



# CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DIVISION NEWS

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

SPRING 2015

**DIVISION CHAIR:** Brent Teasdale, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University. 140 Decatur Street, Suite 1201, Atlanta, GA 30303. Email: [bteasdale@gsu.edu](mailto:bteasdale@gsu.edu)

**DIVISION ASSOCIATE CHAIR:** Kristen M. Budd, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Gerontology, Miami University, 375 Upham Hall, Oxford, OH 45056. Email: [buddkm@miamioh.edu](mailto:buddkm@miamioh.edu)

**EDITOR:** Colleen Hackett, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Boulder, UCB 327, Boulder, CO 80309. Email: [colleen.hackett@colorado.edu](mailto:colleen.hackett@colorado.edu)

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## Notes from the Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to our Spring 2015 CJDD newsletter. I hope that your spring semester is off to a great start and that you are looking forward to the August annual meeting in Chicago. CJDD has some great news to share with you. First, please join me in congratulating Kristen Budd and Colleen Hackett on being elected Chair-Elect and Associate Chair. Both have served CJDD for the past several years with distinction and I know that we will be in good shape for the foreseeable future thanks to their capable leadership. Speaking of leadership, in Chicago, we will welcome our new chair Art Jipson. Please

plan to attend our division business meeting to meet the new chair and to participate in the life of the division. In other good news, we will honor Howard Becker with the CJDD Lifetime Achievement award in Chicago, as well. Please plan to attend the session honoring his lifetime of scholarship, which we highlight on pages 2-4 of the newsletter. In this issue of the newsletter, we bring you award announcements, conference sessions, and member bios and announcements. We are also soliciting a new newsletter editor. If you have any nominations or would be interested, please contact myself or Colleen Hackett. As always, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the leadership team if you have ideas about the CJDD.

Best wishes,

*Brent*

Brent Teasdale, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

Georgia State University

Chair, SSSP Division on Crime & Juvenile Delinquency

## Division Award Recipients

**The 2015 Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division Lifetime Achievement Award will honor esteemed sociologist and former SSSP President Howard Becker.** Dr.

Becker is deservedly famous for contributions in a variety of literatures, including the sociology of deviance and crime, the sociology of culture (especially music and art), sociological methodology with an emphasis on qualitative research methods, and academic/professional writing for social sciences. **Dr.**

**Becker** was one of the first and most influential figures in the establishment of the sociology of deviance as it has existed for the last 50-60 years. He has served as a prominent exponent of what is widely known as 'labeling theory' in sociology and criminology, better understood not as a theory (and certainly not as a hypothesis) but as part the development of a new paradigm for the interdisciplinary social-scientific understanding of deviance, crime and social problems, overlapping with the insights of constructionist social problems scholarship and, more widely, with new scholarly sensibilities cultivated by symbolic interactionism, social phenomenology and ethnomethodology, social constructionism, and also critical and conflict-theoretical scholarship on deviance and crime.

**Dr. Becker's** influence on the sociology of deviance and crime has been pivotal in encouraging social scientists to pay serious attention to how deviance and crime are socially constituted, in social

interactions and social processes where social labels for “deviant” actions and identities are deployed, managed and suffered. Some of his distinctive contributions in relation to a more qualitative, contextual and processual understanding of deviance and crime relate to deviant careers, deviant subcultures, moral entrepreneurs, and drug use understood in terms of social processes and cultural meanings. **Dr. Becker’s** scholarship thereby illustrates the possibilities and promises of simultaneously engaging questions of culture and social status and lifespan along with issues of deviance and crime. His book *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance* (1963/1973) is for such reasons one of the most noteworthy titles in the entire history of the literature. His edited collection *The Other Side: Perspectives on Deviance* (1964) helped disseminate a new conception of what deviance might be and how it might be studied through the programmatic discussions of contributors Kai Erikson and John Kitsuse, along with many rewarding and illustrative analyses of relevant empirical topics by scholars including Everett Hughes, Edwin Schur, Edwin Lemert, John Irwin and Donald Cressey, among many others.

**Dr. Becker** is also noteworthy for drawing attention to the moral positioning of scholars studying deviance and crime, most famously in his 1966 SSSP Presidential Address “Whose Side are We On?” His address thoughtfully problematizes the implicitly or explicitly correctional standpoint of much scholarship on deviance and crime, which standpoint reflected not just a common and enduring tendency, but an orthodoxy in mid-century thinking. While “refusing to accept the hierarchy of credibility”<sup>1</sup> he simultaneously suggests how scholars sympathetic with subordinate groups might retain their own scientific credibility. His approach incisively notes that hierarchies and contested distinctions are at the heart of many areas of research and suggests that research can be advanced, rather than undermined, by looking beyond official versions. One needs to retain a concern for scientific integrity, he suggests, but this can be managed while perhaps suspending a concern for other professional or commonsense notions of propriety.

For all these reasons and many more, **Dr. Becker** is deservedly famous and respected for a scholarly career that has seen remarkable contributions to multiple scholarly literatures, in teaching and mentoring, and in professional service. There will be a conference session at the annual SSSP conference this Summer in Chicago, devoted to a collegial discussion of **Dr. Becker’s** achievements and influence to date. Panelists include **Elijah Anderson, Marjorie DeVault, Erich Goode, Robert Nelson** and **Chris Wellin**. Please consider attending the session to enjoy a pleasant and informative look at the contributions of one of the most recognized and respected scholars in our field.

--Dr. Tim Berard, Chair of the Lifetime Achievement Award Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Howard S. Becker (1967) “Whose Side Are We On?” *Social Problems* 14: 239-247, p. 242.

We are very pleased to announce that **Jessica Simes**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University, has been selected to receive the Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Division Award for Best Graduate Student Paper. Her paper is entitled "For Whom Does a Neighborhood Effect Matter? Neighborhood Trajectories of a Cohort of Released Prisoners." We would like to extend our utmost congratulations to Jessica. Keep up the great work!

In addition, we are fortunate to have an honorable mention; the prize committee recognizes **Jay Borchert**, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan, for his paper: "A New Iron Closet: Failing to Extend the Spirit of Lawrence v. Texas to Prisons and Prisoners." Congratulations!

The Division award session (included in the session schedule on page 5) will involve a panel discussion of the distinguished scholarship of **Howard Becker**. A noteworthy group of invited speakers will address Howard Becker's wide-ranging contributions over his career, including but going well beyond his distinctive contributions to scholarship on crime and deviance. The presider over this session will be **Chris Wellin** of Illinois State University, **Elijah Anderson** of Yale University, **Marjorie DeVault** of Syracuse University, **Erich Goode**, Professor Emeritus at Stony Brook University, and **Robert L. Nelson** of the American Bar Foundation and Northwestern University. *Date, time and location to be announced.*

There will additionally be a presentation of award plaques to both award recipients. The award sessions are informative and pleasant experiences, so please feel free to attend even if you're not familiar with the award recipients. The **awards session** will take place **on Saturday, August 22nd, 6:30-7:10pm** followed by the **Division Reception from 7:15-8:15pm**. The location will be announced in our next newsletter.

**We hope to see you there!**

## Election Results

We have an impressive, exciting new leadership team to announce, following our Spring Division elections. **Arthur Jipson** will be our new Division Chair (2015-17), **Kristen Budd**, formerly our Associate Chair will be our Chair Elect (2015-17), and **Colleen Hackett**, formerly our newsletter editor will be our Associate Chair (2015-17). Be on the look out for announcements from the Division as we continue under the new leadership, covering the regular bases of renewing membership, conferenced sessions, annual prize competitions and newsletters, in addition to expanding communication resources and increased levels of membership and presentation proposals. Please help welcome and congratulate our new Division officers.

# Crime and Juvenile Delinquency Conference Sessions 2015

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The following are our division-sponsored or co-sponsored sessions in the 2015 annual conference program. Stay tuned for our summer newsletter that will include more details such as location, date/time, and presenter information.

## **Division sponsored sessions:**

Lifetime Achievement Award organized by Tim Berard [invited], presided over by Chris Wellin

Crime, Media, and Public Opinion organized by Kristen Budd

New Directions in Criminology, Critical Dialogue organized by Glenn Muschert

## **Co-sponsored sessions:**

Law and Violence organized by Stephen Morewitz, cosponsored with Law and Society

Mental Health and Youth in Criminogenic Neighborhoods organized by Kristine Artello, cosponsored with Society and Mental Health

Health, Disabilities, and Incarceration organized by Art Jipson, cosponsored with Disabilities and Health, Health Policy, Health Services

Social Control and Drugs co-organized by Dina Perrone and Avelardo Valdez, cosponsored with Drugs and Society

Problematized Urban Communities and the Legacy of the Chicago School, Thematic/Critical Dialogue, organized by Courtney Waid-Lindberg, cosponsored with Community Research and Development, Crime and Juvenile Delinquency, and Social Problems Theory

Intersections of Race, Gender and Crime, Thematic Session organized by Patrick Polasek, cosponsored with Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities

Lifecourse and Crime organized by Kelley Hartshorn, cosponsored with Youth, Aging, and the Lifecourse

***We'll see you there!***

# Meet and Greet: March's Member Bio

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## Nathan Link

### **Who are you and what department/program are you affiliated with?**

I'm a fifth year doctoral student in Criminal Justice and Temple University.

### **What are your research interests?**

Broadly speaking, I do research on corrections, criminal justice policy, mental health, and theory. Recently, I have been looking at the large sums of legal financial debt that former prisoners face once released from incarceration. These sums accrue throughout the justice process (from law enforcement and court fees, fines, child support, etc.) and can be quite large. Few studies have assessed the implications how these might impact prisoners, former prisoners, and their families.

### **What is your favorite class to teach and why?**

I enjoyed teaching Criminal Behavior last summer. Most of my students had never taken a criminology course, so I had the opportunity to introduce them to interesting and varied topics such as mental health and crime, white-collar crime, and the basic tenets of popular paradigms such as strain, control, and learning perspectives. The fact that we had to start from square one made the class more fun to teach since their thoughts and ideas were fresh and not imported from previous classes.

### **How has the SSSP annual conference been useful to your career?**

I haven't made it to an annual meeting yet, but I look forward to it!

### **What do you find exciting about criminology? Is there any research area in particular that you find intriguing?**

One aspect of criminology that excites me is how well positioned the field is to contribute to addressing current real world problems. Issues of crime, punishment, race, and scaling back mass incarceration are now a salient, ongoing national conversation, and criminology has produced valuable insights in these areas that can inform this discussion.

## Member News and Accomplishments

**Nathan Link**, a Ph.D. student at Temple University, has had two articles published. The first, co-authored with James Kelly, Joseph Pitts, and Kelly Waltman-Spreha, and Ralph Taylor is entitled “Reversing Broken Windows: Evidence of Lagged, Multilevel Impacts of Risk Perceptions on Perceptions of Incivility” and is published in a 2014 edition of *Crime & Delinquency*. The second article, co-authored with Francis Cullen, Robert Agnew, and Bruce Link, is entitled “Can General Strain Theory Help Us Understand Violent Behaviors Among People with Mental Illnesses?” and has been published with *Justice Quarterly* this year (2015).

**Dr. Simon Singer**, of Northeastern University, has had a book published with NYU Press (2014) entitled “America’s Safest City: Delinquency and Modernity in Suburbia.” The following description, from NYU Press, states: “Drawing on ethnographic work, interviews with troubled youth, parents and service providers, and extensive surveys of teenage residents in Amherst, New York, the book illustrates how a suburban environment is able to provide its youth with opportunities to avoid frequent delinquencies. **Singer** compares the most delinquent teens he surveys with the least delinquent, analyzing the circumstances that did or did not lead them to deviance and the ways in which they confront their personal difficulties, societal discontents, and serious troubles. Adolescents, parents, teachers, coaches and officials, he concludes, are able in this suburban setting to recognize teens’ need for ongoing sources of trust, empathy, and identity in a multitude of social settings, allowing them to become what **Singer** terms ‘relationally modern’ individuals better equipped to deal with the trials and tribulations of modern life. A unique and comprehensive study, *America’s Safest City* is a major new addition to scholarship on juveniles and crime in America.”

**Dr. Tim Berard**, a past Division Chair (2011-13), has published an article entitled “The Study of Deviant Subcultures as a Longstanding and Evolving Site of Intersecting Membership Categorizations” in the journal *Human Studies* (2014).

**Dr. Robert A. Brooks** (Division member and Associate Professor, criminal justice, Worcester State University) and Jeffrey Cohen (Assistant Professor, University of Washington-Tacoma) published their book in September by Lynn Rienner. The book is entitled “[Confronting School Bullying: Kids, Culture, and the Making of a Social Problem](#),” and is an analysis of how the media came to construct school bullying as a national social problem. One theme of the book is how school bullying mirrors larger institutional and cultural discourses around gender and sexuality; youth continually police one another’s behavior in order to delimit what constitutes acceptable “male” and “female” behavior. The book also details how responses to bullying have become increasingly punitive and individualized. Joshua R. Klein, Iona College, writes: “A major contribution to understanding the social and ideological construction of bullying. ... Compelling throughout. The overview of the antibullying movement alone is worth the price of the book.”

**Dr. Craig Reinerman**, Professor of Sociology and Legal Studies at University of California Santa Cruz has recently published an anthology with Robert Granfield, entitled “Expanding Addiction: Critical Essays” (Routledge 2014). “In light of the conceptual imperialism of addiction and its associated biological reductionism, it is essential to keep alive critical perspectives on addiction that expose the historical and cultural interstices in which the disease concept of addiction is constructed. The readings selected for this anthology include both the classic foundational pieces and cutting-edge contemporary works that constitute critical addiction studies. The diverse array of human troubles now lumped under the umbrella of “addiction” are too painful for too many millions of people and affect too many public policy issues to be left to reductionist doctrines. The hegemony of the addiction-as-brain-disease paradigm must be unpacked and interrogated. That is the purpose of this innovative text/reader by two of sociology’s most distinguished addiction researchers and educators.”

**Dr. Stephen J. Morewitz’s** research on endangered runaway and homeless youth was featured in a CSUEB NewsBlog on February 16, 2015. **Stephen’s** research will be published in the forthcoming book, *Runaway and Homeless Youth: New Research and Clinical Perspectives* (New York: Springer Science +Business Media, LLC).

**Dr. Diana Veloso**, Assistant Professor II at De La Salle University - Manila, recently co-authored a report entitled “Evaluation of the Intervention and Rehabilitation Program in Residential Facilities and Diversion Programs for Children in Conflict with the Law.” This evaluation report, commissioned by UNICEF, examines the outcomes and impacts of government-sponsored rehabilitation, intervention, and diversion programs for children in conflict with the law in the Philippines.

**Colleen Hackett**, soon to be a newly-minted Ph.D. in the sociology department at the University of Colorado-Boulder, has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Sociology at Colorado State University in Pueblo.

Please help congratulate our colleagues’ recent achievements!

## Chow Green Dissertation Award

Sociologists for Women in Society are inviting applications for the 2015 Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Mareyjoyce Green Scholarship, formerly known as the Women of Color Dissertation Scholarship. All applications are due no later than April 1, 2015. Please email Lorena Garcia and Chandra Waring at [2015.ChowGreenAward@gmail.com](mailto:2015.ChowGreenAward@gmail.com) for instructions, or with questions or applications.



# **The Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award for 2015**

The Association for Humanist Sociology is pleased to announce The Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award for 2015. Authors, publishers, and AHS members may nominate books for consideration. The winner will be recognized at our annual meeting October 21-25, 2015 in Portland, OR. Nominations should be for Sociology or interdisciplinary social science books that approach their subjects from a humanist perspective.

Founded in 1976, the Association sees its mission to strive as professionals, as scholars and as activists to uncover and address social issues. We view people not merely as products of social forces, but also as agents in their lives and the world. We are committed to a sociology that contributes to a more humane, equal, and just society.

Eligible books should have been published in the calendar year 2014 or the first half of 2015. If a book was submitted for last year's consideration, it cannot be nominated again.

To nominate a book, authors/publishers/nominators should e-mail a letter of nomination with the subject line "Betty and Alfred McClung Lee Book Award Nomination" to Daina Cheyenne Harvey at [धारवेय@holycross.edu](mailto:धारवेय@holycross.edu). Authors/publishers should send one copy of the book to each of the award committee members (email Daina for names and information). The deadline for nominations is May 15, 2015. Additional information about AHS is available at [www.humanist-sociology.org](http://www.humanist-sociology.org).

## **Newsletter Editor Needed**

We need a newsletter editor starting in the fall of 2015 and ending in the summer of 2017. This is a great opportunity for any graduate student or junior scholar who might want to get more involved in the division. Your duties will include collecting member news and division-related announcements and publishing a biannual newsletter, in collaboration with the Division Chair and Associate Chair. The position includes a small stipend and a wealth of networking opportunities!

## **Newsletter Contributions Invited**

We encourage members to submit news such as publications, new appointments, and other professional accomplishments for inclusion in a future newsletter. Suggestions and inquiries about less conventional content are also welcome - consider editorials, book reviews, teaching notes, department/program profiles, calls for contributions to journals and edited books, obituaries... Please direct such inquiries to the current Division Chair, Brent Teasdale at [bteasdale@gsu.edu](mailto:bteasdale@gsu.edu) or current Newsletter Editor, Colleen Hackett at [colleen.hackett@colorado.edu](mailto:colleen.hackett@colorado.edu).