

Southbound Scholarship

Latin America Provides Fertile Ground for Faculty, Students

For John Jay faculty and students, Latin America continues to be a dynamic and growing area of scholarly research and academic and cultural exchange, although changes — presumably for the better — are in the wind.

The five-decade-old U.S. economic embargo of Cuba is largely still in force, although low-key academic and cultural exchanges have been occurring for some time, according to John Jay College faculty members with ties to Cuba who have conducted research there.

The contacts that have been cultivated over time through research projects, conferences and one-on-one interactions with Cuban counterparts could serve as the foundation for an official relationship between John Jay and Cuban institutions, speculated Assistant Professor John Gutierrez of the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies. “We have the faculty and staff in place to take advantage of future opportunities,” said Gutierrez, whose scholarly specialization is the



Professor Lisandro Pérez (right) and his study-abroad class in Havana.

role of Cuba’s public-health infrastructure in fighting diseases like tuberculosis and malaria in the 19th century. “I think we are in a fantastic position — possibly better positioned than any other CUNY campus — to lead the

future CUNY presence in Cuba.”

Gutierrez is one of several John Jay faculty members who are taking advantage of gradually increasing opportunities for on-site research in Cuba, and who see John Jay as having an edge in this regard in the years ahead.

Benjamin Lapidus, an associate professor in the Department of Art and Music, is an accomplished jazz musician and composer whose music is heavily influenced by the Caribbean rhythms he heard as a youth. He has traveled to Cuba “at least 20 times,” by his estimation, and he sees the island nation as a place where rich cultural exchanges can occur, especially if more Cuban academicians and students can come to America.

Professor Lisandro Pérez, chair of the Department of Latin American and

Latina/o Studies, led about a dozen John Jay students on an immersive, three-week study-abroad trip to Cuba. One of the participating students, Eduardo Garcia, a Public Administration major, said of the experience, “Traveling to Cuba gave me the opportunity to see firsthand how Cuba has managed to maintain sovereignty for so long under the constant threat from the U.S.”

Establishing the kinds of criminal justice programs John Jay has in place with other foreign institutions will require a cautious, thoughtful approach when it comes to Cuba, Pérez observed. “Criminal justice, which is John Jay’s signature and identity, is an area where there has been very little contact with Cuba in terms of the U.S. That doesn’t mean it can’t happen, but it will take greater examination into how John Jay might complement Cuban institutions in that area,” he said.

Sociology Professor David Brotherton has long been active as a researcher and scholar in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2008, Brotherton and Professor Luis Barrios of the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies visited Brazil and Colombia, where they interviewed people involved in problems of youth violence and its relationship to structural violence. “I’ve been looking at this for a long time,” said Brotherton, “but what is interesting is that our critical criminological work has begun to influence policy in locales such as Ecuador, where the government started to recognize gangs as youth cultural associations in an effort to avoid the criminalization process.”

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Associate Professor Ben Lapidus (2nd from right) and members of his band, Sonido Isleño.

H₂Ohh My!

Wastewater Offers Clues to Drug Activity

What's in New York City's wastewater? Drugs, quite likely, and two assistant professors of toxicology, Marta Concheiro-Guisan and Shu-Yan Cheng, want to find out what kind, and how much.

The pilot project by the two faculty members is intended to establish a profile of drugs in the city's wastewater. They explain that wastewater epidemiology, an innovative research methodology for estimating drug consumption, has the potential to provide objective information and a general overview of drug activity in a particular community.

"It's still a new science. The last time this approach was studied and applied was approximately 10 years ago," said Concheiro-Guisan. Drug use is still primarily estimated through questionnaires, surveys and other self-reported information.

By analyzing the amount and type of drugs in wastewater, the level of illegal drugs being used in a community can now be tested in real time. "With this approach, we can quickly and accurately identify drug patterns," Cheng notes. "One of our aims is to see the wastewater before and after major holidays as alcohol and drug use are common during the holiday season."

Their study will develop and validate processes specifically for detecting marijuana — in order to see the effects of New York's recent medical marijuana bill — and prescription opioids — to track the dramatic rise in use and abuse of prescription pain medication. "The legalization of marijuana has been a hot topic and we want to study the status of illegal consumption of marijuana before its legalization takes place," said Concheiro-Guisan.

One of the main challenges in conducting this research is the limited access to wastewater treatment plants. Currently, there are 14 wastewater treatment plants in New York that treat 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day. "We want to col-



Assistant Professor Marta Concheiro-Guisan



Assistant Professor Shu-Yan Cheng

lect raw material by obtaining water samples that have not yet been treated," said Concheiro-Guisan.

"So far, we have had access to the Queens wastewater plant, and collected water from the Hudson and East Rivers," she added. "We will also be looking at various dirty water locations and sewage water overflow areas." Concheiro-Guisan and Cheng plan to expand their research focus to other drugs such as cocaine, amphetamines, over-the-counter medication and antidepressants. They hope that their findings will help shape new policy with effective resource allocation and the creation of targeted public health campaigns.

Building on a Top-Shelf Track Record

For more than 50 years, the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency (JRCD) has served as an international forum for critical analyses of theories and concepts covering the full range of criminal justice issues.

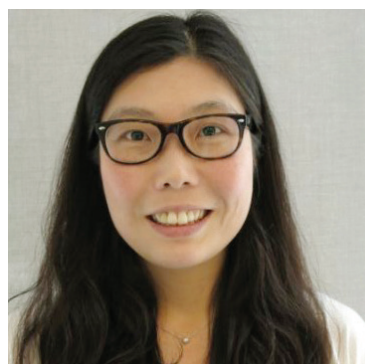
JRCD is a peer-reviewed academic journal, published under the leadership of Professor of Criminal Justice Michael Maxfield, an expert in environmental criminology and crime analysis. "Today, JRCD is among the top four journals in the field of criminology and criminal justice," he says.

Maxfield is the author of numerous diverse articles and books in the field. "We publish six issues a year and focus on a special issue every year. In our most recent issue, we focused on

Broken Windows policing featuring George L. Kelling, who first introduced the theory," he noted.

Also on Maxfield's list of special issues for future publications are criminal careers and religion in criminology. After spending the past summer conducting research in China, he also plans to have an issue of the journal focusing on crime and criminal justice in the world's most populous country.

Maxfield teaches a Ph.D. class on journal publishing, where he first met current JRCD managing editor Chunrye Kim. Doctoral student mentorship and involvement is part of what sets the JRCD apart from the rest of the scholarly field. "I was a Pinkerton Fellow and had Professor Maxfield as my



JRCD Managing Editor Chunrye Kim

mentor," said Kim. "When I took his journal publishing course, I learned how scholarly journals operate and how to write and respond to reviews. I was really eager to learn more and get hands-on experience."

"As a Ph.D. student, this position allows me to get an in-depth overview of the journal publication process. I get to interact with authors and learn about new trends, methods and data collection," said Kim, who graduated from Chung-Ang University in Seoul, South Korea, and also holds an M.A. in Criminology from John Jay.

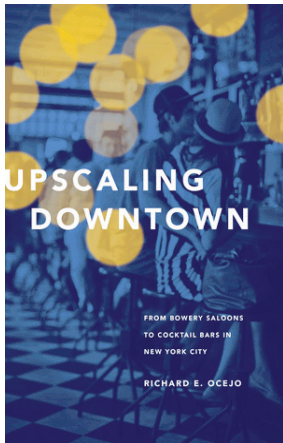
"Chunrye keeps the operation running," said Jeffrey Butts, Director of the John Jay Research & Evaluation Center. "She reaches out to peer-reviewers, asks them to offer their critiques, and handles all communications." The REC is the editorial home of the journal, said Butts, adding, "We are happy to have the journal affiliated with the Center as it gives us more visibility."

The Bowery's Upward Arc:

Shining a Light on Downtown Nightlife

Four years in the making, Professor Richard Ocejo's book, *Upscaling Downtown: From Bowery Saloons to Cocktail Bars in New York City* (Princeton University Press, 2014), examines the perspectives of a wide range of groups who have been socially or economically affected by the changing bar and nightlife scene of the Lower East Side, East Village, and Bowery.

"As a young graduate student, I needed a field site for my ethnography course, and I chose a bar I had recently become acquainted with because I found its diverse array of customers interesting," Ocejo said. "From there the project expanded from being about the culture of a single bar to how we can understand the consequences of neighborhood change through the lens of nightlife scenes and cultures."



Ocejo, an assistant professor of sociology, studied residents, community leaders and neighborhood activists, bar owners, bartenders, customers, bouncers, local elected officials, agency officials and the police. "Many of the people in these groups don't trust

the others and/or they have strong negative opinions of them. It took a while for me to figure out all the relationships and to not come off as advocating for any particular group," he said.

In a clear, engaging style, Ocejo argues that the gentrifying neighborhoods of postindustrial cities are influenced by upscale commercial projects, causing significant conflicts for the people involved. "One of the key findings in the book is that neighborhoods can gentrify to the point where the residents fighting the process are not only their existing low-income groups, which we know much about from the literature, but early waves of gentrifiers intent on preserving what they consider to be 'their' neighborhood," he noted.

"This group will protest gentrification, and its related process of nightlife growth, despite not making any progress in this regard," he added. "I also found that bars and nightlife scenes are no longer simply places of leisure in today's cities, but have become tools of



The Bowery, looking uptown, early 1970s.

urban growth, or aspects of urban culture that city leaders use to make their cities more attractive to newcomers, visitors, and investors."

Ocejo found the Bowery fascinating to study because of its history and dramatic transformation in a brief span of time. "Even when I started my research in 2004, the Bowery itself still had a lot of empty storefronts, no new construction, and a noticeable homeless presence. By the time I was done there, people with a lot of capital were clearly investing in the neighborhood. This trend has continued today. The street looks almost nothing like it did. It really encapsulates a lot of what I discuss in the book in microcosm," he said.

After completing this research, Ocejo examined the traditionally low-status manual labor, service and light manufacturing jobs that have been reinvented as "cool" jobs with greater status in the new economy, to the extent that people from educated backgrounds are seeking them out as careers. "I studied cocktail bartenders, craft distillers, men's barbers, and whole



Assistant Professor Richard Ocejo

animal butchers. I'm currently under contract with Princeton again to write a book based on this work," he said.

Comments? Questions? Suggestions?

Send them to Daniel Stageman, Director of Research Operations,
Office of Advancement of Research, Room 601 BMW.
e-mail: dstageman@jjay.cuny.edu

GRANTS UPDATE

JEFFREY BUTTS (Research and Evaluation Center), \$150,000 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, for “Evidence Generation for Youth Services.” Also, \$33,333 from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, for the study “Assessing Infrastructure of Behavioral Health Services in New York City.”

CYNTHIA CALKINS (Psychology), \$3,000 from the Department of Justice via Fairleigh Dickinson University, for the study “Campus Sexual Misconduct: Using Perpetrator Risk Assessment and Tailored Treatment to Individualize Sanctioning.”

ANTHONY CARPI (Sciences), \$254,848.63 from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, for “A Mechanistic Investigation of Reduction and Volatilization of Mercury Contaminants in Soil at the Oakridge Y-12 National Security Complex.”

PREETI CHAUHAN (Psychology), \$872,587 from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, for the Misdemeanor Justice Project – II.

MARLA CONCHERO-GUISAN, YI HE and **SHU-YUAN CHENG** (Sciences), \$190,000 from the Shimadzu Corporation, equipment grants for the Research Mass Spectrometry Program.

LISSETTE DELGADO-CRUZATA (Sciences), \$12,158 from the National Institutes of Health via Columbia University, for “The Undergraduate Research Program to Promote Diversity in Environmental Health Sciences.”

JOSHUA FREILICH (Criminal Justice), \$174,917 from the National Institute of Justice via Michigan State University, for “An Assessment of Extremist Groups’ of Web Forums, Social Media, and Technology to Enculturate and

Radicalize Individuals to Violence.” Also, \$45,036 from the Department of Homeland Security via the University of Maryland, for “Improvements, Updates, and Support for the TEVUS Portal.”

STEPHEN HANDELMAN (Center on Media, Crime and Justice), \$99,397 from Solutions Journalism Network Inc., for “Reducing and Preventing Violence: Strengthening Journalism About What Works.” Also, \$63,839.47 from the Inter American Development Bank, for the project “Communicating Justice: A Workshop for Senior Public Affairs Specialists and Managers in Law Enforcement, Interior Ministries and other Official Entities in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Maria Hartwig (Psychology), \$184,503.19 from the Department of Justice via the FBI, for her study of “Implicit Influences in Investigative Interviews: Expansion and Cross-cultural Validation.”

MARTIN HORN (Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration), \$99,682 from the Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation, for “Approaches to Reforming Long-Term Isolation: A Convening to Further a National Consensus on Ending the Over-Use of Extreme Isolation.”

ANN JACOBS (Prisoner Reentry Institute), \$200,000 from the Ford Foundation, to support “Corridors of College Success: the Prison to College Initiative.” Also \$18,750 from the Fortune Society Inc., for the College Readiness Program.

DAVID KENNEDY (Center for Crime Prevention and Control), \$1,607,270 from the Department of Justice (Office on Violence Against Women), for the “National Network for Safe Communities: An Approach to Reducing Serious Domestic Violence.” Also, \$1,000,000 from the Department of Justice (Office of Juvenile Justice

and Delinquency Prevention), for the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. Also, \$1,200,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, to support the Chicago Group Violence Reduction Strategy. Also, \$182,217 from the City of Paterson, N.J., for the project “Reducing Serious Violence in Paterson, New Jersey.” Also, \$210,950 from the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, for the project “Reducing Serious Violence in Savannah, Georgia.” Also, \$319,440 from the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services, for the project “Gun-Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE).”

ANRU LEE (Anthropology), \$35,159.20 from the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, for “The Afterlife of Women Workers: How

Postindustrial Taiwan Contributes to the Study of Gender and Global Capitalism.”

SILVIA MAZZULA (Psychology), \$37,409 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention via the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene Inc., for her study “Context and Ethnic Diversity: Children’s Responses to 9/11.”

STEVEN PENROD (Psychology), \$17,595 from the National Science Foundation via Barnard College, for his research into “The Responsibility of Judges to Assure Due Process: Tension among Neutrality, Rights Protection, and Role.”

JASON RAUCEO (Sciences), \$117,672 from the National Institutes of Health, for his study of “Pathogenic Yeast Stress Signaling Networks.”

Latin American Doors Open for John Jay *Aided by Cuba-U.S. Thaw*

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The influence of Barrios and Brotherton’s work carries on apace throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Their book *The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City Gang* (Columbia University Press, 2004) will be published in Spanish by the University of Central America in El Salvador in February 2016. They have also been asked to help the university establish a new graduate program in Critical Criminology.

Brotherton’s current research examines the impact of the national public security initiative on street gangs in Ecuador. “I am particularly looking at the theory and practices of holistic policing and social inclusion which this policy mandates,” said Brotherton.

In addition, Brotherton will facilitate five workshops on crime and social control in Trinidad, in conjunction with the University of Trinidad and Tobago. The workshops, scheduled for October 2016, will examine a wide range of subjects including gangs, vio-

lence and social control, drug policy, domestic violence, prison reform, and white-collar crime.

Other faculty activity in the Latin America/Caribbean region includes the forthcoming book *Border Constructions, Mass Murder, and Nation-Building in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1961* by Assistant Professor Edward Paulino of the Department of History, and substantial State Department-funded studies of police practices in Colombia, Mexico and Panama by Professor Dennis Jay Kenney of the Department of Criminal Justice.

To be sure, John Jay’s engagement with Latin America is a two-way street. This past summer, in a project coordinated by the Office of International Studies and Programs, members of the Inter-American Development Bank’s Citizen Security and Justice team visited John Jay for a three-day training course on “Crime Prevention: From Knowledge to Action.” The program included site visits as well as workshops on such topics as youth violence intervention and alternatives to incarceration.

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