas focus on religion, deviance, and health. I have a book coming out in February 2017 on why attitudes about homosexuality vary so much across the globe. I really enjoy teaching criminological theory (Soc 203) to undergraduates, and I am an honors thesis advisor. Some of my time is also spent working with the Ph.D. programs in Criminal Justice and Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

I am pleased to share with you some of the exciting things happening in John Jay College's Department of Sociology. Last year the department was located in decrepit North Hall. We now have renovated space on the fifth floor of Harren Hall. There are offices for all of our 27 full-time professors, as well as space for our part-time instructors. Theresa Rockett who is our department secretary and Alisa Thomas who is our administrative specialist have offices near the entrance to the department, which is unlocked Monday through Thursday from 7 am until 11 pm, Friday from 7 am until 9 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 8 am until 7 pm.

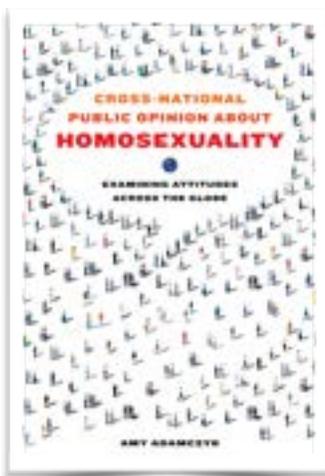


Professor Carla Barrett has put into place a new chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), the International Sociology Honor Society, here at John Jay. Students, both Sociology and Criminology majors, can become members of AKD if they meet the eligibility requirements.

Finally, we have received funding from the Office for the Advancement of Research (OAR) to support a Sociology Talks Series for the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. We have had an exciting group of speakers give talks, and have even more coming.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of the term.

Warm regards,  
Professor Amy Adamczyk



**Professor Amy Adamczyk** is the author of the forthcoming book *Examining Tolerance for Homosexuality: A Cross-national Analysis*. (In press, will be published in Spring 2017 with University of California Press). Using survey data from almost 90 societies, this book shows that cross-national differences in attitudes can largely be explained by the strength of democratic institutions, their level of economic development, and the religious context that people live in. Alongside quantitative findings for why nations vary so considerably, case studies of various countries, content analysis of newspaper articles, and in-depth interviews are also used to unpack the characteristics working within individual and key sets of nations.

*"Adamczyk has written the most comprehensive contemporary study on disapproval of homosexuality, taking into account multidisciplinary theoretical insights on individual as well as contextual determinants, using multiple mixed methods to provide a worldwide readership with enlightening overviews on controversial issues."* – Peer Scheepers, Professor and Vice Dean in the Faculty of Social Sciences Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.

# Research Summary

By Henry N. Pontell

My research has focused in a number of areas of criminology, sociology and criminal justice including crime seriousness, deterrence, cybercrime, identity theft, health care and financial fraud, imprisonment issues, comparative criminology and white-collar and corporate crime.

As an undergraduate, I served as a research assistant on numerous faculty projects in sociology and political science, which sparked my interest in doing research. In the mid-1970s I met Professor Forrest (Woody) Dill (who worked with Jerome Skolnick at UC Berkeley on his classic book on policing, *Justice Without Trial*), while I was a graduate student at SUNY Stony Brook. Woody sparked my interest in criminology and law and society issues and really pushed my writing, resulting in a graduate student grant from LEAA of the U.S. Dept. of Justice, and my first sole-authored piece which was published as the lead article in *Criminology* and was followed by three critiques from established researchers.

My first article titled, "*Deterrence: Theory Versus Practice*," critiqued previous ecological studies of crime and punishment, and questioned the criminal justice system's capacity to effect deterrence because of massive caseloads which pushed the certainty of punishment far below levels necessary to prevent individuals from choosing to offend according to classical deterrence theory. John Jay faculty who edited the journal at the time (Donal E.J. McNamara and Edward Sagarin) helped launch my academic career with this publication. "System capacity" needed to be accounted for in criminal justice policy. The article

showed that in reality, crime rates, which were due to many social factors external to the criminal justice system, had a greater effect on the criminal justice system's capacity to legally punish, than punishment levels had on crime. I also argued that trying to increase punishment levels to prevent crime would be futile given the influence of other social factors (inequality, institutionalized racism, other community and economic factors, etc.). That was 1978, and today we still grapple with the realities of system capacity and politics in punishment policies, whether they are related imprisonment, probation, parole, prisoner re-entry and the like.



After publishing other pieces on this topic, I turned my attention to white-collar crime, with studies of medical fraud, shortly after I arrived at UC, Irvine. With criminologists Gil Geis and Paul Jesilow we received a U.S Justice Department grant, and wrote a number of

**Distinguished Professor Henry Pontell** received the President's Award from the National White-Collar Crime Center and The White-Collar Crime Research Consortium at the 2016 Meetings of the American Society of Criminology in recognition of outstanding service and dedication and support in the development and implementation of Consortium objectives. During his 2-year tenure, he led the development of the first Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime, which was approved by the ASC Board during the Meetings.



articles, book chapters and a UC Press book titled, *Prescription for Profit: How Doctors Defraud Medicaid*, which documented the ways in which those in the medical profession took advantage of a major government health program designed to help the poor receive basic medical care. Doctors, we surmised, should be among the *least likely* of all professional groups to violate the law (because of their intense training, and high ethics and social prestige).

We found, however, that some physicians took advantage of government insurance systems, and excused or "neutralized" their deviant behaviors including fraudulent billings, in the same ways criminologists and sociologists found for common criminals, including gang members. We interviewed criminal doctors, government officials and enforcement agents, and examined case files and other official and legal data. Most telling, perhaps, was the fact that when we conducted the study in the mid- 1980s, there was no academic literature on medical fraud, or knowledge base in the United States more generally, outside of handful of enforcement experts in some federal and state agencies.

After this project I worked on jail overcrowding and capacity issues with my graduate students who completed their dissertations on the topic, and who now work at TCU, Temple U., and U. of Nevada. Some of our research focused on court orders from federal judges to alleviate overcrowding, as it was a violation of Constitutional provisions, the effects of DUI laws, and demographic characteristics related to overcrowding. We published a number of articles and chapters on how imprisonment in many jails had become a "deviant form of social control" due to federal judicial rulings stating that such conditions of confinement in many California counties were illegal. This is still a major matter of criminal and social justice, as well as a "mere" legal issue.

During this time I also became interested in the savings and loan scandal of the 1980s: the largest financial crisis in the world at the time, created by federal deregulatory policies enacted by President Ronald Reagan. With another multi-year Justice Department grant, Professors Kitty Calavita, Robert Tillman and I interviewed over a hundred government officials, and collected and analyzed data from a number of federal agencies to map the processing of offenders through the system, and to sociologically and criminologically examine the roots of the crisis.

We published a number of articles and chapters and an award-winning University of California Press book, *Big Money Crime: Fraud and Politics in the Savings and*

*Loan Crisis*. Among our major findings were that many savings and loan executives engaged in what we termed "collective embezzlement" or "looting" of their institutions, that punishment of such offenders (over 1000 major prosecutions took place in the 1990s, versus *none* in the most recent crisis in 2008, which was over 30 times larger) was less than for other first-time federal offenders convicted of common crimes, and that thrift crime was endemic throughout society and intertwined with politics which enabled the crisis.

Since that time, I have examined the role of fraud in financial crises, and have published comparative and international work on white-collar crime in China, Japan, and the casino industry in Macau, the largest gambling site in the world.

My forthcoming book (with Robert Tillman and William Black) titled, *Financial Crime and Crises in the Era of False Profits* (Oxford University Press) shows how the current financial industry fosters fraud and crises, which occur on an ever-larger global scale, and greatly exacerbates existing major social problems. With Stephen Rosoff and Robert Tillman, I have also published a major text, *Profit Without Honor: White-Collar Crime and the Looting of America* (Pearson, 7th ed. forthcoming) which documents the many forms of white-collar crime in the United States, and shows that they are much more harmful both fiscally and physically than common crimes. My research continues to focus on white-collar and corporate crime with a special focus on comparative work, especially China.

---

## Why I became a Sociologist

---

By Valli Rajah

---

Peter Berger famously said that adopting the sociological perspective involves seeing "the general in the particular" or how common patterns manifest in the life circumstances and behavior of specific individuals. This notion reflects my experience and influenced why I became a sociologist.

My sociological imagination was ignited at a young age as I began to understand that the hardship my family faced was contoured by socioeconomic conditions, social policy and prevailing cultural perspectives. My father immigrated to the United States from India. His

life in the US, however, was far from easy. His employment prospects were restricted by his illegal status, lack of education, and physical impairments associated with diabetes. Economic, political and health constraints shaped my family's situation.

My mother's parents, who were Irish immigrants, might have offered financial assistance. They didn't, however, because they were dismayed that their daughter married someone who was not Irish. The tangible constraints my parents faced, in other words, were reinforced by "symbolic boundaries;" lines that are often drawn around race and cultural difference to include some and exclude others. While invisible, symbolic boundaries are powerful. This mix of strained kin relations; meager resources and social isolation provided a context that in my family, as in so many others, was associated with family instability and disruption.

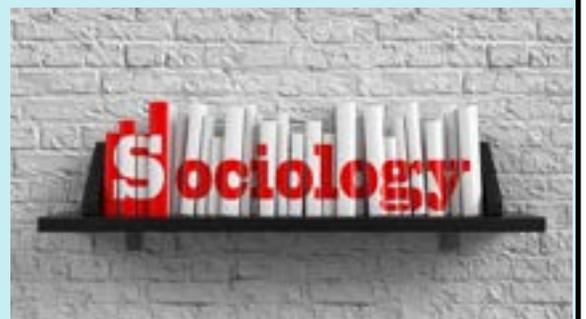
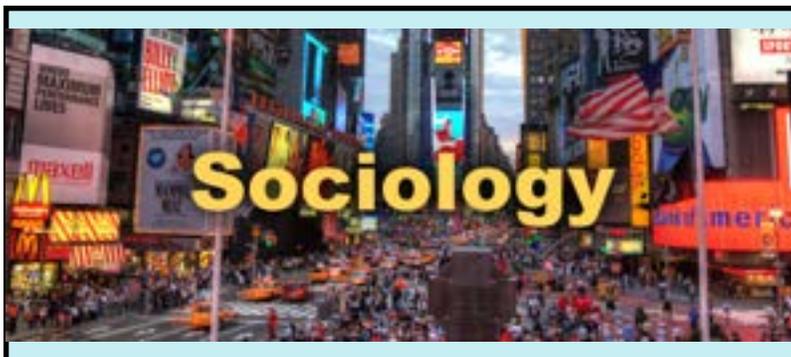
My childhood experiences had a profound impact on my career and focus of study. My scholarly interest in sociology developed because the discipline seemed to offer a way of connecting my growing concerns about inequality and injustice with a set of concepts, theories and means of studying how those inequalities persist.

I really clarified my research interests, when I took my first post-bachelorette job as a program assistant for the Program on Culture, Health and Society at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC). There I was privileged to interact with a distinguished group of scholars like Arthur Kleinman, Margaret Lock, Veena Das and Paul Farmer whose novel thinking about social suffering, a term they coined, shaped emerging scholarship in socio-medical sciences. Based on fine-grained empirical analyses of everyday life, these researchers demonstrated that medical, economic and social conditions are inseparable and together cause pain and deprivation.

Several of the scholars at the SSRC helped me see that a research career would be both personally meaningful and could potentially have some relevance for others. Following their lead, my research focuses on individuals' experience of suffering and victimization, and the ways in which powerful institutions manage--or do not manage--to exert control over sufferers' identities and practices of self care.



Because I remain fascinated by the power of symbolic boundaries, much of my scholarship concerns members of groups that defy easy categorization as either "victims" or "criminal offenders," such as drug-involved women who suffer partner violence, individuals arrested in domestic disputes, and juveniles who were jailed while waiting for case adjudication. While the focus of my work is sometimes bleak, I find sociological investigation to be a hopeful endeavor. Despite considerable social and cultural constraints, I have found that individuals can and do often find various ways to improve their life circumstances.



# The International Sociological Association

By Rosemary Barberet

For a very long time, I have been involved in a variety of professional associations around the globe. One of the most interesting associations I support is the International Sociological Association. Founded under the auspices of UNESCO in 1949, the goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of school of thought, scientific approaches or ideology and advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. The ISA is headquartered in Madrid and has over 5,000 members from 167 countries. Every four years the ISA holds a world congress of sociology, and every two years, a forum of sociology. Its 56 research committees hold additional meetings, conferences and seminars and provide a home for the many subfields of study in sociology. The ISA has a large publications portfolio, publishing *Current Sociology* and *International Sociology* with Sage, along with several digital publications, most notably past president Michael Burawoy's magazine, *Global Dialogue*, which appears four times a year in 17 languages.

I have represented the International Sociological Association at the United Nations in New York and Vienna since 2007. The ISA is a nongovernmental organization in consultative status with the United Nations, which entitles us to send observers to meetings at the United Nations and raise awareness there of the field of sociology. Two years ago, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the ISA, a very impressive group of sociologists from all around the globe. Every year we meet for a week in a different

place, and this past year it was Taiwan. We were hosted by ISA Executive Committee Member Dr. Chin-Chun Yi of Academia Sinica, the leading government research institute of sociology in Taiwan. Dr. Yi is the director of the Taiwan Youth Project (TYP), a longitudinal study of Taiwanese youth.



Barberet with Chin-Chun Yi (to her left) and Other ISA Executive Committee Members, At Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan

I enjoy these meetings because everyone has an international mindset, and is particularly conscious of the Global South. For every decision we make, we discuss, will this decision be fair to all of our members, in all parts of the globe? And also, we have to think, how will this play out in the three languages of the Association (English, Spanish and French)? Alongside this global approach, the ISA takes important stands.

You may be interested in participating in the upcoming paper competition for junior sociologists. The rules of the competition are here: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/junior-sociologists/worldwide-competition-for-junior-sociologists/>. Similarly, you may be interested in participating in the next ISA World Congress. Information appears below.

**XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY**  
Toronto, Canada | July 15-21, 2018 | Metro Toronto Convention Center

**POWER, VIOLENCE AND JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS, RESPONSES RESPONSIBILITIES**

ISA International Sociological Association



ISA Executive Committee Group Photo at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan

We have a Human Rights Committee that issues statements in support of sociologists who have suffered or are suffering, the violation of human rights. Lately, these have included signing a petition in support of Russian pollster Levada; a statement in solidarity with Homa Hoodfar, imprisoned in Iran; a statement concerning academic freedom and violence in India; a statement concerning the murder of Giulio Regeni in Egypt; and a statement on academic freedom in Turkey.

## Honor Society Announcement

---

Honor societies are organizations designed to recognize academic excellence in a particular field of study. John Jay now houses a chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society, which serves to acknowledge and promote excellence in the scholarship in the study of sociology (including criminology), the research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition. Alpha Kappa Delta is a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the ideal of Athropon Katamanthanein Diakonesin or "to investigate humanity for the purpose of service." Our chapter of AKD is one of eight honor society chapters at the college.

---

---

## John Jay now has a chapter of the International Sociology Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)

---

### To be eligible to join Alpha Kappa Delta students must:

- Be an officially declared **Sociology** or **Criminology** major
- Officially be at least a **Junior**
- Have a cumulative GPA of **3.3** or better
- Have maintained a **3.0** or better average in across all SOC classes
- Have complete at least **4** SOC courses at John Jay College

Near the end of the fall semester students who meet the above criteria will be sent a letter/email inviting them to join the society. Lifetime member is available for a fee of \$40.00. An induction ceremony will take place in the spring semester. Once inducted a student becomes a **lifetime** member of AKD. Please direct any questions you may have to the AKD Faculty Representative, Professor Carla Barrett at [betathetaAKD@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:betathetaAKD@jjay.cuny.edu).

### AKD Membership benefits:

- AKD Members who are Civil Service employees meet one of the requirements for entrance at the GS-7 level (an increase in pay-grade) if they list AKD membership on their applications (providing they enter at the GS-5 level).
- AKD sponsors an annual student paper competition for both undergraduate and graduate students. Winners receive a cash prize and travel money to participate in the American Sociological Association (ASA) annual meeting. First place winners are eligible to have their papers published in *Sociological Inquiry*
- AKD provides student travel grants to undergraduates and graduate students who are AKD members to present at regional sociological meetings.
- Members may purchase an honor cord to wear at graduation, lapel pins, t-shirts, and other AKD paraphernalia.

- Lifetime Membership. There are no annual dues for members after the initial \$40 payment. A certificate and a membership card are given to all new members. Active membership can be maintained in the society for an annual \$40 fee. Active members receive the AKD Newsletter and the journal *Sociological Inquiry*, the official journal of Alpha Kappa Delta.
- Social Media allows for opportunities to network with other members of the Society and professionals in the sociology field. You can find AKD on Facebook (Alpha Kappa Delta) and Twitter (@natlofficeofakd), and on their member-exclusive LinkedIn page.

Athronon Katamannthanein Diakonesin  
 “to investigate humanity for the purpose of service”  
[www.alphakappadelta.org](http://www.alphakappadelta.org)

---

## Sexualities and Activism: A Cross-Cultural Exploration of LGBTQ Identities in the U.S. and Amsterdam

---

By Crystal Jackson and Jay Pastrana

---

During the summer of 2016, Professors Jackson and Pastrana of the sociology department directed a Study Abroad program in Amsterdam, Netherlands, titled: “Sexualities and Activism: A Cross-Cultural Exploration of LGBTQ Identities in the U.S. and Amsterdam.” This was the first LGBTQ+ focused faculty-led study abroad program in CUNY’s history, and 12 students from

different campuses eagerly participated in the opportunity to study abroad for four-weeks in Amsterdam. The Netherlands is one of the most progressive countries in the world supporting the rights of LGBTQ people. It was the first country to erect a monument that memorialize lives lost due to violence against LGBTQ people, and it was also the first nation to legalize same-sex marriages, in 2001. Given its progressive history, it was an ideal and welcoming site for students to critically examine sexualities studies.



Professors Jackson and Pastrana taught two courses, SOC 243 – Sociology of Sexualities and a special section of SOC 282 – Sexual Identity and Society: LGBTQ Perspectives. These courses counted for the JJC Sociology major/minor, and the Gender Studies major/minor. Students learned about the ways we are all rooted in an intersection of sexual identities and behaviors, and what that means to be a “fierce advocacy for justice” from both a personal and an international perspective. But student learning was by

### Sociology Department Advising

The Department offers several options to students who have questions about the criminology, sociology, or dispute resolution major or minor:

1. Department of Sociology Advising website. The website is home to major and minor worksheets that a student can fill out, and a Student Advising Guide with answers to most student questions: [www.jjay.cuny.edu/student-advisement-0](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/student-advisement-0)
2. They can email [socadvising@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:socadvising@jjay.cuny.edu) with questions.
3. They can make an appointment with a faculty advisor using AdvisorTrac <https://jjcadvisortrac.jjay.cuny.edu>

no means limited to classroom instruction, some of the notable highlights of their study were trips that included attending EuroPride 2016 events; visiting the HomoMonument; a tour of the Red Light District with the Prostitution Information Center; a Sexualities Scavenger Hunt; and relaxing in the Rose Garden at Vondelpark. Sexualities and Activism was not only fun, but also an educational success for the students. We look forward to Professor Jackson and Pastrana's next big study abroad adventure.



Sociology Professors Jay Pastrana and Crystal Jackson with their students

## WHOM TO CONTACT

### **INTERIM- DEPARTMENT CHAIR**

Amy Adamczyk  
646.557.4695  
[aadamczyk@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:aadamczyk@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.07 HH

### **INTERIM DEPARTMENT DEPUTY CHAIR**

Lila Kazemian  
212-484-1301  
[lkazemian@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:lkazemian@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.13 HH

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST**

Alisa Thomas  
212.887.6123  
[althomas@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:althomas@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.01 HH

### **DEPARTMENT SECRETARY**

Theresa Rockett  
212.237.8666  
[trockett@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:trockett@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.02 HH

### **MAJOR ADVISORS**

Robert Garot  
212.237.8680  
[rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:rgarot@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.34 HH

Jayne Mooney  
212.887.6210  
[jmooney@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jmooney@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.21 HH

Lucia Trimbur  
646.557.4643 [ltrimbur@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:ltrimbur@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.03HH

### **SOCIOLOGY BA Major Coordinator**

Richard Ocejo  
212-237-8687  
[rocejo@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:rocejo@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.12 HH

### **CRIMINOLOGY BA Major Coordinator**

Louis Kontos  
212.237.8695  
[lkontos@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:lkontos@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.35 HH

Professor Crystal Jackson's article, "The Queer Porn Mafia: Redefining Identity, Sex, & Feminism through Commodified Sexuality," will appear in a forthcoming Winter issue of *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*. The article, co-authored with art professor Laurenn McCubbin from the Columbus College of Art & Design, explores the queering of identity and industry of the self-labeled Queer Porn Mafia (QPM), a group of U.S. queer and feminist porn producers and performers.

Through in-depth interviews with 10 key QPM colleagues, we explore the meanings of "queer" and "feminism" for queer adult film performers and producers. We examine "queer" as an identity and as a politics in the business practices of queer porn, and in the relationship between queer porn and the mainstream porn industry. We argue that the Queer Porn Mafia is evidence that commercial forms of resistance can be effective tools of representation, visibility, and community building. The article concludes with a discussion of how the Queer Porn Mafia's critique of heteronormative gender, sex, and desire illuminates the limitations of feminism as identity and practice for those who queer gender, sex, and activism. The politics of queer porn challenge feminist notions of both the relationship between sex and the market, and disconcerting remnants of gender essentialism in feminist thought.

Students interested in learning more about sexual identities, sex industries, and how sexuality is socially constructed, policed, expressed, and suppressed in multiple and diverse ways as it intersects with race, gender, and class, are welcome to sign up for Jackson's Spring 2017 section of SOC 243: Sociology of Sexualities. This course counts toward the sociology major and minor, and the gender studies major and minor.

## **Criminology Major's Senior Seminar paper featured in John Jay's Finest 2016**

**by Carla Barrett**

---

Criminology major Alexis Acevedo's final paper for the Senior Seminar in Criminology (SOC440) was selected for inclusion in the 2016 edition of *John Jay's Finest*. As noted by the editors of this college journal, this yearly collection publishes "the best student writing

from across the disciplines . . . Beyond the grammatical correctness and rhetorical polish, the work here showcases the many voices of our best John Jay writers."

Alexis' paper is titled, *The Impact of Capitalism and Politics on Mass Incarceration*. It skillfully compares the mass incarceration system in the United States with that of Scandinavia, and she analyzes how crime control, punishment practices, and policies are the result of different political and economic ideologies. In assessing the importance of this student's paper to the study of criminology, Professor Barrett said: "Alexis' paper makes evident an essential tenet of critical criminology – that crime and crime control mechanisms are imbedded within larger forces of social inequality." The abstract of Alexis' paper to appear in *John Jay's Finest* reads:

### **Paper Abstract:**

This paper explores the relationship between capitalism, politics, and mass incarceration in countries with liberal and coordinated market economies. Taking a particular look at Scandinavian countries and the United States, the paper highlights the structural differences that exist in both and examines how capitalism and politics have affected incarceration rates. Scandinavian countries, with coordinated market economies, have managed to keep low rates of incarceration because of strong social protections and inclusionary systems of criminal justice. The United States, with a liberal market economy, has drifted away from strong social protections and has undergone an increasingly punitive transformation of its criminal justice system. The comparisons suggest an ideological difference that can only be overcome by an overhaul of the criminal justice system and a movement that embodies compassion and not punitiveness.

## **Research Report**

**by Robert Garot**

---

I am currently engaged with four projects.

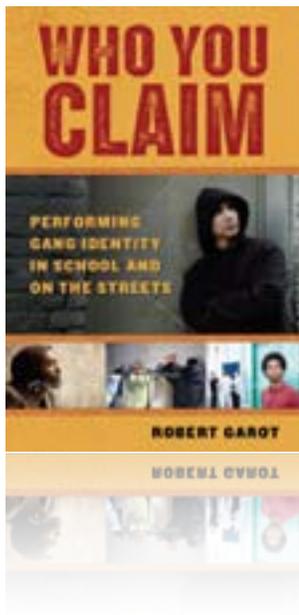
The first is an intensive, long-term ethnographic study of the legal consciousness of migrants in Italy, as they work with, around, and against the law in the effort to become included in Italian society. The study incorporates the narratives and perspectives of over 70 Italians grappling with an emerging multicultural society and 70 immigrants as they struggle with

emerging racial formations, as both come to terms with the realities of globalization. The book proposal is currently under review at Palgrave.

My second project is a study of contrast structures and comparative structures in Italians' talk about immigrants. Building on Dorothy Smith's pioneering work on contrast structures, I explore how these linguistic devices are used in othering practices. In contrast, many advocates for immigrants' rights in Italy utilize comparative structures in their talk about migrants, showing how "they" are similar to "us." Comparison structures are a novel addition to Smith's conceptual framework, showing how racializing discourses may be resisted in everyday talk. I will be presenting this paper at the SSSP conference in Seattle in August, towards submitting it for publication this summer.

My third project is an exploration of how gender and nationalism are invoked in situ by ethnographic informants, in order to facilitate or hinder ethnographic investigations. Such a project builds on studies of reflexivity in ethnographic methodologies, exploring how researchers' assumed identities affect entrée. I am currently revising drafts of this manuscript.

My fourth project is a study of an innovative facility in the Catskills to bolster the chances of reentry of former inmates, pioneered by an ex-prisoner. The program encourages independence and entrepreneurship, instilling a sense of hope and opportunity in the formerly incarcerated. It has been profiled on the cable program, Criminal Justice Matters, hosted by Stephen Handelman. I am currently engaged in transcribing and coding interviews.



Professor Garot is author of the book *Who You Claim: Performing Gang Identity in School and on the Streets*, published by NYU Press in 2010

## The Silver Lining of September 11: NYC-Dispute Resolution Roundtable Breakfasts at John Jay College

By Maria R. Volpe



If there's a *silver lining* to 9/11, it is the monthly NYC-Dispute Resolution Roundtable Breakfasts at John Jay College. What began as an informal convening of New York City conflict resolution scholars and practitioners by the CUNY Dispute Resolution Center at John Jay College in the aftermath of 9/11, has evolved into an internationally recognized monthly event that attracts speakers and attendees from around the world. A total of 185 free, public breakfasts have been held since they were started in September 2011 and the November 2016 breakfast.

September 11, 2001 is one of most memorable days for people around the world, but particularly so for those in New York City where the most horrific of the terrorist attacks occurred. So much changed on that day. Lives were lost, people were injured, and New York City's physical landscape was forever transformed. Everyone was shocked and numbed by the enormity of the disaster resulting from the planes crashing into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center complex in lower Manhattan. And, in the aftermath of this unimaginable tragedy, people from all walks of life responded.

For conflict resolvers in New York City, 9/11 was a wake up call. At the time, conflict resolution scholars

and practitioners from around the world asked if conflict resolvers in New York City needed any assistance. However, unlike many other professions that had a readily identifiable role in post disaster response, there was nothing self-evident for conflict resolvers to do. Despite the lack of precedence, a recurrent question kept surfacing, "What can conflict resolvers do as conflict resolvers in response to disasters?" Of particular note, conflict resolvers had no way of even readily communicating with each other.

Since John Jay College had a long history of serving as a hub for organizing and hosting a wide range of events through its academic Dispute Resolution Program since 1981 and through its research and program arm, the CUNY Dispute Resolution Center since 1993, it was not surprising that the CUNY DRC assumed a leadership role in attempting to address the void. To convene conflict resolution scholars and practitioners in the New York City area, shortly after 9/11, I sent emails to the two national listservs that were then active, one was known as DisputeRes sponsored by Cornell University and the other known as the ADR LIST sponsored by the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Committee. All conflict resolvers in the New York City area were invited to attend a breakfast at John Jay College on September 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss possible responses to 9/11. Most notably, everyone who attended that first breakfast had been touched by the tragic events in one way or another.

At the first breakfast, attendees discussed their concerns as members of the conflict resolution community in NYC and what they could do in NYC.

Two next steps were agreed upon: [1] creation of a listserv to facilitate communication for the NYC DR community and [2] another meeting of the group loosely referred to as the NYC DR Roundtable to work on needs identified by the breakfast participants. The list of specific concerns ranged from the micro to the macro. Overall, three things emerged as most significant [a] finding ways to communicate with each other [b] meeting the immediate needs of facilitating a wide range of discussions and [c] finding ways to make dispute resolution skills and processes available to others, of high interest was the preparation of deliverables.

In the ensuing months, the attendees would schedule the next meeting based on a mutually convenient time and the meetings would focus on ways to respond to 9/11 and expand conflict resolution capacity in New York City. By the March 6, 2002 breakfast, the

participants revisited the need and purpose of the Roundtable Breakfasts since the impetus for the sessions had been the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> which was slowly receding into the background. The participants grappled with the question "Should we continue meeting?" After much reflection on what they had accomplished to date, those present decided to continue meeting and formalized the meeting time for future meetings so that it would be easy to remember. Since most of the meetings to date had been on Thursday mornings, the chosen day and time would be the first Thursday of the month from 8:00 am - 10:00 am, except for those months when holidays fell on that day like the fourth of July, Labor Day, and New Year's Day. The CUNY Dispute Resolution Center would continue to sponsor the free and open breakfast meetings at John Jay College with support from the Hewlett Foundation. At the time, the CUNY DRC was one of the university-based Theory Building Centers funded by the Hewlett Foundation. By June 2002, the breakfast participants also decided to keep meet over the summer months so that they would not lose the momentum of their discussions.

In its formative years, the Roundtable participants undertook numerous projects focusing on generating greater public awareness for conflict resolution processes. They aimed to shape resource materials needed to convey a compelling message applicable for the conflict resolution field in NYC, including preparation of facilitation guidelines, use of conflict resolution for housing conflicts, tips for becoming a mediator in NYC, a list of compensated and pro bono mediation opportunities, a list of ADR training providers, and a speaker's bureau.

By Dec 2002 at the suggestion of Judge Roberto Velez of the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the participants undertook an intensive project to prepare an informative exhibit for the 8 display cases in the John Jay College lobby. The display cases were reserved for the following year, from mid-August 2004 to mid-December 2004, a timeframe which would coincide with Mediation Settlement Day in October 2004. The breakfasts were also instrumental in developing several other projects, including the creation of 24 bookmarks with tips on how to make talk work and an international video competition, both which were funded by the JAMS Foundation, and my research initiative on post disaster responses undertaken by conflict resolvers.

While some of the early breakfasts had a variety of experts give presentations, most consisted of informal

discussions. It was not until March 2004 that speakers were sought for each breakfast. Over the years, the speakers have reflected a wide range of backgrounds, including professors, authors, journalists, public relations, advertising, mediators, arbitrators, facilitators, lawyers, ombudsmen, public officials, the former Chief Counsel to Governor Pataki, United Nations officials, war protestors, an emergency room doctor, editors, lawyers, artists, police officers, hostage negotiators, trainers, judges, commissioners, and program directors. While New York City has a vast number of conflict resolution experts who have presented at the Breakfasts, since the City is a destination for people from around the world, speakers have come from places beyond NYC, as near as New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC, and from more distant places like Atlanta, Georgia, Chicago, Illinois, Los Angeles, California Denver, Colorado, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. Internationally, speakers have come from Toronto, Canada, Oslo, Norway, Nairobi, Kenya, Italy, Tokyo, Japan, Israel, Istanbul, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Africa [great Lakes region], Czechoslovakia, Venezuela, and India. Interestingly, there have been only a handful of repeat presenters over the years. All speakers have presented without compensation.

The list of topics covered over the years has been extensive and varied. The topics reflect the diversity of the field and the scholars and practitioners who are involved in dispute resolution related work. Each month, speakers provide insights and information about their research, innovative programs, and interesting dispute resolution practices. They engage the audience using a wide range of formats including formal lectures, highly interactive small group activities, powerpoint presentations, videos, role plays, among others.

After almost 6 years of monthly breakfasts, I announced that May 2007 would be the last monthly breakfast, especially since the Hewlett Foundation had stopped funding university based conflict resolution centers. The reaction was swift and effective. These were not only monthly breakfasts, but a New York institution. Julie Denny, the then President-Elect of the Association of Conflict Resolution of Greater New York immediately asked if ACR GNY could continue the breakfasts at John Jay. With a new partner, the next era of the NYC DR Roundtable Breakfasts was launched starting with the June 2007 breakfast. The CUNY DRC and ACR GNY would jointly sponsor the breakfasts and continue to do so.

For the first 9 years, the breakfasts were held in a room with a roundtable built into it. However, by October 2010, the breakfast had outgrown the original Roundtable room and was moved into larger meeting

## WHOM TO CONTACT

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION CERTIFICATE AND MINOR Coordinator and Advisor**

Maria Volpe  
212.237.8692  
[dispute@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:dispute@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.40 HH

### **CUNY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER**

Maria Volpe  
212.237.8692  
[dispute@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:dispute@jjay.cuny.edu)  
520.40 HH

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Coordinator**  
Mangai Natarajan  
[mnatarajan@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:mnatarajan@jjay.cuny.edu)  
212.237.8673  
63205 HH

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

**Director**  
Jana Arsovska  
[jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu)  
2.393.6345  
520.041 HH

21

### **DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Executive Officer**  
Deborah Koetzle  
212-621-3758  
[dkoetzle@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:dkoetzle@jjay.cuny.edu)  
636.16 HH

### **Deputy Executive Officer**

Valli Rajah  
212.237.8675  
[vrajah@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:vrajah@jjay.cuny.edu)  
636.03 HH

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM DIGITAL FORENSICS AND CYBERSECURITY**

**Director**  
Richard Lovely  
212.237.8685  
[rlvely@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:rlvely@jjay.cuny.edu)  
422.18 HH

room. The number of attendees ranges from 35 to 100 each month. It is common for attendees to return after they have moved away or to hear that travelers to NYC plan their trips around the breakfast schedule.

All of the announcements for the breakfasts are posed on the NYC-DR listserv and archived for ready access. A list of the all of the past breakfasts has been posted on the CUNY DRC's website [www.jjay.cuny.edu/disputeresolution](http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/disputeresolution) and since 2009 on the ACR GNY website [www.acrgny.org](http://www.acrgny.org) Until September 2008, a summary of each breakfast session was posted on the NYC-DR listserv. The summaries of these formative breakfasts provide detailed information about the sessions and were particularly helpful in writing this piece.

As the breakfast format evolved, it continued to maximize its original purpose to strengthen communication among conflict resolvers and to enhance awareness about different aspects of the field. Each breakfast allocates the first 20 minutes to informal networking over coffee and bagels. At about 8:20 or so, everyone is asked to take a seat. Each session begins by asking everyone to identify who they are so that the speaker knows who is in the room and everyone gets to link face and name for any additional networking. The informal introductions also allow for any announcements to be made. By 8:35 am, the program is turned over to the speaker to use the time as s/he chooses. The audience is always very flexible and easy to engage. At 9:30 am, the program is paused to allow anyone who needs to leave to exit, and then continues til 10:00 am. Once the presentation ends, networking continues.

#### **SUMMARY:**

In sum, the old African proverb that states "it takes a village to raise a child" applies to the development of the monthly NYC-DR Roundtable Breakfast. In reflecting on the past 15 years, it is interesting to see how the NYC-DR Roundtable Breakfasts have developed organically, with decisions made along the way about how to proceed. Two major NYC organizations, the CUNY DRC and ACR GNY, have provided the infrastructure for the breakfasts, while hundreds of individuals have assisted in suggesting and recruiting speakers for future breakfasts. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the evolution of the Breakfasts is closely intertwined with presence of the NYC-DR listserv which now reaches over 3,200 subscribers. The Breakfasts provide conflict resolvers with an opportunity for face-to-face meetings once a month and the listserv provides a readily accessible virtual forum to distribute announcements, updates and feedback in real time, 24/7.

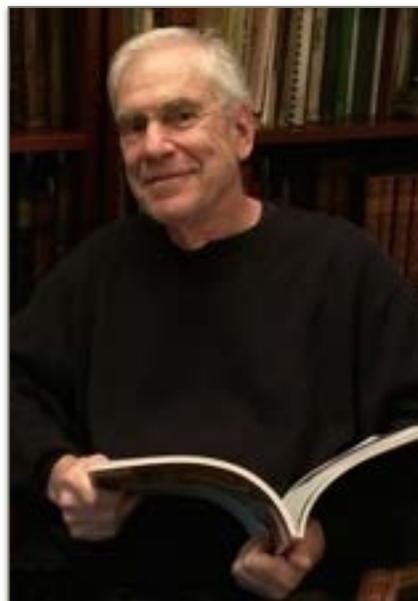
---

## America's Dark Side: The Criminal Justice System and Black Repression, 1960-1990

---

**(Working Book Title)**

**By Ron L. Morris**



#### **DRAFT SYNOPSIS:**

Did the public's fear of 'crimes in the streets' in the 1960 and 1970s induce politicians to take a hard line on the nation's Black youth and win elections from frightened Whites? Or, as I suggest, did these same politicians stealth fully manufacture a poisonous 'streets overrun with Black criminals' campaign, beginning in 1960, that itself produced the desired hysteria and terror on the subject of crime and violence. This was backed by dubious crime statistics that jolted an electorate to predictably endorse 'anti-crime' policies clearly aimed at repressing Black urban neighborhoods. That this came at a politically convenient time for Whites when Blacks were demanding an end to Jim Crow social injustice does not go unnoticed.

Sadly, though, as I contend, once hard-nosed anti-crime bills became official policy, standing in the wings was a happily compliant, criminal justice system fully prepared to implement aggressive, anti-democratic, militaristic (even tyrannical) policies of dubious social

value to America's Black citizens. Not previously seen in this light, I view the American criminal justice system and all its ubiquitous agencies (probation, police, corrections, academic criminologists, government agencies like LEAA and criminal courts) as wrongly out of step with history--badly administered, violent, venal, inefficient, punitive, overly ambitious and, worst of all, incapable of either eliminating crime activity, exposing the politician's incendiary war on crime as racist, or at least developing hardy programs to assist those most in need of rehabilitation.

On this last point the CJS categorically failed to act as representatives of positive change, viewing Black and poor community-based programs and local representatives as partisans in direct competition to their own hegemony. In the end, by 1990, nothing had been accomplished for America's cities despite the collective harassments, apprehensions, incarcerations, stigmatizations, political disenfranchisements and economic devaluations of millions of Black men. On this I take a harsh, forlorn perspective on a period that I believe warrants debate due to its repercussions on today's pursuit of crime. This is not to deny the occasional potency of radical ideas occurring at the time or of belittling the contributions of those who tried to help resolve crime issues in a humane fashion. Still, and to assess the nature of society at the time, which overwhelmingly tolerated, even demanded draconian policies, I review holocaust studies for the strange similarities they have with contemporary American society.

This book is a radical condemnation of the CJS and its agencies for a period previously unaddressed. I believe this will cover a good deal of new ground.

Some issues to discuss:

1. A broadly supported and racially murderous Police State in the Southland
2. High-minded judges ignorant when presiding over people/cultures with whom they have no appreciation
3. Untrained and unsophisticated probation officers, unfamiliar with ghetto cultures
4. Violent and inhumane prison concentration camps and gulags
5. Political candidates incitement to violence and racial hatred
6. Unconstitutional legislation and agency refusal to enforce civil rights mandates

7. Academics more willing to accept Federal grant money or pad resumes than challenge the system
8. Brutish police overzealous to arrest/assault encouraged by political rhetoric
9. FBI, DOJ and DEA private anti-crime corporations promoting repression of citizens
10. Refusal by politicians and CJ agencies to safeguard citizen's constitutional and human rights

## Why I Became a Sociologist

By Robert Garot

Looking back, my journey to becoming a sociologist may have seemed pre-ordained, but along the way, it was anything but. Rather, it consisted of a number of steps and missteps, some planned, some fortuitous; some falling in my lap, and others desperately strived for. I can't say that necessarily it was a conscious choice—that out of all the myriad and amazing possibilities in the world, sociology was the only option for me. Rather, there were many options, many possibilities, and many temptations. I'm still not done deciding. Perhaps it would be more apt to say that sociology chose me—when I tried other paths, they somehow closed before me, while options in sociology seemed to open (but not always). Hence, while this column is structured to be about “why”, in my case, it must be more about “how.”



Often when telling this story I go back to my father, who was an alcohol and drug rehabilitation counselor with Los Angeles County. He would bring me up to the center where he worked at Warm Springs, in the

Angeles National Forest, tucked into dry hillsides covered in Manzanita and Bristlecone pine. For over four decades he worked with addicts who had lost everything, and had been referred by the County to this public treatment facility in the hope that they might get their lives back on track.

Many had been picked up “on the nickel,” as skid row was known then, but some had been doctors or even semi-famous actors or musicians who had lost everything and ended up living out of a car or worse. He brought me there as a five or six-year-old, I think to show me off, but I was captivated by speaking with the clients, who had amazing stories to tell and loved to share them, at times to the consternation of my father. I also loved trucks and firefighting and Evil Kneel, as well as math, science, reading, sports and music, so I had no idea what I might want to do.

Fast forward to my first semester of my sophomore year at UCLA. I had declared sociology on a whim; simply thinking “I wanted to study people” (on my application to Berkley, where I was also accepted, I had declared psychology!). I happened to pass a flier in hall on campus, advertising an opportunity to engage in intensive writing. This appealed to me, as I thought I might want to be a writer, or at any rate I thought it was prudent to have strong writing skills.

The program turned out to be the first Ethnographic Immersion Quarter, where all of my courses were focused around coming to terms with an ethnographic study that I would write based on observations in an elementary school. The lead professor for the course was Robert Emerson, the professor for the substantive portion of the course (focusing on education) was Julia Wrigley, my TA was Linda Shaw and my writing professor was Rachel Frets. About five years later, I was fortunate to work on a book with Emerson, Fretz and Shaw called *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes* that now has become a classic.

Based on my deep interest and success in this course, Bob Emerson hired me in my junior year as a National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Fellow to work with him on a research team to study how people represent themselves in civil court. This then led to graduate school at UCLA, where Emerson served as my mentor, and I was also privileged to work with Jack Katz, Melvin Polaner and Harold Garfunkel. These experiences were all exciting, enriching and gratifying, and I continue to be grateful to be able to pursue my passion for sociology.

**The Department of Sociology is Proud to Present**

## **Sociology talks** **A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES FROM VOICES** **IN THE FIELD**

**Fall 2016**

Paul Maginn  
Sr, Lecturer, University of Western Australia  
“The Regulation of Commercial Sex in Northern Ireland”  
Mon., September 12TH 1:40PM – 2:55PM RM. 9.64NB (New Bldg. 9th Flr. Conf. Room)

Jan Yager  
Skill Building Workshop  
“All attendees receive her book!”  
Wed., September 14TH 9:00AM – 12:00PM RM. 630HH  
(Harren Hall/Tbldg. 6th Flr)

John Hipp  
Professor, Department of Criminology, Law and Society,  
Planning, Policy and Design and Sociology, University of  
California, Irvine  
“The Spatial Scale of Crime”  
Thurs., October 13TH 1:40PM – 2:55PM RM. 520.28HH  
(Harren Hall/Tbldg. 5th Flr. Soc. Conf. Room)

Sylvie Frignon  
Professor of Criminology & Social Sciences, University of  
Ottawa  
“The Art of Doing Criminology” Symposium  
Tues., October 25TH 9:00AM – 4:30PM RM. 52.0.28HH  
(Harren Hall/Tbldg. 5th Flr. Soc. Conf. Room)

Keramet Reiter  
Asst.Prof. of Criminology, Law and Society and Law,  
University of California, Irvine  
Book Talk “Supermax Prisons”  
Thurs., November 10Th 1:40PM – 2:55PM RM. Student  
Dining Hall East NB (New Bldg. Cafeteria entrance)

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT ALL EVENTS!**

**We gratefully acknowledge the Office for the Advancement  
of Research at John Jay College for Funding this Event**

# Fall '16 Sociology Talks

Paul Maginn, Sr. Lecturer, University of Western Australia/Talk:  
"The Regulation of Commercial Sex in Northern Ireland"  
(photo right)



Jan Yager, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Skills  
Building Workshop. All attendees received her book  
**Put Time on Your Side** (photo right)



Sylvie Frignon, Professor of Criminology & Social  
Sciences, University of Ottawa/ Talk: "The Art of  
Doing Criminology" Symposium (photo right)



Keramet Reiter (John Jay Alum!) Assistant Professor of  
Criminology, Law and Society and Law, University of  
California, Irvine/ Book Talk "Supermax Prisons" (photos  
below)



# Why I Became a Sociologist

## Sociological Origins: Durkheim 101

By Richard Lovely

My earliest recollection of awakening to the power of sociological insight happened one memorable night waiting to see Apollo 11 take off for the moon. At the time, I was in the Army and had the luck to be in Titusville, Florida along with a few hundred thousand other people squeezed into every available space along the Indian River. We were all there to see the launch, which was due to occur first thing in the morning. It ended up being a magical all night party with the Apollo rocket lit up on the launching pad across the river on Cape Canaveral with the waiting full moon behind.

Next to the spot I had claimed for the night was a fellow who had come from Chicago just to see the launch. He was an assistant principal at a high school there who served as the school disciplinarian. We got to talking about the challenges of his job and he explained he was in the process of figuring out his strategy to manage students for the upcoming school year. I thought it was remarkable that he figured he could manage their behavior but he said he had a theory that seemed to work.

First, he believed misbehavior by students was inevitable and necessary to allow the reluctant ones to blow off steam and resist the authority that compelled them to attend school. However, he said he had found he could channel that inevitable behavior. The key insight was no matter where you set the rules students would test their boundaries and when they reached them push to expand them. So the trick was to set rules that you could vigorously enforce and would be taken seriously but the violation of which while a genuine nuisance were ultimately tolerable. If you set fairly tight boundaries students do not have to go very far to break them. When that happens you need to push back with measured resistance for if you are lenient they will only push you to be ever more so. Once you get lax beyond tolerable limits it is very difficult to restore the prior rules, especially with a given cohort. He said dress codes along with rules about going to the restroom and smoking were examples of good control tools. He joked that they just couldn't be found out to be ploys so he had to take violations seriously.

I thought the idea was remarkable and realized that his theory likely is in play in the military and even in families. The realization that rules and their enforcement could be so malleable to affect behavior stuck with me. I don't know if the assistant principal had ever studied sociology, but years later I would realize this insight was essentially a sociological view of deviance and its control. In the meantime, that conversation changed the way I looked at the world around me.

When I returned to college at the University of South Florida under the GI Bill, I wasn't sure what I would major in but because of the high tech training I had obtained while in the Army, I tried computer science.



The rub was I did not take to the large lecture sections and the way programming was being taught but I very much wanted to learn computing. I befriended one of the user service techs at the computer center who set me up with a student account that gave me access to terminals and the mainframe normally given on to computer science majors. I was the first non-computer science major to get such an account. This allowed me to continue my penchant to know and use

technology (which explains how I would become the director of the Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity program at John Jay).

Meanwhile, I was also taking a sociology course called Social Problems that I thought was great. I followed that with a course in research methods that really rang my bell. These courses made me believe that we could solve social problems through research and policy. This was in the early days of using computers for social science research and I found myself coaching sociology faculty to use the mainframe computer for their research instead of the clunky punch card sorters they had been using to tabulate results.

My return to college after a five-year hiatus proved easy. I approached my coursework every day like a good job in contrast to the lackluster effort and interest I had right out of high school. Indeed, my experience on that score has led me to often advise students to drop out of school if they are not succeeding up to their potential and only bother to return when they are ready.

While I thrived as a sociology major when I finally got my BA, ten years after graduating from high school, I had no notion about going to graduate school. That

would need a couple of nudges that were to come. Instead I was recruited by the U.S. Secret Service due to my technical portfolio from military service and assigned to the Tampa field office. After I had finished my training as a special agent, given I still had unused GI Bill benefits and lived near the university, I enrolled in a graduate course in sociology at USF.

Two comments in casual conversations precipitated an ontological shift. The first was from my mentor special agent with whom I spent a lot of time. One day he quipped, "Richard, you're too smart for this job." Not long after that tweak, I had another in a conversation with a USF professor who was a demographer. He knew I had excelled in an undergraduate course I took with him. The ironic thing about it was for my high school yearbook I put down I wanted to be an actuary, which is close to being a demographer. He thought that was great but shared some plaintiff advice that I well remember, "Just don't become an expert in something you don't want to do for the rest of your career." Then out of the blue he suggested I might think about getting a PhD in demography at Princeton.

What? Princeton? PhD? Demography? Me? Both the idea that an academic career might suit me and that I would be competitive for a fancy place like Princeton were jolts.

Ultimately, I decided to pursue a career as a sociologist with the confidence that through sociology I could help make the world a better place. Rather than demography, however, I accepted a full fellowship to a doctoral program that better fit my background: Deviance, Law and Social Control in the sociology department at Yale. This was a dramatic leap for someone who was the first person in his family to graduate from college and had once almost flunked out.

A lesson learned from this tale is that sometimes what we casually learn from others can have a subtle but huge effect on our life course. Another is that careers rarely evolve in a straight line and you can bumble your way toward having a satisfying one. Just be prepared when opportunities arise, whether to watch a space shot, get a computer account, apply for a fellowship, or, most of all, have a good conversation.

A fun fast-forward to a couple of years ago. A friend from graduate school days, who I had not seen for twenty years, thanked me for a theory I had shared with him about raising children when he got married which he said he had tested and it worked for his three kids. I was flattered but did not recall what it could have been. He reminded me how I claimed mindful setting of norms for children could let parents manage their inevitable tests of rules and authority. Oh! For that pearl of parenting, I had to cite that assistant principal and long before him, I would ultimately realize, someone named Durkheim.

**The Department of Sociology is Proud to Present**

## **Sociology talks**

### SPRING 17 SOCIOLOGY LINE-UP

**SPEAKER** Catherine Benoit, Professor of Anthropology at Connecticut College  
**TALK:** *Fortress Europe's Far-Flung Walls: "Illegality and the Deportation in France's Atlantic and Indian Ocean Territories Regime"*  
**DATE:** Feb 15, 2017

**SPEAKER** William Force, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Western New England University  
**TALK:** *I am the Danger: White Masculinity's Sociopathology*  
**DATE:** Feb. 6, 2017

**SPEAKER** Susan Dewey, Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Wyoming  
**TALK:** Book Talk: *The Criminal Justice-Social Services Alliance: A Punitive Therapeutic Paradox for Street Involved Women*  
**DATE:** March 22, 2017

**SPEAKER** PROF. JOHN PFAFF, FORDHAM LAW  
**TALK:** Book release *Locked In: The True Causes of Mass Incarceration—and How to Achieve Real Reform*  
**DATE:** TBA

**SPEAKER** Professor Amy Adamczyk, Professor of Sociology, John Jay College  
**TALK:** Book Release: *Examining Tolerance for Homosexuality: A Cross-national Analysis.*  
**DATE:** TBA

**SPEAKER** Henry Pontell, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, John Jay College  
**TALK:** Book Release: *Financial Crime and Crises in the Era of False Profits*  
**DATE:** TBA

### REFRESHMENTS SERVED AT ALL EVENTS!

**We gratefully acknowledge the Office for the Advancement of Research at John Jay College for Funding this Event**