The Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute, CJPRI, is housed within the Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice, CCJ, in the College of Urban and Public Affairs’ Mark O. Hatfield School of Government.

The CJPRI fulfills this mission through several major activities:

1. Serving as a research resource for the Oregon Legislative Assembly and other units of state and local government as outlined in Senate Bill 240.

2. Seeking funding support for and administering research projects conducted by CCJ Division faculty.

3. Disseminating the research of the CJPRI and the broader CCJ faculty.

4. Providing through its homepage a compilation of links and information on crime and criminal justice issues relevant to Oregon. This web-based resource is designed to provide policy makers throughout the state with a forum in which issues of policy and practice may be explored, using objective, performance-based criteria.

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New Study Nationally Ranks the CJPRI and CCJ

A study in the March 2009 Journal of Criminal Justice Education ranked Portland State as one of the top 10 “rainmaker” institutions among those offering Masters-level degrees in Criminal Justice. CJPRI ranked in the top 10 nationally for both total award size and for total number of grants between the years 1997 and 2007. These awards have supported activities ranging from assessing federal investment in the "Weed and Seed” program to examining the impacts of “Project Safe Neighborhoods” program to examining public perception of a local community prosecution program.

CJPRI Director, Dr. Brian Renauer, was also nationally ranked as one of the top 10 individual researchers based on the total number of federal agencies from which he has secured awards. In acknowledging the ranking, Dr. Renauer commented, “Of course it’s nice to be personally recognized, but I’m most proud of the great research opportunities these awards have brought here to Portland State.” Dr. Renauer added that the CJPRI-affiliated faculty and staff are not resting on their laurels. “It’s becoming harder to win research dollars because of the economic downturn, but we won’t let that discourage us.”

National Corrections Expert Honored

CJ PRI and CCJ faculty nominee, Ed Latessa, was selected to receive the Mark O. Hatfield Scholar Award. Dr. Latessa has led a distinguished career in the field of Criminal Justice and is currently a Professor and Head of the Division of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. He has co-authored seven books including Corrections in the Community and Corrections in America. Additionally, Dr. Latessa has directed over 100 funded research projects, including studies of juvenile justice programs, drug courts, and intensive supervision programs.

The Hatfield Scholar Award, named for the distinguished former Oregon Governor and Senator Mark O. Hatfield, is offered to exceptional scholars whose careers best exemplify the Hatfield ideals of public interest, scholarship, public service, civil and human rights, social justice, and peace. The award is given annually by the combined faculties within the Hatfield School of Government at PSU. In commenting on this year’s recipient, Senator Hatfield said “I admire [Dr. Latessa’s] dedication to public service. Oregon is a state that values new ideas that serve the cause of social justice and consequently, we are proud that he would accept this award.”

In addition to his extensive research contributions, Dr. Latessa’s intrepid perspective on academic practice has inspired the creation of two highly reputable online Criminal Justice degree programs. In 2001, the University of Cincinnati launched a Master of Science in Criminal Justice to great success. When approached about the possibility of launching a Bachelor’s degree, Dr. Latessa recommended our own Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice as the ideal candidate and in 2003 this recommendation came to fruition here at Portland State.

 Welcoming Our New Faculty Members

This academic year, the CJPRI proudly welcomes Dr. Jody Sundt to the CCJ Division faculty. Her research focuses on the effectiveness of correctional policy, religion in prison, and public attitudes toward crime and punishment. In 2006, Dr. Sundt was named “Distinguished New Scholar” by the American Society of Criminology’s Division of Corrections and Sentencing.

Her groundbreaking research on super-max prisons has garnered considerable attention within both academic and practitioner communities. Dr. Sundt also serves as a Research Fellow with the Kinsey Institute for the Study of Sex, Gender and Reproduction. This unique position affords her a rare opportunity to study the effects of incarceration on sexual behavior. Dr. Sundt’s research experience and credentials represent a significant addition to the CCJ Division faculty and the CJPRI looks forward to sharing with Oregon policymakers the results of her ongoing research in the area of corrections.

In March, the CJPRI also proudly welcomed Dr. Jennifer Connor-Smith, its first faculty member in an exclusively research position. Dr. Connor-Smith’s research interests focus on violence and victimization, particularly its impacts on children and youth. She has experience working on a number of federally-funded research grants and her numerous publications span a range of topics focusing on the functioning and well-being of young people.

Through the CJPRI, Dr. Connor-Smith will collaborate with CCJ Division faculty on a variety of existing research projects as well as seeking funding opportunities to support the creation of new research projects. Dr. Connor-Smith’s experience in seeking external funding and her strong ties with the community promise to yield great returns for the CJPRI’s ongoing research program.
The first annual Criminal Justice Forum was successfully launched this spring at Portland State. Developed to increase communication between academic researchers and practitioners, the Forum brings together a diverse audience of both groups for a two-part series on a single criminal justice topic. The inaugural Criminal Justice Forum focused on “What Works in Juvenile Justice” and featured presentations by two nationally-known experts.

In March, Dr. Meda Chesney-Lind, professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, discussed current trends in female delinquency as well as a review of “what works” with female delinquents, in a presentation entitled, “Mean Girls, Bad Girls, or Just Girls: Gender Matters in Delinquency Prevention.” Dr. Chesney-Lind is a distinguished juvenile justice scholar who has published six books, numerous research articles and received several distinguished criminology awards, including the Bruce Smith, Sr. Award for outstanding contributions to Criminal Justice from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Donald Cressy Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency for “outstanding contributions to the field of criminology,” and Michael J. Hindelang Award for the most Outstanding Scholarship to Criminology from the American Society of Criminology for her book Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice.

In April, Mr. Vincent Schiraldi, Director of the District of Columbia’s Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, discussed how traditionally deficit-based juvenile justice agencies can be more effective in helping troubled young people by reorientating their activities around identifying and building on strengths and assets of these youths instead. Mr. Schiraldi has built a national reputation as an innovative practitioner, with nearly 30 years of experience working with troubled youth and juvenile justice systems. He was a founder and former executive director of both the Justice Policy Institute and the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. He also served as the founder and director of the Western Regional Office of the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives. Mr. Schiraldi has also served as a consultant to a number of organizations and government agencies, including the National Institute of Corrections.

Response to the Criminal Justice Forum event exceeded expectations and confirmed the commitment to establish it as an annual event. According to lead Forum organizer Annette Jolin, “The overwhelming response to our invitations really underscores how eager both practitioners and researchers are to just sit down and listen to each other.”

The topic and dates for the next Criminal Justice Forum will be announced by Fall 2009. Requests for an invitation and suggestions for future topics and speakers can be sent to Kathy Perrin in the CCJ Division at (503) 725-4044 or permir@pdx.edu. The Forum was jointly sponsored by the CCJ Division, its online degree program, Criminology and Criminal Justice Online, and the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government.
What’s In Print


In September in Washington, D.C., Laura Hickman and colleagues made an invited presentation to the National Institute of Justice Institutional Corrections Technology Working Group entitled “Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in Jail Settings: Concluding Phase 1 and Launching Phase 2.”

Kris Henning delivered several presentations in Europe this past year. At the University of Lausanne, in Lausanne, Switzerland, he presented two studies. One was entitled, “Better now than later: Incorporation of risk assessment strategies in policing of domestic violence.” The other, with Annette Jolin, addressed “More female offenders? The unexpected consequence of America’s experiment with mandatory arrest for domestic violence.” At the European Society of Criminology Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, he delivered a presentation coauthored by Laura Hickman and Greg Stewart of Portland Police Bureau entitled “Enhancing police response to intimate partner violence using an automated risk assessment system.”

Following by partner-abusive men: Attitudes on children’s exposure to interpersonal conflict and risk factors for child abuse. Accepted for publication at Child Maltreatment.


What’s Underway

The CCJ faculty continue to be busy working on a number of research projects on a variety of policy-relevant topics that span both state and local as well as national settings. Here is a sampling of these ongoing studies.

Emily Salisbury is collaborating with University of Cincinnati researchers on revising assessment and classification procedures within the two naval consolidated brig for the U.S. Navy Corrections.

Kris Henning is collaborating with RAND Corporation researchers, in conducting the national evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches, a 15-community federally-funded initiative involving the implementation and evaluation of promising interventions for children exposed to violence.

Jennifer Connor-Smith is working with Multnomah County and Oregon Health Science University researchers on a federally-funded longitudinal study of housing instability among women victimized by intimate partner violence and their children.

Emily Salisbury is working with a criminology student on the development of a screening instrument designed to measure the prevalence of juvenile human trafficking in Multnomah County.

Laura Hickman is collaborating with RAND Corporation researchers on a study of the use of radio frequency identification technology for tracking the real-time location of inmates in U.S. correctional settings.

Danielle McGurrin has just submitted for publication an article analyzing the role of corporate malfeasance in creating and sustaining sweatshops in the U.S. and abroad.

Kris Henning and Jennifer Connor-Smith are conducting an analysis of the factors that influence relationship continuity and satisfaction among male domestic violence offenders.

Danielle McGurrin is working on a study examining OSHA’s enforcement strategies and penalty assessments in the apparel industry.

Recent Presentations

The faculty have been out and about over the past year, presenting their research across the country and even internationally. This includes ventures such as:

The November 2008 American Society of Criminology conference in St. Louis Missouri. Jody Sundt and colleagues made four presentations, entitled:

- The Impact of Correctional Work on Officers’ Family Lives: Assessing the Negative Spillover Effect
- Gendered pathways: A quantitative investigation of women probationers’ path to incarceration. Accepted for publication in Criminal Justice and Behavior.
- Fear of Disease and Correctional Officer Well-Being and Academic Achievement and Student Intellectual Development
- The Implementation and Evaluation of Promising Interventions for Children Exposed to Violence.

Laura Hickman and colleagues presented “Women on Probation: Lessons from the Gender-Responsive Classification Project”

Danielle McGurrin and criminology graduate student Ryan Arnold presented “OSHA’s Inspection and Enforcement Record of Accident and Standard Violations in the Apparel Industry.” Dr. McGurrin also participated in a roundtable discussion of “Strategies for Success on the Academic Job Market.”

At the March meeting of the Academy Criminal Justice Sciences in Boston, Emily Salisbury served as a discussant for a panel on “Gender-Responsive Risk and Need Factors and the Classification of Women.” Brian Renauer and Stephanie Wiley presented a study entitled “Fear of crime as a barrier to physical activity in Portland, Oregon.” Dr. Renauer also presented three other studies with Emily Covelli. “These were entitled “Predictors of Search Decisions in Traffic Stops,” “Future of Fear of Crime Research,” and “Interrelationships between fear of crime, collective efficacy, and public social control.”


Jennifer Connor-Smith is working on a study examining OSHA’s enforcement strategies and penalty assessments in the apparel industry.
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Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute (CJPRI) Newsletter

The Criminology & Criminal Justice (CCJ) Division at Portland State University is a multi-disciplinary unit in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government, College of Urban and Public Affairs. We offer undergraduate degrees through our campus based program, with a current enrollment of 350 majors, and our growing online program (Criminology and Criminal Justice Online), currently enrolling 250 students. We also offer a postbaccalaureate certificate, a Master of Science degree, and participate in the doctoral programs offered by PSU’s Public Administration and Policy Division and Urban Studies Division.

The CCJ faculty include eight tenure-track faculty, two full-time research assistants, and several adjunct lecturers with academic training as well as years of experience in the criminal justice field. For information on CCJ, visit us at:

www.pdx.edu/hatfieldschool/criminology_criminaljustice.html

What’s On the Web

Provided as a service to policymakers and all Oregonians, the CJPRI homepage is a portal to sources of criminal justice-related information about Oregon in the broad categories of:

- Law Enforcement, Courts, Corrections, Other Government Offices and Agencies
- In a “Key Issues” section, the site provides access to a host of reports and data sources relevant to crime prevention and control in Oregon.

To access the website, please visit:

http://cjpri.ccj.pdx.edu

Meet the CJPRI staff

Brian Renauer
Director

Dr. Renauer’s newest research and community service interests involve his work with Oregon’s Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC). The LECC is charged by the Oregon Legislature to explore community concerns over racial/ethnic bias in law enforcement practices, to offer technical assistance to agencies that desire to collect traffic stop data, to improve training for the state, and monitor public perceptions of law enforcement. Dr. Renauer became the Director of the Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute in 2006 and Chair of the Division in 2008.

Laura J. Hickman
Assistant Director

The focus of Dr. Hickman’s research is on evaluating and improving criminal justice policy and practice. Her work covers a range of topics including capital punishment, domestic violence, corrections, and immigration. Currently, she is co-leading the National Evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches, a 15-site evaluation examining the effects of promising interventions designed to ameliorate the harms of children’s exposure to violence.

Jennifer Connor-Smith
Research Associate

Dr. Connor-Smith’s research interests involve understanding how external factors, such as stress and poor access to resources, interact with internal factors, such as personality and coping, to influence risk for youth behavior problems and distress. Current research focuses on better understanding causes and consequences of intimate partner violence.

Emma Covelli
Research Associate

Emma works under Dr. Brian Renauer as the project manager for Oregon’s Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC). Her interests include research methods, statistics, the impact of oppression and the strategies to reduce its presence in society, neighborhood structure and well-being, human trafficking, and the impact of stress on law enforcement professionals.

+ CCJ Affiliated Faculty