SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATORS

ANNUAL MEETING

THE SOUTHWESTERN TRADITION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2
RICHARDSON, TEXAS
N. Praga Unnithan  
Colorado State University

Child Homicide and Criminal Justice Officials

Homicide involving child victims arouses great public anger. This paper explores the views, experiences and actions of judges and district attorneys drawn from Texas counties on the processing of such cases through the criminal justice system.

Jeffery T. Walker  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Reflections on “Rethinking” the “New Criminology”

Almost since the beginning of criminological thought, there has been a sustained battle between the left and the right; between those who place the blame for criminality on the criminal or environment and those who place the blame on the society and its agents (the criminal justice system). This paper proposes that, in order to adequately describe and explain the criminal event, elements from both the left and the right must be included. Only through explanations that take into account the context of time and place, the criminal and the offender, and the reaction from society can we begin to adequately analyze the complex human behavior of crime.

William V. Wilkinson  
University of Texas at Brownsville

A Curriculum Analysis of Justice-Related Courses and Programs Offered By the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas

While NAFTA may be debated by many elements of the three involved countries, free trade from the Yukon to the Yucatan is rapidly becoming a reality. Among the many issues and problems raised with this expansion of commerce lies the problem of differing legal systems. Canada and the United States have similar roots in the Common Law while Mexico has a Civil Law tradition. The purpose of this paper is to examine the educational system of justice-related professionals in Tamaulipas in order to better understand the nature of those governmental and private professionals responsible for insuring justice under the Mexican legal system.

Janet K. Wilson  
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

The Impact of Roles on Involvement in Deviant Behavior During Late Adolescence and Early Adulthood

To what extent do the roles that we hold explain differences in rates of involvement in deviant behaviors during the years between adolescence and adulthood? While status integration, social control, and multiple identities theories hypothesize an inverse relationship between level of integration and level of involvement in deviant behavior, they differ in that status integration addresses the compatibility of roles, social control focuses on the tendency of conventional roles to strengthen the social bond, and multiple identities examines the additive nature of roles. The data for the analyses were from the 1980 and 1984 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. Dependent variables are the levels of delinquency as measured by 11 deviance scales. -Roles held, age, and controls are employed as independent variables. Results from regression analyses indicate that social control theory is best able to explain the impact of roles on involvement in deviant behaviors during these transitional years.
Due to public concern with shortened sentencing and release of some serious offenders, several states have revised their parole release programs. In this study, by analyzing collected data from parole decision making process and follow-up information on parolees, the authors explore factors leading to success/failure of parole release programs.

Helen Molanophy
Richland College

"Green" Criminology

Environmental problems have produced a new area of criminology which is called "Green" criminology. The goal of this specialization is to analyze how political and economic factors are tied to the occurrence of corporate violence against the environment, animals, and plants. Environmental violence is defined as any behavior directed against living organisms that generate unnecessary pain, suffering, and death. This violence against nature often indirectly victimizes humans. Support for the use of sanctions for health and safety violations that offend community morality appears to be growing. This paper looks at the shaping and enforcement of environmental criminal law in the area of hazardous waste.

James Quinn
University of North Texas

Predictors of Police Perceptions of the Severity of Local Gang Problem in Large and Small Cities
The paper uses a survey of municipal police departments in nine states to explore the effect of city size on the relationship between five structural features of local gangs and the severity of the local gang problem. Small cities describe their gang problem as less severe than do large cities. The structural predictors of the local gang problems differ with city size. Perceptions of severity in small cities are predicted by the largest gang's longevity in the jurisdiction. Severity in large cities is best predicted by the age of gang members and the organizational sophistication of the city's largest gang.

Sam Sourayal
Sam Houston State University

An Argument Against Loyalty to Supervisors: Applications to the Field of Criminal Justice
The paper differentiates between loyalty to values and loyalty to the person of supervisors. The former is encouraged but the latter may have detrimental effects on the concept and exercise of criminal justice and public service. The paper argues that loyalty to supervisors is artificial, unnecessary, and is always invoked when supervisors fail to perform their duties. The paper calls attention to the anatomy of loyalty, the voluntariness of loyalty, and to the perception that the opposite of loyalty is not necessarily disloyalty. Duty is the appropriate principle that should guide workers rather than loyalty.

David Spencer
Southwest Texas State University

Analysis of Jury Selection in Travis County, Texas

Anecdotal reports have long held that jury panels and juries in Travis county, Texas (Austin) are not proportionally representative of the general population in the county. This paper investigates the accuracy of these reports, using jury selection and census data from 1990. The paper also explores the effects of adding licensed drivers to the list of registered voters in compiling the jury wheel. Qualitative analysis and chi-square tests are used to test the significance of deviations from proportional representation at various stages of jury selection.

Beverley Spitler
Grand Canyon University

The Statutes of Liberty: The Modern Police Force and the Melting Pot
The Oklahoma County Commissioners Scandal: An Examination of Media Hegemony in the Definition of Deviant Occupational Activity

During the latter part of the 1970's, a joint Federal Bureau of Investigation and Internal Revenue Service probe began investigating possible corruption and graft in county government in Oklahoma. A three-year investigation in the early 1980's exposed one of the largest scandals of government corruption on any level: local, state, or federal. This paper analyzes this county commissioner scandal using Sutherland's concept of differential association. Data for this paper was obtained from content analysis of all news articles reported in the *Tulsa (OK) Tribune* covering the scandal and county reform efforts. The time period covered June 1, 1981 to May 31, 1982. The following characteristics were analyzed in news articles: full-page size, page placement, editorials, content and context of articles, and number of paragraphs. This analysis shows how this scandal can be viewed as a form of white-collar crime, the different types of rationalizations used by the commissioners, how the position of the commissioners supplied them with the opportunity to commit these crimes, as well as societal reaction to the scandal.

Jackison
Arkansas State University

Prison Reform in Arkansas Goes to Court

This paper examines the period of reform in Arkansas prisons between 1968 to 1971. From 1966 through 1968 the Arkansas prisons received a great deal of attention in the national and international press. A series of incidents and investigations revealed the brutality, corruption, and abuse on the large prison farms. Although Governor Rockefeller's administration was committed to prison reform, it was difficult to implement change. The state legislature, accustomed to having a prison system which produced a profit for the state treasury, was reluctant to appropriate state revenue for the prisons. After Tom Murton was fired as prison superintendent, Rockefeller named Robert Sarver to head the prison system. Although Sarver attempted to implement prison reform, it was only through lawsuits filed on behalf of inmates in the U.S. Court that the old system began to crumble and Arkansas was forced to embark on fundamental change in its prisons.

Clifford Dornes
Texas A&M International University

"Beyond the Widened Net": An Assessment of the Limited Appellate Court Review of Juvenile Diversion

Juvenile diversion has been researched extensively from the perspective of sociological labeling theory and statistical comparisons of recidivism rates. Appellate court cases on juvenile diversion, however, have been relatively few in number; scholarly materials analyzing such cases have also been limited. After summarizing the history and social science literature on juvenile diversion, this paper examines relevant constitutional issues, such as self-incrimination, due process, and equal protection. These issues are brought to bear on the social science research. Implications for procedural reform and for pedagogy in university juvenile justice courses are addressed by way of conclusion.

Papers

Floyd Room

Annual Conference

10:00-10:15 COFFEE BREAK

10:15-11:45 PANEL # 7

Chair: Jackison
Arkansas State University

Papers

Jackison
Arkansas State University

*Prison Reform in Arkansas Goes to Court*

Wes Johnson
Sam Houston State University

*Efficiency Evaluation for Prisons Using Data Envelopment Analysis*

Pam Clark and Rosalyn Matlock
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

*Growing Up Fast: Transferring Juvenile Offenders to the Adult Criminal Justice System.*

11:10-11:25 PANEL # 8

Chair: Tim Flanagan
Sam Houston State University

Papers

Tim Flanagan et al.
Sam Houston State University

*Public Policy and Prison Education*

William V. Wilkinson
University of Texas at Brownsville

*A Curriculum Analysis of Justice-Related Courses and Programs Offered by the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas*

R.A. Thompson
Southwest Texas State University

*Law Enforcement and the AIDS Epidemic: Educational Strategies and Policy Development*

11:30-11:45 PANEL # 9

Chair: N. Prabha Ummithan
Colorado State University

Papers

N. Prabha Ummithan
Colorado State University

*Child Homicide and Criminal Justice Officials*

Beverly Spiteri
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*The Statutes of Liberty: The Modern Police Force and the Melting Pot*