

Hindelang Center Completed Projects 2010-2014

2010

Maltreatment and Delinquency Across Three Generations

Sponsor: University of Colorado at Boulder

PI: Dr. Marvin D. Krohn

Dates of Research: 1/2007 – 12/2010

This subcontract prepares and coordinates data collection from NYS Office of Children and Family Services. Data will then be integrated within the general Rochester Youth Development Study data files and analyzed. Participation in preparation of reports and publications will occur.

2011

Mitigation in Capital Sentencing: Evidence from Trial Transcripts & Juror Interviews

Sponsor: NSF

PI: Dr. William J. Bowers, Project Director, Dr. James R. Acker, Co-PI

Dates of Research: 5/2006 – 2/2011

Research shows that prospective capital punishment jurors fail to understand sentencing instruction in ways that would appear to hamper their consideration of mitigation. Further research with persons actually having served as capital jurors (Capital Jury Project-CJP) shows that many jurors failed to understand sentencing instructions, especially those pertaining to the consideration of mitigation when making their sentencing decision. The research proposed will employ the methodology of the CJP to address these issues. Specifically, this research is designed to 1) determine nature and extent of mitigation actually presented to jurors in capital cases (from trial transcripts); 2) assess extent to which jurors give effect to such mitigation by recognizing the mitigating nature of such factors and considering or relying on them in their decision making (through interviews with capital jurors); and 3) gain a more refined understanding of how jurors make the capital sentencing decision both individually and as a group, in light of the aggravating and mitigating evidence actually presented to them and the impediments they experience in their consideration of mitigation.

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Process and Outcome Evaluation of G.R.E.A.T.

Sponsor: NIJ

PI: Dana C. Peterson

Dates of Research: 7/2006 – 6/2011

I. To assess the middle-school curriculum, a multi-site panel study will be conducted consisting of six waves of data (pre- and post-tests in Year 1 and four annual follow-ups) that will track students from 6th or 7th through 10th or 11th grade in six cities. Classrooms will be randomly assigned to G.R.E.A.T. and non-G.R.E.A.T. Based on prior experience and on information provided by the G.R.E.A.T. RAs, a sample is anticipated of approximately 3,750 students enrolled in 200 classrooms. Given the necessity of active consent procedures and the importance of high annual retention rates, specific strategies have been developed for enhancing participation rates and reducing panel attrition. Hierarchical modeling techniques will be used to assess effectiveness by controlling for city, school, and classroom effects. Additional analyses will control for “risk” level and differential attrition rates.

II. The family component and the process evaluation will consist largely of qualitative observations of program delivery. Officer training (at least six sessions), classroom instruction (approximately 600 classroom observations are scheduled), and family components (all sessions in selected sites) will be systematically observed. Focus group interviews will be conducted with family component participants. These labor-intensive efforts are necessary to adequately address program fidelity. Alternative measures of program fidelity and outcome will be obtained through surveys of officers and school personnel.

III. Policy implications and plans for dissemination are integral aspects of our overall evaluation design. NIJ and the G.R.E.A.T. management will be informed via interim reports and presentations, including National Policy Board and National Training Committee meetings, the annual G.R.E.A.T. conference, and professional conferences.

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Work and Crime: Experiential and Contextual Effects

Sponsor: NSF

PI: Dr. Robert J. Apel

Dates of Research: 9/2009 – 8/2011

The proposed project will examine how the experiential and contextual features of the labor market jointly impinge on individual criminal behavior. It uses panel data on the transition from school to work in a contemporary, nationally representative sample—the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997. The survey follows individuals from the mid-teens to the late-twenties. A number of empirical models will be utilized that confront the challenges posed by unobserved heterogeneity in the work-crime relationship in novel ways: Individual fixed effects, group-based trajectories, and family fixed effects. Special attention will also be paid to several subpopulations that are of interest because of their susceptibility to persistent unemployment/underemployment and long-term criminality: Minorities, high-school dropouts, and non-college bound graduates (the so-called “forgotten half”). The questions guiding the proposed project are threefold: First, what is the impact of an individual's work experience (e.g., work status, work quality) on criminal behavior? Second, do area-level economic conditions influence criminal behavior net of an individual's work experience? Third, how do area-level economic conditions modify the work-crime relationship at the individual level?

Symposium on Crime and Justice “The Past and Future of Empirical Sentencing Research”

Sponsor: NSF

PI: Dr. Shawn D. Bushway

Dates of Research: 9/2009 – 8/2011

The original concept behind this proposal arose from a conversation within the American Society of Criminology working group on sentencing about finding ways to rejuvenate empirical research on sentencing. This symposium aims to be instrumental in identifying new avenues for work in this area, in part by actively connecting the researchers in criminology to researchers in other fields such as law, psychology, and economics who are working on related topics but are largely insulated from the work of criminologists. We also hope to more explicitly connect empirical researchers in this field to the policymakers in this area.

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2012

Recidivism in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997

Sponsor: National Opinion Research Center
PI's: Dr. Shawn D. Bushway, Dr. Robert J.. Apel
Dates of Research: 12/2010 – 3/2012

The goal of the proposed research is to improve the quality and quantity of research regarding youth and young adult crime patterns, facilitating ecological studies identifying the correlated social, economic, and educational factors, to inform efforts to reduce recidivism and support successful reentry of offenders into legitimate social behavior and roles. The National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – 1997 Cohort (NLSY97) is a key resource to enhance recidivism research because it provides twelve annual waves of nationally representative, self-report data on criminal activity, with extensive supporting contextual information on personal relationships, family formation and fertility, sexual histories, physical development, expectations, time use, and participation in government assistance programs. Through this project we will (1) Convene a kickoff meeting with BJS representatives; (2) Identify the important substantive and methodological research gaps in the field of recidivism and reentry; (3) Develop a set of key research questions; (4) Create the *NLSY97 Recidivism Research Database* to foster research in the public arena; and (5) Conduct analyses to address selected research questions, documenting methods and findings through BJS Bulletins.

Official Inquiries into Police Corruption

Sponsor: U.S. Institute of Peace
PI: Dr. David H. Bayley
Dates of Research: 8/2010 – 8/2012

This project will examine official inquiries into incidents of police corruption in English-speaking countries from the late 1800's to the present. It will summarize and analyze their findings with respect to three topics: 1) Nature of alleged corruption; 2) Factors facilitating corruption; and 3) Recommendations for remediation. Just over 50 official inquiries have been identified. A definitive list will be compiled after further bibliographical searching.

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Programs of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency: A Panel Study of a Reciprocal Causal Model of Delinquency

Sponsor: OJJDP

PI: Dr. Alan J. Lizotte,

Dates of Research: 5/2009 – 8/2012

The project focuses on the incidence and prevalence of multiple types of family violence in the Rochester Youth Development Study (RYDS). This ongoing longitudinal project includes three generations of an urban, community-based sample. The project will study the impact of different types of violence exposure on drug use, risk for HIV/AIDS and other problems in adolescence and early adulthood. It will also investigate the consequences of family violence exposure for adult roles like parenting and for intergenerational violence. The objective of the proposed research is to identify the extent to which, and the mechanisms through which, exposure to violence in the family might disrupt individual development in adolescence, with consequences that cascade over the life course and affect a subsequent generation. Exposure to family violence is conceptualized broadly to include domestic violence, child abuse, family conflict and exposure to multiple forms of violence. Specific aims are: 1) To describe incidence/prevalence of types of family violence exposure with a substantial number of high-risk and minority males/females; 2) To examine the adolescent impact of different types of violence exposure on drug use, risk for HIV/AIDS and other problem behaviors; 3) To examine if exposure to family violence leads to drug use and other problems in emerging adulthood; 4) To examine long-term consequences of family violence exposure on consolidation of adult roles by the early 30's; and 5) To examine intergenerational continuity and discontinuity in exposure to family violence.

Do Juvenile Offenders in Adult Criminal Court Really Do “Adult Time?”

Sponsor: NSF

PI: Dr. Megan C. Kurlychek

Dates of Research: 10/2011 – 9/2012

This study is an interjurisdictional investigation of state juvenile transfer laws and sentencing outcomes. Its purpose is to gain a better understanding of the adult court sentencing outcomes of juveniles below the age of 18 who find themselves subject to adult penalties. This research compares the adult court sentencing outcomes of juveniles in criminal courts in six states as they relate to specific definitions of adulthood and transfer provisions.

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Development & Intergenerational Paths to Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment – Hindelang Center

Sponsor: University of Maryland/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

PI: Dr. Alan Lizotte

Dates of Research: 9/2009 – 9/2012

This study examines two types of family violence – intimate partner violence and child maltreatment – in a longitudinal, intergenerational context. The core objective is to identify the developmental pathways and social circumstances that lead to the perpetration of these behaviors, as well as to identify protective factors that generate resilience in the face of risk.

Survey on Interrogative Practices/Efficacy Involving Interrogators Across U.S. Military and Federal Agencies

Sponsor: University of Texas at El Paso/HIG/ FBI

PI: Dr. Allison D. Redlich

Dates of Research: 9/2010 – 9/2012

Subcontract Principal Investigator Allison D. Redlich will assist with overall coordination of the process and outcome evaluation components, including development of survey instruments to be applicable to military and non-military interrogators, deployment of the survey in both electronic and hard-copy formats, analyses, report preparation, and project dissemination.

2013

Utilization of Criminal Justice Statistics (Sourcebook)

Sponsor: Bureau of Justice Services

PI: Dr. Kathleen E. Maguire (Tempel)

Ended: 10/2013

The Utilization of Criminal Justice Statistics was initiated in 1972 and annually produces the **Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics**, which has been the Nation's premier reference compendium of crime and justice data for 35 years. It is designed to deliver crime statistics to a broad spectrum of users ranging from high school students to criminal justice professionals worldwide. The project continues to be guided by its original mission--to provide comprehensive, accurate, and timely national-level criminal justice data in a single, easy-to-use resource. The **Sourcebook** was published annually as a printed volume for over 30 years (last issue was 2003), and in the mid-1990s became available electronically and via the Internet as well. Today, like all Justice Department publications, it is only distributed online. The

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web site, *Sourcebook Online*, presents over 1,000 data tables from hundreds of sources on all aspects of the criminal justice system.

2014

Evaluation of DCJS-Funded Wise Arrest Youth Diversion Programs

Sponsor: NYS DCJS

PI: Jamie Fader

Dates of Research: 7/2012 – 6/2014

This proposal outlines the scope and design of an evaluation of two DCJS-funded wise arrest programs designed to divert school students from arrest: the Moving Ahead Positively (MAP) program in Syracuse and the WISE program operated by the Utica Safe Schools Healthy Students Partnership, Inc. Although both programs operate differently and may have some different objectives, both programs share the overarching goal of reducing in-school arrests. The proposed project is scheduled to start on January 1, 2012 and end December 31, 2012. It includes the following design components: (1) pre-post implementation comparison of key outcomes; (2) comparison of outcomes to other similar school districts and/or other schools within the same district; (3) face-to-face interviews with key personnel and program participants, including program directors, staff, school administrators, peer mediators (used in Utica), and program participants; (4) analysis of all output and outcome data collected by each program; and (5) comparison of publicly-available violent incidents (VADIR) data across school districts to identify the school districts where wise arrest diversion programs have the greatest potential for impact.

Evaluation of Nassau County Juvenile Justice Reform Project

Sponsor: NYS DCJS

PI: Megan Kurlychek

Dates of Research: 7/2013 – 6/2014

To conduct an independent evaluation of the Nassau County Juvenile Justice Reform Project specific to the diversion of youth from secure detention, the use of assessment tool to determine the risk and needs of the youth and the avoidance of further system penetration of such youth.

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Doctoral Dissertation Research: Community and Individual Responses to Ex-Offender Reentry

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

PI: Jamie Fader

Co-Pi: Christopher Dum

Dates of Research: 9/2013 – 8/2014

This study will use ethnographic methodology to explore the ramifications of placing sex offenders and other marginalized individuals together in a single room occupancy (SRO) motel. A SRO motel, once a travel-oriented lodging establishment, is now used for non-traditional purposes such as housing the poor. The chosen field site provides residence for the public, registered sex offenders and other ex-prisoners returning to the community, and individuals receiving government assistance. The goal of this project is to conduct a street-level inquiry into the consequences of sex offender legislation on sex offenders and the vulnerable communities in which they live.

Research shows that these communities where sex offenders find housing experience high levels of concentrated disadvantage, residential instability, and ethnic heterogeneity (Hughes & Burchfield, 2008; Mustaine, Tewksbury, & Stengel, 2006a; Mustaine & Tewksbury, 2008; Socia & Stamatel, 2011; Tewksbury & Mustaine, 2008). Because of this, residents may be unable to create a shared value system and combat shared problems. At the field site for this study, sex offenders and other vulnerable populations are forced to cohabitate in a community that exists almost entirely due to socio-economic forces and government policy. What remains to be explored is how these populations interact and whether their relationships further or undermine the policies that brought them together in the first place.

In order to synthesize understanding of the relationship between criminal justice policy and vulnerable populations, the co-principal investigator will conduct an ethnography by renting a room in a SRO motel for 9 months and writing up observations in the form of field notes. Ethnography is a technique whereby researchers intensively integrate themselves into a social setting in order to observe interactions and activity. The strong relationships that ethnographers develop allow them to record what inhabitants view as meaningful and important. Instead of gathering data in order to test a set of hypotheses or a particular theory, ethnographers set out to understand and answer broad research questions. This study asks, what are the consequences of sex offender legislation and social inequalities on the locations in which sex offenders and other vulnerable citizens live?

The **intellectual merit** of this project lies in the way it synthesizes the trajectories of sex offender research by simultaneously examining the neighborhood consequences of sex offenders living at a SRO motel as well as sex offenders' reentry experiences within the context of this unique location. By becoming a resident, the co-principal investigator will gain in-depth knowledge about this unique location for those affected by government policy. This information will shed light on individuals living on the margins of society at a particular historical moment in which social inequalities have never been starker, when stigmas regarding sex offenders have never been stronger, and when discourse about the role of welfare and the criminal justice system is highly polarizing and driven by stereotypes instead of evidence.

The **broader impact** of the project is enhanced knowledge of how government policy and other forces affect marginalized populations, by sharing their observed activities and presenting their experiences in their own words. This project will be disseminated as a richly detailed and accessible book as well as scholarly articles and conference presentations that accurately portray the lives of a diverse population of sex offenders and other motel residents. Benefits of this book and articles at the university level include their use as teaching tools in fields such as sociology, criminal justice, public policy, and ethnographic methodology. At a government level, they will serve to educate policy makers about the impact of their actions on the day to day lives of their constituents and enhance discussion about the intersections of criminal justice policy and social inequality.

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Effects of Citizens; Stereotype Threat on Police Officers' Perception and Decision Making

Sponsor: Russell Sage Foundation

PI's: Cynthia Najdowski

Dates of Research: 9/2013-8/2014

Prior research has shown that, more than Whites, innocent African American individuals are concerned about being perceived unfairly by police due to stereotypes that depict members of their racial group as criminals. Further, stereotype threat causes Blacks to appear objectively more nervous than Whites during encounters with police-type figures. Because police believe that nervous behavior is a nonverbal cue to deception, stereotype threat could ironically increase the likelihood that individuals will be perceived by police as suspicious and lead police to initiate investigatory contacts with Blacks disproportionately more often than Whites. The proposed research will test this hypothesis by having actual police officers view videos of "targets" who will be either Black or White men who are experiencing either high or low stereotype threat. To explore how citizens' behavior and its effects on police officers' perceptions and judgments change over the course of an encounter, the police officers will view segments of videos taken of the targets either just before, during, or just after a staged encounter with a security officer. After viewing the videos, police officers will report how suspicious they perceived each target to be, and then make judgments regarding whether they would suspect the target of criminal activity or initiate contact with him. The results will contribute to a growing body of work that implicates stereotype threat as a factor contributing to racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

Effects of Citizens' Stereotype Threat on Police Officers' Perceptions and Decision Making

Sponsor: The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues

PI's: Cynthia Najdowski

Dates of Research: 9/2013-8/2014

Because of the stereotype of African American criminality, African Americans are concerned about being perceived unfairly by police and, in turn, behave more nervously than Whites in encounters with police-type figures. Because police equate nervousness with deception, this stereotype threat could lead police to perceive African Americans as more suspicious than Whites and, in turn, initiate more investigatory contacts with African Americans. The proposed

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research will test this by having police officers (a) view videos of African American and White "targets" who are under varying levels of threat and (b) report whether they would suspect or stop the targets

Bargaining in the Shadow of Trial? Exploring the Reach of Evidence Outside the Jury Box

Sponsor: NIJ

PI's: Dr. Allison D. Redlich, Dr. Shawn D Bushway

Dates of Research: 1/2010 – 8/2014

In the proposed study, our objectives are to 1) operationally define "strength of the evidence," and 2) once defined, examine its role and the role of extralegal factors, in plea negotiations. We study the role of evidence in pleas by estimating a plea bargain analog to the probability of conviction at trial. In this way, we can directly test whether evidence plays a similar role in the plea bargaining process as it does at trial. In Phase I, we manipulate the presence and combination of three evidence forms (eyewitness, confession, and DNA), and the prior criminal history of the defendant in hypothetical case scenarios administered to nationally representative samples of judges, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. In Phase II, we partner with three county DA offices to code the evidentiary and non-evidentiary factors in actual criminal cases. We then use these values to estimate the probability of conviction at trial, determining the role of evidence and extralegal factors in this estimated probability.

Creating and Transferring Knowledge on Guilty Pleas

Sponsor: National Science Foundation

PI: Dr. Allison D. Redlich

Dates of Research: 9/2010 – 8/2014

The research delineates an inter-disciplinary program of research and education on guilty plea comprehension and decision-making. Proposed objectives are: 1) to examine whether defendants across differing states and age groups are presented with similar components of plea materials (i.e., content) and age-appropriate levels of understandability; 2) to determine, via controlled experimentation, if plea understanding impacts decisions under varying circumstances (guilt versus innocence, good versus fair plea offers) and individual different factors (age and plea understand); and 3) to determine if the rationales underlying plea decision, regardless of the decisions themselves, differ by these circumstances and factors.