



PASSION LED US HERE

Criminology Department
2021/2022



Chair's Corner

It is my honor to present our first annual newsletter for the Criminology Department. We have so many things to be thankful for this year. We were officially recognized as a Department in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. The number of students majoring, double majoring, and minoring in criminology increased to over 300 students. We welcomed new students as well as two new full-time and several new adjunct faculty members. Faculty members and students alike presented at national academic conferences on various criminology-related topics. We had the amazing opportunity to learn about the intersection of crime justice and immigration from experts across the nation. Most importantly, this year offered us the opportunity to come back together in-person to connect once again as a community dedicated to learning, exploring, and questioning how the criminal legal system operates and its impact on individuals, families, and communities.

This newsletter highlights some of the activities engaged in over the last year and spotlights student achievements, alumni activities, and faculty who dedicate themselves to assisting students along their journeys.

Cheers,



Megan Alderden, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair of Criminology

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About Us

The Criminology Program at DePaul University is grounded in a liberal arts approach and critical perspective on crime, justice, and punishment. The principal objective is to provide students with the analytic tools for understanding the variable sources and dynamics of crime and public safety and knowledge that promotes both a humane understanding of community issues, democratization of crime-control apparatuses, and social justice.

Faculty work to stimulate critical understandings of the relationship between social forces and crime definition, criminal behavior, and the institutions and dynamics of social control. They engage students in analysis of fundamental crime and justice issues, with a particular emphasis on those approaches that promote “peaceful, just, and equitable solutions,” community engagement, collaboration, and empowerment, and those which safeguard the due process and civil rights distinct to a democratic society.

The program encourages a “pluralistic context for teaching, learning, and scholarship” by purposefully integrating multiple perspectives, including legal system practitioners as well as those from marginalized persons and communities. Our courses integrate and examine closely the impact of multiple identities and justice, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, and immigration status, to identify ways in which individuals, families, and communities are impacted.

Saint Vincent DePaul spent time on the galley ships, and when reflecting on the galley slavery system, spoke against the barbaric nature of punishment in society. DePaul challenged us to “assist in finding just solutions to community problems, especially those which impact our poorest and most vulnerable.” Consistent with DePaul’s charge, Criminology students are challenged to consider long lasting, “systemic change” that promotes individual well-being and justice, upholds the “sacred dignity of all persons,” and supports peace within and across communities.

‘assist in finding just solutions to community problems, especially those which impact our poorest and most vulnerable’ ~ St. Vincent DePaul

We are Distinct. Unlike other criminology and criminal justice programs across the nation that focus on the system, our approach is community-centric in that we focus on ways in which the system can promote and strengthen community well-being and health. This theme considers community as a vital, powerful force in public safety production and the criminal legal system as one that works alongside community members in addressing the needs and protecting the assets of neighborhoods.

Firmly rooted in DePaul’s Catholic, Vincentian and Urban commitments to high quality academic and professional preparation within a context of social justice, the program provides students with hands-on experience through community-based learning, internships, field trips, and other opportunities for learning outside the classroom. Such high-impact coursework promotes our core values of diversity and compassion by encouraging students to engage communities in which they are unfamiliar and to

interact with people whose life experiences might be different from their own.

We are Interdisciplinary. Criminology draws from numerous other disciplines, including sociology, political science, social work, public health, and psychology to name a few. We believe this feature is important, and so we allow students to take courses toward the major from departments outside of criminology that have a connection to the discipline. Options include those taught by political science, sociology, anthropology, and peace and justice studies.

We are an Applied Discipline. As an applied discipline, the program works to prepare students for entering the professional setting and to be agents of change within and around the criminal legal system. We do so by engaging students in a critical examination of the criminal legal system by analyzing timely and significant research, scrutinizing theory, and integrating experiential learning opportunities so that they have the skills necessary to implement programs and practices for the benefit of all persons. We work purposefully to connect students to a wide array of agencies and organizations, including those that carry out the core functions of the criminal legal system (e.g., law enforcement, courts, corrections) and those that support those in contact with the system (e.g., victim, reentry support, legal rights services).

Full-time Faculty and Staff



Megan Alderden, Ph.D.
Chair



Geneva Brown, JD
Faculty



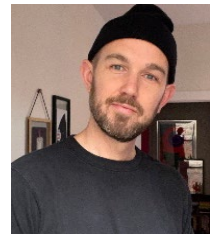
Rhonda DeLong, Ph.D.
Faculty



Xavier Perez, Ph.D.
Faculty



Mike Vecchio, Ph.D.
Faculty



Steven Reese
Staff

Criminal Justice and Immigration Winter Quarter Event

Each year, the Criminology Department holds an event examining one key public policy issue. During Winter Quarter, the Department in collaboration with the Latin American and Latino Studies, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and the Center for Latino Research hosted an event titled, *Interrogating the Intersection of Criminal Justice and Immigration*. The event, which brought together students, faculty, and community members across the US and internationally, consisted of two panels, the first exploring “crimmigration” through police, practice and the law and the second examining “crimmigration” experiences of immigrants.

Panel 1 – Exploring Crimmigration through Policy, Practice and Law



Dr. Kathleen Arnold, Director of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, DePaul University, shared the historical legal precedence that facilitated the emergence of the mass detention system to detain non-citizens in use today. Dr. Arnold argued that this mass detention system is comparable to criminal prisons, but devoid the legal rights available to those engaged in the criminal legal system. Dr. Arnold argued that because immigration is considered a civil legal issue, detention and deportation are not considered punishment. Thus, the detention of individuals for immigration purposes means individuals do not have the same protections as those processed through the criminal legal system, including: right to be presumed innocent, due process, equal protection, right to know the charges levied, right to counsel, examination of evidence, and if there is a sentence, judges must

provide justification and length for any imprisonment.

Dr. Felicia Arriaga, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Appalachian State University, provided an overview on the historical shifts in legal and local policies associated with immigration enforcement. She



highlighted the great variation in local policies that can lead to immigration enforcement across the United States. She explained how local policies and laws, such as those that govern who can obtain driver's licenses, can result in individuals being arrested and possibly deported. She concluded by outlining ways in which one can examine local policies and determine if they link to immigration enforcement.



Dr. Amada Armenta, Associate Professor of Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs, University of California – Los Angeles, argued that local law enforcement agencies are engaging in immigration

enforcement activities despite this being a federal issue. She outlined three ways in which local enforcement agencies can participate in immigration enforcement: directly through enforcement of immigration law, cooperating with immigration enforcement agencies informally, and engaging in everyday policing activities. Building on Dr. Arriaga's analysis, Dr. Armenta argued that undocumented persons in immigrant communities are more likely to be arrested because they may not be able to fully comply with local laws because of their undocumented status. Consequently, very minor violations can become possibly deportable offenses.

Mr. Joseph Cordova (DePaul Alumni '01), Attorney, Florida Legal Services, discussed the overlap between immigration law and criminal law and the consequences for families. Mr. Cordova shared that many immigrants in the US live in mixed status families, where some of the family members are undocumented, but others have citizen or documented status. He shared that even if some of the family members are living in the US legally, the presence of one undocumented person means that the entire family lives as if they are undocumented out of fear for their loved ones. The fear of deportation may make families afraid to call 911 for emergency services, sign up children for extracurricular activities, attend mandatory court dates, and exercise other civil rights protections available to them, including housing and employment rights. He concluded by providing an overview of immigration law, what constitutes violations of those laws, and who can enforce those laws.



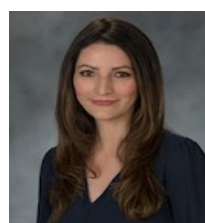
Panel 2 – Exploring Crimmigration through the Lived Experiences of Immigrants



Dr. Carlos Cuevas, Professor and Co-Director of the Violence and Justice Research Laboratory, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Northeastern University discussed violent victimization experiences in the Latinx community. During his talk he highlighted the lack of research on victimization within the Latinx community both on the prevalence and type of victimization experiences. He shared how “understanding the full spectrum of victimization” and multiple victimization is important to understanding individuals and communities experiences, and that it is important to specifically

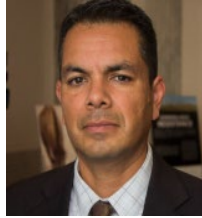
examine the impact of hate or bias crimes not only because of the rise in these types of offenses, but because these crimes in particular produce significant negative outcomes. These include long-term negative consequences associated with mental and physical health, re-victimization, delinquency, substance misuse, and trafficking risk.

Mr. Julio Montanez, Graduate Student, Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida shared his work on intimate partner violence within the immigrant and refugee communities and the federal and state policies that impact survivor access to services and benefits. His search of state and local statutes identified 72 different laws and policies across 17 states, covering topics that include budgeting for agencies, health, law enforcement and criminal justice, and public benefits for survivors.



Dr. Mercedes Valadez, Assistant Professor, Division of Criminal Justice, California State University – Sacramento shared her work as part of the University of California system Collaborative to promote immigrant and undocumented student equity at the university level. She shared how immigrant and undocumented students may experience barriers to education, including structural marginalization and negative campus climates. Her research showed that positive perceptions of immigrants was associated with greater academic engagement. Her findings support a growing body of literature that indicates inclusionary climates produce better student outcomes.

Mr. Pedro Rios, Director, American Friends Service Committee shared his experiences working for over 25 years on the US – Mexico border. Through a series of photos from the border, he described the recent militarization of border control and immigration in the US. He talked about the concept of collective punishment, which is punishment aimed at groups of people for acts they did not commit. He connected the concept of collective punishment to what is occurring at the US – Mexico border. He discussed how US policies associated with attempts to control the influx of individuals coming to the US placed individuals at risk of being victimized. He also highlighted the ways in which US governmental agencies were engaged in practices that reinforce the narrative that migrants are to be blamed and criminalized, which is then used to justify violence against them collectively.





Alpha Phi Sigma

The Criminal Justice Honor Society

The National Criminal Justice Honor Society, also known as Alpha Phi Sigma, brings together students who exceed academic standards to express leadership skills, provide service to the criminal justice field, and signify unity. Students comprise the top of the criminology student body and represent students dedicated to making a positive difference in their life professionally and academically. The honor society also serves as a student community, which offers career opportunities, scholarships, and academic advancements.

The Honor Society chapter here at DePaul University - Pi Epsilon Gamma – was officially established in autumn 2020 and hosted its first induction ceremony virtually last January 2021. The chapter now has 44 active members and 11 alumni members.

2021/2022 Chapter Officers:

President: Claudia Mulica

Vice-President: Anna Lucia Rizzo

Treasurer: Kaitlynne Zamora

Secretary: Shelby Sanfelippo

Event Coordinator/ Communications: Jade Capua

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Xavier Perez

Highlights: Events and Activities

- Pi Epsilon Gamma hosted a donation drive in support of Family Rescue, a domestic abuse shelter for women in October 2021. The donation drive called attention to Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

- In January 2022, Pi Epsilon Gamma welcomed 18 students as members during its annual induction ceremony.
- Members from Pi Epsilon Gamma attended and presented their research at the National Alpha Phi Sigma conference in March 2022. The conference was hosted by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Pi Epsilon Gamma hosted a career night in April 2022 involving various criminal justice-related organizations and agencies. The event offered students the opportunity to explore different career options, network with professionals, and apply for internship or job opportunities.

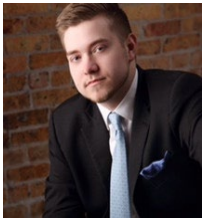


Pi Epsilon Gamma members and Dr. Perez organizing the donation drive during Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.

Outstanding Senior Award

Each year the Criminology Program awards the Outstanding Senior Award to one student who maintained exemplary academic standards and displayed strong leadership skills and professional excellence during their tenure at DePaul. This year's Outstanding Senior Award was given to **Claudia Mulica ('22)**.

Alumni Spotlight



Dwight Brugh ('20). Since graduating, Dwight joined the Illinois Department of Labor as a Safety Consultant conducting workplace safety investigations.

How does your work connect to what you learned through the Criminology program at DePaul? I began my job search immediately after graduating from DePaul University. The pandemic had just started, and positions in the field of criminology were difficult to find. I began to explore other avenues that would allow me to use my Criminology degree (and Bioethics and Public Health minors) in a less traditional way. That search introduced me to workplace safety investigations.

My new career may not sound criminology-oriented, but I regularly use skills I learned while at DePaul. For example, to better identify hazards and issues at worksites, I must search through minute details, recognize patterns and interview employees and executives. These are all skills I developed and honed at DePaul. I wouldn't have my current level of career competency without the Criminology program and the support and encouragement of the wonderful professors and staff of DePaul.

What are your future goals? I plan to continue working at the state government to expand my knowledge of the legal system. Investigatory work for government agencies enforcing labor laws, equal pay rights, and workplace discrimination laws are all viable career paths I recommend to any criminology major.



Danielle Eccleston ('21). Since graduating, she joined Teach For America (TFA) and is currently working on her Masters of Arts in Teaching. She also operates a business and online store with her husband.

How does your work connect to what you learned through the Criminology program at DePaul? I am able to recognize certain issues, such as the school to prison pipeline. The education that I obtained at DePaul allows me to look at situations from a different lens, and to be more understanding as to why some of my students may behave the way they do. Labeling theory, in particular, is a theory to be cognizant of when teaching young persons. Oftentimes young peoples are labeled negatively, whether this is consciously or subconsciously, and this can affect their ability to come to school ready to learn.

What are your future goals? My immediate future goals are to complete my Masters of Arts in Teaching and continue in education outside of the classroom setting. I also plan on expanding my family business and exploring other business opportunities. My number one goal in life is to be happy in whatever endeavor I take on.

Faculty Spotlight



Ronald L. DeWald, Jr. (DePaul Alumni '94, '01) has been a criminal prosecutor for 28 years in Chicago, Illinois. In 2004, Mr. DeWald joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern

District of Illinois. He is currently the Counsel to U.S. Attorney, working with U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr. to address violent crime in the district. He is responsible for overseeing Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and other federal, state, and local collaborative initiatives involving law enforcement, offender intervention, and crime prevention strategies. In 2020, the Department of Justice bestowed on him an award for "Outstanding Individual Contribution to the PSN Program," in recognition of his work designing and overseeing violent crime reduction strategies in Chicago and throughout northern Illinois.

Mr. DeWald was named the Chief of the Violent Crimes Section when it was established in March 2014, and, for more than four years, supervised Assistant U.S. Attorneys and their violent crime prosecutions. He previously served as a Deputy Chief in both the Narcotics and Gangs Section and the General Crimes Section. In addition to his supervisory duties, he manages his own caseload, which includes cases involving murder, rape, racketeering offenses, drug trafficking, gun trafficking, fraud, and other gang-related violent crime and firearm offenses. He has also briefed and argued several appeals before the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. DeWald was an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook

County for 10 years where he was assigned to various bureaus, sections and units including Criminal Appeals, Juvenile Justice, Felony Review, Criminal Prosecutions and Special Prosecutions. He served as a first chair in a felony courtroom at the George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse at 26th and California in Chicago, and was responsible for a docket of over 300 active felony cases.

Mr. DeWald received a B.A. in Economics from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, before receiving his J.D. from DePaul University's College of Law in 1994. He also earned a M.B.A. with distinction in 2001 from DePaul University's Kellstadt School of Business.

Mr. DeWald has been teaching criminal law to college students since 2016. In 2020, he joined the DePaul Criminology faculty, and he currently teaches CRIM 202: Criminal Law and Procedure. One of his favorite assignments requires the students to observe court proceedings in one of the many courtrooms in the Chicago area, and then write a paper about their impressions. He is particularly proud to hear from his former students who are currently in law school or who seek to use their criminology degree to serve the community, such as becoming police officers or working for not-for-profit organizations to help formerly incarcerated people.

Mr. DeWald is also a life-long fan of DePaul University's Men's and Women's Basketball teams. You can find him in his usual seats behind the Blue Demons bench during home games at the Wintrust Arena.



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