

Newsletter

[Like and Follow the Crime and Justice Division Page](#)



**Crime and
Justice
Division**



Inside the Issue

Note from the Chair	1
Introductions	5
Awards	6
Division-Sponsored Conference Sessions	7
Publications	8
Member News	10
Solidarity Campaigns	11
Presentations and Research Notes	12
Job Market Candidates	13

Note from the Chair

Dear Crime and Justice Division members,

We hope this note finds you well and that summer has offered at least a little room to breathe.

As many of us prepare to gather for SSSP 2026 in New York City, our field stands at a revealing crossroads. The data tell one story: violent crime has continued its steep national decline into 2026, with the FBI's preliminary figures showing the single largest one-year drop in violent crime and murder in nearly ninety years (FBI Releases Historic Early Look at Annual Crime Data, 2026), and early 2026 numbers suggesting we may be approaching the lowest homicide rate the country has ever recorded (Brownlee, 2026). By nearly every measure, Americans are safer than they have been in generations.

And yet, the political story runs in almost the opposite direction. Crime remains a potent rhetorical weapon, invoked over the past year to justify the deployment of federal troops to major cities and an expansion of enforcement that our members study closely and, in many cases, live through (Contreras, 2026). As scholars of crime and justice, we know this dissonance intimately: the gap between what the evidence shows and what power chooses to claim is precisely the terrain we study, and increasingly, the terrain we are called to defend.

This summer, that tension has been on vivid display around the FIFA World Cup, co-hosted across sixteen cities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including NYC/NJ and many of your home cities. Billed as one of the most heavily secured sporting events in history, with biometric screening, AI-driven surveillance, and an ICE presence around stadiums (Ainsley, 2026; Gibbs, 2026), the tournament has doubled as a live demonstration of the surveillance and immigration-enforcement apparatus many of us research. More than a hundred civil rights organizations issued a travel advisory for arriving fans, and immigrant communities, union workers, and journalists alike felt the chill of a security posture that too often confuses belonging with suspicion (Andre & Avilez, 2026; Kolhatkar, 2026). For scholars of crime and justice, the World Cup has been less a distraction from our work than an unusually public case study in it: a reminder that "security" is always a set of choices about who is protected and who is policed. It is worth carrying that observation into our conversations in New York and beyond.

Now, some announcements, offered in the spirit of community that sustains us. First, we will hold **a virtual Division meeting on July 22, 2:30 pm to 4:10 pm**, and we hope you'll join us. This gathering is where the coming year takes shape. We'll turn our attention to next year's conference, the 77th SSSP Annual Meeting in Chicago (August 5–8, 2027), organized around the theme *Building Communities for Radical Change*, a call, in the tradition of SSSP founder Alfred McClung Lee, for a sociology accountable to the communities engaged in resistance and survival, grounded in abolitionist praxis, mutual aid, and collective refusal (you can read the full theme statement at https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/pageid/2706/2027_Annual_Meeting/). Together we'll brainstorm session ideas for the Chicago program and, just as importantly, invite volunteers to help organize them. The Division is only as vibrant as the members who step forward, and there is a place for you in this work. We'll also take time to celebrate our paper and award winners, whose scholarship embodies exactly the kind of engaged, transformative inquiry this theme demands. Details will follow by email, and we are especially committed to making space for those who, for reasons of safety, cost, or circumstance, cannot travel to New York. Your voice belongs in this Division whether or not you can be in the room, and we mean that.



Secondly, we are delighted to celebrate **this year's Division award winners: the Graduate Student Paper Award and the Scholarly Achievement Award**. We are moved by the depth and range of this year's submissions, which speak to the vitality of critical scholarship even under mounting political pressure. We look forward to honoring outstanding work by our students and colleagues at the conference and in these pages. To everyone who submitted: thank you for the courage and care your scholarship represents.

Third, **a heartfelt thank you to our two awards committees**, whose careful and largely invisible labor made these honors possible. Our **Graduate Student Paper Award committee** was chaired by Stephani Williams, with members Kevin Dahaghi, Jordan Grasso, Lloyd Klein, Olaitan Faysal, and Karen Lancaster-Ellis. Our **Scholarly Achievement Award committee** was chaired by Lois Presser, with members Popy Begum, Kelly Tabbutt, Cassy Gonzalez, and Diana Veloso. Reviewing submissions is generous work, offered freely in service to this community, and it is the quiet solidarity on which the Division depends. To each of you: we see you, and we are grateful.

As always, please prioritize your own safety and well-being in deciding whether and how to attend this year. For those traveling to New York, I hope you find community, sharp conversation, and genuine joy in the city. For those joining virtually, we are so glad to have you.

Our work, understanding how justice is defined, distributed, and denied, has rarely been more necessary or more contested. We are honored to do it beside you, and we are not doing it alone.

In solidarity,

Rafia Mallick

References

- Ainsley, J. (2026, May 13). ICE may be at World Cup matches in U.S. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/sports/soccer/ice-may-world-cup-matches-us-rcna344797>
- Andre, R., & Avilez, J. (2026, June 11). World Cup Immigration Questions Answered: ICE, Visa Denials, and Iran. American Immigration Council. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/world-cup-ice-visas-iran/>
- Brownlee, C. (2026, May 12). A Top Analyst Explains Why America's Second 'Great Crime Decline' Could Already Be Here. The Trace. <https://www.thetrace.org/2026/05/us-murder-rate-historic-low-jeff-asher/>
- Contreras, R. (2026, May 10). Violent crime rates plunge in America's big cities. Axios. <https://www.axios.com/2026/05/10/violent-crime-us-cities-trump>
- FBI Releases Historic Early Look at Annual Crime Data. (2026, May 13). [Press Release]. Federal Bureau of Investigation. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-historic-early-look-at-annual-crime-data>
- Gibbs, A. (2026, June 9). ICE, bag searches and denied visas—How World Cup teams have been welcomed—Yahoo Sports. Newsweek. <https://sports.yahoo.com/articles/ice-bag-searches-denied-visas-195313489.html>
- Kolhatkar, S. (2026, July 8). As ICE Casts Shadow Over World Cup, Organizers Focus on Keeping Communities Safe. Truthout. <https://truthout.org/articles/as-ice-casts-shadow-over-world-cup-organizers-focus-on-keeping-communities-safe/>

Introductions

Chair (2025-2027)

Rafia Mallick is a critical qualitative and quantitative sociologist and Ph.D. candidate at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She holds two master's degrees and a Geographic Information Systems certification. She has worked as a research assistant and data analyst for different community-based projects in Pakistan, New York, Oklahoma, and Georgia. Her research centers on structural inequities impacting immigrant communities and racialized populations in the United States, with a specific focus on anti-Asian racism, South Asian diasporic identity, the production of ethnic enclaves, patriarchal traditionalism, religiosity, deviant behavior, and collective efficacy.



Associate Chair (2025-2027)

Jennifer M. Carpenter is a PhD Candidate at Georgia State University. She currently serves as the Managing Editor for the department's two journal publications, The Criminal Justice Review and The International Criminal Justice Review, as well as teaching Criminal Justice courses in the department. Her current research is focused on the reentry needs of gender minorities and how a lack of gender concordant documentation may hinder their ability to find jobs and housing after incarceration.



Chair-Elect (2027-2029)

Dr. Kelly Tabbutt is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Alfred University in Alfred, New York. She teaches in the broad areas of sociology, traditional and critical criminologies, carceral studies, and criminal justice studies. Her main research areas are carceral system inequalities, structural racial inequalities, and colonialism. Specifically, as these impact Indigenous peoples in the United States. Her interests also intersect with and include the structure of Native Nation sovereignty and tribal criminal justice systems.



Awards

2026 Graduate Student Paper Award winner

Michael Zanger-Tishler for the paper "State Data and the Production of Quantitative Knowledge: The Case of Police Stops in the United States and France."

2026 Scholarly Achievement Award winner

Joachim Savelsberg

Joachim J. Savelsberg is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Law at the University of Minnesota, where he taught for over 35 years. He is a highly distinguished scholar in the fields of criminology, the sociology of law, and human rights, recognized as a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology and a former Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair.



His scholarship focuses on the sociology of genocide knowledge, collective memory, and the representation of mass violence, with recent projects examining the Armenian genocide and human rights violations in Syria.

He has authored several acclaimed books, including *Knowing about Genocide* (2021), *Representing Mass Violence* (2015), and *American Memories* (2011), many of which have received prestigious book awards from the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Savelsberg has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as Chair for the ASA sections on Human Rights and the Sociology of Law. He is the recipient of multiple lifetime achievement awards, such as the Harry J. Kalven, Jr. Prize and the Lee Founders Award.

Throughout his career, he has mentored thousands of students and received several awards for his dedication to teaching and faculty mentoring.

Division-Sponsored Conference Sessions at Annual Meeting

Friday, August 7

8:30- 10:10 AM: CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Inventing Criminality across the Globe - Room: Pearl

12:30-2:10 PM: Algorithmic Injustices: Effect of AI on Vulnerable (Marginalized) Communities - Room: Plymouth

2:30-4:10 PM: Beyond Therapeutic Regimes: Critiquing Traditional Medical and Criminal Legal Responses - Room: Plymouth

2:30-4:10 PM: Weaponization of Child Welfare - Room: Ambassador II

4:30-6:10 PM: Gender and Violence: International Perspectives - Room: Plymouth

Saturday, August 8

8:30- 10:10 AM: Mass Incarceration and Perpetual Punishment I - Room: Plymouth

10:30 AM -12:10 PM: Mass Incarceration and Perpetual Punishment II - Room: Plymouth

12:30-2:10 PM: State of Policing I - Room: Plymouth

2:30-4:10 PM: State of Policing II - Room: Plymouth

Sunday, August 9

8:30- 10:10 AM: Mass Incarceration and Perpetual Punishment III - Room: Plymouth

10:30 AM -12:10 PM: The Border Crossed Me: Shifting Lifeworlds of Immigration - Room: Plymouth

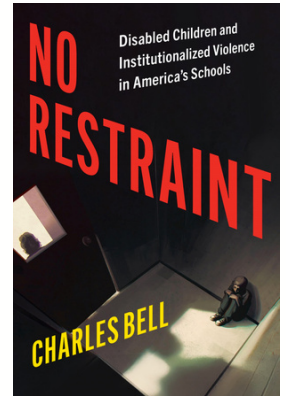
12:30-2:10 PM: Gender and Violence: Structural Issues - Room: Plymouth

2:30-4:10 PM: Gender and Violence: Institutional Perspectives - Room: Plymouth

Publications



Bell, Charles. February 2026. "No Restraint: Disabled Children and Institutionalized Violence in America's Schools." NYU Press,
<https://nyupress.org/9781479834594/no-restraint/>



Veloso, Diana Therese M. 2026. "Third Space Ecclesia: Women Promoting Justice and Peace in Conflict Zones." Journal of Moral Theology 9 (CTEWC Book Series 9): 282–304. <https://doi.org/10.55476/001c.160247>.

Walton, Shawn D. 2026. "From Reform to Resurgence: A Case Study of the NYPD's Stop-and-Frisk Policy Under Changing Mayoral Administrations (1994–2024)." UNBOUND Digital Magazine. Pasadena, CA: Saybrook University . Published March 12, 2026. Retrieved May 7, 2026

Jillian LaBranche and **Joachim Savelsberg.** 2026. "Stigma Management, Group Interaction, and Cultural Trauma: A Rwanda-Germany Comparison." American Journal of Cultural Sociology. Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 76-109.

Joachim J. Savelsberg, Jillian LaBranche, and Miray Philips. 2025. "Prosecutorial-NGO Complex: New Legal Opportunity Structures and the Role of (I)NGOs in Universal Jurisdiction Trials on Syria." Law & Society Review Vol. 59, Nr. 4, pp. 716-748.

Publications

Jillian LaBranche and **Joachim Savelsberg**. 2025. "Universal Jurisdiction and Civil Society: Institutional Learning and Knowledge about Mass Atrocity Crimes." *Sociology Compass*. Vol. 19, Nr. 11, pp. 1-10.

John Hagan and **Joachim Savelsberg**. 2025. "Memorializing War Crimes and How We Remember to Forget: The Vietnam War, Collective Memory, and America's Forever Wars" In: *Research Handbook on Violent Crime and Society*, edited by Terry Miethe and Wendy Regoeczi. Edward Elgar, pp. 63-83.

Mallick, Rafia, and Deirdre Oakley. 2026. "Beyond the British Raj: Coloniality, Caste, and Race in South Asia" in *The Handbook for the Geographies of Race, A Multidisciplinary Global Perspective*, De Gruyter

Mallick, R. (2026). Book Review: *The Other Side of Assimilation: How Immigrants Are Changing American Life*. *Teaching Sociology*, 54(3), 282-284.

Martensen, K. (2025). *Carceral Collusions with "the Community": An Examination of Community-Based Juvenile Justice Reforms*. *S&F Online*, 21(1).



Member News

In honor of Black History Month and its 100th anniversary, Saybrook proudly recognizes alumnus **Dr. Shawn D. Walton**, who was recently honored by Black Doctorate Matter for his doctoral scholarship and national impact.

2026 Article Award -- Honorable Mention, SSSP Conflict, Social Action and Change Division. For: **Joachim J. Savelsberg**, Jillian LaBranche, and Miray Philips. "Prosecutorial-NGO Complex: New Legal Opportunity Structures and the Role of (I)NGOs in Universal Jurisdiction Trials on Syria." Law & Society Review Vol. 59, Nr. 4, pp. 716-748.

Jennifer Carpenter won the Andrew Young School Leadership and Service Award in Criminal Justice and Criminology

Peper Rivers received a History of Science Society-National Science Foundation travel grant; Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society

Dr. Diana Therese M. Veloso PN(Res) is the new Chair of the Department of Sociology and Behavioral Sciences at De La Salle University in the Philippines. She was also reelected to the Board of Directors of Philippine Sociological Society.

Dr. Diana Therese M. Veloso PN(Res) is celebrating her 25th anniversary of prison ministry in the Philippines this June 2026. She has been volunteering at the Correctional Institution for Women in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, since 2001. She also occasionally visits and engages in gift-giving activities at the Correctional Institution for Women-Mindanao in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte province. She has also visited and provided assistance at prisons for men in Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, Leyte province, Davao del Norte province, and Zamboanga City, over the past years.

Rafia Mallick began a new role as Graduate Research Assistant at the Georgia Health Policy Center, contributing to two projects: an evaluation of the CDC's Diabetes Prevention Program and Market in the Middle.

Rafia Mallick was awarded the CNC Fellows Award. 2026. Center for Neighborhoods and Communities, Georgia State University

Member News

Rafia Mallick was accepted and completed the Atlanta Community Engaged Research (CER) Program at Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, Georgia Institute of Technology

Rafia Mallick was elected as Student Representative (2026-2029), Membership and Outreach Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP).

Rafia Mallick was elected as Graduate Student Representative on Council for Community and Urban Sociology, Section of the American Sociological Association.

Melicha Rahaman started the PhD program in Sociology at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and currently serving as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Sociology.

Melicha Rahaman is the recipient of the Diana Natalicio Summer Fellowship, University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), 2026.

You can learn more about **Dr. Shawn D. Walton's** work at New Alternatives For LGBT Homeless Youth Inc: <https://lnkd.in/eex-Adn2>

Solidarity Campaign

Melicha Rahaman current research engages with issues of displacement, refugee governance, statelessness, and humanitarian representation, particularly focusing on the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. Through this work, I aim to critically examine how political and media narratives shape public understanding of refugee protection, temporariness, and everyday bordering practices affecting displaced communities.

Presentations

Rafia Mallick, and Deirdre A Oakley. What Makes a Neighborhood? Understanding and Visualizing Urban Disadvantage: How Formal Definitions Shape Research, Inequality, and Intervention (Invited Presentation). Break the Cycle of Children's Environmental Health Disparities (BTC 21) Conference. April 2026. Atlanta, GA



Rafia Mallick and **Jennifer Carpenter** organized and presented a webinar, "Level Up Your Conference Game: Preparing for SSSP Annual Meeting", to prepare students for the annual meeting on April 22, 2026.

Research Notes

Do you use correctional records in your research? If so, I would love to hear from you. I am currently seeking input on the state of access to records collected by correctional institutions (prisons, jails, custodial hospitals, reform schools, detainment facilities) across the US. This could refer either to contemporary records or historical records, depending on your research focus. If you have anything to share about your experience accessing, collecting, reproducing or publishing this type of data, or your experience with the state, state archive or records agencies, IRBs, departments of correction, or other stakeholders in conducting this research, please contact **Peper Rivers** at pelang@iu.edu.

Melicha Rahaman's current research project examines how Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh are represented within political and media discourse between 2017 and 2026. Drawing on theories of protracted refugee situations, everyday bordering, and affective border violence, the project analyzes how camps are publicly framed as temporary humanitarian spaces while systems of surveillance, restriction, and control become normalized within everyday camp governance. Using qualitative discourse analysis and thematic coding of political texts and newspaper coverage, this study explores how narratives of protection, repatriation, and security shape public understanding of refugee governance in Bangladesh. The project is being developed as part of the Diana Natalicio Summer Fellowship at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and will contribute to my broader research interests in migration, socio-legal studies, border regimes, and displacement.

Job Market Candidates

Rafia Javaid Mallick is a Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology at Georgia State University, graduating May 2026. With extensive research experience in urban studies, immigration, race, and inequality, she has contributed to multiple university and community-based projects, including work with the Southern Poverty Law Center and the City of Atlanta. Her scholarship includes peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and reports on topics ranging from policing alternatives to immigrant integration. She is skilled in qualitative, quantitative, and geospatial methods and has held leadership roles in professional organizations such as ASA and SSSP. Rafia is prepared for roles in academia, research, or policy analysis.

Dissertation/project title: Tangled Threads of Belonging: Racial Discrimination and Segmented Assimilation among Asian Indian Immigrants in the United States

Research specialization: Diasporic Belonging and Decolonization. Patriarchal Systems and Gender Violence. Urban Inequities and Performative Governance.

Website: <https://www.rafiamallick.com/bio>

Email: rmallick1@gsu.edu

