15th Annual Michael J. Hindelang Lecture

Criminal Records, Spillovers, and the Growing Stickiness of Public Labels

Contemporary criminology offers much evidence that the distinction between “criminal” and “non-criminal” is largely a matter of time. Yet crime discourse and policy often seem rooted in the notion of criminality as an immutable individual characteristic. This talk contrasts the fluidity in criminal behavior with the growing stickiness of public labels, drawing from an experimental study of low-level criminal records, demographic analysis of the population bearing such records, and their spillover effects on health care and other institutions. After summarizing some key U.S. policy interventions on stigmatization and crime, I conclude by introducing a new study of restorative alternatives in a radically different legal and social context.

Chris Uggen

Dr. Chris Uggen is Distinguished McKnight Professor and Martindale Chair in Sociology and Law at the University of Minnesota and a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology. He studies crime, law, and justice, firm in the belief that sound research can help build a more just and peaceful world. With Jeff Manza, he wrote Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy, and his writing on felon voting, work and crime, and harassment and discrimination is frequently cited in media such as the New York Times, The Economist, and NPR. Current projects include a comparative study of reentry from different types of institutions, employment discrimination and criminal records, crime and justice after genocide, and the health effects of incarceration. His outreach and engagement projects include editing Contexts Magazine and TheSocietyPages.Org (both with Doug Hartmann), a book series and multimedia social science hub drawing one million readers per month.

Thursday, May 5 at 12:15 pm
Husted Hall, Room 106A
UAlbany Downtown Campus, 135 Western Avenue

This event is free and open to the public.

Event hosted by the Michael J. Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center.