Conferences, Committees, and the Big Picture

We are reaching the mid-point of the year (already!). School years are ending and summer vacations are in sight. As my term as AP-LS President comes to a close, I would like to share recent accomplishments, highlight a current challenge, and suggest a course for addressing that challenge.

Accomplishments
This has been a banner year for AP-LS, by both customary and new yardsticks. For example:

• Beth Caillouet and Allison Redlich Co-Chaired a spectacular AP-LS Annual Conference in New Orleans, with 949 attendees. Keynotes and committee-driven activities were inspiring. We are grateful to Chris Slobogin and the Legal Scholars committee for convening two thought-provoking panels that initiated an effort to bring law back to our organization.

• Preeti Chauhan and Amanda Zelechoski have assembled a terrific Division 41 Program for the APA Convention in Washington DC, this August. This year’s program will be distinguished by a wealth of keynote speakers and by interdivisional panels on (a) disproportionate minority contact with the justice system, and (b) juveniles at high risk for repeated offending. Don’t miss it!

• Margaret Bull Kovera and Michael Lamb have been editing spectacular volumes of our journals, Law and Human Behavior (now indexed in WestLaw) and Psychology, Public Policy, and Law (now showcasing understudied topics).

• Although most of our committees’ activities focused on the AP-LS conference (hosted panels, speakers, and socials), there were remarkable exceptions. For example, our Student Section has begun to offer a series of webinars. Moreover, Antoinette Cavanaugh, Jennifer Hunt, and Diane Sivasubramaniam and other members of the Minority Affairs Committee have released a series of youtube videos that beautifully showcase the entire organization. Check them out at: https://www.youtube.com/user/LawandPsychology
• You—our members—turned out in record numbers at our AP-LS Business Meeting and graciously volunteered to serve on AP-LS committees. We are appointing nearly 50 new volunteers to serve on one of our 25 or so committees. It is gratifying to make headway on the goal to broaden the AP-LS governance community.

Major Challenge
Given its trajectory, it seems likely that AP-LS will continue to thrive as a specialty organization (especially in the forensic practice arena). But our organization risks growing increasingly insular, unless some of our initiatives are directed outward. By investing in contributions that extend beyond the bounds of AP-LS we can grow in ways that increase our relevance to the larger fields of psychological science, law, and public policy. This was the subject of my Presidential Address, available here. Like a number of past Presidents, I am concerned about the narrowness of our field, which diminishes its scope of influence and impact.

AP-LS is more than an annual conference. The field of psychology and law is more than a narrow assortment of issues related to evidence and forensic expertise. The scope of our organization’s activities and investments should reflect this larger identity. At a pragmatic level AP-LS has considerable assets, but rarely provides much financial support for projects that could meaningfully broaden the discipline and extend its impact.

One Way Forward
The time is right for our organization to extend its reach—and you can help. Thanks to Brian Cutler’s Presidential Initiative, AP-LS has a strategic plan. The plan focuses on systematizing the governance structure of AP-LS, and importantly, it is organized around a few core principles. These are broad statements of AP-LS’s goals and its mission “to enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts.”

AP-LS’s aspirations include taking a central role in advancing psychological science and serving as a major catalyst to translate exciting new knowledge into law, policy, and practice. Making progress toward these goals will require moving in opposition to insularity, narrowness, and overspecialization.

You can help these goals take flight. The new breadth of the AP-LS governance community creates an opportunity for an inflection point in the organization’s development. New people can energize committees to think bigger, more creatively, and more proactively with their initiatives.
and budget requests. We need motivated individuals to help translate our general goals into specific, actionable objectives. The strategic plan will gain traction only if dedicated people bring the terms that they care about to life.

Members of the Executive Committee (EC) also play a key role in this endeavor. The EC functions as gatekeeper for initiatives and, frankly, tends to be bound by tradition. For the strategic plan to succeed, the EC needs to develop a more enthusiastic mindset about ambitious initiatives. Like other organizations, we can maintain sufficient reserves while investing meaningful resources in priority initiatives that place AP-LS at the forefront of psychological science, law, and policy.

To make this less abstract, I provide one example of how a committee initiative (provided EC support) could nudge AP-LS toward a healthy trajectory of growth. The Research Committee could undertake an initiative that involves issuing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for member-initiated research planning activities that support APLS’s strategic plan. The Research Committee would make annual grants to support activities (e.g., working meetings; pilot projects) that advance interdisciplinary science on understudied topics in psychology and law. This is an approach that other organizations have successfully used to advance their science.

It seems that the best way for AP-LS to broaden the discipline and amplify its impact is by providing real incentives for smart, creative, hard working members to actualize its strategic plan. I hope you become part of this effort. It is time to move beyond repeated presidential calls to broaden the discipline, and instead to take action to enact this vision. I hope that we, as individuals, and as a society, will take real steps to move forward in positive ways. I hope you have a wonderful Summer, and look forward to seeing some of you at APA.
In courtrooms throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere around the world, electronic screens are now playing a growing role in the search for truth and justice under color of law. Trials are increasingly multi-media events, with electronic screens being incorporated into live action inside the courtroom. In an age of smartphones and ubiquitous surveillance cameras, events that once would have gone unrecorded are preserved for posterity and, inevitably, for trial. At the same time, digital graphics and animations take decision makers anywhere and everywhere—into the body in medical malpractice cases, inside complex machinery in patent-infringement cases, or on the scene as a virtual eyewitness to murder in a criminal case.

We recently witnessed an example of the latter in the Amanda Knox trial in Italy. Amanda Knox, an American college student studying abroad, was accused (and ultimately convicted) of murdering her roommate. In his closing argument at trial, Perugian prosecutor Giuliano Mignini played a computer-generated simulation that showed an avatar-Amanda Knox killing an avatar-Meredith Kercher. It ended with a gory crime-scene photo of Kercher’s body. But was this simply a fantasy—an animated version of the prosecution’s theory featuring Amanda Knox as a sex-crazed femme fatale, “Foxy Knox,” as the British tabloids called her, a “she-devil,” as many European journalists wrote, appropriating the prosecutor’s phrase? (Sherwin, Oct., 2011.)

Good trial lawyers have always been good storytellers. But today, as law migrates to electronic screens inside the courtroom, the stories lawyers tell are increasingly visual. What does it mean to tell a law story visually? What media logics are involved? What cognitive processes are operating? To what extent are social and cultural heuristics being triggered by rapid associations to visual images – those internalized patterns of cinematic, televisual, and computer-based pop culture that swirl within the popular imagination? How much of image-based judgment is driven by a decision maker’s personal associations to memories and feelings – or perhaps fantasies and desires or constructed memories – prompted by potent visual images? Deliberation may be the ideal of legal decision making, but when emotional and other unconscious underpinnings of judgment elude analysis, the adversarial process of critique and counterargument weakens.

Consider, for example, a closing argument video in a lawsuit against Price Waterhouse, which at the time of trial was the largest accounting firm in the world. The video begins with documentary shots of the largest ocean liner of its time, the reputedly unsinkable Titanic, which did indeed sink. The video then seamlessly shifts to clips from A Night to Remember, the 1958 feature film about the Titanic in which indifferent officers and a preoccupied captain appear to recklessly disregard a telegram warning about the presence of icebergs in the
ship’s vicinity. The plaintiff’s visual summation then cross-cuts those clips with a stream of re-enactments among other scenes describing how the defendant “sank” the plaintiff’s takeover deal by carelessly failing to spot faulty loan practices by the bank the plaintiff acquired. The upshot is clear: Being the largest in the world is no safeguard against negligence.

As this example suggests, the invisible codes and content of modern visual storytelling, from television dramas and news shows to advertisements, feature films, and social media online, have infiltrated the courtroom. Fact and fiction, information and entertainment, work hand in hand in the production of legal truth (Sherwin, Feigenson, & Spiesel, 2006; Sherwin, 2000).

Other complexities together with novel challenges abound. Consider, for example, the increasing use of two-way video-conferencing in lieu of live testifying inside the courtroom. Does this kind of virtual testimony fulfill the demands of the Sixth Amendment’s confrontation clause (generally requiring “face to face” confrontation between the accuser and the accused)? To what extent does “virtual” testifying differ from the live presence of face-to-face confrontation? In a recent federal case, the defendants, the jury, and the judge were able to see the witnesses on a screen as they testified in real time from Australia. Likewise, the witnesses were able to see the defendants as the witnesses’ direct and cross-examination unfolded in court. Nevertheless, a majority of the appellate court decided that this procedure fell short of what the Sixth Amendment required. But by what measure? What does the camera fail to show that live testimony would reveal? The answer remains unclear, and the courts currently are in disarray on the issue (Sherwin, 2012/13; Sherwin, 2011).

Or consider the insistent problem of naïve realism – the common sense predisposition to look at (or rather “through”) the screen as if it were a window onto reality rather than the visual construction that it is. This phenomenon played out recently before the Supreme Court in a case involving a high-speed chase in which police forced the speeding motorist off the road. The driver consequently became a quadriplegic and sued the police for using excessive force. The legal issue was whether lethal force was justified under the circumstances. The police video of the chase was the crux of the controversy. But what did it show? At oral argument, many of the justices claimed that the images “speak for themselves.” But how could that be? We all know that a camera begins and ends at a particular point in time, and that it occupies a particular place that provides its own particular (and partial) view onto the reality it shows. Does it matter, for instance, that we do not see the police cars that blocked other drivers from getting onto the road where the chase was taking place? Does it matter that we don’t hear the police sirens warning cars to pull off the road thus lessening the threat to other drivers? Does it matter that the traffic lights that we see might not have been red when the speeding car reached them?

Justice Scalia and the supporting majority of justices decided no reasonable viewer could conclude anything else but that the police used reasonable force in the face of such a dangerous situation. But when Justice Scalia said, if you don’t believe me watch the video for yourself, a researcher at Yale Law School took Scalia up on the invitation (Kahan, Hoffman, & Braman, 2009). He showed the video to a diverse sample of approximately 1,350 Americans. He then asked them to say what they saw, and give their views on the issues that the Court had identified as dispositive. A majority agreed with the majority on the Supreme Court. But members of various sub-communities did not. African Americans, low-income workers, and residents of the Northeast, for example, tended to form more pro-plaintiff views of the facts than did the Court. So did individuals who characterized themselves as liberals and Democrats. In other words, what the study showed is that “seeing is believing” but what we see depends, to a significant extent, on who we are, where we live, how much we earn, what education we’ve had, what our
political beliefs are, and so on. By saying there was only one reasonable way to view the police videotape in the Scott case, the Supreme Court effectively silenced significant cross-sections of the community.

When lawyers and judges lack visual literacy the truth-testing process of adversarial justice can fail in spectacular ways. We saw this in the criminal case against the officers who beat Rodney King. On March 2, 1991, George Holliday fortuitously filmed a group of Los Angeles police officers surrounding and furiously beating and occasionally stomping on King. We now know that this violent encounter followed a high-speed chase on Interstate 210, in San Fernando Valley, California. Holliday’s shaky images would soon spread, via the news media, around the U.S. and the world. Four of the officers involved would eventually be indicted for assault with a dangerous weapon. The state trial resulted in an acquittal that, in turn, sparked one of the worst race riots in American history, leaving 53 people dead and over $1 billion in damage. The trial crucially depended on visual evidence. As the prosecutor in the case repeatedly told the jurors in his summation, “You have the videotape. Watch it, ladies and gentlemen. What more do we need?” And watch it they did. Yet, the state lost the case. Given the stark images of violence available to the prosecution how did this happen?

The defense theory can be boiled down to a very simple claim: “If the officers did what they were trained to do how can you find them guilty of a crime?” So what were they trained to do? They were trained in the controlled ‘escalation’ and ‘de-escalation’ of force. They were trained to protect themselves from violence, and to restrain those who resist arrest. And in this situation, even after two Taser jolts, at 10,000 volts each, King was still rising up off the ground. At one point he even charged one of the officers. So, of course, he needed to be subdued. If King had followed orders to lie prone on the ground, the defense theory continues, none of this would have happened. And then the defense showed its theory through Holliday’s images. By digitalizing the analogue tape the defense was able to slow down the images. This not only allowed them to remove the sight and sound of violence in the impact of multiple police blows. It also gave the defense the freedom to re-choreograph the images. What the jury now saw was that every time Rodney King rose up off the ground the police batons came down, and every time King laid prone the police batons rose up. In short, the jurors saw “causation”: by rising up off the ground, King caused the officers to beat him. Or, as several jurors put it after their verdict of acquittal, King was in charge.

Visual meaning is highly malleable. As photojournalists know, captions can turn a photo’s intended meaning on its head. So, too, legal advocates need to know that if you do not provide a context of meaning, if you do not wrap a sequence of images in a narrative of your own, you will leave open the possibility that their meaning will be captured by your adversary. In the King controversy, the defense’s visual strategy was never even spotted by the prosecutor much less cross-examined by him. His lack of visual literacy may well have cost him the case.

What remains of the past, and what among the past’s remains are more reflective of fantasy and desire than historic reality? We need to know more about what visual images are actually doing inside the courtroom and how they are doing it, using what visual codes, producing what reality effects, based on what emotional and other unconscious associations? The judgments we make are better judgments when we know more about how and why we make them. In order to decode visual images, lawyers need to be visually literate. And in order to fulfill their gatekeeping function, judges need to understand with greater sophistication what makes visual evidence reliable or unduly prejudicial. That’s why I have been urging that visual literacy skills be taken more seriously in law school. Social scientists can help jurists and educators deal with this
new challenge by adding to our knowledge of how visual meaning making works, particularly by laying out in closer detail its efficacies and pitfalls inside the courtroom. The search for truth and justice in contemporary, intermediated legal practice requires no less.

References


Officer John Monahan responds to the late-night 911 call from the clerk at the Corner Convenience Store, who reports that an individual is loitering in the parking lot and incoherently shouting. When Officer Monahan arrives, he finds the store’s clerk at the door, not far from an individual sitting on the curb. Upon speaking with the employee, the officer discerns that the seated individual was the one causing the commotion. The man’s name, according to the clerk, is Richard “Richie” Bonnie. Richie lives nearby and frequents the store. Officer Monahan walks over to Richie and begins asking him a few questions. Clearly agitated and not interested in answering any questions, Richie ignores the officer, muttering to himself under his breath. Stepping away to radio in a request for Richie’s history, Officer Monahan discovers little information on the alleged perpetrator other than a handful of arrests for minor misdemeanors over the last few years. With a dearth of information and an uncooperative individual, Officer Monahan takes Richie into custody and transports him to the police station for booking.

We are all likely familiar with a story like Richie’s, in which someone is in need of assistance, not punishment, yet options seem limited and lead to criminal justice involvement. A growing number of tools, trainings, and strategies have been developed to avert such scenarios. One tool with wide application that is not often part of the dialogue, though, is the Health Care Advance Directive.

Generally, Advance Directives (ADs) have evolved as legal documents that allow an individual to (1) choose an agent to make health care decisions for them and/or (2) write down his/her instructions and preferences about future health care treatment (including medical as well as end-of-life care). Importantly, individuals can include information and instructions specific to mental health care, and over half of states in the U.S. have specific statutes addressing the creation of ADs with mental health care details (often called Psychiatric Advance Directives, or PADs; Menninger, 2008).

ADs have the potential to be excellent tools for responding to mental health crises. They are designed to be activated when an individual lacks capacity to make informed decisions about his/her care. Even before someone is found to lack capacity, though, ADs are valuable resources because they house relevant information, such as symptoms indicative of decompensation.
and crisis, effective strategies to stabilize the person, preferred locations for treatment, and important contact information.

Research on PADs is supportive of their use. Between 66 and 77% of mental health care consumers say they desire a PAD (Swanson, Swartz, Ferron, Elbogen, & Van Dorn, 2006a; see also Srebnik, Russo, Sage, Peto, & Zick, 2003; Swanson et al., 2006b; Swanson et al., 2003). The process of completing a PAD leads to increased working alliance with mental health care providers and to increased feelings of having one’s treatment needs met (Swanson et al., 2006b). Importantly, a quasi-experimental study conducted by Swanson and colleagues (Swanson et al., 2008) demonstrated that completion of a PAD reduced the number of coercive treatment incidences (including transportation to ER by police, involuntary medication, and involuntary hospitalization) by half over the course of two years.

Of course, we also know from research that use of ADs, psychiatric or otherwise, remains low across the country (Swanson et al., 2006a; U.S. DHHS, 2008). Implementation of these tools has been notoriously difficult, but continued efforts are warranted. Some barriers to implementation, such as clinicians’ doubts about the usefulness of ADs, have been directly addressed in the research (e.g., 95% of PADs are rated clinically useful and consistent with appropriate treatment standards contrary to concerns raised by clinicians; Srebnik et al., 2005; Swanson, McCrary, Swartz, & Elbogen, 2006c). Low rates of completion are increased by nearly 30-fold when facilitation is provided (Swanson et al., 2006b). In addition, researchers and scholars are beginning to recognize the need to better frame PADs as a process, which implicates other areas of research and theory, such as health behavior change and dissemination and implementation concepts (Nicaise, Vincent, & Dubois, 2011; Zelle, Kemp, & Bonnie, in preparation).

We suggest, therefore, that PADs lie at the nexus of psychology and law not only because they are legal tools in the context of mental health care, but also because psychological research and theory are vital for growing PADs to their full potential as legally-founded mental health care tools. Work on PADs may be focused on policymaking, for example, as we continue to see efforts to reform mental health law in the United States. PADs are tools aimed at preventing (the escalation of) mental health crises, but as is often the case, preventive tools and strategies are eclipsed by pressing concerns about ensuring the safety of individuals and the public. For example, the “assisted outpatient treatment” provisions of the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2013 are currently garnering a great deal of attention. Safety concerns also drive state-level policy, as well (e.g., Killough, 2014; Vozzella, 2014). Even when legislation is passed that promotes the dissemination of preventive trainings and tools (e.g., Virginia’s House Bill 1222 passed in April), PADs are frequently overlooked. Thus, there is room to improve the policymaking dialogue by encouraging consideration of tools like PADs as complementary to new and existing policy responses.

Alternatively, work on PADs may take a form more familiar to AP-LS members—empirical research on how these tools may be integrated into criminal justice diversion strategies and mental health service provision. For example, CIT-trained officers in Albemarle County (and surrounding counties) of Virginia learn that they may ask persons who appear to be in crisis if they have an Advance Directive or crisis plan. Officers have reported that this is sometimes helpful for engaging otherwise reticent individuals. Officers may then be able to determine a crisis contact to call or which emergency care avenue is best, rather than having to resort to booking the individual simply to assure some level of safety.
In our opening vignette, for example, it may have been that Richie was willing to give a basic acknowledgement that he has an AD, thus alerting Officer Monahan that the local crisis stabilization unit is a more appropriate destination. Or, perhaps Richie remained uncommunicative and even became physically resistant when Officer Monahan attempted to escort him to the patrol car, necessitating an arrest. In that case, an AD may prove helpful to jail staff tasked with assessing and caring for an agitated inmate about whom they otherwise know very little. Richie’s AD may help jail staff to identify the best medication for him in a more expedient manner. An AD might also inform a point of civil legal decision making—temporary detention and/or involuntary commitment hearings, during which information about Richie’s past crisis care needs can help determine the best avenue for securing his safety and treatment with minimal infringement on his liberty.

All of these “intervention points” in the justice system are merely conjecture at this point, and do not even reach how ADs might be integrated into jail/prison services during incarceration and beyond. Of course, ADs are not panaceas and cannot “solve” the many areas we seek to improve at the intersection of mental health care and the law. Nevertheless, the many plausible points at which an AD might help overcome barriers to the provision of mental health care, and perhaps even avoid penetration into the criminal justice system, warrant the attention of psychology and law researchers and practitioners.

For more information about Advance Directives and the ongoing project in Virginia, please visit www.VirginiaAdvanceDirectives.org/.

(The authors would like to thank Prof. Richard Bonnie and Dr. John Monahan for amicably allowing the use of their names for the vignette.)

References


Law and Human Behavior continues to have a strong presence in the field. The most recent impact factor available for the journal is for 2012, increasing from 2.176 in 2011 to 2.388. LHB fares well among journals in its category, ranking 9th out of 60 journals in the Social Psychology category and 13th out of 134 journals in the Law category. LHB’s five-year impact score also increased in 2012 from 2.646 (2011) to 2.750. Editorial and publication lags remain competitive. For manuscripts submitted or resubmitted during 2013, the mean number of weeks from submission to a decision was 4.93 weeks and we met our commitment (with rare exceptions) to get authors decisions within two months. For manuscripts published in 2013, the mean number of months from the time of final acceptance to the time of print publication was 8.72, a major improvement over 2012’s average 13.5 months to publication. Manuscripts are normally published online even more quickly, often within two months of acceptance.

Despite strong indicators like increasing impact factors, decreasing publication lags, and short editorial lags, submission rates have been rather volatile over the last two years. In the first year of our new publication contract with APA, submissions increased 23% but then dropped 16% in 2013, returning to pre-APA submission levels. For the first quarter of 2014, submissions are back up 20%. This fluctuation in submission patterns is a relatively new phenomenon at the journal. Although we do not know the cause, we are delighted that submissions are increasing again. Even with the fluctuation in submission rates, we have been able to increase the number of articles we are publishing in each issue of the journal from seven to nine. Moreover, we have a page allotment from APA that would allow us to include even more high quality research in the journal; we merely need you to send your best work to the journal and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

Although the transition to publishing the journal with APA went very smoothly, we did discover one hiccup in the transition. Although in our negotiations, we received a commitment from APA to continue the placement of LHB in both the Westlaw and Lexis databases, we learned last summer that the negotiations between APA and these two publishers had stalled. The result was that LHB articles published under the new contract did not appear in the databases, although articles issued by our previous publisher did. Members of the editorial team and the APLS Executive Committee were vocal in their disappointment in this development and insisted that APA return to the table. I am delighted to report that APA signed a new deal with Westlaw in March, resulting in a complete set of LHB articles appearing in that database. Although a deal has not been reached with Lexis, our APA team has resumed negotiations with them and is hopeful that they can come to mutually agreeable terms soon.
Overall, however, our new agreement with APA has brought positive developments for the journal and the authors that publish in it. Recognizing the increasing desire to include color figures in published articles and the often prohibitive cost of doing so for authors (who are required to pay for some of the extra costs of color printing), APA has introduced the option for authors to publish their figures in color online at no cost to the authors. Although the figures would be printed in black and white in the print journal, this option represents a cost-effective way for authors to have color figures in the digital version of their article. As in the past, authors may opt to have their figures appear in color in the print copy as well but only if they agree to pay a portion of the production costs. It is also possible to archive datasets and stimulus materials, as well as other optional resources, with the online version of the article.

APA has also increased public awareness of the journal, issuing press releases about select articles that we have published. Their most recent release reported the findings of a study by Jillian Peterson and her colleagues demonstrating that crimes committed by offenders with serious mental illness were rarely motivated by symptoms associated with that illness. The story was picked up by 36 different news outlets. Although the New York Times has not yet followed up on any of the releases, given what interesting and relevant work you all are conducting, I have no doubt it is just a matter of time.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an email at mkovera@jjay.cuny.edu.
We strongly encourage others (particularly students) to be guest editors. If you would like to be a guest editor (or have questions), please email Allison at aredlich@albany.edu.

In 1932, Edwin Borchard identified eyewitness errors as an important factor that contributed to the erroneous conviction of innocent people. Now, more than 80 years later, his findings are repeatedly echoed in examinations of wrongful convictions; the National Registry of Exonerations reports that 37% of exonerations in their database involved a mistaken witness. Despite this, and despite the fact that psychological research has aptly demonstrated for decades that witnesses can be rather unreliable, there is still much to learn. Our author this month discusses the case of Calvin Willis, who was convicted, in part, based on the testimony of two child witnesses. While not eyewitnesses, as has been the case in many wrongful convictions, our author touches on an important issue related to all witnesses: the importance of using proper investigative interview techniques for witnesses, particularly children, and their impact on witness recall.

Our guest author this month is Dana Hirn Mueller. Dana received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. Dana is currently a doctoral candidate at Florida International University in the legal psychology program. Her main research interests are exploring the potential applications of social and cognitive theories to bolster investigative interviewing procedures. Specifically, she is interested in the development of novel interview methods to elicit information from cooperative adult witnesses as well as the impacts of post-recall feedback on subsequent witness recall opportunities.

The Importance of Witness Recall in Avoiding Wrongful Convictions
Dana Hirn Mueller
Florida International University

As the number of Innocence Project cases has increased, much justified attention has been paid to the role of mistaken eyewitness identifications in wrongful convictions. Erroneous eyewitness identification is currently shown to be present in approximately 75% Innocence Project cases (Innocence Project, n.d.). Researchers have extensively catalogued the impact of a number of factors which may influence identification diagnosticity (Greathouse & Kovera, 2009; Luus & Wells, 1991, Steblay, 1997; Steblay, Dysart, Fulero, & Lindsay, 2001) as well as factors which impact post-
identification reports of confidence and view (Bradfield, Wells, & Olson, 2002; Smalarz, Wells, & Norris, 2014; Steblay, Wells, & Douglass, 2014; Wells & Bradfield, 1998). Given the many issues that arise from fallacious information given by witnesses, it will be advantageous to continue exploring ways to elicit accurate information and reduce witness offerings of misinformation not only in lineup identifications, but during interviews. Continuing to expand upon investigative interviewing research can help bolster the understanding of variables which impact eyewitness recall.

The wrongful conviction of Calvin Willis demonstrates several areas of investigative interviewing research which warrant further study. Mr. Willis was falsely convicted on the basis of multiple interviews from individual witnesses as well as serology analysis. After briefly describing the Willis case, this column reviews several issues involved in this case including (1) conducting investigative interviews with children and (2) the need for best practice investigative interviewing methods with both children and adults. It also discusses directions for future research.

Case Overview

In June of 1981, a nine-year-old girl was attacked in Shreveport, Louisiana. She reported being awakened by a naked man who proceeded to repeatedly hit her head against a wall and sexually assault her. There were two witnesses in the home at the time, a seven-year-old and a ten-year-old, who heard noises from another room but saw nothing. After the assault, police were alerted and collected statements from the victim, the two child ear witnesses, the victim’s mother, and a neighbor. Statements from the victim, the victim’s mother, and the neighbor differed throughout the course of multiple interviews. Specifically, the victim first told police that she was awakened by a man wearing cowboy boots, but did not identify the perpetrator by name. In a subsequent interview, the victim claimed that Willis had come to the house and was accompanied by another man who was wearing cowboy boots. After a final interview, an investigator claimed that the victim named Willis as her attacker. The victim’s mother also gave evolving reports over the course of multiple interviews. Initially, she claimed her daughter gave no information about the clothing of the perpetrator. Next, she told investigators that her daughter reported the perpetrator had worn cowboy boots and ultimately, she claimed her daughter said Willis had been in the house at the time of the attack. When the victim’s neighbor testified, she said she looked outside at approximately 1:30am and saw a vehicle parked near the victim’s house. However, in a previous interview, the neighbor stated she had experienced no disturbances that evening. The victim’s mother also reported knowing that Willis was a suspect because neighbors told her he may have been the perpetrator. Willis was brought to trial on the basis of serology tests and the statements collected by law enforcement. Despite the contradictory recall of the victim and witnesses, Willis was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. In 1998, Willis sought the help of the Innocence Project and after serving over 21 years, he was exonerated on the basis of DNA evidence.

Children as Witnesses

Due to the increased involvement of children in the legal system, there has been a substantial surge in the amount of research examining characteristics of child memory (Ceci & Bruck, 1993) as well as the factors which impact memory and recall (Bruck & Ceci, 1999). This wide body of research has settled on the finding that age is the most prominent factor for determining a child’s memory, with the trend being that memory improves as age increases (La Rooy, Malloy, & Lamb, 2011). Compared

---

1Information about the case was gathered from the Innocence Project (http://www.innocenceproject.org/Content/Anthony_Caravella.php), the Innocence Project of Florida (http://floridainnocence.org/content/?page_id=2000), and the Sun Sentinel (http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/crime/fl-anthony-caravella-dna-confessions-20130227,0,5963745.story#sthash.NUG72jwb).
to older children, younger children tend to encode information less effectively and forget at a faster rate (Brainerd, Reyna, Howe, & Kingma, 1990). Due to potentially weak or nonexistent memory, children may be more prone to suggestibility. Recall may be affected by suggestive, outside cues such as questions asked by the interviewer (Bruck & Ceci, 1999). In other words, children may tend to look toward cues from the interviewer and, if those cues come in the form of suggestive and/or leading questions, memory and recall could be affected. Given the increased vulnerability to suggestion, it is particularly important that interviewers question children using methods that will not only avoid introducing misinformation, but will help to elicit a high quantity of accurate information. Fortunately, similar to the research conducted to improve investigative interviewing with adults, there are a variety of methods interviewers can use to help maximize the amount of accurate information offered by child interviewees.

**Best Practice Investigative Interviewing**

The Cognitive Interview (CI) (Fisher & Geiselman, 1992) has focused largely on best practice interviewing techniques to be used with adults, whereas the NICHD Investigative Interview Protocol (Orbach, Hershkowitz, Lamb, Sternberg, Esplin, & Horowitz, 2000) has been developed with the primary focus being the collection of information from child interviewees. Both interviewing protocols have been examined extensively in laboratory and field studies and employ the use of empirically-driven techniques shown to increase the elicitation of accurate information (see Lamb, Orbach, Hershkowitz, Esplin, & Horowitz, 2007 and Memon, Meissner, & Fraser, 2010 for reviews). The CI and the NICHD Protocol share many of the same theoretical underpinnings and thus share many of the same techniques.

One of the primary similarities between these two protocols is the value placed on open-ended questions. Research has shown that when participants are given the opportunity for an open-ended narrative versus being forced to answer a closed question, their responses will be more accurate as they are allowed to monitor their own knowledge and decide what to report and what to withhold (Evans & Fisher, 2011; Koriat & Goldsmith, 1996). A second major similarity between these two interview methods is the use of rapport building. There is research supporting the use of rapport building which has shown that witnesses who are exposed to rapport building tend to recall more accurate information compared to those who do not go through this phase (Collins, Lincoln, & Frank, 2002), and that exposure to rapport decreases inaccuracy (Vallano & Schreiber Compo, 2011) and increases the recall of accurate information on subsequent recall opportunities when misinformation is presented (Kieckhaefer, Vallano, & Schreiber Compo, in press). Another similarity these techniques share is the use of “ground rules” that are explained before the interview. Both child and adult interviewees are told not to guess and that an “I don’t know” response is acceptable when unsure of an answer.

It is also important to note the various techniques these protocols discourage. Specifically, both techniques warn against using leading and suggestive questions. As already discussed, this is of particular concern for child witnesses. Avoiding the use of leading and suggestive questions is also crucial if witnesses are being interviewed repeatedly, as was the case with Calvin Willis. If incorrect information is recalled during an earlier retrieval attempt, this increases the likelihood that the same incorrect information will be recalled on a subsequent retrieval opportunity (Roediger, Jacoby, & McDermott, 1996). The initial and subsequent recall of incorrect information can be partially curtailed by not introducing misinformation through the use of problematic questions.
Research Ideas

A considerable body of research has examined the impact of post-identification feedback on witness confidence (Bradfield et al., 2002; Smalarz et al., 2014; Steblay et al., 2014; Wells & Bradfield, 1998). Witness statements often play a powerful role in criminal trials, especially when a witness is confident (Bradfield & Wells, 2000; Brewer & Burke, 2002). The strong influence of eyewitness confidence may be especially problematic for two reasons (Neuschatz et al., 2007). First, jurors are particularly influenced by witnesses who appear confident (Wells, Ferguson, & Lindsay, 1981). Second, it is possible for law enforcement investigators to influence the confidence of a witness (Luus & Wells, 1994; Wells & Bradfield, 1998), regardless of whether information given from that witness is accurate. Perhaps the most common way lineup administrators may inflate eyewitness confidence is through the use of feedback. Given the high impact of post-identification feedback on eyewitness memory coupled with the fact that virtually any witness making an identification is likely to have also been interviewed, it is surprising that similar research attention has not been paid to examining the possible dynamics behind post-recall feedback on eyewitness memory.

Post-recall feedback has been assessed in the investigative interviewing arena in a limited capacity. McMurtrie, Baxter, Obonsawin, and Hunter (2012) found that participants were more likely to change their original responses on an immediate subsequent recall opportunity and give lower confidence ratings when given disconfirming feedback compared to participants who were given neutral feedback. However, this research area may be improved upon in several ways. First, this study did not examine the effects of no feedback versus neutral feedback, which may be important as witnesses could consider neutral feedback to be more encouraging than no feedback. Further, this research did not examine confirming feedback, which may significantly impact confidence. Third, this research area has yet to examine the impact of question type on recall.

Future research can examine main effects and/or interactions between post-recall feedback (confirming, neutral, no, and disconfirming) and question type (open-ended, cued, leading, suggestive) on the following outcome variables: (1) accuracy of information given (pre- and post-feedback), (2) quantity of information given (pre- and post-feedback), (3) rate of contradictions and accuracy of those contradictions between a pre-feedback recall opportunity and a post-feedback recall opportunity, (4) reported length of time the perpetrator was viewed (pre- and post-feedback), (5) reported quality of view of the crime (pre- and post-feedback), (6) confidence (pre- and post-feedback), and (7) reported level of attention paid to the crime (pre- and post-feedback). Further, given research that suggests post-identification feedback can impact the ways in which witness identifications are evaluated by others (Smalarz & Wells, in press), it would benefit investigative interviewing researchers to examine the perceptions of witness accuracy and confidence after feedback has been given.

In sum, examining the impact of post-recall feedback and question type may substantially influence the practices of investigators who repeatedly interview both children and adults as the effects of post-recall feedback may become most apparent during subsequent interviews. Lastly, considering the potentially increased suggestibility of children, investigating the influence of post-recall feedback on subsequent recall, confidence, and the perception of child witnesses may be especially critical.

Conclusion

Given the number of wrongful conviction cases which involve misinformation collected from witnesses, it will be important for researchers to focus on the variety of ways in which the collection
of a high quantity of accurate information from witnesses can be maximized. This can be partially accomplished by not only continuing to explore and refine the understanding of techniques that have already been established (e.g., best practice interviewing techniques) with both child and adult witnesses, but to investigate novel system variables which may impact the quantity and/or accuracy of information offered from witnesses.

References


### AP-LS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Voting Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jennifer Skeem</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skeem@uci.edu">skeem@uci.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>William Foote</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fornpysch@aol.com">fornpysch@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Elect</td>
<td>Patricia Zapf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patricia.zapf@gmail.com">patricia.zapf@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jeremy Blumenthal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jblument@law.syr.edu">jblument@law.syr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Eve Brank</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebrank2@unl.edu">ebrank2@unl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-Large</td>
<td>Daniel Krauss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dkrauss@cmc.edu">dkrauss@cmc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-Large</td>
<td>Jennifer EnO Louden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jlenolouden@utep.edu">jlenolouden@utep.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-Large</td>
<td>Lora Levett</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llevelett@ufl.edu">llevelett@ufl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Council Rep</td>
<td>Dave DeMatteo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dsd25@drexel.edu">dsd25@drexel.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA Council Rep</td>
<td>Brian Cutler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:briancutler@mac.com">briancutler@mac.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Section Chair</td>
<td>Christopher King</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmk98@drexel.edu">cmk98@drexel.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Non-Voting Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget &amp; Investment</td>
<td>Eve Brank</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ebrank2@unl.edu">ebrank2@unl.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Series</td>
<td>Patty Zapf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patricia.zapf@gmail.com">patricia.zapf@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Advisory</td>
<td>Jeffrey Neuschatz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:neuschaj@uah.edu">neuschaj@uah.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>Karen Galin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kgalin@geocarellc.com">kgalin@geocarellc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>Sarah Manchak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:manchash@ucmail.ec.edu">manchash@ucmail.ec.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Awards</td>
<td>Rachel Kalbeitzer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rkalbeitzer@hotmail.com">rkalbeitzer@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants-In-Aid</td>
<td>Stephanie Penney</td>
<td><a href="mailto:stephanie.penney@camh.ca">stephanie.penney@camh.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Career Professionals (ECP)</td>
<td>Laura Guy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Laura.Guy@umassmed.edu">Laura.Guy@umassmed.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>Dale McNeil</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dalem@lppi.ucsf.edu">dalem@lppi.ucsf.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>Dan Krauss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dkrauss@cmc.edu">dkrauss@cmc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law &amp; Human Behavior – Editor</td>
<td>Margaret Bull Kovera</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mkovera@jjay.cuny.edu">mkovera@jjay.cuny.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Chris Slobogin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:c.slobogin@law.vanderbilt.edu">c.slobogin@law.vanderbilt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentorship</td>
<td>Chriscelyn Tussey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chriscelynt@gmail.com">chriscelynt@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Affairs</td>
<td>Diane Sivasubramaniam (co chair)</td>
<td>dsisvasubramaniam@grou...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor</td>
<td>Matthew Huss</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhuss@creighton.edu">mhuss@creighton.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations &amp; Award</td>
<td>William Foote</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fornpysch@aol.com">fornpysch@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development of Women (PDW)</td>
<td>Gina Vincent</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gina.vincent@umassmed.edu">gina.vincent@umassmed.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Christian Meissner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cmeissner@utep.edu">cmeissner@utep.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Paper Review</td>
<td>Mark Costanzo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mark.costanzo@claremontmckenna.edu">mark.costanzo@claremontmckenna.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>Joel Lieberman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jdl@unlv.nevada.edu">jdl@unlv.nevada.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching, Training &amp; Careers (TTC)</td>
<td>Garrett Berman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gberman@rwu.edu">gberman@rwu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Paper Award</td>
<td>Twila Wingrove</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wingroveta@appstate.edu">wingroveta@appstate.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webpage Editor</td>
<td>Kento Yasuhara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kento.yasuhara@gmail.com">kento.yasuhara@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division Administrative Officer</td>
<td>Kathy Gaskey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:apls@ec.rr.com">apls@ec.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 APLS Conference Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Allison Redlich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aredlitch@albany.edu">aredlitch@albany.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 APA Conference Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Beth Caillouet</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beth.caillouet@dbhds.virginia.gov">beth.caillouet@dbhds.virginia.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 APLS Conference Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Amanda Zelechoski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.zelechoski@valpo.edu">amanda.zelechoski@valpo.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 APA Conference Co-Chairs</td>
<td>Amanda Zelechoski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amanda.zelechoski@valpo.edu">amanda.zelechoski@valpo.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY, CORRECTIONAL, & FORENSIC TREATMENT

Authors compared offenders who attended traditional relapse prevention and offenders who attended a program based on the good lives model of offender rehabilitation on individual measures, measures grouped by dynamic risk domain, and overall psychometric change. Results suggest the two approaches to treatment did not differ from one another in terms of change over treatment for most of the measures examined. However, participation in the good lives model program was associated with increases in reports of socioaffective functioning, and the overall “treated profile.”

Examined outcomes for the Baby Elmo Program, which provides incarcerated teen fathers with training and child visitation to enhance interactional quality. Participants were 41 incarcerated teen fathers with infants from 1-15 months. Significant positive increases were found in amount of parent support and infant engagement as a function of number of sessions completed. Preliminary findings suggest interventions that target visitation and media integration can be effective for incarcerated teen fathers.

Using data from 69 incarcerated parents, authors examined the associations of in-person visitation frequency and problems with offender-child closeness, offender-caregiver relationship quality, and offenders’ parenting distress and coparenting. Visitation problems were associated with greater offender-child closeness, visitation frequency and problems were associated with offender parenting distress, and there was a trend association between visit problems and coparenting. Neither visitation frequency nor problems were associated with offender-caregiver relationship quality.

Authors examined how women perceive nonprogrammatic factors while residing at a community corrections facility. Qualitative data was used to understand how women perceive and experience the social environment of the facility, and how these experiences may contribute to their adjustment and motivation. Perceptions of staff characteristics and interactions, environmental context, and relationships with residents were among the findings.


The study examines the outcomes of over 200 ex-offenders in the Reentry Housing Pilot Program (RHPP) and compares them with matched ex-offenders who were traditionally supervised. Results suggest the RHPP reduced new convictions and readmission to prison for new crimes. However, it did not have a significant effect on revocations. Results also suggest homelessness to significantly increase the risk for new convictions, revocations, and prison readmissions.


Authors compared offenders treated with methadone maintenance treatment (MMT), offenders who discontinued MMT after release, and offenders not treated with MMT. Results suggest offenders treated with MMT had a 36% lower risk of return to custody in comparison to offenders who discontinued MMT and untreated offenders. Risk of discontinued and untreated offenders did not vary significantly.


Authors administered DISC Predictive Scales to 812 youths aged 10–19 placed under community supervision. Approximately half were indicated for possible mental health problems, most frequently mania and posttraumatic stress disorder. Posttraumatic stress disorder and mania were comorbid with all clusters except marijuana. Emotional dysregulation predicted higher, but relational distress predicted lower, risk for rearrest. Marijuana predicted failure to appear in court and receiving a final disposition of placement.


The study compared depression and number of substances used who women reporting and not reporting abuse. Women were randomized to participate or not participate in gender-responsive substance abuse treatment. Results suggest that among women who reported abuse, participation in the treatment significantly reduced odds of depression and lowered rates of number of substances used.

Pilot study for a new program, Emotions: Taking Care of Yourself and Your Child When You Go Home, to teach emotion regulation and emotion coaching skills to incarcerated mothers for when they are released into the community and reuniting with children. All participants were previously receiving a parenting treatment, and were assigned to the Emotions Program (n=29) or former treatment group (n=18). Participants were assessed before and after the program, and 6 months after release from prison; intervention effects included emotion regulation, emotion socialization, and adjustment. A moderate time by group interaction effect was found for some aspects of emotion regulation, emotion socialization behavior, and criminal behavior in mothers. Participants in the Emotions group showed improvement compared to those in the comparison group.


Despite an overall decline in jail populations have since 2009, the U.S. female jail population rose about 45% between 1996 and 2011. Authors examined gender differences in social, medical and human needs in an urban jail population. More women than men reported needs for chemical dependency and mental health services, and a greater willingness to receive treatment. Implications suggest that gender-responsive programs are essential for jailed women.


Juvenile offenders have disproportionately high rates of psychiatric and substance use disorders relative to their nonoffending counterparts. Authors explored the relationship between these diagnoses and future recidivism. Data were collected on the demographic, psychiatric, and legal history backgrounds for 404 juveniles who underwent a court clinic forensic mental health evaluation. After accounting for known predictors of reoffending, co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders remained a salient predictor of future detention.


In response to needs of juvenile offenders with serious mental illness in correctional facilities, researchers and practitioners convened for a conference to recommend practice guidelines. Authors discuss five overarching recommendations and practice guidelines for mental health treatment: practice and policy guidelines regarding characteristics of youth, screening and assessment, intervention and case management services, community transition, and residential safety are presented.


The study examines operationalization of the Good Lives Model across 13 North American treatment programs. Authors coded for program aims, client induction/orientation, assessment, intervention planning, intervention context, and intervention delivery. Authors present findings from both inductive and deductive analyses, highlighting consistent and inconsistent findings.

Authors examined the referral and selection process of clients selected to participate in a specialized mental health caseload. Authors also examined factors influencing acceptance and rejection of potential clients. Results suggest selection to be guided by a three-step process: (1) general education; (2) informal pre-screening; (3) formal pre-screening. Once referred, client selection was guided primarily by the program’s formal criteria.


Analyzed data on sociodemographic and clinical characteristics and violent behavior (as indicators of need and predictors of suicidal ideation) of 1,249 parolees and 114,033 nonparolees from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health for the period 2009-2011. Prevalence of suicidal ideation was more than twice that of nonparolees (8.6% v. 3.7%), and characteristics associated with decrease of ideation (being married, older, employed) were unrelated to lower suicidal ideation among parolees. Having health insurance decreased likelihood for parolees by 50%, and parolees who received a past-year prescription for mood disorder did not have higher rates of suicidal ideation. However, nonparolees who received a past-year prescription did have higher suicidal ideation. Parolees were significantly more likely to rate health as poor (4.1% v. 2.6%).

**DELIQUENCY/ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOR**


Researchers compare the arrest histories of homicide gang and non-gang offenders to examine whether patterns of specialization, escalation, and/or de-escalation exist. Results suggest homicide offenders were heavily involved in both violent and drug crimes prior to homicide. Gang members regularly specialized in drug crimes whereas non-gang members were more likely to commit more violent crimes and to specialize in drug crimes prior to the homicide offense.


Using the twin and full-sibling subsample of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, researchers examined the potential for genetic factors to covary with delinquent peer affiliation and delinquency. Results suggest both delinquent peer associations and delinquency to be moderately influenced by additive genetic factors; common genes influence the covariance between the two outcomes.


Using dyadic data, authors assessed misperceptions at both the item and scale levels. Contrary to previous research, projections of delinquency were not the most frequent type of misperception at the item-level. Scale-level results reveal that most people are inaccurate and tend to mix various types of misperceptions. Both item- and scale-level results support that perceptions of peer non-delinquency are far more accurate than perceptions of peer delinquency.

Return to Table of Contents

The study examines three potential sources of misperceptions of peer deviance – (a) the actor who generates the perception, (b) the friend about whose deviance is perceived, and (c) the friendship between the actor and the friend – using dyadic data. Results suggest misperceptions commonly occur and systematically covary with all forms of assessed sources.


The study used data from the Gender and Aggression Project to examine the potential for subtyping justice-involved adolescent girls into “violent and delinquent,” “delinquent only,” and “low” to predict adult health and offending behavior. Results suggest the “violent and delinquent” subtype recidivated at higher rates and experienced more internalized psychopathology and physical health discomfort. Authors suggest results indicate the need for prevention and intervention services to avoid treating justice-involved girls as a homogenous group.


Authors examined the potential for a relationship between co-occurring disorders and inmate misconduct using data from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Results suggest mental illness is a risk factor for prison misconduct; presence of both a substance use disorder and a mental illness increases risk beyond that of presence of a single mental disorder.


Authors used data from the 1958 Philadelphia Birth Cohort Study to examine the relationship between co-offending and intermittency using Matza’s drift theory. Lifetime mixed offenders had the shortest average time gaps between offenses; among mixed offenders, an immediately prior co-offense was related to longer time between offenses. Results do not suggest a relationship between a situation of company and persistent offending behavior.


Using propensity scoring and matching, authors compared the costs of crimes committed by former inmates with and without mental illness. Overall, recidivism costs of those with mental illness were nearly three times as large as similar former inmates without mental illness. However, prior to matching, costs of recidivism of the average former inmate with mental illness were less than half that of the average former inmate without mental illness.


Researchers analyzed psychopathic traits in juvenile delinquency. Two groups, high and low psychopathic traits (n = 281, n = 262 respectively), were formed within a sample of 543 young
males. Results indicated that youths with high psychopathic traits start engaging in criminal activities and have contact with the justice system earlier in life, have higher levels of conduct disorder, behavior problems, and delinquent behaviors as well as lower levels of self-esteem.

Examined developmental course of grandiose-manipulative, callous-unemotional, and impulsive-irresponsible behavior and how trajectories relate to changes in parental behavior and delinquency over 4 years in a community sample of 1,068 adolescents. The majority of adolescents showed moderate initial trait levels that decreased over time, but a small group maintained relatively high levels on all three dimensions despite significant decreases in two of three dimensions. The high-decreasing group engaged in more delinquent behavior over time and experienced more negative parental behavior than any other group.

The present study examined the relationship between psychopathic personality traits, current suicidal ideation, and history of suicide attempts in a sample of male prison inmates. Results suggest secondary, but not primary, psychopathic traits were associated with a history of multiple suicide attempts. The relationship between secondary psychopathic traits and current suicidal ideation increased as depression increased. Primary psychopathic traits were found to be unrelated to suicidal ideation.

Researchers reviewed background characteristics and confinement experiences of inmates to compare influences on misconduct between female and male inmates. Findings suggest background characteristics and confinement experiences influence both men’s and women’s odds of misconduct. Equality of coefficient tests suggest these influences to be largely similar across the sexes.

Authors examined reactive aggression, proactive aggression, and history of suicide attempts in a group of 96 criminal offenders in a pretrial supervisory program. Results of the study suggest reactive aggression, but not proactive aggression, was related to history of suicide attempts after controlling for gender and depression.

Using a laboratory aggression task and over 500 young adults, researchers examined the influence of acute alcohol intoxication and history of growing up in a disadvantaged neighborhood on physical aggression. Acute alcohol intoxication increased aggression for those with a history of growing up in a disadvantaged neighborhood.

Authors examined the potential for a causal relationship between neutralization and delinquency using structural equations modeling on Gang Resistance Education and Training data. Four distinct neutralizing and delinquency groups were found with higher neutralization consistently predicting higher delinquency trajectories. Authors discuss results in the context of offender management and counseling.


Researchers interviewed twenty-three mentally disordered firesetters about the affective, cognitive, behavioral, and contextual factors surrounding one of their recorded firesetting offenses. The resulting model identifies more main phases: (1) background, (2) early adulthood, (3) pre-offense period, and (4) offense and post-offense period. Authors suggest the model highlights the importance of childhood experiences and fire and the onset of mental illness as precursors to firesetting.


This authors examined the relationship between the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory–Adolescent (MMPI–A) Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY–5) scales and violent and nonviolent juvenile delinquency. 260 adolescent boys and girls participated in a forensic setting. Results indicated that Disconstraint (DISC) was associated with nonviolent delinquency, whereas Aggressiveness (AGGR) was specifically associated with violent delinquency.


This study examines the influence of social context and individual-level risk factors on recidivism using inmate release data. Results suggest the relationship between criminal propensity and recidivism exists largely independent of community characteristics. Authors discuss results in the context of implications on theory, research, and policy.


This study examined the historical experiences of 470 first- and second-generation incarcerated adults. Second-generation offenders reported more conduct disorder behaviors occurring prior to age 15, proportionately more juvenile criminal offending, and more childhood adversity than first-generation offenders. Childhood adversity partially mediated the relation between generation status and conduct disorder, but second-generation status maintained a unique direct effect.

Participants examined changes in dynamic criminogenic needs in 251 probationers over a period of 12 months. Probationers with reductions in associating with criminally involved family members, improved work performance, and decreased alcohol use had the greatest reductions in offending. Furthermore, increased time spent in leisure and recreational activities were associated with less subsequent drug use.

**FORENSIC ASSESSMENT**


Obsessions of violence are a frequent manifestation of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and intrusive thoughts can include infanticidal or filicidal obsessions in new parents. Authors sought to examine the recognition and risk management preferences among psychiatry professionals and trainees regarding a case example description of filicide obsessions as a manifestation of OCD. Of the 43 respondents, only 62 percent considered OCD in the differential diagnosis.


Teacher, parent, and peer reports of aggression were assessed for 691 students in first grade and used to classify cases of maladaptive outcomes in late adolescence and early adulthood. Outcomes included antisocial personality, substance use, incarceration history, risky sexual behavior, and failure to graduate from high school on time. Peer reports were the most accurate classifier. For most outcomes, teacher or parent reports did not improve overall classification accuracy.


The present study explored the potential for the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – Version 2 (MAYS-I-2) to be used with African American and Latino/a youth on probation throughout Chicago, Illinois to identify individuals at risk of mental-health-related difficulties. Overall, the MAYS-I-2 displayed adequate accuracy in identifying youth in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment.


Development of the Child Problematic Traits Inventory (CPTI), a new teacher-rated instrument to assess psychopathic personality from 3-12 years. Tested reliability and validity in a Swedish general population sample of 2,056 3-5 year olds, and found three theoretically proposed factors: Grandiose-Deceitful, Callous-Unemotional, and Impulsive-Need for Stimulation. Interaction between these factors was a stronger predictor of concurrent conduct problems than any of the three individual factors, and they demonstrated reliability, internal consistency, and external validity with expected correlations with theoretically-related constructs (fearlessness).

Authors examined the use of the Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-R) in United States legal cases taking place between 2005 and 2011. The PCL-R was used primarily as a prosecution tool, rarely introduced by the defense. It was used most often as a risk assessment and its admissibility was rarely challenged. Results are discussed in the context of appropriate use and potential misuse of the PCL-R in court contexts.


Evaluated factor structure and construct validity of Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD) in a community sample of Dutch adolescents. Confirmatory factor analyses supported the two and three-factor model, but two-factor was more parsimonious (Callous-Unemotional and Impulsivity/Conduct Problems). Model fit was invariant across gender, interrater reliability was good and internal consistency of factors was modest to good with exception of Callous-Unemotional factor. Also found convergence with the APSD self-report version, divergence with the Big Five personality dimensions Agreeableness and Conscientiousness, and gender differences in mean APSD scores that reproduced findings in American samples.


Examined association between psychopathic traits and measures assessing social and material goals, social beliefs and the need for belonging, in addition to an experimental vignettes task to assess the extent to which participants identify dominance in themselves and admire the trait in others. Males with high levels of psychopathic traits appeared unmotivated by meaningful and long-term relationships, instead motivated by goals relating to image and financial success. Males with high levels of psychopathic traits also admired dominance in others but did not clearly identify dominance in themselves.


Investigated genetic and environmental influences on CU traits with and without anxiety, and explored differences in concurrent and early parenting and adjustment. Formed discrete groups based upon scores in the top 10% of the sample on CU and anxiety scales at 7 years. Calculated estimates of group heritability using a Defries-Fulker extremes regression model, and analyzed early parenting and adjustment using multivariate analyses of covariance. Findings included high group heritability for CU traits with and without anxiety. Children with combined high CU and anxiety demonstrated higher levels of adjustment problems than those with just CU at age 7. The two groups did not differ in parenting characteristics.


Examined whether dimensions of psychopathy and antisocial personality disorder correlate differentially with notably negative emotionality and amygdala reactivity to emotional faces.
In a community sample of 103 men and women, dimensions of psychopathy and APD were generated using scales of the NEO-PI and amygdala reactivity with an emotional faces task. Higher psychopathy scores were associated with lower NEM and amygdala reactivity, and higher APD scores were related to greater NEM and amygdala reactivity after overlapping variance in APD and psychopathy was adjusted for. Amygdala reactivity was not a mediator for the relationship of APD and psychopathy scores to NEM.


Tested hypothesis that psychopathic traits are related to increased tolerance for physical pain using 104 community participants oversampled for psychopathic traits. Psychopathic traits using self- and informant reports were associated with small correlations with tolerance of pressure and electric shock, but not tolerance of cold temperature. Pain tolerance also manifested small correlations with history of antisocial and aggressive behavior, but there was little evidence for pain tolerance as a mediator of the relationship between psychopathy and violent or nonviolent ASB.


Criminal cases may employ inaccurate conceptions of the phenomenology of auditory verbal hallucinations (AVHs) to assess the veracity of defendants’ claims. The authors examined genuine, malingered, and atypical AVHs. Authors suggest that use of typical properties of AVHs as a standard to evaluate the validity of a defendant’s claims is likely to be less effective than the accumulation of instances of defendants endorsing statements of atypical features of AVHs.


Authors examined forensic evaluators’ use of assessment tools in evaluations of malingering, competency to stand trial, mental state at the time of the alleged offense, and nonsexual violence risk. Four types of instruments were examined – multiscale inventories, forensic assessment/relevant instruments, cognitive/neuropsychological instruments, and projective techniques. Overall, evaluators reported using multiscale inventories most often in evaluations of mental state at the time of the offense and forensic assessments most often in the other three contexts assessed. Projective techniques were used least often across all contexts assessed.


Using three patients’ records in a forensic psychiatric setting, the authors investigated multirater reliability of the Historical, Clinical, and Risk Management-20 among 21 clinicians of different training backgrounds. Overall results suggested good to excellent reliability and that the risk management scale was the most challenging. Further analyses indicated that majority of the variance is attributable to patient characteristics and only less than 3% to clinicians’ differences.

Adolescents (N =150, aged 13-14) arrived in triads and either interacted with a man or imagined the interaction. The adolescents were interviewed individually using an anticipated verbal task and an unanticipated special drawing task, and their responses were rated by adults (N=200) for consistency among the members of the triads. Consistency ratings were higher overall for the verbal task than the special task. A significant difference between consistency of liars and truth tellers was observed for the spatial task, but not for general descriptions.


Transcripts of forensic interviews with children (N=115, ages 3-12) between 1 day and 18 months after the alleged incident were examined. On average, interviewers asked 3 repeated questions per interview. As age increased, frequency of question repetition declined but there was no association between repetition and delay. Questions repeated using suggestive prompts were more likely to elicit contradictions. There was no association between age or delay and reasons why questions were repeated, how they were repeated, and how children responded.


Children (N=128, ages 5-7) were interviewed about an event staged 4-6 weeks earlier, using the NICHD protocol. Children were prepared for talking about the investigated event using either an invitational or directive style of prompting, with or without additional practice. Open invitation prompts elicited more detailed responses than directive prompts without reducing accuracy. Children who received preparation including practice recalling a recent event in response to directive and yes/no questions were least accurate when questioned about the false event first.


Two studies (N=140, N=80) examined participants’ perceptions of veracity of native and non-native English speakers. Some participants scored the cues displayed using the Psychologically Based Credibility Assessment Tool. Results suggest non-native speakers are perceived as more deceptive. Implications are discussed.


Study examined the influence of workplace environment and career stage on correctional staff turnover intent. Results of over 2,500 Southwestern correctional officers suggest turnover intent to be lowest among staff less than one year into their careers. Further, the influence of workplace environment variables on turnover intent varied greatly across the four career stages assessed; commitment to organization remained as a significant predictor of turnover intent across all stages.

After reviewing the literature on the effect of memory distrust in cases of internalized false confessions, the authors conduct in-depth analysis of two cases where five of the six convicted persons evidenced profound memory distrust regarding the alleged offenses. The authors identify key factors present in the cases and suggest that internalization of false confessions occurs in five sequential steps: a trigger, plausibility, acceptance, reconstruction, and resolution.


Incarcerated males (N =193, ages 14-17) were interviewed. Over one third of the sample claimed to have made a false admission to legal authorities. Two thirds claimed to have made a true admission. Youth who experienced “police refusals” were more likely to report having made both true and false confessions to police; only false confessions were associated with claims of long interrogations and being questioned with a friend present. High-pressure lawyer tactics were associated with false guilty pleas.


Two experiments examine the effects of suspicion regarding a suspect’s truthfulness (Experiment 1, N=136) and increasing motivation to accurately judge the suspect’s veracity (Experiment 2, N=125) on witnesses’ memory for the appearance and message of the sender. Both motivation and suspicion intensified memory impairment while inflating certainty about the accuracy of the line-up identification and other testimony-relevant judgments.


Authors examine the role of legitimacy in achieving the goals of law and defining police and court policies and practices. Results suggest the need of a multidimensional conceptualization of legitimacy which differentiates between consent to authority and normative justifiability of power. Results are discussed in the context of theoretical conceptualizations of legitimacy and future research directions.


The authors conducted three studies examining the impact of secondary confessions. In studies 1 (n = 54) and 2 (n = 65), participants read trial summaries that varied by the evidence presented-secondary confession, eyewitness, or character testimony and also by the method it was delivered-direct examination or cross examination. In study 3 (n = 134), participants read summaries that contained a primary confession, a secondary confession, eyewitness, or a control. Participants rated primary and secondary confessions as being more important to their decisions.

The authors examined the effect of a diagnosis on mock juror decision makings. Participants (n = 247) read trial summaries that varied by the defendant’s age (juvenile or adult), gender, and diagnosis (psychopathy, antisocial personality disorder, conduct disorder, or no diagnosis). Defendants with a diagnosis were more likely to be viewed as guilty and more likely to reoffend; those with the psychopathy diagnosis were viewed as less credible.


The authors examined severity of a crime as it relates to role violation in the emotional victim effect. Participants (n = 79) read a highly emotional victim impact statement that varied by the severity of the crime. Those who read the more severe crime scenario were more likely to believe the victim and experienced less expectancy violation. They also had more positive opinions about the victim.


The authors examined the effect of mortality salience on mock juror decisions. Participants in studies 1 (n = 127) and 2 (n = 184) read a summary of a death penalty case that varied on whether there was strong or weak cross-examination. Participants were also instructed to think about their own death or experiencing dental pain. Participants who were death primed were more likely to rely on the evidence when making dangerousness and sentencing decisions.


Participants (N=1248) viewed statements by an alleged rape victim, the suspect, or both, then judged the probability of guilt and reported their willingness to vote guilty or not guilty. Results suggest participants—jury eligible laypersons and legal professionals—were willing to convict when the probability of guilt surpassed .6. Implications are discussed.


Two studies examine the effects of lifestyle change (Study 1; N = 190) as well as race (Study 2; N = 250) on mock parole board members’ decisions regarding the release of the inmate. Experiencing a secular lifestyle change increased likelihood of granting parole compared to no change or converting to Christianity or Islam. Race did not affect parole decisions. Perceptions of the inmate and beliefs about the inmate’s likelihood to recidivate mediated the release decisions.


Authors conducted a mixed methods study to examine the occupational socialization of forensic
psychologists and its relation to objectivity. 20 board-certified forensic psychologists were interviewed and 334 forensic psychologists were surveyed about their socialization into the field. Results indicated that occupational socialization was positively associated with years of experience, belief in one’s ability to be objective, and endorsement of the usefulness of various bias correction strategies.


The researchers examined whether familiarity judgments are diagnostic of prior contact. High school students (n = 139) viewed photos that varied by whether they depicted an older student from their school or a different school and whether they were of the same or different race. Participants were more likely to correctly categorize familiar faces of their same race.


The authors varied the order and magnitude of alibi witness and eyewitness evidence participants (N=179) viewed while acting as police officers investigating a mock crime. Participants evaluated evidence and suspect guilt. Results suggest strong evidence received most recently had a greater impact on decision-making, especially if it contradicted previously encountered evidence. Implications are discussed.


Authors evaluated a pilot arrest alternative for sex-trafficked and prostituted adults regarding diversion program attendance, completion, and 12-month recidivism outcomes. Pilot participants, 43 women identified as having committed a prostitution-related crime were compared with a group of 42 women arrested and charged with prostitution. No differences were found between the two groups regarding diversion attendance, completion or prostitution-related recidivism. Benefits of the pilot intervention were discussed.


The authors examined the impact of neuroscientific evidence of deception on mock juror decision making. Participants (n = 414) read one of five trial summaries that varied on the presentation of behavioral or neuroscientific evidence. Participants rated neuroscientific evidence as being of higher quality, but the type of evidence did not alter verdict choices.

RISK ASSESSMENT/COMMUNICATION


Authors examined incremental validity of Andrews and Bonta’s Central Eight risk factors to predict general and violent recidivism in German youth. Central Eight risk factors predicted recidivism in survival analyses; composite scores predicted general and violent recidivism. Moderate Four risk factors showed predictive validity incremental to Big Four risk factors with school being the most predictive single risk factor.

Examined whether psychosis increased risk of violent behavior among released prisoners and whether treatment reduced this risk in the U.K. Prisoner Cohort Study, a prospective longitudinal study of prisoners followed up in the community post-release. Adult male and female offenders with sentences of 2 or more years were classified into no psychosis (N=742), schizophrenia (N=94), delusional disorder (N=29), and drug-induced psychosis (N=102). Schizophrenia was associated with violence only in the absence of treatment; untreated schizophrenia was associated with emergence of persecutory delusions at follow-up, which was associated with violence. Mediation analyses of were confirmed for persecutory delusions.


The Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) is a correctional assessment tool that identifies the individual risk and needs of criminal offenders. Authors assessed the predictive and dynamic validity of the LSI-R. The results support the LSI-R as a valid instrument in predicting recidivism and suggest future research on risk/needs assessments should include examinations of the percentage change in risk scores.


Authors conducted a cross-sectional study to assess correlates of hostility using baseline data collected on recently-released male parolees participating in a randomized trial focused on prevention of illicit drug use and recidivism. Predictors of high levels of hostility included greater depressive symptomatology, lower self-esteem, having a mother who was treated for alcohol/drugs, belonging to a gang, more tangible support, having used methamphetamine and having a history of cognitive difficulties.


Prospective examination of sexual offender risk and treatment change in a federal Canadian sample of 676 treated sex offenders, with follow-up for an average of 6.31 years post-release. The Violence Risk Scale – Sexual Offender version (VRS-SO) and Static-99 were rated pre- and posttreatment for men attending sex offender programs in Canada. VRS-SO dynamic factors and Static-99R demonstrated significant predictive accuracy for sexual, violent, and general recidivism. Change scores were associated with postrelease recidivism outcomes.


Authors used Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) analysis and the Kaplan-Meier (KM) estimator of survival on data of over 29,000 cases to test the predictive validity of the Revised Domestic Violent Screening Instrument (DVSII-R). Analyses determined the survival functions of perpetrators based on their risk as determined by DVSII-R scores and examined differences by characteristics of the perpetrator. Authors discuss results in the context of implications for intervention.

Authors examined psychometric properties of the Violent Risk Scale-Youth Version (VRS-YV) in a sample of 147 young offenders. The scale had high internal consistency and inter-rater reliability. Results suggest a three-factor structure: Interpersonal Aggression, Antisocial Tendencies, and Family Problems. Static, dynamic, and total scores significantly predicted violent and general recidivism with moderate to high accuracy. The scale also had strong convergent validity with two well-established youth forensic assessment tools.


Authors replicate the methodology of Belfrage et al. by examining the Brief Spousal Assault Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER) as used by Swedish police officers assessing and managing intimate partner violence. Results suggest the B-SAFER adequately predicted recidivism. Management recommendations were also associated with decreased recidivism in high-risk perpetrators, but increased recidivism in low-risk perpetrators.


The authors investigated the predictive validity of the Washington State Juvenile Court Pre-Screen Assessment among 520 youths in the Netherlands. Result demonstrated consistent findings with past research of modest predictive validity. Predictive validity was significantly improved upon modifying the scoring procedure where only variables that uniquely adds to recidivism prediction are scored. Implications for future use are discussed.


Authors examined the utility of the Self-Report of Psychopathy-III (SRP-III) for predicting violent offending, serious charges, and theft offending in a community-based sample. Area under the curve analyses suggest fair predictive power for total and factor scores. After controlling for risk factors, SRP-III predicted charges for violent and serious offenses, but not theft.


The study examined the relationship of race, education, and criminal thinking to recidivism among 1,101 released male federal prison inmates. Analyses indicated that educational attainment moderated the relationship between criminal thinking and recidivism. That is, it was only effective for use in inmates with 12 or more years of education. Only the General Criminal Thinking score mediated this relationship, and not education. Implications for moderator and mediator analyses are discussed.

Aimed to replicate results of Willoughby et al. (2011), which developed a screening measure of callous-unemotional behaviors for preschool-aged children, and explore the predictive validity of the measure with aggression trajectories in early childhood. Factor analyses included 1,176 children who participated in the age 3 year assessment of the NICHD Study of Early Childhood and Youth Development (NICHD-SECCYD), and predictive analyses included 1,081 children for whom four of six possible teacher ratings of aggression were available from annual assessments from 1-6 grade. Yielded a three-factor model differentiating CU from oppositional deviant and ADHD behaviors. For children with disorganized attachment status, high levels of mother-related ODD behaviors and CU behaviors combined were predictive of stable elevated levels of teacher-rated aggression.


To address criticisms against using common risk assessments with Aboriginal offenders, researchers conducted a meta-analysis reviewing 16 samples to test the extent to which the Level of Service Inventory (LSI) predicts recidivism for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal offenders. Results suggest the LSI predicts recidivism for Aboriginal offenders, but predicts with less accuracy on five of the eight subscales.

SEX OFFENDERS


The article covers the initial development and preliminary validation of the Multiple-Perpetrator Rape Interest Scale (M-PRIS), a vignette-based measures assessing community males’ sexual arousal to multiple perpetrator rape, behavioral propensity toward multiple perpetrator rape, and enjoyment of multiple perpetrator rape. Results suggest the measure to be reliable with high internal validity and temporal stability. Authors discuss results in the context of implications for future research, theory development, and clinical practice.


Compared juveniles who were adjudicated for sexual offenses (n = 108) and non-sexual offenses (n = 119) on theoretically-relevant constructs. They found no evidence for a significant difference in the majority of the characteristics but higher rates of sexual abuse, anxiety, fewer consensual sexual partners, less delinquent activity, and lower callous-unemotional traits. Lower callous-unemotional traits predicted sexual offending after controlling for total delinquent behavior. Implications are discussed.


Authors examined whether the use of mandatory polygraphs would increase disclosures made by community-supervised sexual offenders in the United Kingdom. A significantly higher proportion of offenders made at least one disclosure and there were more disclosures overall when offenders received the polygraph in comparison to not receiving the polygraph. Authors discuss results in the context of types of disclosures, failure/passing rates of polygraph tests, and offender manager opinions on supervision.

Authors examined 23 neuropsychological studies of sexual offenders. Overall, offenders against children tended to score significantly lower on assessments of higher order executive functioning and offenders against adults tended to score similarly to non-offenders. Authors conclude that neuropsychological data is still too scarce to make more precise hypotheses and discuss results as a call for future research.


Using data of over 23,000 registered sex offenders in Florida, authors compared characteristics and risk factors of sex offenders who have absconded from authorities and those who have not absconded. Overall, absconders were less likely to be listed as predators, have a minor victim, and be listed as a repeat offender. They were least likely to have a prior failure to register conviction. Authors discuss results in terms of absconders’ risk to the community.


Authors sought to address the limitations of previous research exploring child pornography offender clinical needs. Authors used nontreatment samples and multiple comparison groups to examine mean scales score differences on a commonly used clinical and personality assessment, the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). Results indicate that interpersonal deficits and depression were most prominent in the profiles of the ICPOs.


Researchers examined childhood victimization, substance use occurring before a sexual offense, and force used during commission of the sexual offense in a group of male juvenile sexual offenders. Results suggest substance use prior to a sexual offense partially mediates the effects of cumulative victimization on force used during commission of the offense.


Using data from 147 incarcerated sexual offenders, researchers used latent profile analysis to create five distinct profiles of routine activities – inactive loner, social traveler, single walker, partyer, and familial homebody. Authors discuss profiles in the context of relation to characteristics of index sexual offenses.


Author examined the reliability of diagnosing mental abnormality during Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) evaluations using data from 375 sex offenders referred for evaluation for SVP commitment in New Jersey. Clinicians (n = 128) rendered a variety of diagnoses, most commonly...
Pedophilia. While clinicians tended to agree on diagnoses of Pedophilia, there was questionable agreement across paraphilic and non-paraphilic diagnoses.


Examined whether slower performance speed and greater performance accuracy of pedophilic child molesters compared to nonpedophilic child molesters reflect a slow or deliberate response style or a fundamental neuropathological weakness in processing speed. Processing speed was examined on 20 phallometrically identified PEDs, 20 N-PEDs, and 20 nonsexual offenders. PEDs exhibited slower visual perception and visual-motor integration compared with other groups, and performed less accurately on a measure of speed of visual-perceptual processing independent of response speed. Group differences persisted when controlling for age, estimate IQ, working memory, ethnicity, and substance use, providing evidence for PEDs’ slower performance as a result of a fundamental neurocognitive weakness.

**WITNESS ISSUES**


Using eye-tracking equipment, participants’ (N=98) gaze was monitored while watching a crime video, after which they were instructed to estimate the duration of the video as well as the duration of the visibility of the perpetrator. Participants then made an identification from a lineup. This procedure was repeated with another crime video before participants were shown 10 general time estimation videos. Fixations on the perpetrators face related to eyewitness accuracy. Duration estimates for crime and estimator videos were strongly correlated. Implications are discussed.


When comparing simultaneous to sequential lineups, participants (N=320) showed reduced rates of choosing with sequential as compared to simultaneous lineups, an accuracy advantage in favor of simultaneous lineups. Analysis of the confidence-accuracy relationship revealed a sequential mistaken identification overconfidence effect and a steady drop in confidence for mistaken identifications in sequential lineups, while confidence in and accuracy of correct identifications remained relatively stable. Overall, sequential lineups were both less accurate and produced higher confidence in false identifications than simultaneous lineups.

Novelty and timing of an object’s presentation were manipulated to investigate how presenting a normal, novel, or threatening object which was presented before, during, or after the culprit’s face was visible would influence identification accuracy. Participants (N=1263) in the novel and threatening object conditions made more mistaken identifications in target-absent line-ups.


Two experiments examined the effect of lineups containing pictures of low or high similarity to the target person on children’s correct identification rate. Experiment 1 (N=189, aged 10-14) examined children’s simultaneous lineup identification accuracy after a live interaction with the target person, finding that low-similarity lineups increased positive identification of the suspect in both target-present and target-absent lineups. Experiment 2 (N=336) compared children identifications (N=164, aged 6-10) with adult identifications (N=172) of a target from a videotaped sequence. The results for children followed the pattern of Experiment 1, except lower-similarity lineups increased misidentification of an innocent suspect in target-absent lineups. Adults were generally unaffected by the similarity.


The authors examined the generalizability of the Self-Administered Interview (SAI) over multiple eyewitness events. Participants (n = 84) watched an event and were then prompted with free recall only or SAI instructions. One week later participants watched another event and were all given only free recall instructions. Participants who had initially received SAI instructions correctly recalled more details for both the first and the second event.


Sixty participants viewed a video of a mock crime before completing a Self-Administered Interview (SAI), a free recall task, or no initial retrieval task. After a one week delay, participants were interviewed using a Cognitive Interview. Participants who completed the SAI recalled more correct information with higher accuracy than either the free recall or control conditions. Consistency analyses were performed and discussed.


Avoidable pitfalls present in previous archival analyses were identified and addressed. Authors explored associations among various estimator variables and lineup outcomes for 833 “real life” lineups, including 588 lineups in which corroborating evidence of the suspect’s guilt existed. Suspect identifications were associated with exposure duration, viewing distance, and age of witness. Nonidentifications were associated with number of perpetrators. Unavoidable limitations with archival studies were considered and authors concluded that the informational value of archival studies was rather limited.

Using cognitive interview instructions, children (N=48), adolescents (N=48), and adults (N=48) were questioned about a brief film clip of a simulated crime. Adolescents provided more information than children while providing less information than adults, even though accuracy did not differ with age. Implications are discussed.


Three experiments examine whether Black faces with stereotypical facial features increased misidentification of Black faces. While results from Experiment 1 (N = 95) suggest that individuals with stereotypically Black features were correctly categorized as Black faster than those with less stereotypical features, results from Experiment 2 (N=146) suggest that the stereotypically Black faces were more likely to be categorized as previously seen than less stereotypical faces. Experiment 3 (N=371) suggests that stereotypical faces elicited more false-positive line-up identifications. Implications are discussed.


The authors studied the effect of videoconferencing on facial composite sketches. In study 1, participants (n = 42) viewed a photograph and then helped develop a facial composite either face-to-face or remotely. In study 2 followed the same procedure, except all participants (n = 20) were interviewed remotely and saw the developing composite either by webcam or a digital image transfer. An independent sample (n = 20) rated the remote sketches as inferior to the face-to-face sketches.


The authors investigated whether the Cognitive Interview (CI) would curb retrieval enhanced suggestibility. Participants (N=102) watched the critical event video completed the initial recall task (control, free recall, or CI), participated in the distractor task, and listened to the misinformation items before completing the final memory test. Though participants in the CI condition recalled more accurate memory details than those in the free recall condition, both the CI and free recall tasks increased final reporting of misinformation. Implications are discussed.


The authors examined the effects of clothing bias and cross-race conditions on show-up and subsequent lineup eyewitness identification accuracy. Participants (N=304) viewed a mock crime prior to making a show-up identification where suspect race, clothing, and target-presence were varied. 57.8% of the participants correctly identified the suspect during the show-up, and 44.8% of participants correctly identified the suspect during the lineup. Correct identifications increased, while correct rejections decreased, when the suspect wore the same clothing as the perpetrator. No main effect of race was observed in showup identifications, but accuracy for other-race lineup identifications decreased.

The authors examined the effect of eyewitness factors on attorney plea bargaining. Prosecutors (n = 46) and defense attorneys (n = 93) were surveyed about 17 eyewitness factors and also read summaries of eyewitness identifications that varied by the familiarity of the suspect and whether it was a cross-race identification. There were no differences based on attorney type.


Two experiments (N=958, N=101) examined the effect of appearance-change instructions (ACI) on witness behavior during eye-witness identification procedures. While the ACI increased witness choosing rates, it did not increase accuracy, across all crimes, perpetrators, line-ups, and phrasings examined. Implications are discussed.


Hierarchical log-linear analysis examined the effect of single- versus double-blind line-up administration on the administrator’s (N= 249) reporting of positive identification and evaluation of the witness. Results suggest that single-blind administration increased reporting of suspect identification as correct positive identifications. Single-blind administrators rated confederates who chose the suspect more favorably than those who chose fillers.


Participants (n =140) witnessed a simulated crime, made accurate or mistaken identifications from a lineup and received confirming feedback or no feedback. Each then gave videotaped testimony. Another sample of participants (n =64) judged the accuracy and credibility of the testimonies. Among witnesses who were not given feedback, evaluators were significantly more likely to believe the testimony of accurate eyewitnesses than the testimony of mistaken eyewitnesses. Among witnesses who were given confirming feedback, evaluators showed no such ability to discriminate.


Authors present results of a meta-analysis involving 7,000 participants across the world examining the post-identification feedback effect. Results suggest confirming feedback greatly increases eyewitnesses’ retrospective judgments. Authors also examine potential moderators to this relationship and propose future research questions. Results are discussed in the context of policy implications.


Authors examined the influence of test formats and centrality of details on retrieval-enhanced suggestibility. In Experiment 1 (N=60), initial and final tests were cued recall. In Experiment 2 (N=120), initial test was free recall and final test was cued recall. In Experiment 3 (N =120),
tests were free recall. Initial testing increased misinformation reporting on the final test for peripheral details in all experiments, but the effect was significant for central details only after aggregating data from all experiments.

**OTHER**


Authors examined the psychometric principles of the Conners Comprehensive Behavior Rating Scales-Self Report (CBRS-SR) in a sample of 1,040 juveniles with court contact. Six of the ten DSM-IV-TR scales’ scores were internally consistent. However, Conners’s proposed five-factor model did not fit the respondents’ scores. Most respondents had at least one clinically significant t-score on the DSM-IV-TR scales with more females than males having clinically significant scores across all DSM-IV-TR scales.


Researchers surveyed female inmates about their perceptions of the police and courts. Results suggest female offenders’ perceptions of procedural justice are influenced by perceived honesty of the judge and police officers and perceived ability to have their voices heard in encounters with police and courts. Results also suggest a spill-over effect of perceptions of police onto perceptions of the courts.


Using data from twin pairs from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, researchers examined genetic factors related to measures of social support and self-control. Results suggest genetic factors account for about half of the variance in social support measures. The covariance between social support and self-control was also found to be largely due to a common genetic pathway. Lastly, even after controlling for genetic influences, social support had a significant influence on levels of self-control.


The authors independently assess trial characteristics and justice perceptions of 13 criminal judges during 129 criminal trials. Two independent observers rated measures of judges’ behaviors and trustworthiness. Defendants (N = 87) and audience members from 79 trials rated items related to the outcome of the trial, evaluated the judges’ behaviors, and procedural and distributive justice. Defendants’ justice perceptions were unrelated to the observed judicial behaviors, but the audiences’ ratings were related to the observed judicial behaviors.


Ninety children (aged 4-11) with varying degrees of intellectual disabilities viewed a live magic
show, lasting approximately 20 minutes. After a delay of a few days, the children were questioned during an initial forensic interview then cross-examined 10 months later. While 98% of children altered at least one aspect of their response during cross-examination, no significant differences emerged across groups when age and memory were controlled for. Implications are discussed.


The author tested a geographical profiling system designed to predict the home location of an offender. The system was tested on New Zealand sexual offenses (n = 101). These were compared to a sample derived in the United Kingdom, where the profiling system is used. It was found that the search costs were greater in New Zealand due to the fact that New Zealand offenders violated may of the assumptions of the profiling system.


Authors examined the psychometric properties of the German version of the Prison Group Climate Instrument (PGCI). Confirmatory factor analysis with four first-order factors (support, growth, group atmosphere, and repression), and overall group climate as a second-order factor, showed a good fit to the data and indicated construct validity of the German version of the PGCI. Support was found for convergent validity and reliability coefficients were sufficient for all scales.


This study examined the moderating role of justice orientation in the relationship between justice perception and response to a decision problem. The authors manipulated procedural justice and the outcome valence of the decision frame within a vignette, and measured justice orientation of participants (N = 174). Results indicated an interaction between procedural justice and framing manipulation, which was moderated by individual differences in justice orientation. In negative framing, justice effects were larger for individuals with high rather than low justice orientation.


Using a sample of over 1,000 community members from Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom, authors used 12 vignettes to examine participants’ perceptions of stalking and responsibility. Results were consistent across the three countries; in vignettes in which the perpetrator was depicted as a stranger to the target, participants perceived the behavior as stalking, reported a need for police intervention and criminal conviction, and perceived the target as least responsible and perpetrator as most responsible.


Authors examined how attorneys question child witnesses about prior conversations (with suspects and disclosure recipients) in sexual abuse cases. Results suggest prosecuting attorneys,
in comparison to defense attorneys tend to use open-ended questions, question about conversations with suspects, focus on immediate abuse than grooming behavior or attempts to keep the abuse secret, and question about motives to disclose. Attorneys’ questions appeared to be indiscriminate to the age of the child witness. Results are discussed in the context of implications on improving the questioning process.


Using latent class analysis with data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, authors identified three classes: a large normative group, a small drug-involved group, and a criminal-justice-involved group. Results suggest chronic health conditions closely associated with long term medical problems were not linked to criminal-justice-involved or drug-involved offenders. Medical problems associated with an antisocial lifestyle were prevalent among these antisocial subgroups.
AP-LS Student Section Committee

AP-LS Members and Students,

**STUDENT COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Student Committee Resources

The Student Committee has a variety of resources available online for graduate, professional, and undergraduate students alike. We encourage students (and professionals for that matter) to visit our section of the AP-LS website and to "Like" our Facebook page to access all of this content.

We are very active on our Facebook page, which continues to grow. As of May 1, 2014, the Facebook page has 1,178 “Likes” (page followers). Joanna oversees postings to the Facebook page multiple times per week. We post professional development resources (e.g., scholarship and grant information, information about upcoming conferences, brief articles) and interesting information about psychology and law (e.g., popular news articles, technical and research reports). We also search for and post student-authored publications recently appearing in top journals in law and psychology. If you recently published something, let us know so we can advertise it!

The Student Committee is always working to improve the resources that we offer, so be sure to refer back to our Facebook page and our section of the Division’s website often. Scholar and Erika are currently working to improve the usefulness of our internship and postdoctoral resources (e.g., developing a list of researchers in law and psychology who are willing to be contacted by prospective postdoctoral applicants). We are also in the process of posting examples of successful application materials (for internship, postdoctoral, and faculty positions) that some of our successful-ECP panelists (see below) have graciously provided to us for sharing. In addition, Emily has been compiling a listing of summer legal employment/internship positions relevant to law and psychology (for now limited to the mid-Atlantic region) that we will be posting soon.

New Webinar Series

Casey, along with Scholar, Erika, and Emily recently spearheaded our new webinar series. The series features a different AP-LS professional each month speaking on a topic of interest to students in law and psychology. Thirty-nine attendees from around the United States and Canada joined us in March for our inaugural webinar, which featured an interactive presentation and discussion with Dr. Kirk Heilbrun on the current state and future of forensic psychology. Notes from that presentation are available for download here. In April, Dr. Mary Alice Conroy presented on navigating conflicts between your own values and those of your clients. In addition to notes that are downloadable here, we also recorded Dr. Conroy’s webinar (something we will continue to do going forward), which can be downloaded in audio or video format.

Our next webinar is scheduled for May and will feature Dr. Jennifer Woolard. The topic is grant writing in psychology and law and Erika will be moderating. In June, Professor Christopher Slo-
bogin will present on neuroscience and the law. Emily will serve as moderator. Recordings of all of our webinars will be available for download on the Student Committee's section of the AP-LS website.

Campus Representatives Program Updates

The Student Committee wishes to thank all of our Campus Representatives and their faculty sponsors for their service. Stephanie has continued to work to streamline and improve aspects of the Campus Representative program. Her efforts include developing a monthly newsletter that is disseminated to Campus Representatives each month, and instituting the Campus Representative Faculty Sponsor program to improve the year-to-year continuity of the Division's representation on local campuses. We have also been forwarding Campus Representatives the minutes from Student Committee meetings to increase the transparency of our work.

We wish to acknowledge our Campus Representative of the Fall Semester, Logan A. Yelderman, for his exemplary service as a Campus Representative. Logan is a second year graduate student in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno, and his adviser is Monica K. Miller, Ph.D., J.D. His interests involve the application of social psychological theories to legal attitudes and legal processes. Specifically, he is interested in attitudes toward the criminally insane and mentally ill offenders; mental illness verdicts (e.g. NGRI and GBMI); the relationship between religion and legal processes (e.g. jury decision-making); parole decision-making; emotion; attributions; morality; and public perceptions.

At his school, Logan assisted fellow students with applying for the AP-LS Grants in Aid; hosted and oversaw the growth of a psychology and law group that meets to discuss interesting articles related to psychology and law and to provide peer feedback on members’ research ideas; and coordinated transportation and room accommodations for the AP-LS Conference. Logan also promptly disseminated all information he received from the Student Committee and volunteered to assist the Student Committee at the AP-LS Conference. Thanks, Logan, and great job!

If you are interested in getting involved with our Campus Representative program as either a Campus Representative or Faculty Sponsor, please refer here for additional information.
2014 AP-LS CONFERENCE RECAP

The Student Committee worked hard to make this year’s AP-LS Conference in New Orleans the best one for students yet. We hope students found the room share program and shared interests survey that Lauren coordinated to be helpful, as well as the conference guide Casey produced. We also hope that all of our conference programming was interesting, useful, and fun for those in attendance. For students who were unable to attend the conference, our programming consisted of the following this year:

- breakfast information session to orient students to conference-going and to recognize our Campus Representatives;
- talk by Dr. Jay Singh on international collaboration and early career issues;
- Q&A panel on the topic of early career success that featured six successful ECPs;
- 5k fun run
- student social
- Facebook contest (congratulations to students Mary Elizabeth, University of Alabama, and Jenna Kieckhaefer, Florida International University); and
- student presentations awards (see below).

Thanks are due all of our invited speakers: Drs. Natalie Anumba, Stephanie Brooks Holliday, Lisa Kan, Jennifer Eno Louden, Lindsay Malloy, Sarah Manchak, and Jay Singh. We also wish to thank students Rachel Kahn (University of New Orleans) and Ashleigh Tassin (University of Denver) for contributing New Orleans-locals tips for our conference guide. Further thanks are due the Division’s Executive Committee, Kathy Gaskey, and this year’s AP-LS Conference co-chairs, Drs. Allison Redlich and Beth Caillouet. Finally, we wish to thank all of the students who came out to support our conference sessions and events.

We provided cash awards to 10 students who submitted their work for consideration and then delivered outstanding presentations. Copies of many of these presentations are accessible here.

Paper awards:

Laura Smalarz, Iowa State University, *The legal engine that couldn't: Cross-examination fails to correct for feedback effects on evaluations of eyewitness testimony*

Mary E. Wood, University of Alabama, Psychology-Law Program, *The prototypical stereotype: Perceptions of functioning when categorized as intellectually disabled*

Sk ye Woestehoff, University of Texas-El Paso, Legal Psychology program, *Juror sensitivity to false confession risk factors*

Specialty awards:

Heidi Strohmaier, Drexel University, *Incidence and correlates of animal maltreatment in a community sample (novel award)*

Jennifer L. McLaughlin, Sam Houston State University, *A study space reviewing research on multicultural concerns in malingering assessment (correctional award)*

Miko M. Wilford, Iowa State University, *Let's make a deal: Varying plea discount and conviction probability to get a deal (legal award)*

Page 49

Return to Table of Contents
Yael Granot, New York University, *Blind justice: Visual attention encourages group differences in legal decisions (legal award)*

**Poster awards:**

Amanda NeMoyer, Drexel University JD/PhD Program, *Predicting residential facility placement: Youth-level and hearing-level variables*

Joseph R. Tatar II, University of California, Irvine, *Psychopathic trait instability in the transition to adulthood: Impact of psychopathology and adversity*

Kayla Ann Burd, Cornell University / Human Development / Concentrating in Law, Psychology, and Human Development, *The effects of facility animals in the courtroom on juror decision-making*
UPCOMING

Elections for the 2014–2015 Student Committee
In August, Chris will rotate into the Past-Chair position and Casey will rotate into the role of Chair. All other positions will be opened up for elections that will be held over the summer. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and our section of the AP-LS website for information about self-nomining yourself for a position and about voting for candidates. New Student Committee officers will begin their tenures in August.

Planned Events for the Upcoming 2014 APA Convention
As we finalize the details of all the events we are hosting at the upcoming 2014 APA Convention, be sure to check our Facebook page and our section of the Division’s website for all the latest information on dates, times, and locations.

Room share program:
Lauren will again be coordinating a room share program to help students save on lodging costs. Check our Facebook page and our section of the AP-LS website for more details.

Co-hosted panels with Division 19 (Society for Military Psychology):
We have been co-developing two panels for the APA Convention with the student representatives of Division 19 (Jennifer Barry, a student at the American School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, especially). The panels pertain to the burgeoning intersections of law, psychology, and the military, including the roles of behavioral health professionals in military criminal investigations, justice processes, and policy issues. Presenters will speak on topics that will be of interest to students, practitioners, and scholars interested in learning more about this burgeoning junction area.

The first co-hosted panel, Forensic Psychology and the Military, will feature Captain Christopher Woodson, Dr. Eric Zillmer, Dr. Eric Elbogen, and Major Samantha Benesh. Participants will discuss postdoctoral training in military forensic psychology, the ethics of military interrogation, violence risk research with veterans and military personnel, and research needs for this specialty area. The session is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, from 1:00–1:50pm in Convention Center Room 203.

Our other co-hosted panel will take place in Division 19’s hospitality suite, and will feature Major Jeffrey Bass, Dr. Jennifer Yeaw, Dr. Patricia Griffin, and Colonel Rick Malone. Presenters will speak about high-profile applications of forensic psychology in the military context, including evaluations of military sexual trauma and threat assessment, as well as innovations for diverting justice-involved military personnel with behavioral health needs away from the criminal justice system and into the behavioral healthcare system.

Although not yet confirmed, we may also be co-hosting a third panel. If so, the topic will be diversion of justice-involved veterans with behavioral health needs. We will follow-up about this potential third event soon.
Social:
The Student Committee will be hosting a social at the APA Convention in Division 41’s hospitality suite. The event will take place after the first panel described above (i.e., in the afternoon on Saturday, August 9). There will be plenty of refreshments and a relaxed atmosphere. All of our panelists will be invited to the social. We hope that you will join us—everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to seeing everyone in August at the APA Convention!

Christopher King, J.D.
Chair

Casey LaDuke, M.S.
Chair-Elect

Lauren Gonzales, M.A.
Secretary

Joanna Weill, M.S.
Communications Officer

Scholar Colbourn, B.S.
Clinical Liaison

Erika Fountain, B.A.
Experimental Liaison

Emily Haney-Caron, B.A.
Law Liaison

AP-LS Student Section Committee Officers
The AP-LS Committee for Early Career Professionals (ECPs) is pleased to provide an update on our recent activities and ongoing work related to the Grant-in-Aid program, conference events, and resources available to ECPs.

At the AP-LS conference in New Orleans this past March, the ECP committee, along with the Professional Development of Women and Mentoring committees, co-hosted the workshop *Funding and Sustaining a Business or Private Practice*, during which we had heard from two invited speakers: Eric Mart (forensic psychologist in private practice) and Pam Robbins (CEO of Policy Research Associates). The session was extremely well attended, and attendees gave very positive evaluations of the session. Conference goers who were not able to attend our session may be interested to read the book review below authored by ECP committee member, Troy Ertelt (a version of this review appeared in the June 27, 2007 edition of PsycCRITIQUES, authored by April R. Bradley and Troy Ertelt).


Forensic psychology has emerged as one of the fastest growing specialty areas in psychology over the past two decades. With these opportunities in mind, Dr. Mart wrote *Getting Started in Forensic Psychology Practice: How to Create a Forensic Specialty in Your Mental Health Practice*. The book is a primer for licensed psychologists contemplating practice in the clinical-forensic arena. Dr. Mart also offers information useful to graduate students looking for educational opportunities in forensic psychology.

Throughout his book, Dr. Mart accentuates the positive aspects of forensic practice. For example, clinicians weary of the managed care system will be happy to hear that forensic psychologists generally do not have to work with insurance companies. He also points to findings of surveys conducted by the American Psychological Association indicating that, on average, forensic psychologists’ annual earnings are higher than those of clinical psychologists. However, Dr. Mart does not dismiss or downplay the potentially greater risks associated with forensic practice. For example, he discusses issues related to increased liability and the criticalness of careful, through preparation.

Of particular importance to ECPs, Dr. Mart’s book covers what many other books on the subject do not: the business aspects of maintaining a forensic practice. Although not a complete summary of the business end of private practice, Dr. Mart highlights issues of most relevance to forensic psychology, such as risk management and marketing. Dr. Mart offers concise tips on how to best communicate with attorneys to develop a practice, and he offers practical analogies to help readers conceptualize their marketing plans. He also discusses the usefulness of publishing while engaged in forensic practice, and the value of ongoing scholarly activities more generally as a means of maintaining expertise as well as marketing oneself to potential attorney clients. This, combined with other materials on maintaining a general private practice, provides the reader with a solid base for starting a forensic practice. Given
the success of Dr. Mart’s book and the positive response to his presentation at the most recent AP-LS conference, it is likely that business aspects of practice development is an area of strong interest among psychologists at all levels of professional development.

In sum, *Getting Started in Forensic Psychology Practice* is a helpful resource for licensed psychologists as well as graduate students, and should serve as a key tool for the preparation needed to begin and maintain a practice in forensic psychology.

**Please Contact Us.** If you have input for the ECP Committee on how best to support ECPs or if you would like to make a suggestion for a newsletter column or workshop topic, please contact the committee chair, Laura Guy (laura.guy@umassmed.edu), or any other member of the committee: Kathleen Kemp, incoming Chair (kathleen.kemp@yahoo.com), Troy Ertelt (troy@grandforkstherapy.com), Charlie Goodsell (goodselc@canisius.edu), and Lauren Reba-Harrelson (lauren.reba.harrelson@gmail.com).
An Update from the Corrections Committee

Sarah M. Manchak, Chair

On behalf of the Corrections Committee, I’d like to take this opportunity to provide AP-LS members with a brief update on our committee’s recent activities. First, over the past year, several corrections committee members rotated off and new members have come on board. As such, I’d like to acknowledge all of the current members of the corrections committee and thank them for their ongoing service: Robert Morgan, Sarah Miller, Jay Toomey, Diana Kucera, & Tamera Kang. Thank you also to our most recent former committee members, Karen Galin and Ira Packer, who were integral in helping to plan this year’s conference activities.

Second, our committee met in March in New Orleans and discussed several exciting initiatives we wish to pursue over the next few years. The over-arching theme that will inform our work is fostering and improving researcher-practitioners partnerships in corrections, and we have some great ideas in the pipeline for upcoming conferences that will support this goal.

Third, in addition to planning new initiatives going forward, we plan to continue our corrections speaker’s series at the annual conference. As many of you know, this year’s invited speaker was Dr. Ed Latessa from the University of Cincinnati. He delivered an informative and dynamic talk on the 10 lessons he has learned in his career conducting correctional rehabilitation research. The talk was well-attended (standing room only!) and sparked great conversation and exchange of ideas across the membership ever since. We thank him for his time and wonderful contribution to our conference program.

Fourth, we would like to congratulate winner of the outstanding student presentation award in corrections, co-sponsored with the Student Committee. Jennifer McLaughlin from Sam Houston State University presented on “A Study Space Reviewing Research on Multicultural Concerns in Malingering Assessment”.

Finally, in future newsletters, it is our plan to provide the membership with brief-but-informative articles on various corrections-relevant topics. We welcome suggestions for topical information you may wish to learn more about, and we are open to hearing any ideas and recommendations for initiatives that you may have as well.
Division 41 at the 2014 APA Convention

Be sure to check out the exciting APLS representation at the 2014 American Psychological Convention (August 7-10, 2014) in Washington, DC!

**Highlights include:**

**Div. 41 Plenary speakers:**

- Dr. Scott Lilienfeld: *Neuroimaging in the Courtroom: Promises and Perils in the Coming Decade.*  
  (Friday August 8th at 10am)
- Dr. Candice Odgers: *Can 21st Century Technologies Be Used to Capture and Change Adolescents’ Risk Behavior?*  
  (Saturday, August 9th at 10am)

**Collaborative programs sponsored by AP-LS:**

- *Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems* (with Divisions 9, 18 and 45): Thursday, August 7th at 2pm, featuring Ms. Rhonda McKitten, Dr. Roslyn Caldwell, Dr. Femina Varghese, with Dr. Jennifer Woolard serving as discussant.
- *High-Risk Juvenile Offenders: Current Research, Practice, and Policy* (with Divisions 7, 16, and 56): Thursday, August 7th at 10am, featuring Dr. Jodi Quas, Dr. Cecil Reynolds, and Dr. Jennifer Skeem, with Dr. Gina Vincent serving as discussant.

**AP-LS Student Section Panel:**

- *Forensic Psychology and the Military* (with Division 9): Saturday, August 9th at 1pm, featuring Dr. Christopher Woodson, Dr. Eric Zillmer, Dr. Eric Elbogen, and Dr. Samantha Benesh.

**American Academy of Forensic Psychology Panel:**

- *Training Forensic Psychologists*: Friday, August 8th at 4pm, featuring Dr. Robert Cochrane, Dr. Michael Fogel, Dr. Edward Landis, and Dr. Michael Sweda.

**Division 41 Poster Sessions:**

- Poster Session I: Thursday, August 7th at 12:00pm
- Poster Session II: Saturday, August 9th at 12:00pm

**AP-LS Business Meeting:**

- Thursday, August 7th at 5:00pm.

**AP-LS Social Hour:**

- Thursday, August 7th at 6:00pm.

In addition to these highlights, we will also have 15 paper sessions and symposia specifically devoted to psychology and law topics.

Hope to see you in Washington, D.C.!

Preeti Chauhan & Amanda Zelechoski  
2014 Division 41 APA co-chairs
APA Good Governance Project (GGP)

APA Adopts a More Efficient Governance System

From the APA Governance Affairs Office

Over the past several years, the APA Council has been working on developing a more nimble, efficient and responsive governing system, as part of the APA Good Governance Project (GGP). This project was an outgrowth of the strategic plan focused on optimizing organizational effectiveness. APA’s existing governance system is a 1950’s model built for a world where twice annual meetings was sufficient for conducting the business of the association. The new model, proposed after a thorough assessment with input from many different groups, has 3 primary goals: nimbleness, strategic alignment across the organization and increased member engagement. Under this model, members will have a more direct voice in the decision-making process and more opportunities for service.

In February 2014, Council voted to begin a 3-year trial delegation of authority to the Board of Directors for: financial and budgetary matters; oversight of the CEO; alignment of the budget with the Strategic Plan; and internally focused policy development. The Board composition changes with 6 member–at-large seats now open to election from and by the general membership, the addition of a public member and the guarantee that both a student and early career psychologist voice will be present. Two seats are reserved for members of the Council Leadership Team, to ensure a bridge between the two bodies.

This change frees Council to focus on strategic and emerging issues affecting psychology, and will be engaged in higher level strategic dialogues that inform the development of policy and strategic directions. The work of Council will be managed by a newly created Council Leadership Team (CLT). Understanding member wants and needs related to the topics at hand will be an integral element of the deliberation process. In addition to this change in function, Council plans to consider a change in its structure this August. The current proposal retains a single seat for each division and state, province and territory, and adds a handful or member-at-large student and early career representatives. The attributes of the at-large seats will be determined based on an annual needs assessment to determine what would best help create a balanced Council.

These changes, coupled with a more efficient triage system, improved integration of technology, a formal leadership pipeline and development program and other enhancements, will allow APA to be more responsive to the needs of its members, to allocate resources more efficiently and to address emerging issues in a rapidly changing environment head on. Members will be have the opportunity to vote on new bylaws language this fall that will optimize APA’s governance system for the 21st century.

For additional information on the implementation of the Good Governance Project, please visit http://www.apa.org/about/governance/good-governance/index.aspx or contact Nancy Gordon Moore, PhD, MBA, Executive Director, Governance Affairs at nmoore@apa.org.
The American Academy of Forensic Psychology would like to congratulate the following recipients of AAFP Dissertation Grants:

Lindsey Peterson, M.S., Drexel University
Heidi Strohmaier, M.S., Drexel University

Applications for this grant are reviewed on a once-yearly basis, with a submission deadline date of March 31. Details can be found on the AAFP website: http://www.aafp.ws/awards_recognitions.asp
APA’s Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) seeks nominations for the APA Distinguished Professional Contributions awards. Please send nomination materials for all categories to Sheila Kerr at the APA address. You may also reach her by phone at (202) 336-5878 or email at skerr@apa.org. Email submissions strongly encouraged.

Important Note: We encourage you to share information on these Distinguished Awards through your personal networks and official communications channels. Qualified candidates only. Nominees must have excellent overall personal and professional reputations. Nominees should not have received disciplinary action from a state board of examiners in psychology and must have no history of ethical violations at the state or national level. Details on eligibility and awards descriptions are provided below:

The APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research is given to a psychologist whose research has led to important discoveries or developments in the field of applied psychology. To be eligible, this research should have led to innovative applications in an area of psychological practice, including but not limited to assessment, consultation, instruction, or intervention (either direct or indirect). Research involving the original development of procedures, methodologies, or technical skills that significantly improve the application of psychological knowledge and provide direct and immediate solutions to practical problem areas will be considered, as will research that has informed psychologists on how better to observe, define, predict, or control behavior. Original integration of existing theories or knowledge is also eligible for consideration.

For additional information please visit: http://www.apa.org/about/awards/applied-research.aspx

Nomination Material: 1. Narrative statement (less than 300 words) on the nature of the individual's contributions to the respective award category 2. Resume and bibliography. *Endorsements from other individuals or groups are encouraged.

The APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Independent Practice. The award is intended to recognize outstanding independent practitioners in psychology. Nominations will be considered for psychologists working in any area of clinical specialization, health services provision, or consulting, and services provided to any patient population or professional clientele in an independent setting. Services provided to diverse client groups or patient populations, including but not limited to children/adolescents/adults/older adults; urban/rural/frontier populations; minority populations; and persons with serious mental illness will be considered. Contributions may be judged distinguished by virtue of peer recognition, advancement of the public's recognition of psychology as a profession, relevant professional association honors, or other meritorious accomplishments denoting excellence as a practitioner including advancement of the profession.

For additional information please visit: http://www.apa.org/about/awards/private-sector.aspx

Nomination Material: 1. Narrative statement (less than 300 words) on the nature of the individual's contributions to the respective award category 2. Resume and bibliography. *Endorsements from other individuals or groups are encouraged.

The APA Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Institutional Practice. The award is intended to recognize outstanding practitioners in psychology. Nominations will be considered for psychologists working in a wide variety of institutional practice settings (e.g. schools, military, state hospital, Department of Veterans Affairs, etc.). Services provided to diverse client groups or patient populations, including but not limited to children/adolescents/adults/older adults; urban/rural/frontier populations; minority populations; and persons with serious mental illness will be considered. Contributions may be judged distinguished by virtue of peer recognition, advancement of the public’s recognition of psychology as a profession.
profession, relevant professional association honors, or other meritorious accomplishments denoting excellence as a practitioner including improvement of institutional service delivery systems or development of psychologically informed public policy.

For additional information please visit: [http://www.apa.org/about/awards/institutional-practice.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/institutional-practice.aspx)

**Nomination Material:** 1. Narrative statement (less than 300 words) on the nature of the individual's contributions to the respective award category 2. Resume and bibliography. *Endorsements from other individuals or groups are encouraged.

**APA/APAGS Award for Distinguished Graduate Student in Professional Psychology** is awarded on an annual basis by BPA and the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) to a graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding practice and application of psychology. A qualified candidate must demonstrate exemplary performance in working with an underserved population in an applied setting or have developed an innovative method for delivering health services to an underserved population. Nominees may have received their doctoral degree at the time of nomination provided that accomplishments for the award were achieved while a graduate student. Eligible candidates are encouraged to apply from all psychology sub-specialties (e.g., clinical, counseling, organization, school, health) and can be self-nominated or nominated by an APA member. However, all self-nominations must be endorsed by an APA member who serves the function of a nominator.

For additional information, including details regarding nomination material please visit: [http://www.apa.org/about/awards/grad-profpsyc.aspx](http://www.apa.org/about/awards/grad-profpsyc.aspx)

**Nomination Material:** 1. Summary regarding nominees work with an underserved population (less than 1,000 words) 2. Curriculum Vitae 3. letter of support from a member of APA (in the instance of a self-nomination)

Sheila Kerr | Governance Operations Assistant Governance Operations
APA Practice Directorate
American Psychological Association
750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242
Tel: 202.336.5878 | Fax: 202.336.5797
email: skerr@apa.org | [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
Continuing Education Pre-Conference Workshop Proposals for AP-LS 2015 Conference
Deadline: August 1, 2014

The AP-LS Continuing Education (CE) Committee is accepting proposals for preconference workshops at the AP-LS Annual Conference, which will be held on March 18, 2015 at the Westin Gaslamp District, San Diego California. Proposals may be for half day (3.5 hour) and full day (7 hour) workshops. The CE Committee is particularly interested in interactive workshops that engage participants in translating forensic psychology research into practice. Proposals must meet at least one of the following criteria:

• Program content has obtained credibility, as demonstrated by the involvement of the broader psychological practice, education, and science communities in studying or applying the findings, procedures, practices, or theoretical concepts;
• Program content has been supported using established research procedures and scientific scrutiny;
• Program content has peer reviewed, published support beyond those publications and other types of communications devoted primarily to the promotion of the approach;
• Program content is related to ethical, legal, statutory or regulatory policies, guidelines, and standards that impact psychology.

Proposals should be emailed to Karen Galin (kgalin@geocarellc.com) by August 1 and should include:
1) Title of workshop
2) Preference for half-day or full-day workshop
3) Presenter(s) name(s), highest educational degree(s), affiliation(s), AP-LS membership status, and contact information
4) Learning objectives for the workshop
5) Summary of the workshop’s content in 250 words or less
6) Explanation of how the workshop meets the criteria listed above
7) References (if applicable)

Continuing Education presenters receive a modest honorarium and reimbursement of travel expenses.

We look forward to receiving your pre-conference workshop proposals!

Any questions, please contact Karen Galin at 954-328-1621 or kgalin@geocarellc.com.
Colleagues,

I want to encourage applications for this tremendous award. If you have a mentor who inspired you to accomplish significant contributions to society, please consider nominating your mentor. If you are a mentor who has had students who accomplished significant contributions, please let me know the name of that student, and I will contact them.

Melba Vasquez, PhD, ABPP
Former President, APA

Deadline Tuesday, July 15
$25,000 to Professors Who Inspire
Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award Trust Seeks Applicants for 2014
Help us expand our circle of Beckman Friends

WHAT
The Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award Advisory Committee is currently seeking nominations for the 2014 Beckman Award. The award is given to professors who inspired their former students to achieve greatness. Each recipient will receive a one-time cash award of $25,000. Preference will be given to educators who teach or who taught in the fields of psychology, medicine, or law. In 2013, a quarter of a million dollars was awarded to 10 professors throughout the United States.

WHO
The Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award Trust was established in 2008 under the will of Gail McKnight Beckman in memory of her mother, Dr. Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman. Wells Fargo Bank, N. A. serves as the Trustee. Dr. Beckman was an educator, a renowned author, and a pioneer in the field of Psychology.

Gail McKnight Beckman created the Beckman award to benefit teachers who have inspired their former students to make a difference in their communities. The award is given to current or former academic faculty members who have inspired their former students to "create an organization which has demonstrably conferred a benefit on the community at large."

Alternatively, academic faculty members must have inspired their former students to "establish on a lasting basis a concept, procedure, or movement of comparable benefit to the community at large."

WHEN
The nomination deadline is Tuesday, July 15, 2014. An award ceremony will be held in the fall in Atlanta, GA.

WHERE
For more information or to nominate or apply for the award, please visit: https://www.wellsfargo.com/privatefoundationgrants/beckman

Contact:
grantadministration@wellsfargo.com
The AP A Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs
2014 Jeffrey S. Tanaka Memorial Dissertation Award in Psychology

The APA Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA) continues to strive for increased research that will promote a better understanding of the complex issues facing communities of color (i.e., African Americans/Blacks, Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Hispanics/Latino(a)s). To this end, CEMA sponsors an award for the most outstanding dissertation in psychology which addresses concerns relevant to populations of color. The Jeffrey S. Tanaka Memorial Dissertation Award in Psychology is so designated in the memory of an outstanding scholar and psychologist of color whose career stressed the critical importance and relevance of the role of culture and ethnicity in the scientific understanding of behavior. Dr. Tanaka was actively involved in APA, where he was a Fellow of the Division of Evaluation, Measurement, and Statistics, and Member of the Divisions of Personality and Social Psychology, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues. He was chair-elect of the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs at the time of his death on November 3, 1992. CEMA welcomes applications from ethnic minorities, as well as non-ethnic minority individuals who are currently APA members/student affiliates and/or interested in becoming APA members/student affiliates that have filed their dissertations in either 2012 or 2013, on research involving one or more of the following areas:

- Contribution which enhances the understanding of people of color
- Contribution to the enhancement of psychological service delivery systems to persons of color.
- Development of new concepts and/or theories relevant to populations of color.
- Development of new and creative methodological paradigms which promote more effective research on and for communities of color.
- Creative approach in methodology sensitive to the unique values, beliefs, and needs of communities of color.

Selection will be made by a CEMA appointed Dissertation Award Selection Sub-committee utilizing a masked review process. Evaluation of abstracts and dissertations submitted will be based on the following criteria:

(a) Potential impact upon ethnic minority populations;
(b) Completeness and clarity of abstract/dissertation;
(c) Creativity of project; and
(d) Effectiveness of research design.

Semi-finalists will be chosen from an initial review of all abstracts submitted and requested to provide copies of their entire dissertation for the final selection process. The author of the dissertation determined to be the most outstanding will earn a $500 cash prize, a $300 travel award (contingent upon award presentation ceremony attendance), and will be invited to the APA annual convention. Submissions from non-APA member/student affiliate applicants are welcome; however, they will be strongly encouraged to become an APA member/student affiliate if selected as a semi-finalist and/or award winner.

To apply, please send a total of five (5) copies of a 1000 word abstract [four (4) must be anonymous copies; only one copy should indicate author’s name, current address, and daytime telephone number] to the APA, Office of Ethnic Minority Affairs, 750 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242; (202) 336-6029; or via email to: OEMA@apa.org. In addition, please ensure that the title of the dissertation appears on all copies of abstracts submitted.

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MAY 30, 2014
Truth and justice, both valued objectives of systems of law, are not synonymous. Although often interrelated and congruent, miscarriages of justice is a series that emphasizes the integration of social science and legal scholarship around problems of justice, broadly defined. Previous issues have included empirical and jurisprudential inquiries into social and legal circumstances that may produce miscarriages of justice – circumstances in which social, legal, or ethical concepts of justice are misaligned with the policies, practices, or uses of law and courts. The fifth annual issue will focus on the ways in which social and legal constructions of gender, identity and sexuality are expressed in the legal system, and, most importantly, how those expressions serve, or fail to serve, the interests of justice.

The Albany Law Review invites submission of articles that explore these issues. Examples of issues that are congruent with this issue's theme include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. For centuries, lawmakers and judges have built substantive law on traditional conceptualizations of gender, gender identity, and sexuality. For example, the ‘marital rape exemption’ invalidated a wife’s charge of sexual assault, since assumptions about sex roles in marriage granted husbands sexual access regardless of consent. Do similar assumptions still shadow criminal justice responses to violence against women?
2. Similar assumptions also underlie standards of proof and evidence. For example, common law called for special circumstances (corroboration, fresh complaints, and utmost resistance) for conviction in rape cases but not other violent offenses.
3. Legal doctrine that delineates rights and responsibilities have also been gender-lined; for instance, assumptions about women’s and men’s relative competencies and responsibilities are embedded, in historically complex ways, in laws about statutory rape, child custody, women’s actions during pregnancy, and abortion.
4. Society’s extension of legal recognition, entitlements and protections to citizens of diverse sexualities and gender identities has been incremental and uneven. Legal statuses that may take for granted – marriage, adoptive parenthood, and ‘next of kin’ status – have slowly, and incompletely, been extended to people who are not in traditional heterosexual relationships. Cultural stereotypes of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens have been implicated both in laws that protect victims (hate crime statutes) and legal strategies to protect defendants (the ‘gay panic’ defense).
5. The representation of diversity in gender and identity among policy makers and justice practitioners may have consequences: are historically marginalized citizens’ justice claims muted or voiced depending on the experiences of those who make and enforce the law?

For further information, please contact Bryan Gottlieb, Editor-in-Chief for the Miscarriages of Justice issue of the Albany Law Review, at bgottlieb@albanylaw.edu.
Call for Proposals for the AP-LS Book Series

The APLS book series is published by Oxford University Press. The series publishes scholarly work that advances the field of psychology and law by contributing to its theoretical and empirical knowledge base.

The editor is interested in proposals for new books. Inquiries and proposals from potential authors should be sent to Dr. Patricia Zapf, Series Editor (E-mail: pzapf@jjay.cuny.edu or phone: 212-866-0608).

AP-LS members receive a 25% discount on any book in the series. The series books are available for purchase online from Oxford University Press online at: http://www.us.oup.com/us/collections/apls/?view=usa
AP-LS is now on Facebook! Follow us at www.facebook.com/APLS41

Submit your photos!

Help us make the newsletter more exciting by submitting your pictures. Pictures taken at research presentations, conferences, and other gatherings would be a great addition to future newsletters!

Submit pictures by emailing them to mhuss@creighton.edu
American Psychological Association
Various awards compiled by the APA are available for psychologists
Submission deadlines: Various
For further information see www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx

National Science Foundation
Law and Social Sciences Division
Dissertation Improvement Grants
Submission deadlines: January 15th and August 15th, yearly
For further information see www.nsf.gov

American Psychological Association
Student Awards
Various awards compiled by the APAGS are available for students
For further information see www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx

American Psychology-Law Society Grants-in-Aid
Maximum award: $750
Submission deadlines: January 31st and September 30th, yearly
For further information see www.ap-ls.org/grantsfunding/GrantsFunding.php

National Institute of Mental Health
Various
Submission deadline: Various
For information on NIMH funding for research on mental health see www.nimh.nih.gov

American Psychological Association
Early Career Awards 2013
Various awards compiled by the APA are available for ECPs
Submission deadline: Various
For further information see www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx

American Psychological Association
Various awards compiled by the APA are available for psychologists
Submission deadlines: Various
For further information see www.apa.org/about/awards/index.aspx

Return to Table of Contents