

SOCI 836: CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY AND EMPIRICAL TESTS

Dr. Karen F. Parker

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Seminar Meeting Times (THURS 2:00 to 5:00) and Location (341 Smith Hall)

Objectives: Examines issues and strategies involved in the collection and analysis of criminological data. Analyzes major theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented research related to the design, implementation, and analysis of criminological data. Prepares students for continued study and application of contemporary research in criminology.

Important Note: This is a seminar with expectations of attendance, preparation and participation from each student. All required readings must be examined each week prior to class, as weekly class sessions will focus on discussion of the readings. HINT: Be prepared to facilitate discussion via generating questions and comments from each required weekly reading. Correspondence through email may occur, so check your email on a regular basis. In addition, knowledge of research issues is enhanced through conducting independent research. Each person will conduct his/her own research project and present the result of his/her efforts to the class, with a focus on types of problems and issues encountered. To get projects started early, students will submit a proposal or research plan (which includes 2-3 critical readings) by the 3rd week of the semester (see outline for details). I will meet with each of you individually during the 4th week of the seminar to discuss your research plan. Email me with 2-3 suggested times/days for the office appointment.

Readings: To reduce the cost of course materials, a copy of the required readings will be available on CD-Rom. If you prefer to collect the readings independently, see the accompanying bibliography with complete citation. Most (if not all) articles are available for download.

Requirements: Grades will be based on methodological submission (20%), research proposal and project (50%), presentation of final project (15%), and participation in weekly class sessions (15%). Each required task is detailed below.

Methodological Submission (20%): Below you will see a list of methodological topics. Each student will pick one methodological topic to discuss with the class. A 3 single spaced, typed page summary of this issue is required. This report should include information from 2-3 published works that attempted to address the issue in their research design. The presentation date is provided in the course outline below and the written portion of your submission will be due the Monday after the topic has been presented in class. Late submissions will not be accepted. Organization, grammar, spelling, and clarity of presentation are important.

Research Project (50%): You are to conduct research on a topic relevant to the study of crime and deviance. The final research project is due on May 23rd (Friday) and your grade on this project includes the submission of a project proposal early on (15%). A suggested guideline for the final research project is approximately 18-25 pages in length. A typical research project consists of: 1) a clear statement of purpose, 2) review of the relevant literature; 3) theoretical orientation or conceptual framework; 4) hypothes(es); 5) research design (data, methods, analytical strategy); 6) results and conclusions; and 7) limitations of research. Proposed research that differs from this general format is acceptable but your intentions need to be outlined in the research proposal.

Presentation (15%): Each student is required to present the results of her or his individual research project. Your presentation should also include some discussion of how you handled the research issues encountered when conducting your own independent research in this course. You will have 15 - 20 minutes depending on the total number of student enrolled in the course. Handouts and overheads are optional.

Participation (15%): Given the seminar nature of this course, you are expected to read all required readings and participate in each class sessions.

COURSE OUTLINE*

F14/Week 1: DEFINING AND DEFENDING MEASURES

Black, Donald J. 1970. Production of Crime Rates. *American Sociological Review* 35:733-748.

Marcus, B. 2004. Self-control in the General Theory of Crime: Theoretical implications of a measurement problem. *Theoretical Criminology* 8(1): 33-55.

Hagan, John, Edward Silva and John Simpson. 1977 Conflict and Consensus in the Designation of Deviance. *Social Forces* 56(2):320-340.

F21/Week 2: THEORY TESTING

Pratt, Travis and Francis Cullen. 2005. Assessing Macro-Level Predictors and Theories of Crime: A Meta-Analysis. *Crime and Justice: A Review in Research* 32:373-450.

Short, James F., Jr. 1998. The Level of Explanation Problem Revisited--The American Society of Criminology 1997 Presidential Address. *Criminology* 36(1):3-36.

Paternoster, Raymond and Robert Braume. 1997. Multiple Routes to Delinquency? A Test of Developmental and General Theories of Crime. *Criminology* 35(1):49-84.

Wagner, David and Joseph Berger. 1985 Do Sociological Theories Grow? *American Journal of Sociology* 90:697-728

PRESENTATION-- MEASUREMENT

F28/Week 3: DATA SOURCES

Berk, R.A. and S.C. Ray. 1982. Selection Biases in Sociological Data. *Social Science Research* 11:352-398. [hardcopy]

Hindelang, Michael J., Travis Hirschi, and Joseph G. Weis. 1979. Correlates of Delinquency: The Illusion of Discrepancy between Self-Report and Official Measures. *American Sociological Review* 44:995-1014.

Gove, Walter R., and Michael Hughes, and Michael Geerken. 1985. Are Uniform Crime Reports a Valid Indicator of the Index Crimes? An Affirmative Answer with Minor Qualifications. *Criminology* 23(3):451-501. [hardcopy]

Other articles in this series (not required):

- Rosenfeld, Richard, Decker, Scott H., 1999. Are arrest statistics a valid measure of illicit drug use? The relationship between criminal justice and public health indicators of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana use. *Justice Quarterly* 16 (1), 685–699.
- Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, and Richard Rosenfeld. 1991. Trend and Deviation in Crime Rates: A Comparison of UCR and NCS data for Burglary and Robbery. *Criminology* 29: 237-263.
- Kleck, Gary. 1982. On the Use of Self-Report Data To Determine the Class Distribution of Criminal and Delinquent Behavior. *American Sociological Review* 47:427-433.
- Hindelang, Michael J., Travis Hirschi, and Joseph G. Weis. 1982. Reply to [Kleck's]'On the Use of Self- Report Data to Determine the Class Distribution of Criminal and Delinquent Behavior'. *American Sociological Review* 47:433-435.
- Hindelang, Michael J. 1981. Variations in Rates of Offending. *American Sociological Review* 46:461-74.
- McDowall, David, and Colin Loftin. 1992. Comparing the UCR and NCS Over Time. *Criminology* 30(1):125-132.
- Menard, Scott. 1987. Short-term Trends in Crime and Delinquency: A Comparison of UCR, NCS, and Self-Report Data. *Justice Quarterly* 4(3):455-474.
- Menard, Scott. 1992. Residual Gains, Reliability, and the UCR-NCS Relationship: A Comment on Blumstein, Cohen, and Rosenfeld (1991) *Criminology* 30(1):105-132.
- Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, and Richard Rosenfeld. 1992. The UCR-NCS Relationship Revisited: A Reply to Menard. *Criminology* 30(1):115-124.

PRESENTATION-- SELECTION BIAS & MISSING DATA

Research Proposal Due: No more than 4 single spaced, typed pages covering the following areas (subheadings): 1) research question(s); 2) significance of research; 3) brief summary of related studies (no more than 4); 4) an outline of the theoretical orientation or conceptual framework; 5) prediction or hypothesis (es); 6) research plan--- proposed dataset and analytical strategy; and/or 7) any questions/concerns you have about the research design. If you have access to the data, provide a list of proposed measures and table of descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, max. & min. values, skewness, etc).

M6/Week 4: BEFORE MULTIPLE REGRESSION

Hannon, Lance and P Knapp. 2003. Reassessing nonlinearity in the urban disadvantage/violent crime relationship: An example of methodological bias from log transformation. *Criminology* 41 (4): 1427-1448

Land, Kenneth C., Patricia L. McCall and Larry E. Cohen. 1990. Structural Covariates of Homicide Rates: Are There Any Invariances across Time and Social Space? *American Journal of Sociology*, 95,922-63.

Loftin, Colin and R. Hill. 1974. Regional Subculture and Homicide: An Examination of the Gastil-Hackney Thesis. *American Sociological Review* 39 (5) 714-724.

Marvell, Thomas B., Moody Jr., Carlile E., 1996. Specification problems, police levels, and crime rates. *Criminology* 34 (4), 609-646.

Highly Recommended (but not required):

Bollen, Kenneth A. and Robert W. Jackman. 1990. Regression Diagnostics. *Sociological Methods and Research* 13 (4): 510-542 [hardcopy]

Gordon, Robert A. 1967. Issues in Multiple Regression. *American Journal of Sociology*. 27:592-616.

Rosenfeld, Richard, Decker, Scott H., 1993. Discrepant values, correlated measures: cross-city comparisons of self-report and urine tests of cocaine use among arrestees. *Journal of Criminal Justice* 21, 223-230.

McCord, J. 1993. Descriptions and Predictions- 3 Problems for the future of Criminological Research. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 30 (4): 412-425.

PRESENTATIONS: 1) MULTICOLLINEARITY & 2) OUTLIERS AND TRANSFORMATIONS

Individual meetings in my office to discuss your proposed research plan. Email me with 2-3 time/day options.

M13/Week 5: INDIVIDUAL LEVEL ANALYSIS

Paternoster, Ray, B. Braume, P. Mazerolle and A. Piquero. 1998. Using the Correct Statistical Test for the Equality of Regression Coefficients. *Criminology* 36 (4): 859-

Osgood, Dwayne and Chris Schreck. 2007. A New Method for studying the extent, stability, and predictors of individual specialization in violence. *Criminology* 45 (2): 273-311.

Simons, Ronald L., and Phyllis A. Gray. 1989. Perceived Blocked Opportunity as an Explanation of Delinquency among Lower-Class Black Males: A Research Note. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 26(1):90-101.

Weerman, FM and W.H. Smeenk. 2005. Peer similarity in delinquency for different types of friends: A comparison using two measurement methods. *Criminology* 43 (2): 499-523.

PRESENTATION: MEDIATING AND INDIRECT EFFECTS

M20/Week 6: STRUCTURAL LEVEL ANALYSIS

Krivo, Lauren J., and Ruth D. Peterson. 2000. The Structural Context of Homicide: Accounting for racial differences in process. *American Sociological Review* 65 (4): 547-559.

Ousey, G 1999. Homicide, Structural Factors, and the Racial Invariance Assumption. *Criminology* 37 (2):405-426.

Jacobs, D. and J. Carmichael. 2004. Ideology, social threat, and the death sentence: capital sentences across time and space. *Social Forces* 83 (1): 249-278.

Morenoff, J.D., R.J. Sampson and S.W. Raudenbush. 2001. Neighborhood inequality, collective efficacy, and the spatial dynamics of urban violence. *Criminology* 39(3):517-559.

Highly recommended (but not required):

NcNulty, T 2001. Assessing the Race-Violence Relationship at the Macro-Level: The assumption of racial invariance and the problem of restricted distributions. *Criminology* 37 (2) :467-490.

Williams, Kirk, and Robert L. Flewelling. 1987. Family, Acquaintance, and Stranger Homicide: Alternative Procedures for Rates Calculations. *Criminology* 25:543-560.

Pampel, FC and K. Williams. 2000. Intimacy and Homicide: Accounting for missing data in the SHR. *Criminology* 38 (2): 661-680

PRESENTATION: AGGREGATE DATA/STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

M27/Week 7: MULTILEVEL MODELING

Bellair, PE; Roscigno, VJ. 2000. Local labor-market opportunity and adolescent delinquency *Social Forces*, 78 (4): 1509-1538

Rountree, P.W., K. Land, and T. D. Miethe. 1994. Macro-Micro Integration in the Study of Victimization: A Hierarchical Logistic Model Analysis Across Seattle Neighborhoods. *Criminology* 32(3):387-415.

Ulmer, J and M.S. Bradley. 2006. Variation in trail penalties among serious violent offenses. *Criminology* 44 (3): 631-670.

PRESENTATION: MULTILEVEL MODELS

APR 3- SPRING BREAK/NO CLASS

A10/Week 8: CHANGE MODELS

Uggen, Christopher and Melisa Thompson. 2003. The soci-economic determinants of ill-gotten gains: Within person changes in drug use and illegal earnings. *American Journal of Sociology* 109 (1): 146-185

Greenberg, David F., West, Valerie, 2001. State prison populations and their growth, 1971–1991. *Criminology* 39 (3), 615–653.

McCall, P., K.F. Parker and John MacDonald. 2008. The dynamic relationship between homicide rates and social, economic and political factors from 1970 to 2000. *Social Science Research*. PDF file.

Highly recommended (but not required):

Greenberg, D. 2001. Time series analysis of crime rates. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 17 (4): 291-327

MacDonald, John M., Gover, Angela R., 2004. Concentrated disadvantage and youth-on-youth homicide: assessing the structural covariates over time. *Homicide Studies* 8 (3), 1–25.

Bursik, Robert J., Jr., and Jim Webb. 1982. Community Change and patterns of Delinquency. *American Journal of Sociology* 88:24-42

Phillips, J and D. Greenberg. 2008. A Comparison of Methods for Analyzing Criminological Panel Data. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* PDF file

PRESENTATION: MODELING CHANGE OVER TIME

A17/Week 9: BEYOND LINEAR REGRESSION

Osgood, D. 2000. Poisson-based Regression Analysis of Aggregate Crime rates. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 16 (1): 21-43

Reckdenwald, A and K.F. Parker. 2008. The influence of gender inequality and marginalization of types of female offending. *Homicide Studies*

Plassmann, F and T. N. Tideman. 2001. Does the Right to Carry Concealed Handguns Deter Countable Crimes? Only a Count Analysis Can Say *Journal of Law and Economics*, Vol. 44: 771-798.

Highly recommended (but not required):

Berk, R and J. MacDonald. Over dispersion and Poisson Regression. PDF file

PRESENTATION: COUNT MODELS

A24/Week 10: QUALITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY

Willot, Sara, Christine Griffin, and Mark Torrance. 2001. Snakes and Ladders: Upper Middle Class Male Offenders Talk About Economic Crime. *Criminology* 39 (2): 441-466.

Carr, Patrick, Laura Napolitano, and Jessica Keating. 2007. We Never Call the Cops and Here is Why: A Qualitative Examination of Legal Cynicism in Three Philadelphia Neighborhoods. *Criminology* 45 (2): 15-40.

Miller, Jody. 1998. Up It Up: Gender and the Accomplishment of Street Robbery. *Criminology* 36(1):37-66.

Recommended (but not required):

Goode, Erich. 2000. Sex with Informants as deviant behavior: an account and commentary. *Deviant Behavior* 20(4): 301-324.

M1/Week 11: LIFE COURSE MODELS/TRAJECTORIES

Horney, Julie, D. Wayne Osgood and Ineke H. Marshall. 1995. Criminal Careers in the Short-Term: Intra-Individual Variability in Crime and Its Relation to Local Life Circumstances. *American Sociological Review* 655-673

King, Ryan, Michael Massoglia, Ross MacMillan. 2007. The Context of Marriage and Crime: Gender, The propensity to marry, and offending in early adulthood. *Criminology* 45 (1): 16-24.

Bushway, S., R. Braume, and R. Paternoster. 1999. Assessing stability and change in criminal offending: a comparison of random effects, semi parametric and fixed effects modeling strategies. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 15 (1): 23-61

Highly recommended (but not required):

Nagin, Daniel S., and Kenneth C. Land. 1993. Age, Criminal Careers, and Population Heterogeneity: Specification and Estimation of a Nonparametric, Mixed Poisson Model. *Criminology* 31(3):327-362.

Laub, John H., Daniel S. Nagin, and Robert J. Sampson. 1998. Trajectories of Change in Criminal Offending: Good Marriages and the Desistance Process. *American Sociological Review* 63(Apr):225-238.

Laub, John H., and Robert J. Sampson. 1988. Unraveling Families and Delinquency: A Reanalysis of the Glueck's Data. *Criminology* 26(3):355-379.

PRESENTATION: INTRA-INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY/TRAJECTORY ANALYSIS

M8/Week 12: PRESENTATIONS

M15/Week 13: PRESENTATIONS (CONT) AND PUBLISHING

Clemens, Elizabeth, Walter Powell, and Kris McIlwaine. 1995. Careers in Print: books, journals, and scholarly publications. *American Journal of Sociology* 101:433-494

Journal of Criminal Justice Education—Special Issue on 'Scholarly Influence in Criminal Justice' 18 (3)

- Research Trajectories of Female Scholars in Criminology and Criminal Justice by Rice, Terry, Miller and Ackerman, pgs 360-384
- Article Productivity Among the Faculty of Criminology and Criminal Justice Doctoral Programs, 2000-2005 by Kleck, Wang and Tark, pgs 385-405
- Productivity of Criminal Justice Scholars Across the Career by Frost, Phillips and Clear, pgs 428-443
- Sink or Swim: A Model for immersing Criminal Justice Doctoral Students in the Craft of Teaching by Hoffman et al., pgs 476-491

Ross, Lee and Willie Edwards. 1998. Publishing among African American criminologists: a devaluing experience? *Journal of Criminal Justice* 26 (1): 29-40.

[Note: _____. 2000. Criminological scholarship and race: a rejoinder from professors Ross and Edwards. [Reply to J.M. Miller] 28 (3): 251-255.]

MAY 23RD (FRI) BY 5PM : Research Project Due

** Changes may occur in the required readings list. Advanced notice will be given.*

LIST OF METHODOLOGICAL TOPICS

1. MEASUREMENT
2. SELECTION BIAS & MISSING DATA
3. MULTICOLLINEARITY
4. OUTLIERS AND TRANSFORMATIONS
5. MEDIATING AND INDIRECT EFFECTS
6. AGGREGATE DATA/STRUCTURAL COVARIATES
7. MULTI-LEVEL MODELS
8. MODELING CHANGES OVER TIME
9. COUNT MODELS (ZERO COUNTS, OVERDISPERSION)—POISSON (ZIP) &
NEGATIVE BINOMIAL (ZINB) MODELS
10. INTRA-INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY/LIFE COURSE MODELS/TRAJECTORIES