



# INTER-NEWS

Volume 31: Fall 2009

The Newsletter of the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology

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## From the editor:

I would like to begin this issue by thanking everyone who has been so supportive and also those that contributed to the newsletter during my tenure. As I announced last November at our division meeting, this is my last year as editor, as such, this is the last newsletter I will be putting out. I do hope people enjoyed the new image and content that I tried to bring to Inter-News and I do hope someone will take over this important task. I would like to say it has been a pleasure producing our newsletter over the past two years. Thank you again, for your confidence, your support, and kind words.

Best regards,

Dawn

Dawn L Rothe



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Chairs Note:

Dear DIC members,

It is with personal sadness and great excitement that I write this final Chair's note. I am sad to be leaving the leadership team of the DIC after four years. We have had truly pleasurable times and we have bonded through the challenges that confronted us, which I will remember fondly. I feel great excitement as I think about the new and fully charged incoming leadership. I look forward to being a quiet part (past chair) of that new team. Over the last decade the DIC has been one of the most active Divisions of the ASC. We have achieved many milestones and laid the groundwork for many more in the future. During this year, we achieved the following:

- Updated website to advertise our organization (thanks to Blythe Bowman Proulx)
- Improved timeliness of communication through development of a list serve (thanks to Sheldon Zhang)
- Renamed the Distinguished Scholar Award to the Freda Adler Distinguished Scholar Award and started a fund to support the travel of the awardees
- One step closer to improved research methods through publication of a Special Edition of the DIC official journal on international research methods (thanks to Janet Stamatel)
- Improved DIC official journal; all issues have been timely this year (thanks to Mahesh Nalla & the editors)
- Continued the new Newsletter format (thanks to Dawn Rothe)
- Started a policy and procedure manual for the DIC (thanks to the Executive Board members)
- Enjoyed many volunteers! The heavy work has been shared by many. Thank you!

The DIC will hold its annual Board Meeting on Friday 11-12:20 (Independence Ballroom III). This meeting is open to all members. Please attend and share in the installation of your new leaders and governance of your organization. The luncheon will follow immediately (Friday 12:30-1:50 Independence Ballroom I&II). I look forward seeing you all there.

If I can be of service, please contact me.

Cindy



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Student Essay:

ERIC WIANOR KYEREMEH (MA Student)

(International student from Ghana)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

On the west coast of Africa is located a country of 23, 382, 848 million people with a land size of 88,811 sq. miles. It was colonized by the British and gained independent on the march 6, 1957. Due to its colonization by the British, the economic, political, and social setting has a close resemblance to that of Britain. This is Ghana. It is a country ruled by a constitutionally and democratically elected government. Every four years the people of Ghana go to the polls to elect a government they deem fit to govern them.

Like every society, crime is part of the social fabric. Ghana has 29 prisons (all state owned) with a population of 10,992 inmates. Until recently, the most prevalent crime was theft. White collar crime is not a common phenomenon. Crimes such as arson, murder, drugs, rape, and child abuse are recent happenings. This can be attributed to the globalization of the world which has brought other people from other countries with different cultures into the country. However, it must be noted that, Accra, which is the capitol city of Ghana with a population of 3 million people, has a crime level similar to that of the



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inner city areas of the United States, the most common being police road blocks, armed and unarmed robberies. A recent phenomenon is the advance fee-fraud (419) scam, where criminals portray themselves as businessmen, government organizations, charity organizations and other entities and defraud unsuspecting people of their money. This is beginning to paint Ghana in the global arena as unsafe.

As an immigration officer in Ghana, globalization with its associated crimes prompted me to have a better understanding of the modern trends in crime in the world and how to deal with them efficiently. In this regard John Jay College College's reputation as one of the best in the field of criminal justice coupled with its location in New York, one of the world's largest cosmopolitan cities with its diverse cultures and people from all parts of the world and its associated crime diversity as well as high crime rate, was the obvious choice for me. On my arrival in New York, I lived in Harlem for 21 days and it was a surprise to experience how safe it was to live in a neighborhood which is portrayed in movies and the media as the crucible of all crimes. My next surprise was when I had to move and live with a relation in the good old Bronx. I was a little bit hesitant at first due to the stories I had heard about the Bronx with regards to crime. It never occurred to me I could walk on the streets of Bronx without



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being attacked. But to my astonishment, not only can I walk freely on the streets but I can do that even at night. I must recommend the NYPD for its marvelous work. They can be seen at every corner of the city and makes me feel really safe whenever I step out of my house to go to town.

However, studies at school and news on the media still portray New York as less safe than I think. I sometimes feel like a prisoner when I see that New Yorkers do not have the freedom to do certain things outside their houses like have a chat with their friends over a bottle of beer in the open. This is one thing that makes me homesick. The NYPD's ability to stop and frisk anywhere and at any time is also one thing that I have still not come into terms with. This I see erodes one's constitutional right to his privacy. But in all, I think my four month stay in New York has been one of my best experiences, considering the people I meet at home, on the streets, and at school. I am still waiting to witness those typical Hollywood scenes we see on the screens which portray New York as one of the high level crime cities in the world.



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Photos: United Nations Crime Commission Meeting, Vienna  
April 2009

Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), addresses the plenary of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its 18th session in Vienna, in April.



Emil Wandzilak of UNODC, Rosemary Barberet, Cindy Smith and Aaron Fichtelberg share a cordial moment at a wine garden outside Vienna. Emil was Cindy's liaison when she spearheaded the ASC-DIC project to scan the proceedings of the UN Crime Congresses from 1955-2000 (available at <http://www.asc41.com/undocs.htm>).





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Continued:

Margaret Shaw, longtime DIC member and Director of Analysis and Exchange at the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime in Montreal (she really was awake at the time), and Slawomir Redo of UNODC, longtime DIC ally, at a workshop on Teaching Criminal Justice, New Approaches and Techniques, held during the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Margaret was a featured speaker at a panel discussion on “Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Responses to Violence Against Women and Girls”.



Former DIC book award winner, Russel Smith, Principal Criminologist of the Australian Institute of Criminology, a member of the Australian delegation to the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.





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DIC Member Philip Reichel, during the delivery of his presentation on his online teaching techniques in comparative criminal justice at the University of Northern Colorado, as part of the workshop on Teaching Criminal Justice, New Approaches and Techniques, held during the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Phil also delivered a presentation on human trafficking on the US-Canadian border at a side event on effective and ineffective techniques in promoting cross-national collaboration on fighting human trafficking.



Karin Bruckmiller, University of Vienna. Karin Bruckmiller and Stefan Schumann from the University of Vienna delivered presentations at a side event on human trafficking, and hosted Rosemary, Cindy, Phil and Aaron at the University of Vienna as part of a roundtable about international victims' issues.





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Sociedad Mexicana de Criminología Capítulo Nuevo León A.C.

Fotos Congreso de Criminología, Agosto 2009

1st. Criminology, and Criminalistic Congress", celebrated on August 5, 6 and 7, 2009, in the Metropolitan University of Monterrey in association with the Mexican Society of Criminology of the state of Nuevo Leon, held in the Cayetano Garza Auditorium, with the presence of Mr. Javier Hernandez of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr. Rafael Ruiz of the National Institute of Penal Sciences, Mr. Ramiro Ramirez from the Regional Academy of Public Security, Ms. Eugenia Vargas of the National Council of Science and Technology, also Mr. Octavio Orellana, Special Fiscal of PGR, and author of "*Handbook of Criminology*", "*Penal Law Course*", "*Grafoscopy*", "*Individualization of the punish*", Mr. Juventino Montiel, author of Criminalistic I, II and III, Victor Pérez, forensic physician, Julio Reyes, principal of the School of Law and Criminology of Aguascalientes, Rafael Martinez, Coordinator of Balistic and Explosives of PGJ, Guadalupe Castillo, Coordinator of Forensic Psychology, more information: [www.somecrimnl.es.tl](http://www.somecrimnl.es.tl)

Organizators:

Mr. Wael Hikal, President of Mexican Society of Criminology of the state of Nuevo Leon

Ms. Rosario Nakasima, Coordinator of the School of Criminology, Metropolitan University of Monterrey





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Kristof and Wudunn speak at UN panel on their new book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*

*By Rosemary Barberet (Associate Professor, Sociology Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and a representative of the International Sociological Association to the United Nations)*

Pulitzer winning *New York Times* journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn spoke to a large audience occupying the United Nations Trusteeship Council Chamber last Tuesday, as part of a panel and booksigning event featuring their new book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. The title of the book comes from the Chinese proverb, “Women hold up half the sky”.

The event was organized by UNODC, the Vienna-based UN Office on Drugs and Crime, whose work on human trafficking is underpinned by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children, supplementing the Palermo Convention against transnational organized crime. In 2007, UNODC launched UN.GIFT, The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, a campaign against human trafficking, launched by a grant in 2007 from the United Arab Emirates. Although *Half the Sky* does not deal exclusively with human trafficking, but rather violence against women in general, the event focused a great deal on human trafficking.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke at the event, fortuitously announcing that after three years of discussion, on Monday the General Assembly had adopted a resolution to restructure gender institutions in the UN system, merging the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). This new single entity will be headed by an under-secretary-general and will promote the well-being of women and gender equality. “Sexist attitudes lead to sexual exploitation” said Ban, “and violence against women is against everything we stand for at the United Nations.” “There can be no security without women’s security, and we need to shed the silence that shields perpetrators,” he added. Citing his own campaign, UNITE to end violence against women, and his appointment of more women to senior posts than ever in UN history, Ban congratulated Kristof and WuDunn as “walking, talking, globetrotting” world advocates for women.

The book itself, and the excerpt printed in the *New York Times* magazine on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, reads as a collection of life stories of women in the developing world who have been subjected to gender-based violence: beatings, acid burnings, human trafficking, rape (including war rape), female genital mutilation, death through childbirth, medical negligence and honor killings. It ends with sections on solutions such as microfinance, education, a chapter entitled, “What You Can Do: Four Steps You Can Take in the Next Ten Minutes” and an appendix listing organizations that help women worldwide. Despite its practical and fundraising aims, the book itself is a profit-making venture for its authors.

*Half the Sky* is a gory read for newcomers to these issues and a tedious read to those familiar with these issues. For someone who repeatedly teaches this material to undergraduates, I found it surprisingly annoying. Kristof and Wudunn have facile explanations for gender-based violence, ignore men as perpetrators (indeed, they are as invisible in their book as women have been invisible in the past), quip research results when they support their arguments, and offer simplistic, (albeit well-meaning) solutions while ignoring the vast body of research in violence against women, and perhaps most importantly on Tuesday, relevant international law and United Nations efforts in this arena.



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Much of the book is ethnocentric, including a chapter about Islam and misogyny, where the authors admit to being 'politically incorrect' without realizing they are also ignorant of the nuances that plague the study of world religions and gender. There is much discussion of the developing world and little discussion of the violations of women's rights in the developed world, including the United States. It is particularly ironic that Kristof and Wudunn preach what our country cannot practice itself: the United States has yet to ratify the 1979 Convention on all forms of Discrimination Against Women; the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child; or the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Kristof and Wudunn appear ignorant of the strides other countries have made, while still falling short of guaranteeing women's human rights. India, for example, receives quite a bit of criticism in the book, but enacted a landmark domestic violence law in 2006, has established all women's police units to respond to domestic violence (see John Jay Professor Natarajan's book, *Women Police in a Changing Society*), and is featured in today's *New York Times* for establishing all women's commuter trains in large cities, to protect women from 'eve-teasing' (groping and harassment on public transport). Natarajan, director of John Jay's international criminal justice major, attended the event and commented, "Countries who are making efforts to improve need to be encouraged, not chided. Oftentimes, although they seem behind, they have come a very long way."

UNODC staff who hosted the event were careful to bring Kristof and WuDunn in line with UN priorities. With so many celebrities taking on international issues, one wonders if indeed the whole event was orchestrated to reign in media celebrities Kristof and WuDunn. Executive Director Antonio Maria Costa noted that UNODC is responsible "for the whole sky, not just half the sky", thus emphasizing that both men and women are responsible for gender equality. One of the main messages in the book, "Women are not the problem, they are the solution" now appears on the book's website with the afterthought, "... along with men". Similarly, after Wudunn bluntly told the audience at the UN that "psychological and neurological research demonstrates that statistics have a dulling effect on human motivation", Costa quickly showed her UNODC's recent evidence-based report on human trafficking; WuDunn added sheepishly, "but statistics and real life stories go hand in hand, and look, UNODC's recent report and our book are even the same color!". The UNODC report shows that half of UN member states have yet to convict a single perpetrator of human trafficking.

Of course, human trafficking is indeed hard to combat with numbers alone. Costa said that he was unable to state whether human trafficking had increased or decreased in the last three years, and that "anyone providing you with numbers to argue either way is simply shooting from the hip". Kristof argued to an audience composed largely of NGO representatives) that "this needed to be a grassroots movement", and that "detailed examples that judiciously use evidence" are the best mechanism for raising consciousness. "It is said that humanitarians have predicted ten of the last three famines" he noted, and thus "low-balling estimates, instead of high-balling" is what is needed, just like in the anti-slavery movement. The moderator of the panel, Simone Monasebian, UNODC's New York staff director, monopolized the question and answer session, as if to avoid embarrassment from pointed questions in the audience.

What are we to make of this disconcerting event and confusing book, that still has the power to do good by focusing world attention on the unpopular issue of violence against women? In looking for verdicts, I usually ask my students. I gave my seniors the *New York Times Magazine* article to read on the first day of class and also made them attend the UN panel event. "Where are their references in APA style?" one student angrily asked, referring to the authors' selective and sparse use of scholarly evidence. Another senior argued in her critique that microfinance programs for downtrodden women are only one way towards gender equality: "We must educate boys about the value and respect for human life, laws must punish those who do not learn this respect, and we must understand



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that women did not cause the inequality and thus cannot be the only ones to fix it.” Kristof and WuDunn are to be congratulated for writing this book, and pushing readers towards action. But their view of the issue still needs much more homework, including an understanding of gender, its intersection with crime and victimization, and the complexities of international norms.

Véronique Jaquier defended her doctoral dissertation at the University of Lausanne in August, entitled, "Multidimensionality of violence against women: Switzerland in contrast with the United States: Relevance and reliability of a comparison.



Marcelo Aebi (dissertation advisor), Martin Killias and Rosemary Barberet (member of the jury).



Bonnie Fisher(member of the jury), Véronique Jaquier, and Rosemary Barberet.



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students in attendance at the United Nations for the book panel event (with Rosemary Barberet)





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## The Global Economic Crisis' Impact

Dawn L Rothe, PhD. and Jeffrey Ian Ross, PhD.

The global economic crisis began in the US, though its spill-over effect has been tangible in other western, highly capitalized countries. Indeed, in terms of direct impact, the G8 have been the hardest hit. While acknowledging the larger and immediate impact of the crisis for these countries, of central concern to us is the decline in support for humanitarian aid, peacekeeping missions and initiation of and support for post-conflict mechanisms of justice, given there has been a significant increase in need over the course of the past decade. Given the economic realities and realizing that history has shown that economic and financial conditions are negatively linked to official assistance, we are left with the question, what could this potentially mean in terms of responses to post-conflict situations and to social justice at the international level?

After all, responding rapidly to critical human rights situations, state crimes, and ongoing conflicts has become a growing task which demands substantial resources from the international political community. Yet, at a time when the demand is increasing, we are witnessing a decrease in voluntary contributions to these efforts, in part, to the economic crisis. As the United Nations continue to be cash strapped, the impact of the economic crisis may well further reduce its financial situation (additional arrears accumulating and declines in voluntary contributions) as well as peacekeeping forces (declines in committing forces and resources). As is currently playing out, the UN is making pleas to increase contributions for humanitarian aid, contributions for peacekeeping as well as for additional peacekeeping forces, yet given the prioritization of states' own domestic economic crisis; it is rather unlikely such increases will be seen in the near future.

After all, economic interests play an important role in governments' decision-making processes and prioritization for issues such as foreign aid, intervention, and support in applying the rule of law. Albeit, this, as a major component of *realpolitik*, involves both a country's economic concern in terms of corporate interests, as well as the diversion of finances for perceived higher priority matters. In regards to the latter, given the current economic crisis, finances are being diverted to domestic stimulus packages, banking systems bailouts and stimulation, and issues of trade with the lower US dollar value. For the US, the secondary domestic and foreign policy focus remains on Iraq and Afghanistan. As a result, we may see latent consequences of the global economic crisis that are currently not being considered and/or are overshadowed by self-interests.

If this economic crisis prolongs, such conditions can only worsen. States, through prioritizing self-preservation, may continue the emerging trend of becoming less willing to contribute monies and/or commit themselves to providing additional resources, support for peacekeeping missions, or to issues of social justice. After all, history has shown us that "[a]fter each previous financial crisis in a donor country since 1970, the country's aid has declined" (Roodman, 2008:1). Given the primacy of *realpolitik* in foreign policy decisions and the knowledge that a state's own economic interests will generally prevail over external matters if in contradiction to the former, what then does this mean for future forecasts based on the past couple of financial years for those already victimized and marginalized by the policies and practices of the country, most notably the US, mainly responsible for the global economic crisis?



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**Announcing:**

## **International State Crime Research Consortium**

### **Crimes of States, Post-Conflict Justice, International Criminal Law Violations**

**The ISCRC is an officially recognized Research Consortium located in the College of Arts and Letters, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Old Dominion University. The ISCRC serves as an international forum for discussion and research in crimes by states, post-conflict justice and international criminal law violations including but not limited to:**

- various forms of state crime (e.g., corruption, genocide, massive human rights violations, state-sponsored terrorism, torture, war crimes, etc.)
- state-corporate crime (i.e. collusion between governmental agencies and for profit organizations that result in 'crime')
- crimes of globalization (i.e., the intertwining of state and international financial institution actions/policies)
- violations of international criminal law by governments, militias, paramilitaries, and other organizations in collusion with and/or independent of states
- post-conflict justice mechanisms (i.e., truth and reconciliation commissions, amnesties, lustration or vetting, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs, local traditional or ritual practice, and memorializations), international criminal justice systems and their hybrids (e.g., the International Criminal Court, the ICTY, ICTR, Tribunal for Sierra Leone)

**The Institute will focus on and conduct research on the etiological and enactment catalysts of the above. This will necessarily include and welcome an interdisciplinary focus that engages the disciplines in the Social Sciences including Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law, Sociology, Socio-legal studies and relevant practitioners.**

**Director: Dawn L Rothe, PhD. Old Dominion University**

**International Associate Director: Michael Bohlander, Dr. iur, Durham University**

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