

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

John Jay College

SPRING 20 ISSUE

## Message from the Chair



The smooth functioning of an academic department ultimately depends on the good will of its members. Our incentives are not behaviorialist—we do not serve simply to avoid punishment or receive rewards. Rather, we give of our time and energy for many reasons that are often intangible. Throughout the past semester and throughout the years we have given of ourselves because we genuinely like our work, we want to create a positive, enriching environment for our students, and we want to give back to an institution that has given us so much, among other reasons.

Volunteering at Open House is one of those times when our spirit of volunteerism shines. Rosemary Barberet and Lizbeth Rossi tabled for International Criminal Justice; Jay Pastrana tabled for Gender Studies; Maria Volpe and Marquita James tabled for Dispute Resolution; Mucahit Bilici and Jan Yager tabled for Sociology; Lindsay Whetter and I tabled for Criminology, and Jan Yager and James Ditucci-Cappiello presented informative workshops. Furthermore, many unsung heroes have added to our department. Rosemary Barberet has lovingly maintained our plants in the conference room, Jayne Mooney and Alberto de la Tierra established our beautiful and informative Critical Criminology Display within our department and Alisa Thomas designed and implemented our tribute to faculty publications. These actions are not small or insignificant. In sum, they demonstrate the pride we have in our colleagues and our discipline, as one of the three largest departments in terms of majors and faculty, and the number one highest enrolled course at John Jay: Introduction to Sociology. We surely have a proud legacy and a strong tradition that we will continue to build for years to come.

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## NEW BOOK ALERT!



Prof. Rosemary Barberet, along w/co-editors Raquel Bartolomé and Esther Fernández Molina from the University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, has published a criminology research methods text in Spanish: *Metodología de Investigación en Criminología* (Valencia: Tirant lo Blanch, 2019). It is one of the few in Spanish available, is structured like most research textbooks and includes examples from Spain and Latin America.

Publisher's site information: <https://www.tirant.com>

The book (also an ebook) can be ordered from Amazon.es and Amazon.com.

# Welcome Back Orientation & Academic Advisement Day



Over one hundred Sociology, Criminology & Dispute Resolution students attended our Welcome Back Orientation facilitated by Chair Robert Garot, Profs. Maria Volpe, Jayne Mooney, Mucahit Bilici and Andrew Karmen, along with representatives from the Center for Professional Development and the Student Leadership programs.



Chair Robert Garot & Prof. Andrew Karmen facilitated a two day academic advising session for all Sociology and Criminology students.

# College for All Student Organizing Past and Present

*Prof. Marisa Tramontano  
& Prof. Andrew Karmen  
gave students a vital his-  
torical perspective of  
student activism in CUNY!*



# Skills Building Workshop



*Dr. Yager signs her time management books for all students attending workshop.*

Jan Yager continues to provide invaluable support, guidance and inspiration to our students through her skill building workshop and meet-the-author sessions.

**Life Skills**



# Special Classroom Visits



On Monday, December 9, 2019, Dr. Diego Redondo, Director of Public Safety and Risk Management, gave a law-enforcement career presentation to Prof. Patricia Johnson Coxx's SOC 101-55, Introduction to Sociology class where 95% of the first-year students were interested in pursuing law enforcement careers. Topics included:

- His federal law enforcement career, 21 years in the New York Office of the F.B.I.
- The application process to become a professional staff member or a Special Agent (upon college graduation) ([fbijobs.gov](http://fbijobs.gov))
- Campus Security Assistant positions at JJC and the NYS Security Guard



Bestselling poet and novelist Jimmy Santiago Baca addressing Dr. Jan Yager's Soc 203 - Criminology - class He was formerly incarcerated and shared with the class about his childhood, incarceration, and his writing career and life since his release several decades ago. Baca was also a guest speaker in Dr. Jan Yager's Soc 301 - Penology -- class, immediately afterwards. He ended his second guest presentation by reading aloud to the class one of his three poems -- "I Applied for the Board," "The New Warden," and "The County Jail" -- that have been required readings in the Penology course from the anthology, *Prison Writing in 20th Century America*. Baca, who lives in New Mexico, stopped by John Jay for the guest presentations, along with his friend Tommy, who was also a speaker, and who had been released from prison six months before after serving 26 years for crimes he committed when he was 16, was on his way to Europe for an author speaking tour.



# SOCIOLOGY BOOK TALKS



Prof. Charles Jennings, Prof. Susan Opatow and Prof. Norman Groner present their book, *New York After 9/11*



Prof. Horace A. Bartilow presents *Drug War Pathologies: Embedded corporatism and U.S. Drug Enforcement in the Americas* to a packed house

# SPOTLIGHT

## DISPUTE-RESOLUTION

### **Maria Volpe receives grant from the Cottonwood Foundation**

In December, the Cottonwood Foundation awarded the Dispute Resolution Center a \$4,000 grant for a project titled, Embracing Conflicts Creatively, in memory of Dr. Hank Smit who was the Dean of Students at John Jay College for 21 years and who enthusiastically supported the CUNY Dispute Resolution Center's initiatives on campus. The grant will make possible a series of six workshops to deepen students' understanding about creative ways to constructively engage and manage conflicts.



***Dr. Hank Smit***

Since conflicts are universal and omnipresent, it is crucial for students to be exposed to as many opportunities as possible to better understand and manage differences that arise on a daily basis. This is particularly important since students will be entering a very diverse workforce and living in an interconnected global context with diverse cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, and communities from around the world. Those who are better prepared with the soft skills to navigate the nuances of negotiating and interacting more skillfully will have an easier time moving forward.

The proposed workshops will be scheduled during Spring and Fall 2020 semesters during community hour. Topics will include meditation for conflict resolvers, understanding implicit biases, breaking stalemates, addressing challenging behaviors, using circles, and negotiating in a culturally diverse world. Each of the workshops will be highly interactive and provide students with valuable knowledge and skills tips on how to handle conflicts in their personal lives and imminent professional careers. Refreshments will be served at all workshops and all students who attend will be entered in a free raffle of a relevant dispute resolution book at the conclusion of each workshop.

Dean Willem Richelen Hendrik ("Hank") Smit passed away on May 20, 2019. The son of parents from Suriname and Barbados, Hank was born in Harlem, received his Bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College, MBA from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, and PhD from Fordham University. Before coming to John Jay College, Hank worked at Children's Television Workshop.

**For information about the workshops, contact Professor Maria Volpe at [mvolpe@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:mvolpe@jjay.cuny.edu)**

# SPOTLIGHT

## DISPUTE-RESOLUTION

### **The AAA-ICDR Foundation Awards Dispute Resolution in Mental Health Initiative \$35,000 grant for Supportive Housing Project**

In April, the Dispute Resolution Center at John Jay College received a grant from the American Arbitration Association International Dispute Resolution Center for its initiative focusing on Dispute Resolution in Mental Health. This grant provides dispute resolution skills training as well as access to online resources and referrals to organizations servicing supportive housing sites. The aim is to help staff and residents prevent and de-escalate conflicts in order to promote healthy interactions and prevent conflict escalation, violence, program discharges, and non-adherence with program guidelines. Included in the project are a kick-off event, conflict resolution awareness training, an intensive in-person advanced training based on constituent-provided scenarios, and an online training hub with referral resources for housing programs. The online tools have been disseminated in cooperation with the Supportive Housing Network of New York and the NYS Office of Mental Health.

The DRMH Initiative was first launched in 2017 with a \$25,000 grant from the AAA ICDR Foundation to provide mediation training program for peer specialists, i.e. people living with mental illness who are employed as part of mental health service delivery. Additionally, two online programs were created – one for mental health peer communities and one for conflict resolvers. In 2018, the DRMH Initiative received a second grant in the amount of \$30,000 to provide a series of online dispute resolution resources for families experiencing mental health conflicts. The project was designed to help families facing mental health problems find their way to the appropriate resources for their conflicts via a one stop hub.

All of the DRC's activities in mental health have been undertaken by Sociology Professor Maria Volpe who is also Director of the Dispute Resolution Program and the Dispute Resolution Center, and Dan Berstein of MH Mediate who is the lead consultant. Dan is a mediator living with bipolar disorder, with a master's degree in Mental Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and experience developing online training programs. He also serves as Vice Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution's Diversity Committee.

**To date, the DRMH Initiative's projects have reached thousands of people and all of the resources are available online at [www.mhmediate.org](http://www.mhmediate.org)**



# SPOTLIGHT

## DISPUTE-RESOLUTION

*Professor Maria Volpe , Director of Dispute-Resolution & Provost Yi Li*



### **PROFESSOR MARIA VOLPE INVITED TO CONTINUE ON *NEGOTIATION JOURNAL'S* EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD**

Professor Maria R. Volpe has been invited to continue serving on the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Negotiation Journal* for a renewable five-year term. The *Negotiation Journal* is a multidisciplinary international journal devoted to the publication of works that advance the theory, analysis, practice, and pedagogy of negotiation and conflict resolution. It is published by the Program on Negotiation, a consortium of Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tufts University.

### **PUBLICATIONS BY MARIA VOLPE**

Mediation's Elusiveness: Taking Stock, in *Peace Sowers Around The World: Multiple Perspectives On Mediation And Related Practices* ed by A. Ninomiya, Brazil: RePacificar, 2019.

Measuring Diversity in the ADR Field: Some Observations and Challenges Regarding Transparency, Metrics and Empirical Research. *Pepperdine Dispute Resolution Law Journal*, Vol 19, No 2, pp. 201-219, 2019.

The ADR Inclusion Network: Addressing Diversity Collectively [with S. Sproule]. *Alternatives to the High Cost of Litigation*, Vol. 37 No. 6 June 2019.

### **PRESENTATIONS / CONFERENCES**

Presenter, Diversity and Inclusion in Dispute Resolution: Promises and Challenges [with Sheila Sproule] at NYS Dispute Resolution Association, Saratoga, NY, Oct 28, 2019.

Invited Presenter, Research on the Nashville Kurdish Community at the International Kurdish Studies Conference, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, July 25, 2019.

Presenter, Measuring Diversity in the ADR Field: Observations and Challenges. Annual Conference, Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution, Greenbelt, Maryland, June 20, 2019.

# SPOTLIGHT

## DISPUTE-RESOLUTION

### US State Dept delegation meets with Dr. Volpe and Prof. Ibrahim Bechrouri



On Nov 21, Maria Volpe, Professor of Sociology and Ibrahim Bechrouri, Adjunct Sociology Instructor, met with a three-person delegation from France on behalf of the U.S. Department of State who were visiting the US on a program

titled, “Countering Terrorist Recruitment and Radicalization to Violence: Intervention Programs in the U.S.” The delegation was comprised of three regional government and community leaders in France who provide intervention programs and strategies to counter terrorist recruitment in different regions in France. The visitors included Sami Ben Ismail, Educational Referent for Laicite and Radicalization, *Midi Pyrenees* who is responsible for training re: prevention and combating violence in school area, Jean Louis Clement Michel Chaline, Community Engagement Program Director, ALC Social Service Provider, *Saint-Jeannet (Alpes-Maritimes)* providing social support to migrants from Eastern Europe and Africa, and Eyup Sahin, Representative of the Regional French Council of the Muslim Faith, *Strasbourg* who is directly involved with multiple youth communities through the Council and the Islamic Confederation of Mil-li-Grous.



## WHAT FOLKS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT...

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# JOHN JAY

## 2019 JJC RANKINGS ROUNDUP

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The **US News and World Report** placed John Jay in the Top 30 Best Public Universities North rankings. The publication also listed the College at the #2 spot for schools where students graduate with the least debt and in the top 10 performers on Social Mobility among regional universities in the north.

The **Chronicle of Higher Education** placed John Jay College at the #5 spot for Colleges with the Highest Student-Mobility Rates. In addition, the publication ranked the College #7 among “Colleges with the Greatest Racial and ethnic Diversity among Managers.” The Chronicle’s “diversity index indicates on a scale of 1 to 100 the probability that any two full-time managers at an institution were from different racial or ethnic groups in the fall 2017.”

**Money Magazine** ranked John Jay among the Top 100 schools in the country, based on measures of educational quality, affordability, and alumni success. Specific factors included six-year graduation rates, number of Pell Grant recipients graduating, student debt, alumni salary data from PayScale, as well as social mobility data.

**The Washington Monthly** placed John Jay among the Top 30 for the publication’s “Best Bang for the Buck” rankings in the northeast, which are based on social mobility data and how well the colleges help non-wealthy students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices.”

**The Hispanic Outlook on Education** magazine ranked John Jay’s Criminal Justice program #1 in the nation for top schools by major. The College came in at #60 among the top 100 colleges with the largest Hispanic student enrollment.

### WEBSITES:

**CollegeChoice.Net**– ranked John Jay College #1, naming it “Best College for Crinal Justice in the country.

**Niche.com**– also ranked John Jay as #1 naming it “Best College for Criminal Justice in America.”

**Universities.com**– placed John Jay at #3 among the Best Forensic Science Colleges in the U.S.

# Whom To Contact

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## MEET THE ATF!

(Assessment-Advisement Task Force)

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*Office Hours: M, W, 2-3*

Robert Garot (see above)

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## DISPUTE RESOLUTION CERTIFICATE AND MINOR

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