Note from the editors:

We have been busy over the summer months putting together the inaugural Sociology Newsletter, and are very excited to share with you who we are, and what we do, as a vibrant academic department at John Jay. This first edition reveals the broad array and diverse interests of our faculty and students, as they engage their sociological imaginations in researching numerous and complex social issues that affect communities both domestically and abroad.

In this issue you will meet some of the Sociology department faculty and read about their journeys to becoming sociologists, as well as their research and achievements. It also contains articles about study abroad programs and various student activities.

We hope that you find the Sociology Department Newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome you to submit pieces for upcoming issues. We look forward to sharing more news and stories about our students and faculty with you again soon! We would also like to thank John Jay student Rochelle Walker for her help with an earlier draft of this Newsletter.

Please send news, updates, and information about upcoming events to newsletter editors before December 31st, 2015:

Jana Arsovska @ jarsovska@jjay.cuny.edu
Gail Garfield @ ggarfield@jjay.cuny.edu

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And so much more!
Dear Students:

To those of you returning, welcome back, and to our new students, welcome to the fields of sociology, criminology and dispute resolution, all in one department at John Jay!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer, and are eager to begin your studies this fall. Since arriving at John Jay from the University of California, Irvine (where I was for over 35 years, after leaving NY) in January, I have not only been quite busy learning the ropes and helping move the Sociology Department forward, but have also been truly delighted by all the students I have had the pleasure to meet, assist, and teach during this short time. I feel privileged to be able to work with my new colleagues here and am in awe of the hard work, dedication and excellence of our faculty in their efforts to provide you with the best and most diverse curriculum and research opportunities possible.

We plan on continuing and expanding those efforts (as you’ll see in this newsletter), and have a number of great new events planned for this year in addition to interesting and diverse colloquia. These include student gatherings each semester featuring presentations and discussions with major figures in the fields of sociology and criminology as well as student town halls where you can provide feedback on your experiences with us. Your voices are an extremely valuable part of maintaining an excellent curriculum and educational experience, and we invite you to join us in those efforts. You will hear more from our Sociology and Criminology Major Coordinators (Professors Bob Garot and Lou Kontos) about these events soon.

On a more personal note, as I am new to most of you, I grew up in Elmhurst, Queens, and attended SUNY Stony Brook where I received all my degrees. I was very fortunate to have a number of great mentors who encouraged my career. While in graduate school I completed my doctoral dissertation on criminal deterrence while working as a research associate at the then newly-opened Stony Brook Medical Center, where I had the opportunity to work with medical sociologists and physicians conducting studies on emergency medical service delivery in Suffolk County, NY. I later became immersed in the field of white-collar and corporate crime during my time at UC, Irvine. I have not lost my NY accent (or sense of sarcasm) after living in California for over three decades, which pleases me immensely. I’ve done a lot of international and comparative work as well, and have lived in China, Japan, and Australia during my studies. Researching various social issues in global and comparative perspective has been a highly rewarding experience, and is also one of our Department’s main educational emphases, which we encourage you to pursue as well.

This is the inaugural run of our new Department Newsletter, which we hope will give you additional insight into who we are and what we do in Sociology. Our collective thanks go to Professors Jana Arsovska and Gail Garfield, and John Jay student Rochelle Walker for their tremendous efforts in putting together our first issue!

I encourage you to get to know as many of us in the Department as possible during your studies, and to take advantage of the educational and research opportunities both the College and we can offer. Stopping by during instructor office hours in the fall (which will be posted shortly on our website) would be a great way to personally interact with us.

Again, welcome back, and I wish you all the best for continued success in your studies!

Henry N. Pontell
Distinguished Professor and Chair
Journey to Becoming a Sociologist

By Professor Richard E. Ocejo

My journey began on the first day of the first semester of my freshman year of college. My school assigned me “SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology.” It was pure luck, because who knows if I would have signed up for it otherwise. Early in the semester we read “The Promise,” the first chapter of The Sociological Imagination, by C. Wright Mills, and I was completely hooked. At 17 I didn’t have a vocabulary yet for understanding the new world I was in, the one I grew up in, or the one I was hearing about through the media and my own limited experiences. But after reading this book (which I still assign in almost every course I teach) and taking the course, I had the beginnings of the “habit of mind” to do so. I declared my major in sociology that spring.

I went through college taking sociology courses on a variety of topics like the family, work, and education. I also thoroughly enjoyed my theory and research methods courses. But overall the major left me wanting more. I never focused on one topic in particular, and felt I never got the chance to really dive in to my own research. I got a solid overview of the field, but wanted to learn how to actually do sociology. With this motivation, and without any other career in mind, I decided to apply for a Ph.D. program.

When I started graduate school, I still didn’t really know what I wanted to focus on. I was very politically conscious and had a lot of interests, but I didn’t yet have a passion for any specific topic. I found it in the spring semester of my second year, when I took a course on ethnography. I’m a native New Yorker and I went to college and graduate school in New York. But it wasn’t until I took this course that I realized I was really interested in questions about the city around me. Issues like urban change were right under my nose, and it took a course that forced me to stop reading and see them for myself to get me to realize it. It was a very hands-on course. We were required to find a field site for our semester-long projects and visit it regularly. I chose a bar I thought was interesting and learned about the people who went and worked there. More importantly, I fell in love with the act of studying people doing what they normally do where they normally do it. After two years of studying this bar, I decided to do what sociologists are always trying to do: connect the behavior we see happening on the ground with social forces that are happening all around us to make some kind of interesting argument about it. So I left the bar to focus on the neighborhood and city in which it was located. I wanted to study how the bar’s urban context was playing some kind of role on the behavior inside of it to understand it better. I ended up with a dissertation research topic on gentrification as examined through the lens of bars and nightlife scenes. And it started when I finally got to get out into the real world and use my sociological imagination to see what was happening from a unique and informed angle.

How I think about what I see in the city in my daily life continues to drive my work. We’re living in a tumultuous time as residents of New York City. Basically, I’m interested in how different groups of people in the city are dealing with all the changes happening around them, such as when their neighborhood gentrifies and becomes more expensive, or when what it means to have a “good” job shifts along with the city’s economy. I want to see how they deal with it and hear what they have to say about it.
Journey to Becoming a Sociologist

By Professor Barry Spunt

My journey started right after I graduated high school and went off to college, way back in 1966. In one way or another, I’ve been a sociologist ever since then. I grew up in suburban Boston, in an all-white community. Life was all about conformity and conservatism. It was horrible, and I was miserable. Everyone in my family was involved in retail business, but even as a little kid I knew this wasn’t for me. It was only when I went away to college that I started to develop any sort of social and political consciousness. Enormous changes were occurring in American society. There really was ‘revolution in the air’: The counterculture, the anti-war and Black Power movements – it was all very intense. I needed to understand what was going on ‘out there’.

So off I go to college (at UMass/Amherst), and I started taking some sociology classes. There were no sociology courses offered at the high school I went to, but I knew what sociology was about and I figured that studying sociology was probably a good way to help me understand what was happening in society.

By end of my freshman year I had to declare a major, and sociology was an easy choice for me (although I did consider psychology as a major for about two minutes). During my college years labeling theory was popular, and I read quite a bit in that area. Demography was big at UMass, and I got into that too. I got the chance to take a course (“Race Relations”) with William Julius Wilson! (He hated the Amherst area, felt the community was racist).

And as I’m getting more and more into sociology, out there in the real world, things kept getting heavier and heavier. ‘Tricky Dick Nixon’ became president. Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated. In my last month of college (May, 1970), students were murdered at Kent State (by the National Guard) and at Jackson State (by the city and state police).

After spending some time travelling around the country and not doing much of anything, I decided to go to graduate school, and for me it was just a matter of which graduate sociology program to enroll in. At that point in my life, I never even considered getting a Ph.D.; I felt that was way beyond something I was capable of doing. I discovered a program that turned out to be just right for me. The UMass Graduate School of Education had an MAT – Master of Arts in Teaching – program that was designed to prepare people to teach at the community college level, and sociology was one of the areas of focus. It was comparable to a regular MA except that instead of writing a thesis, students took however many credits in education and did an internship by teaching an introductory course in the chosen discipline at a nearby community college (in Holyoke, Mass).

I liked teaching a lot, and I got a job at Williamsport (PA) Community College. I taught Sociology there full-time for three years. I lost the job because of budget cuts, and then I got another teaching job in Williamsport; I ran a small program teaching individuals with developmental disabilities who had made it out of institutions and group homes the basic skills needed to survive independently in the community.

Professor Jana Arsovska’s new book Decoding Albanian Organized Crime: Culture, Politics, and Globalization, is the winner of the 2015 Outstanding Book Award from the Division on International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. In this theoretically and empirically vibrant portrait of a global phenomenon, Jana Arsovska examines some of the most widespread myths about the so-called Albanian Mafia.
Then I decided it was time to go for the Ph.D. I got accepted to a number of sociology programs but I chose Fordham – it was in New York City (in the Bronx), the program was small and manageable, and I just liked the whole vibe of the place. My second semester there I got linked up with NDRI, a drug research institute, and worked there while I was getting my degree.

I had a long run at NDRI -12 years full-time, then 8 years part-time. I interviewed and hung out with literally hundreds of heroin misusers at methadone programs and at a fieldsite in the Lower East Side. Over a period of about 5 years I spent a good deal of time inside state prisons interviewing men and women who were incarcerated for homicide. These were studies run by sociologists, and then when I got my Ph.D., run by me. NDRI is where I learned how to write grant applications, a good trick to have in your trick bag.

In 1992 an NDRI colleague mentioned that they needed adjuncts at the Sociology Department at John Jay. I decided to give it a try, and I enjoyed it. After a semester a couple of full-time lines opened, and I applied and got one of the positions. I’ve been at John Jay ever since.

I think I’ve had a good run here. I’ve had the chance to teach and otherwise have an impact on hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students; conduct and participate in some pretty interesting research studies; and go to a lot of very fascinating places, all over the world. I intend to keep this going for as long as I can; I’m definitely in no rush to retire.

Looking back, I have no doubt about the choice I made to become a sociologist. It was just the right move for me.

Professor Barry Spunt’s new book Heroin and Music in New York City was published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2014.

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Professor Jayne Mooney’s paper ‘A Tale of Two Regicides’ was published in the European Journal of Criminology’s special edition on history and crime; she has recently received funding to continue with her historical research on social resistance and crime and has submitted a paper on first wave feminism for a forthcoming volume on crime and criminal justice history, published by Polity Press.

Tale of Two Regicidies explores the two distinct cases of regicides between Robert François Damiens against Louis XV and Margaret Nicholson against George III.

Since September, 2014, Jayne has been part of a collaborative project with Dr. Jenny Pearce of the University of Bedfordshire’s International Centre: Researching Child Sexual Exploitation, Violence and Trafficking, which has involved reviewing the international work and research on child sexual exploitation. She was also elected as an executive counselor to the American Society of Criminology’s Critical Criminology Division. With respect to teaching activities, this year Jayne has been involved in the development of online undergraduate courses for the department.
The Sociology Department of John Jay College has a distinguished faculty of internationally known scholars in sociology, criminology, dispute resolution, and related areas and offers outstanding academic programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The department’s wide array of foundational, specialized, and interdisciplinary courses encourage students to develop a sociological understanding of the nature and structure of society and its institutions.

The major in Sociology provides students with a comprehensive understanding of sociological theories and methodologies, as well as the research and analytical skills they need to work in and contribute to today’s globally interconnected world. The major focuses on the globalized nature of our society and the intensification of inequalities and related demands for social justice. It harnesses the discipline of sociology’s ability to put such social problems in their societal context for the purposes of understanding them and contributing to their resolution.

Sociology at John Jay builds students’ knowledge of theoretical explanations of the relationship between people and their society, fosters the skills necessary to research, analyze, and communicate information about social problems, and cultivates values of empathy and understanding towards diverse groups and unequal conditions. The major also prepares those students interested in additional study for graduate programs (MA or Ph.D.) in Sociology, the growing fields of Global Studies, Urban Planning, Urban Studies, other associated social science disciplines, and law school.

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Ten John Jay students, including three freshmen, enjoyed a rare opportunity to present research at a top-flight academic conference last month, when their poster presentations were accepted for display at the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) conference in New York. At the ESS conference, held Feb. 26 – March 1, **John Jay students and faculty participated in a total of 26 sessions**, including poster presentations, paper sessions, workshops, roundtables, mini-conferences and author-meets-critics sessions. In addition, President Jeremy Travis was a participant in a Presidential Session on “The Future of Mass Incarceration.”

“Our students had truly spectacular exhibits and research presentations at the 2015 ESS conference, and we are very proud of their accomplishments,” said Professor Henry N. Pontell, the newly appointed chair of the Sociology Department. “Special thanks go to Professor Jay Pastrana and all the faculty advisors and mentors for giving our students this wonderful professional opportunity which will undoubtedly help advance their careers.” The ESS gathering is the largest regional sociology conference in the country.

The participating students, including two recent graduates, had to submit an abstract of their research to compete for a spot at the conference. Upon acceptance, they worked with Pastrana on polishing their posters and presentation skills. The three freshmen were members of First-Year Seminar sections taught by Professors Ric Curtis and Anthony Marcus. “This is unprecedented success for freshmen,” said Kate Szur, Senior Director of Student Academic Success Programs. “It shows the benefit of early research engagement, and is a testament to the research mentoring provided by the faculty.”

The student participants and their research topics were:


**Leslie Camargo** and **Scott Friebl** (freshmen). “Gender Socialization and Body Modification.” Mentor: Curtis.


**Tsvetana Muntyan** (sophomore). “LGBT Discrimination and Hate Crime in Russia: Results of the Federal Anti-LGBT Propaganda Law.” Mentor: David Green.

**Lisa Thompson** (senior, CUNY BA). “Critical Theory within Higher Education.” Mentor: Crystal Jackson
I spent three wonderful weeks at the Universitat Jaume I in Castellón de la Plana (Valencia) with 11 undergraduates from various majors (criminal justice, criminology, forensic psychology, political science, international criminal justice, and English) - ten young women and one young man. Our course was SOC/CRJ 236 Victimology, which I developed into a comparative victimology course, comparing the experiences of the United States to Spain and Europe.

I am convinced that much of this success of this experience was due to the selection of our site, based on my longstanding relationship with our academic partners there (professors of criminology, criminal and criminal procedural law at the law faculty) as well as with the city’s police chief. However, I was also blessed with a very cohesive group of high performing students who I had insisted must be bilingual to be accepted into the program. They were all of Hispanic heritage and were from the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island and none had been to Spain before.

The course was taught paperless and hybrid (half in English, half in Spanish), and my law faculty partners delivered three days of the lectures entirely in Spanish on the role of the victim in Spanish criminal and procedural law. They also selected half a dozen of their own criminology students to audit the entire course, for which they were awarded a certificate of attendance. This feature of the class made for great comparative discussions in the classroom, facilitated language acquisition on both sides and what may be lasting friendships between these students and our own.
Classes in Spain are usually too large to be very participatory and the Spanish students were surprised to be asked to contribute routinely to discussions and quite interested in the academic experiences of our students as well as their experiences with city life (including crime and victimization) in New York. We also all lived on campus in the university dormitory, which facilitated even more access to local students.

The city’s police chief facilitated free citybike and tram passes for our students as well as visits to the National Police, Local Police, Fire Department, and 24 hour Women’s Crime Victim Center. My law school colleagues facilitated visits to the Guardia Civil’s crime laboratory and to local courts to observe court hearings, and also contributed a day conference dedicated to our theme. We also visited the Superior Court of Justice in Valencia where very controversial anti-corruption cases are currently being tried, and met the President of the Court, the first woman in Spain ever to hold that post. All of these visits were conducted in Spanish with no translation. Our students were not only able to observe and absorb, but over time became increasingly adept at asking incisive questions. During the first week of our stay, we also traveled to Albacete to attend the annual conference of the Spanish Society for Criminological Research. For most of the students, this was their first academic conference.

Spain is an ideal site for expanding our U.S.-based knowledge about crime victims. Besides victims of common crimes, there are active groups of victims of Basque terrorism, of the March 11th, 2004 bombings in Madrid (linked to Al Qaeda), and there is renewed interest in the victims of the dictatorship of General Franco (1939-1975). Spain’s law on assistance to victims of terrorism is touted as a model in the international community, as is Spain’s comprehensive violence against women act. The Spanish Parliament has just passed a Victims Charter (Statute), following the legal framework set out by the European Union. Spain’s legal system is mixed accusatorial/inquisitorial and allows for third party prosecution and popular accusation.

I am keen to build on this experience for next summer and the future. I believe this was either the first, or one of a very few study abroad programs at John Jay to successfully run with a foreign language requirement, and I am convinced that this allowed our students to immerse very quickly into the local environment. In the future, I hope to further build this program by incorporating internship or service learning hours at local criminal justice sites, or fieldwork on local research projects in Castellón.
Due to the tireless efforts of its inaugural members, the Social Justice Project was certified as an official student organization last spring. Ayesha Hakim, a senior majoring in Sociology, will serve as the Social Justice Project's first president; Naomi Haber, a junior majoring in New Media and Social Justice, will serve as vice-president of the organization; Erin Gray, a junior majoring in Sociology and Political Science, will serve as the organization's secretary; and Jaimee Wilson, a junior majoring in Sociology, will serve as treasurer.

The SJ Project held its first official meeting on August 21st, 2015. In attendance at the meeting were Ayesha Hakim, Jaimee Wilson, faculty advisor Mike Rowan, Research Professor Ernie Drucker, several other John Jay students, a John Jay alumnus, and representatives from CUNY's Revolutionary Coordinating Committee. The mission of the SJ Project is to further the college's mission of "educating for justice" by "facilitating awareness about what a more just world might look like and actively working to create such a world." The members of the SJ Project are currently working hard to make its mission a reality in the coming year.

Please stay tuned for announcements of events and opportunities for outreach, engagement, and activism. For more information about the SJ Project, please contact Ayesha Hakim at ayesha.hakim@jjay.cuny.edu or Naomi Haber at nhaber415@gmail.com. The group's website (still under development) can be accessed at: https://johnjay.collegiatelink.net/organization/socialjp

Darius Vinson: In Memoriam

Darius Vinson, a John Jay student who was very near and dear to several of the Sociology faculty, unexpectedly passed away last week. Professor Rowan cites Darius as one of the principal sources of inspiration for the Social Justice Project. "Last summer, I had the tremendous pleasure of having Darius as one of my students in a course on the Sociology of Law. He was great--always prepared, always inquisitive and eager to participate in class discussions, and just a class act all the way around. After our course was over, Darius waited after class for me to talk. He had that serious look in his eye, as he so often did. He said he got everything we read and discussed in the course, but he looked despondent. He wanted to know "what can we do?" It was at that point that I knew we had to move forward with something like the Social Justice Project . . . . It was barely a couple of months ago that I wrote Darius a letter of recommendation for law school. It's sad to think we lost a great future lawyer--a lawyer who, I know, would have been on the right side of justice. He'll be deeply missed. I only hope we can do right by his memory."
Our students at the ESS!

Faculty Advisors - Sociology, Criminology, Dispute Resolution

A new Department Student Advising Guide will be up on our website soon! Students can use this to figure out how to map their major or minor, and find answers to common questions. Individual major/minor Worksheets will also be available on our website.

If students have questions after exploring the Guide and the Worksheet for their major or minor, please advise students to make appointments with a faculty advisor using AdvisorTrac. Directions for AdvisorTrac are included in the Guide and on our website.

Jay Pastrana, Bob Garot, and Crystal Jackson are faculty advisors for the sociology and criminology majors and minors. Maria Volpe is the faculty advisor for the Dispute Resolution certificate and minor.

A new course, Sociology of Sexualities (SOC 2xx) was passed last year by UCASC and College Council, and will be offered for the first time in Spring 2016! This course was developed by Professors Crystal Jackson and Jay Pastrana. Check it out!

SOC 2xx: Sociology of Sexualities
This course uses a sociological lens to explore how sexuality is socially constructed, policed, expressed, and suppressed, with particular attention to how sexuality intersects with race, gender, and class. Sexual identities—gay, straight, bisexual, or queer—and sexual behaviors are key aspects of social relationships between people, and between people and their communities, families, governments, and cultures. It will focus on U.S. society while using cross-cultural comparisons in order to examine major trends within sexualities studies.
Professor Gail Garfield: My research agenda is centered on the lives of African Americans, my intellectual inquiry is based largely on original research, and my writing is geared toward publishing books. In conducting original research, the methodology that I draw upon is epistemological in focus, because a major aspect of my inquiry rests upon examining the development and nature of knowledge, in my attempts to understand how African Americans theorize their experience. Specifically, the research questions that I pose include: how do African Americans interpret and give meaning to their experiences; and, importantly, how do they view themselves and engage their sociopolitical world, as a result of those interpretations and meanings?

The unique nature of the original data and the critical insights gained as a result has enhanced my ability to publish my work. Rutgers University Press published my first book titled, Knowing What We Know: African American Women’s Experiences of Violence and Violation, in 2005. That book answered many of my epistemological questions regarding how African American women reflect upon, theorize experiences, and the actions they take accordingly. But I still had unanswered questions regarding the significance of race, gender, and violence in shaping experiences. However, I realized that those questions did not rest upon a further inquiry into black women’s experiences, but instead, rested upon an inquiry into the lives of black men. The compelling narratives of my research appear in my second book titled, Through Our Eyes: African American Men’s Experiences of Race, Gender, and Violence, also published by Rutgers University Press in 2010. After looking closely at African American women and men’s experiences of race, gender, and violence, I decided to turn a critical sociological lens on my own personal experience, and my active engagement with those influences of black life. In doing so, that research appears in my latest book titled, Tightrope: A Racial Journey to the Age of Obama published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2014.

My current works in progress will also result in books. I am the lead editor of an anthology, with colleagues Dana Ain Davis of Queens College and Lynn Roberts of Hunter College School of Public Health. The working title of this anthology is, Black Women’s Lives Matter. This book will offer an important examination of the racial, gender, and economic disparities that reside in the marginalized spaces that black women live their daily lives, yet are often unrevealed. Additionally, I am conducting a multi-site--John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Harvard University, and Morgan State University-- and mixed method study, to examine the state of the black professoriate. The findings from that study will also be presented in a book.

Additionally, during this academic year, as a member of the American Society of Criminology, I am the Area Chair for Victimology on the Program Committee for the 2016 national conference titled The Many Colors of Crime and Justice, to be held in New Orleans. And, as a member of the Eastern Sociological Society, I have been invited to organize a special Thematic Session on race and the professoriate, titled “Between a Rock & a Hard Place: “The Black Professoriate Squeezed Between the Politics of Colorblindness and Cultural Diversity,” to be held at the 2016 regional conference in Boston and titled My Day Job: The Politics and Pedagogy of Academia.
Faculty-Sponsored CUNY Service Corps Project: Homeless Advocacy and Outreach Project ("HOAP")

This past spring, Professor Mike Rowan founded the Homeless Advocacy and Outreach Project ("HOAP"), a CUNY Service Corps Project that will enable service members to utilize their gifts to provide much-needed advocacy and support to the most disadvantaged among us. This past summer, 264 CSC members applied to HOAP, the most of any faculty-led CSC project. On June 18th and 19th, HOAP participated in the CSC Matching Fair which brought several hundred students from all the various CUNY colleges to interview with participating organizations. Of these, Prof. Rowan interviewed over 50 applicants, nine of whom (students from John Jay College, City Tech, Lehman, BMCC, and the College of Staten Island) will be working with him over the next year with various partner organizations from in and around New York City.

The CSC members will also assist Prof. Rowan in his ongoing research efforts in Jersey City and in New York City. HOAP members will also collaborate closely with John Jay's P2PH (“Punishment to Public Health”) Initiative, a consortium of researchers, students, and service providers that seeks to address “the endemic social and structural problems that lead to incarceration” and to “re-imagine the features of institutions and policymaking that will position public health interventions to be successful and held accountable to better health, safety and social outcomes.”

HOAP will endeavor to achieve these aims but with a special focus on improving policies and the implementation of services for chronically homeless individuals, including many people who suffer from mental illness and who are especially vulnerable to arrest and incarceration. HOAP will seek to participate in P2PH’S ongoing efforts “to cull current research and design a platform through which we can foster collaborative dialogue and offer technical assistance to government agencies and non-profit and private service providers” which are committed to positive social change for our society’s most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Depending on their placement, students will develop skills (e.g., interviewing clients, writing reports and policy papers, etc.) that will serve them well in preparing for various lines of work, particularly those focused on the provision of social services. Additionally, for students who go on to law school or advanced graduate studies, these experiences will--along with their other "life experiences"--place them well ahead of many of their peers who think about welfare, justice, and other such matters only or primarily in abstract of terms.

The aim for HOAP members is, in short, to help them become "fierce" but grounded "advocates for justice."

More Faculty Achievements!

Professor Andrew Karmen’s ninth edition of “Crime Victims: An Introduction to Victimology” was published by Cengage in May. His article about “How the NYPD handles crime victims” was published in a book critical of the New York City Police Department. His chapter about “How to assess the victim-friendliness of a local criminal justice system” appeared in a book honoring a major figure in victimology.
More faculty news!

**Professor David Green’s** research interests center on the interplay between media, public opinion, politics, and punishment, sometimes through a comparative lens. He recently co-edited a special issue of the journal *Punishment & Society* with Hilde Tubex from the University of Western Australia. It comprises papers written by a range of international scholars invited to convene in Perth, Australia, in 2013 to discuss the role of values and local cultures in the shaping of criminal punishment. David’s contributions to the volume are as follows:


David was also a co-PI, with Jeremy Travis and Maria Hartwig, on a $150,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to fund the Interdisciplinary Roundtable on Punitiveness in America held at John Jay in April. Its aim was to draw on the expertise of scholars from a broad range of disciplines with something useful to say about the exceptionally harsh nature of American punishment. Plans are in the works to publish some of the discussion papers, along with a few newly commissioned articles, as a special issue of a journal, which David and Maria Hartwig will help edit.

David also collaborated with colleagues from the University Delaware to publish the following:


He also has two book chapters in press, both the result of invited contributions to small conferences—one on punishment and democracy, and the second on the work of Zygmunt Bauman.


**Professor Amy Adamczyk** has a new book contract with University of California Press (*Examining Tolerance for Homosexuality: A Cross-national Analysis*). Congratulations! During the past year she published a number of articles. These are some of her most recent publications:


**Professor Maria Volpe** is the Recipient of the 2015 James E. Jones Diversity Award in recognition of efforts to expand opportunities for women and minorities in the dispute resolution! Professor James E. Jones was Nathan P. Feinsinger Professor of Labor Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School where he was the Law School’s first African-American faculty member. Professor Jones taught taught labor law and arbitration for nearly 30 years at the Law School and was a pioneer in equal employment and affirmative action policy.

Dr. Volpe is Co-Principal Investigator [with M. Bilici] in a project on The role of religion in Kurdish-Turkish Reconciliation, supported by PSC-CUNY Research Awards, 2014-2015. She is also the Co-Principal Investigator [with M. Bilici] in a project on the Kurdish Diaspora’s Response to the Turkish-Kurdish Process, supported by PSC-CUNY Research Awards, 2015-2016.

Some of her most resent presentations include:


During the last academic year, **Dr. Jana Arsovska** published her book *Decoding Albanian Organized Crime* (University of California Press) and finalized her NIJ funded project on criminal mobility, migration and transnational crime. She was invited as a keynote speaker at the First General Conference of the Standing Group on Organized Crime (SGOC), European Consortium on Political Research (ECPR). She will give her talk in Naples, Italy on December 11, 2015.

Currently Dr. Arsovska is working on her PSC CUNY funded project on migration, organized crime and strategic decision-making. In May 2015 she was nominated and elected as the new program director of the Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime and Justice (former director: Professor Rosemary Barberet). Dr. Arsovska is also a member of the ASC 2016 Conference Program Committee, Sub-Area Chair for the sessions on “Organized Crime and Corruption” under the area of “Types of Offending.”

**Dr. Henry N. Pontell** was named Editor-in-Chief of the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Crime and Criminal Justice* last spring. The first international online resource of its kind, the encyclopedia is published by Oxford University Press and will soon contain hundreds of research reviews that will be available to researchers and students worldwide. He is also Editor of the new Oxford University Press book series, *Keynotes in Criminology and Criminal Justice*, which will publish books for classroom use written by major experts in the field. The first four books (by Gilbert Geis, White-Collar and Corporate Crime; Malcolm Klein, Gangs; Peter Grabosky, Electronic Crime; and Elliott Currie, Violence in International Perspective) will be published this fall, and others on Race, Crime and Justice (Barkan) Gender and Crime (Holtfreter), Mass Incarceration (Reiter), and Financial Fraud (Tillman, Pontell and Black) are forthcoming. His latest pieces include:


This summer he gave two paper presentations; one in June at the meetings of the *Asian Criminological Society* in Hong Kong (*Economic Crime and China’s High Speed Railway: A Case Study of the Wenzhou Crash*) and another in August in Beijing at the *Sixth International Forum of Contemporary Criminal Law* co-sponsored by the Max Planck Institute and Beijing Normal University (*Corruption in China and the U.S: A Comparative Criminological Analysis*).
The Department of Sociology is proud to present Sociology Talks: A World of Possibilities from Voices in the Field. A new Department of Sociology Series for Sociology and Criminology Majors and Minors…and others who are interested! Featuring prominent speakers who explore the relevance of sociology as a field of study and the career opportunities it presents…

**Monday, October 5th**, Dwight C. Smith, Jr., Distinguished Scholar by the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime, presents “A Spectrum of Enterprise: Does Legitimacy define Business?” in the Sociology conference room (North Hall, 3rd floor). Dwight C. Smith is a retired Professor from the School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, New Jersey.

**Thursday, October 8th**, Ruth Milkman, the President of the American Sociological Association presents “Occupiers and Dreamers: Insiders and Outsiders in a New Political Generation” in L.61. Ruth Milkman is also a Distinguished Professor at the Graduate Center.

**Monday, October 19th**, Bryan Sykes presents in Student Dining Hall East. The topic of his lecture is: “Race and the Carceral State: Mass Incarceration and Social Inequality in America.” He's an Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at the UCI School of Social Ecology.

**Tuesday, November 10th**, Social Programs in Equador featuring members of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation in L.61.

**Monday, November 23rd**, Peter Grabosky presents in L.61. Peter Grabosky is a Distinguished Professor at the Australian National University. The topic of his lecture is: “Developments in Cybercrime and Cybercrime Control, 2005-2015.”

**Wednesday, November 25th**, Trevor Milton and Terry Williams present “The Con Men” in L.61. Trevor B. Milton is assistant professor in social sciences at Queensborough Community College and Terry Williams is a professor of sociology at the New School for Social Research.

**Wednesday, November 30th**, Joanna Dreby presents “Everyday Illegal: When Policies Undermine Immigrant Families in Moot Court.” Joanna Dreby is Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at SUNY Albany.

All Events are held during community hour – 1.40pm to 2.50pm

Ph.D. Sociology Program Colloquium Series. More Sociology Talks!

Professor Amy Adamczyk, along with Sociology Professor Leslie Paik from City College, is helping to organize this year’s Ph.D. Sociology Program Colloquium Series. Below is the list of speakers they have recruited.

All of the talks take place on Friday afternoon beginning at 3 pm in the department’s lounge area in room 6112.04. Here is the department’s link: http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Doctoral-Programs/Sociology

Sept. 18 - Monica Prasad, Russel Sage/Northwestern
Oct. 16 - Orlando Patterson, Harvard
Nov. 20 – Tim Moran, Stony Brook
Dec. 11 – Peter Bearman, Columbia
Feb. 19 –Lauren J. Krivo, Rutgers
March 18 - Prudence Carter, Stanford
April 15 - Patricia Fernandez Kelly, Princeton
May 13 - Jocelyn Viterna, Harvard

Everyone is invited and afterwards there is a nice reception with food and wine. The first talk takes place on Friday, September 18th, 2015 with Monica Prasad. The title is “A New Measure of Inequality,” and below is her bio:

Monica Prasad is professor of sociology and faculty fellow in the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. Her book The Land of Too Much (which received the American Sociological Association's award for the best book in sociology) develops a demand-side theory of comparative political economy to explain the surprisingly large role of the state in the U.S., its origins in the 19th century revolution in agricultural productivity, and its consequences for undermining a European-style welfare state and leaving U.S. economic growth dependent on 'mortgage Keynesianism.' Her new work includes papers on neoliberalism, development, and inequality, and a book on the historical origins of the politics of tax-cutting under Ronald Reagan.

Mark your calendars: The Office for the Advancement of Research (OAR) has funded a proposal from the Sociology and Criminal Justice Departments for a John Jay reception at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Washington DC this November 2015. This would be a perfect place to highlight major accomplishments, awards, and honors of our faculty and students before a national audience of our colleagues. Please send major items to the Department Chair Henry Pontell! The event will take place in the conference hotel in the Kalorama Room on Nov. 20, 7-9 pm. Please put this on your calendars!