



INTER-NEWS

Volume 27: Winter 2008

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

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Note from the Editor:

Let me begin by expressing my excitement in becoming the DIC newsletter editor. My goal is to provide you timely and relevant news regarding the division. Having been an editor, I am very aware that the newsletter is only as good as what we ALL make it. In other words, I hope members will continue to submit student essays for consideration or nominate a student and provide their contact information if you feel he/she would enjoy or be willing to share her/his perspectives or thoughts. Also, in the new format, we will be able to include as many photographs of events that members may want to share (e.g., international symposiums, workshops or conferences). Please feel free to send them to me for inclusion. I would also like to include short essays on topics relevant to current international research or issues from members. Please begin submitting for the Spring/Summer newsletter now. Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to serve the division.

On another note, with the recent decisions by the Division, information such as conferences, grant opportunities, book announcements, and other information will only be posted on the updated webpage.

Dawn L. Rothe, PhD.

++Please do not forget to check the Division of International Criminology website for updates, 2007 meeting minutes, kudos to members, award announcements, new or forthcoming books and/or article written by members of the division, upcoming conferences and a host of other information. This website was created and is maintained for our benefit, so lets take advantage of it and watch for changes and announcements. <http://www.asc41.com/dir1/divintcrime.htm>



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News from our Chair: Cindy Smith



Chair's report

The last two years as chair have been exciting times and a wonderful experience. I have worked with some of the top criminologists in the world, led the organization during a time of transition, and I look forward to two more years of exciting developments. I continue to urge you – the membership – to tell me what you want done with your organization. What would help you do your job better? What would help your career? And most importantly, how can we develop richer knowledge that will better the world?

Things that Change:

Several things are changing within the organization. First, there will be a way to mark your panel or paper as having an international flavor when you submit it in March – we hope. ASC is working on this option. This will give you a way to attract your fellow international members. Second, the DIC elections resulted in many new faces on the Board. New and old officers were installed. Elections are a time of mixed emotions. I am sad to see the team leave, but excited to work with the new team!

Cindy Smith, Chair (re-elected); cindy.smith@usdoj.gov

Hanno Petras, Treasurer (welcome); hpetras@crim.umd.edu

Joyce Zerhusen, Secretary (welcome); zerhus@verizon.net

Bill McDonald, Executive Counsellor (re-elected); wfm3@georgetown.edu

Sheldon Zhang, Executive Counsellor (welcome); szhang@mail.sdsu.edu

Maki Haberfeld, Executive Counsellor (welcome); mhaberfeld@jjay.cuny.edu

Alex Vazsonyi, Executive Counsellor (return); vazsoal@auburn.edu

Thanks to our new editor, Dawn Rothe, the newsletter has a new look. Sharon Chamard is working on a new look for the web page.



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News from Cindy Smith Continued

In response to some of your suggestions, we are making changes in the way we do the newsletter and some of its material. Many of the time sensitive postings (i.e., employment opportunities, new publications by our members, conferences) will be placed on the web instead of the newsletter.

Things that Don't Change:

The 2007 conference in Atlanta, like many of the previous conferences, was exciting for the DIC. The luncheon was well attended (n=129) again this year. The members enjoyed fine southern cuisine, an excellent presentation of deserving awardees, and warm conversation with friends. Membership remains about the same, ranging between 310 and 400 (including those with free membership from developing countries). (See the minutes for details that will be posted on the web soon.)

Ineke Marshall was renewed for two years as the ASC representative to the United Nations. Congratulations Ineke! Ineke will attend meetings that require the signature of an NGO on our behalf and report back to the ASC Board. Check out the minutes of the ASC Board meeting for details of this assignment.

The DIC's journal, International Journal of Comparative & Applied Criminal Justice, edited by Mahesh Nalla at Michigan State University needs submissions and reviewers. Contact Mahesh at <http://www1.cj.msu.edu/~international/notes.htm>.

2008 Points to ponder:

The ASC and the DIC Board meetings are open to the ASC membership. Please consider sitting in and discovering what's hot and what's not.

When submitting your paper or panel in March, mark it "international." There will be a new way to identify our internationally relevant panels to other members in the computer system (assuming the program is implemented in time).

If every DIC member voted in the ASC election, we would determine the winners of the elections. We will be asking those who run for ASC offices for a statement on their perspective of internationalizing criminology to help our members place wise votes.

ASC takes a position against misuse of data: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/11/18/dangerous.cities.ap/>

It is time to begin thinking about which office in the DIC or ASC you want to hold in 2009.

Volunteers – what can you do for the DIC and its membership this year? Please contact me if you have a few minutes to share in the work. All committees need members!

The DIC is considering a pre-conference workshop on comparative methods. Any interest?

Consider developing a session, responsive to the upcoming Crime Congress (see ad next page).



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News from Cindy Smith Continued

The Working Party on the Crime Congress of the Alliance of NGO's on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (NY) is seeking Expressions of Interest from future participants in the UN Crime Congress to be held in Brazil in 2010. Participants can propose their own papers, organize panels, or hold workshops on topics falling within the thematic areas (yet to be) identified by the UN Crime Commission, or on topics which they believe the UN should be informed about, provided the subject has implications beyond the national level. Those organizing panels are strongly encouraged to find international collaborators, including from amongst the practitioner or 'subject' populations.

The Alliance is unable to provide any financial support for travel. Participants are therefore urged to begin seeking their own funding as soon as possible. The Alliance will facilitate assignment to panels of individual presenters, assignment of time slots for fully organized panels, and assistance in securing an official letter of invitation from the UN Crime Commission which could be useful in obtaining funding, professional leave or a visa.

Individuals or formed panel groups should email their Expression of Interest as a Microsoft Word attachment to Dr. Yael Danieli, Chair, NY Alliance of NGOs, yaeld@aol.com In addition to a titled abstract of approximately 200 words, all submissions should include: the proposed presenter's name, professional title, affiliation, and full contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail) . Formed groups should include a thematic title, identified contact person for the entire group, and for each individual presenter, name, professional title, affiliation, full contact information (address, phone, fax, email) and a titled abstract of approximately 200 words.

Interested parties are encouraged to monitor the UN Office on Drugs and Crime website at www.unodc.org for UN thematic areas. Further questions can be addressed to Dr. Danieli and Dr. Nancy Grosselfinger at grosselfinger@hotmail.com



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Student Essay

By

Xia Wang

Doctoral Candidate, Florida State University

I started graduate school at Florida State University in the fall of 2001, after having finished my bachelor's degree at Peking University Law School in China that summer. As an international student, I did not know what I was getting into until my first class and when I read the syllabus. I had a hard time understanding the professor and taking notes. The reading list on the syllabus was intimidating and demanding. I called my parents that night and told them that it was a bad decision to come to the U.S. for my graduate education. As I am about to finish my graduate education, I have new words to describe the criminology graduate program in the states: challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding.

First, graduate school, especially the Ph.D. programs, is very challenging which is manifested in the workload the degree requires. Most graduate courses are reading and writing intensive. For example, it is typical in many courses that students are assigned to read a book and write a 5-6 page paper each week. To obtain the doctoral degree, in addition to the requirement on credit hours, most Ph.D. programs also have requirements on comprehensive area exams, prospectus defense, and the final dissertation defense. These are all hurdles and challenges that require motivation, dedication, persistence, and hard work. In addition to the workload, professors also challenge you to think critically while reading. You are encouraged to have great research ideas, but more importantly, you are encouraged to test your research ideas with empirical evidence, to make new contributions. On the one hand, you are expected to learn the accumulated knowledge in the field of criminology. For most international students whose native language is not English, the additional challenge from the start and throughout graduate schools may be the language barrier. Even high scores on all the required tests (e.g., TOEFL, GRE, etc.) could not guarantee an easy time in the beginning. In my experience, the first semester is the most difficult, and it gets better if you keep working on your English. So improving English is crucial for the success of international students in graduate schools. There are different things you could do, but it is most important to step out of your comfort zone and be proactive. For instance, it may be easier and more convenient to talk with your country fellows in your native language, but you need to have conversations with your American fellow students more often. It is also important to tell your American colleagues, including your fellow graduate students as well as professors, that you would greatly appreciate it if they could correct your English whenever possible. It also helps to subscribe to a magazine, such as Newsweek, Time, etc., listen to National Public Radio, and have American roommates. As long as you keep working on your English persistently, eventually you will be able to freely express your opinion in your classes and individual meetings with your professors. To overcome the language barrier is not easy, but it could help you to be an active member of your graduate school, providing you with more self-confidence.



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Student Essay

By

Xia Wang

Doctoral Candidate, Florida State University

CONTINUED:

Second, graduate school can be enjoyable. In my experience, the learning process in graduate school has been to overcome each hurdle in the company of talented graduate students and under the direction of exceptional and inspiring faculty. What I enjoy and appreciate the most about the FSU Criminology Ph.D. program is being able to work with professors on research projects and publications. I have had the opportunity to join faculty on research projects. I have also been helped and encouraged by professors to develop my own research ideas into potential publications. When working with faculty, I am constantly challenged and inspired to be a good researcher. In the meantime, I appreciate having a group of really nice and talented fellow graduate students. We help each other in classes, and support and encourage each other to go through graduate school. Ultimately, the company of talented graduate students and the direction of extraordinary and stimulating faculty have enabled me to enjoy graduate school.

Last but not least, graduate school can be very rewarding. The U.S. is a leader in criminology graduate education. Many programs provide opportunities for students to get hands-on research experience with a range of projects, to gain valuable research, publication, and teaching experience. These great opportunities, available to international students, are crucial and will allow you to achieve an elite level of scholarship.

In sum, criminology graduate school in the U.S. is challenging, enjoyable, and rewarding. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have!



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**Luncheon Photographs
ASC Atlanta, GA 2007**

Approximately 110 DIC Members attended the ASC 2007 DIC Luncheon. Welcome to those first timers! We hope you enjoyed your time and look forward to seeing you next year.





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STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNERS

Undergraduate Paper Award Winner:

Cassandra Rohme graduated cum laude from the University at Albany with a BA in Criminal Justice and a BA in Psychology. She is currently enrolled in the Master's program in Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Upon completion of her Master's degree she hopes to begin a career in law enforcement.

Article Summary:

This article examines human trafficking, specifically sex trafficking, in the United States and Russia. Similarities and differences between these two countries are explained as consequences of globalization or the international diffusion of cultural and social values including capitalism. The change to worldwide capitalism inspired by globalization has caused instability in countries where trafficking victims originate, like Russia, and has increased the economic disparity between these countries and destination countries like the United States. This instability has led to organized crime, corruption, and the marginalization of women in Russia which has

Master Student Paper Award Winner:

Carol L. S. Trent is a Masters student at the University of South Florida in Tampa Florida. She earned a dual B.A. in Administration of Justice and Humanities from the University of Pittsburgh in 2005. Her research interests include state crime and crimes of the powerful, comparative criminology, and empirical tests of macro-level criminological theory. Her thesis, under the direction of Dr. Michael J. Lynch, assesses the efficacy of an alternate configuration of institutional-anomie theory, whereby state dominance and a culture of moral cynicism is conducive to high corruption levels cross-nationally.

Carol's Division of International Criminology submission entitled "Examining the Variability of Economic Crime Rates Cross-Nationally: A Partial Test of Institutional-Anomie Theory" was the first research to test this elaboration of the anomie paradigm on white-collar crimes at the cross-national level. Using data for a maximum of 61 nation-states, direct criminogenic effects on fraud rates were found when the economy dominated other institutions. This effect was partially mediated by the normative restraints of the non-economic institutions (polity, education, family) included in the analysis, however, divergent from prior research, moderating (interaction) effects ran contrary to the logic of theory. For embezzlement rates, the proxy variables failed to provide a good model fit for the data. Limitations of the study and calls for further research were discussed. A poster of this research was presented at the 2007 American Society of Criminology annual meeting in Atlanta, GA.



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Graduate Paper Award Winner

Ryoko Yamamoto is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She holds a BA in Journalism from Sophia University and an MA in Sociology from the University of Missouri–Columbia. Her research interests include critical criminology, international migration, symbolic boundary makings, and Japanese society. Her dissertation analyzes the social construction of foreign criminality in contemporary Japan. Her early work on this topic led to articles 'Alien Attack?: The Construction of Foreign Criminality in Contemporary Japan' (*Japanstudien*, 2004), "Migrant-support NGOs and the Challenge to the Foreign Criminality Discourse in Japan" (*Japan Focus*, 2007) and "Crossing Boundaries: Legality and the Power of the State in Unauthorized Migration" (*Sociology Compass* 2007)

Criminal Linkages: The Construction of Foreign Criminality in Contemporary Japan

Abstract

Gottfredson and Hirschi famously define criminality as the propensity to engage in criminal behavior. But their trait-centered view is inadequate for understanding the social constructedness of criminality, which does not correspond to actual criminal conduct. This paper treats criminality as a relational construct and examines its application to discourses of foreign criminality in Japan. The Japanese police construct the collective offenderhood of rainichi (Japan-visiting) foreigners through four linkages: statistical, structural, ecological and cultural. This paper concludes that Japan's criminality discourse obscures power relationships in society, and rhetorically justifies the oppression of an already marginalized group by presuming their criminal tendencies.

Distinguished Book Award

David Bayley, Changing the Guard: Developing Democratic Police, Oxford University Press, 2006.

Distinguished International Scholar Award

Josine Junger-Tas



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CONGRATULATIONS



Jacqueline Schneider, Chair,
Senior Scholar Award Committee
presenting to Josine Junger-Tas,
winner of the 2007 Senior Scholar
Award.



Joanne Savage, Chair Student Paper Awards
Committee, presenting the PhD paper winner
Ryoko Yamamoto, PhD candidate in Sociology
at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS



David Bayley receiving the Division's Distinguished Book Award



Cassandra Rohme receiving the Undergraduate Student Paper Award



Carol Trent receiving the Master Graduate Student Paper Award



INTER-NEWS

By

Dr. Alette Smeulers

VU University Amsterdam

In the previous year, it was announced that the Special Court for Sierra Leone had set a date for the trial of Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, for his alleged complicity for the atrocities committed during the civil war in neighboring Sierra Leone. As of December 2007, the procedure is in full swing. Meanwhile, the International Criminal Court decided that the case against Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, the founder and leader of the Union des Patriotes Congolais (Union of Congolese Patriots), will commence in March 2008. Additionally, eight warrants of arrest have been issued by the Court. The suspects of international crimes that are prosecuted by these international courts and tribunals are all (former) political and military leaders.

However, on the national level, other types of perpetrators are being prosecuted for complicity of international crimes. In the Netherlands for instance, recently two cases of Dutch businessmen charged with complicity to international crimes were brought to court. Frans van Anraath was found guilty of complicity to war crimes, for providing Saddam Hussein's regime with chemicals that were used in the gas attacks against Kurdish and Iranian civilians. In the first instance Gus Kouwenhoven, the former director of the Oriental Timber Company involved in the illegal logging in Liberia, was acquitted for complicity to commit genocide but was found guilty of illegal arms trading. The weapons in question were used to arm the corporations' security forces and also, allegedly, Charles Taylor's army. The appeal procedure has not, at the time of writing, been completed.

In 2002, Australia introduced the ICC Statute offences into its domestic criminal legislation. Recently, the first criminal investigation for committing such an offence has started. Perhaps surprisingly, the suspect is not a natural person, but a corporation: the Anvil Mining Limited. The company allegedly participated in serious human rights abuses by providing logistical support to a military counter-offensive in a town in the Democratic Republic of Congo. A recent survey of Ramasastry and Thompson (www.fafon.com) revealed that nowadays, corporations can be held criminally liable and prosecuted for international crimes under the domestic law of many countries.

Another interesting development has been the recent efforts to use the Alien Tort Claims Act, which grants jurisdiction to US Federal Courts for violations of international law, to sue transnational corporations for serious human rights abuses in countries outside the US.

These developments create the interesting paradox that while the ICC is meant as a safety net when international crimes are not seriously dealt with on the national level, in prosecuting corporations for international crimes it seems the other way around. Here, domestic law is the last resort for breaches of international humanitarian law committed by multinational corporations, since international criminal law does not yet recognize criminal liability of legal persons.

With its tradition on studying white collar crime, corporate crime and state-corporate crime, criminology could provide the tools for assessing the prevalence and causes of corporate involvement in international crime. Since the criminology of international crimes is already moving beyond the traditional boundaries of the discipline, it should have no reservations to introducing insights from organizational sciences and economics to study this specific form of corporate crime.

This essay is provided by Dr. Alette Smeulers and is an excerpt taken, with permissions, from the *Supranational Criminology Newsletter* Vol. 2 No.2, December 2007.