

ACJS Today

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Combating Authoritarianism in Criminal Justice/Criminology Majors

Kenneth Wagner, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Sociology & Criminology
Lynchburg College

A few years ago a colleague of mine in a large criminal justice department discussed her frustrated attempts to get a student (who was already committed to join the military to be in the military police) to think critically about issues such as the disparate racial impact and unequal treatment of minority groups stemming from many criminal justice policies and practices. "Whenever I ask him if he thinks these policies are ethical or wise he answers 'Look, my job as a soldier or an officer will not be to think about what is morally right or what is wise, it will be to follow orders and that's what I should do. The people in charge will have decided this stuff and it's not for us to think too much about it.'"

Gathering from my own experiences teaching in Criminal Justice/Criminology and from discussions with many colleagues in the field I can safely say that this is not an uncommon experience. Water cooler discussions in many a department abound with tales of students exhibiting strangely illogical and

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Don't Forget the Boston Annual Meeting!
http://www.acjs.org/pubs/167_668_2915.cfm



President's Message



I hope this message finds you well. I have been busy finalizing plans for the upcoming conference in Boston. If you have not pre-registered for the conference, you can register onsite beginning Tuesday, March 10, at 1PM.

Also, if your name is not on the ACJS webpage member directory then our records indicate your membership has expired. You can renew your membership online for 2009.

The awards committee under the leadership of Quint Thurman has done a fantastic job this year. They have submitted nominations to the ACJS Board for their approval and notifications of those results should be forthcoming.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank Barbara Sims, this year's Program Chair, Mittie Southerland, ACJS Executive Director, and Cathy Barth, ACJS Manager. Barb has worked hard to attend to every detail. Please let her know your appreciation when you see her in Boston. There is little glory and no pay for a very time consuming task. Your service to ACJS is greatly appreciated. To past presidents that performed this job without the assistance of the ACJS manager and ACJS Executive Director, my hat is off to you. I don't know how did you it!

As my time draws near, I encourage you to support next year's president, Janis Joseph, and First Vice President, Jim Marquart. You are ACJS and your support and involvement in ACJS is critical. Encourage your peers to attend conferences, bring your students, and have a GREAT YEAR!

Wes Johnson

Continued from page 1

compartmentalized thinking, double standards, hypocrisy, dogmatism, ethnocentrism and self-righteous aggression aimed at “out groups.”

These experiences could well indicate something more concerning than entrenched intransigence among many of our students. According to the life-work of psychologist Robert Altemeyer (2006; 1996; 1981), the characteristics described above are the characteristics of an authoritarian personality. The frequent appearance of authoritarian personalities in our classes is a matter of very serious importance. Authoritarian personalities have been shown to exhibit numerous frightening characteristics (see Exhibit 12.1 in Altemeyer, 1996 for a detailed listing), which are resistant to change via many traditional pedagogical techniques.

The concept of authoritarianism first received rigorous social scientific examination with the work of researchers attempting to explore the personality of those who supported the fascist governments of Germany and Italy pre-World War II (Stone et al., 1993). This work found its most influential form in the publication of *The Authoritarian Personality* (Adorno et al., 1950). Steeped in Freudian psychology the work posited the existence of an anti-democratic and prejudiced authoritarian personality type measured by the Fascism (or “F”) Scale. While the concept of authoritarianism was immediately recognized as important to social science (see Smith, 1950) obvious flaws in the F-Scale and the diminution of the authority of the psycho-analytic precepts upon which the work was based led to numerous attempts to re-conceptualize and re-operationalize authoritarian personalities.

Efforts in this direction included projects to include left-wing authoritarianism in the conceptualization (Eysenck, 1954), concentrating on dogmatism as the defining trait of authoritarians (Rokeach, 1960), “balancing” the F-Scale (by fixing the problem of all items being positively worded) (Lee & Ware, 1969) and defining authoritarianism as the opposite pole of a continuum with rebelliousness at the other end (Kohn, 1972). All of these efforts involved fatally flawed measurement tools or theoretical stances (see Altemeyer, 1996 for a detailed critique) leading some to call for the abandonment of the concept in social science research (Duckitt, 1989).

However authoritarianism was resurrected by the work of psychologist Altemeyer who junked the psychoanalytic theory behind the conception of authoritarianism as described in *The Authoritarian Personality* and replaced it with social learning theory. He conceptualized authoritarianism as Right-Wing Authoritarianism which he defined as:

The covariation of three attitudinal clusters in a person: 1. Authoritarian submission—a high degree of submission to the authorities who are perceived to be established and legitimate in the society in which one lives. 2. Authoritarian aggression—a general aggressiveness, directed against various persons that is perceived to be sanctioned by established authorities. 3. Conventionalism—a high degree of adherence to the social conventions that are perceived to be endorsed by society and its established authorities. (Altemeyer, 1996:6)

Most importantly given the parade of flawed tools for measuring the concept, was his development of a sound scale, the Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) Scale which revived academic interest in authoritarianism. In numerous studies the RWA scale has demonstrated impressive reliability and validity and Altemeyer's work "has carried the study of RWA to a point at which its interdisciplinary relevance to political psychology cannot be ignored" (Smith, 1997:162).

While these methodological issues were being worked out several factors led to authoritarianism becoming a variable of much interest to researchers studying the criminal justice system. First, the realization that many criminal justice professions are imbued with a unique license to exercise authority over other citizens may attract authoritarians. In the words of Balch (1972:115) "[i]t is easy to see how an authoritarian might be drawn to police work. The police are a paramilitary organization whose job it is to uncover suspicious activities and protect conventional moral standards." Secondly, groundbreaking work on police subcultures (Niederhoffer, 1967; Skolnick, 1966; Wilson, 1974) highly suggested the presence of a "police personality" which was composed of traits which were recognized as similar to those of authoritarian personalities: "the cluster of police traits that apparently make up the police personality also defines authoritarianism" (Balch, 1972: 107). Lastly the unsatisfactory response by many police agencies to social unrest in the 1960's led many to examine authoritarianism among police ranks as a factor complicating successful police work (Smith, Locke & Walker, 1968).

While there was some early evidence for the authoritarianism-criminal justice connection (Culbertson, 1975; Carlson and Sutton, 1975) most examinations of this subject concluded that the hypothesis was not confirmed (Smith, Locke

& Fenster, 1970; Balch, 1972; Regoli & Schrink: 1977; Austin & O'Neill, 1985; Brown & Willis, 1985). Those research projects nearly exclusively utilized measurement tools of authoritarianism that have been demonstrated as fatally flawed (Altemeyer, 1981). Recent research using Altemeyer's Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA) Scale demonstrates that criminal justice majors have higher levels of authoritarianism than non-majors and specifically that male criminal justice majors have significantly higher RWA scores than male non-majors (Owen and Wagner, 2008). Now that the suggested authoritarianism-criminal justice connection has been empirically demonstrated, the question arises, is there anything criminal justice instructors can do to mitigate the authoritarianism, which is drawn to our classes?

According to Altemeyer (2006) authoritarians are what they are largely because they see the world as very dangerous, themselves as very righteous and have had few experiences with people different than themselves. While authoritarians are inclined to not mix socially with people different than themselves when such mixing does occur it does seem to lessen their authoritarianism. For example a four year undergraduate experience in a diverse college setting lowers RWA scores 15-20%, a finding which has been confirmed among criminal justice majors (Owen and Wagner, 2008). The generality of the findings suggest that it is no particular course or program which is the cause of this drop but rather the many experiences with non-authoritarians that inevitably occur when students live, study and play with others from varying backgrounds and groups. Pedagogical tools, like assigning group work and service learning, which promote such experiences, should lessen authoritarianism. Such programs have been shown to facilitate

cultural understanding and reduce stereotypes (Eyler et al., 2001; Vogt, 1997).

Along these lines Altemeyer states that making minorities more visible to authoritarians mitigates their authoritarianism. Such a strategy could be incorporated into criminal justice programs through practices that foster diversity in student admissions and faculty hiring and by courses that focus on diversity issues or incorporation of such a focus within more traditional courses (an approach endorsed by the ACJS Certification Standards for College/University Criminal Justice Baccalaureate Degree Programs [specifically B.6]).

As noted a key cause of authoritarianism is the greater fear and sense of danger about the world that authoritarians possess. Studies consistently find that media depictions of crime create a false impression of the criminal dangers found in today's world (Rodgers and Thorsen, 2001; Gilliam et al., 2000; Chermak, 1995). Criminal justice faculty, knowledgeable in crime statistics and measurement, are in a unique position to combat such fearful impressions.

Altemeyer also suggests that teaching some mistrust in authorities may lessen authoritarianism. Criminal justice faculty are well read in the history and current practices of criminal justice agencies and governmental authorities, a history and current scene that sadly contains numerous cases of abuse of power, scandal and downright foolishness. Teaching students these realities is not only providing them with the "whole story" it may also teach them that authorities in general are not always right or to be trusted. In a somewhat related strategy Altemeyer reminds us of the power of modeling non-authoritarian behavior. Focusing attention on figures that historically or currently have "spoke truth to power" to criminal justice authorities (e.g., Frank Serpico

or Dorothea Dix) could well provide such models.

Authoritarianism involves attitudes and tendencies antithetical to a college education as well as characteristics, which threaten the criminal justice system of a constitutional democratic society. As such combating authoritarianism in our students is the duty of all conscientious teachers in our field. Hopefully these strategies can guide us in fulfilling that duty.

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From the Editor

This is my last issue of ACJS Today and I must say it is truly bitter sweet. Having served as the editor for the past 3 years, I have a great appreciation for those that work so hard on behalf of ACJS. I'd like to say thank you to those that submitted articles, book reviews, referred people who were interested in writing an article or just sent a kind email. I'd also like to thank my deputy editor Shana Mell. I would not have been able to last without her assistance.

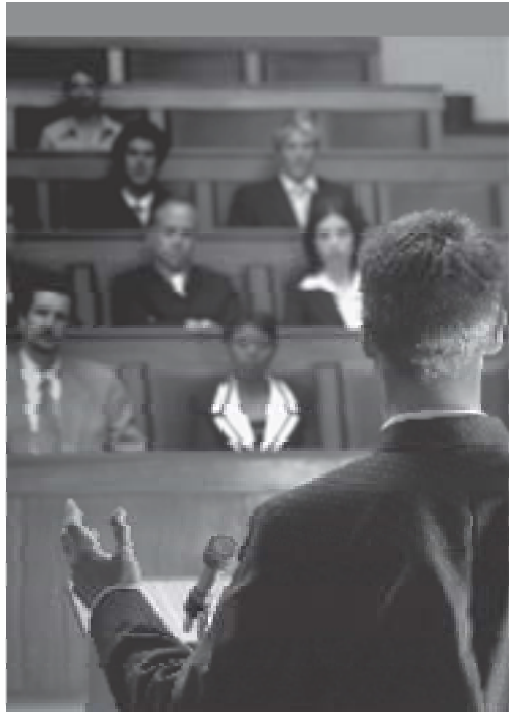
During my tenure as editor, I attempted to promote the submission of articles that were diverse and hopefully prompted some discussion. When I first accepted the position, Mittie Southerland and I agreed that the newsletter shouldn't read like a scholarly journal but it should provide an opportunity for sharing information in a manner that offers a "friendly" read.

While each editor leaves his or her own indelible marks on ACJS Today, I am sure that we have many new and exciting things to look forward to from the new editor Sean Madden. I know that Sean will advance the work of those that came before him and enhance the quality of the newsletter.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the editor of ACJS Today and I am grateful to all of those that put their confidence in my abilities.

Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, Editor

ACJS Today, 2006 - 2009



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ACJS Today Staff

Editorial Staff

Editor: Nicolle Parsons-Pollard, Ph.D.

Virginia State University

1 Hayden Drive

P.O. Box 9036

Colson Hall 200-B

Petersburg, VA 23806

Phone: 804-524-6923

Fax: 804-524-6883

acjstoday@vsu.edu

Deputy Editor:

Shana Mell

Virginia Commonwealth University

ACJS National Office

Cathy L. Barth: Association Manager
manager@acjs.org

Mittie D. Southerland: Executive Director
execdir@acjs.org

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
P. O. Box 960
Greenbelt, Maryland 20768-0960

Office Location:
7339 Hanover Parkway, Suite A
Greenbelt, MD 20__0
Tel.: (301) 446-6300; (800) 757-ACJS (2257)
Fax: (301) 446-2819
Website: <http://www.acjs.org>

ACJS Today Publication Dates

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Submission Deadlines

January 15th

May 15th

September 15th

November 15th

The editor will use her discretion to accept, reject or postpone submissions.

Article Guidelines

Articles may vary in writing style (i.e. tone) and length. Articles should be relevant to the field of criminal justice, criminology, law, sociology or related curriculum and interesting to our readership. Please include your name, affiliation and email address, which will be used as your biographical information. Submission of an article to ACJS Today implies that the article has not been published elsewhere nor is it currently under submission to another publication.

Minimum length: 700 words

Maximum length: 2000 words

Photos: jpeg or gif

Text format: Microsoft Word, RTF, TXT, or ASCII

Citation Style: APA 5th Edition

Announcements

The *Asian Journal of Criminology* would like to welcome manuscript submission of academic research and public policy studies on all crime and criminal justice topics related to Asia. The journal welcomes both theoretical and methodological manuscripts with an emphasis on evidence-based empirical studies addressing Asian contexts as well as international and comparative studies relevant to Asia. It welcomes research from a broad variety of methodological traditions, including quantitative, qualitative, historical, and comparative methods. Its multi-disciplinary approach spans a range of disciplines, including criminology, criminal justice, law, sociology, political science, psychology, forensic science, social work, urban studies, history, geography, and anthropology. The Journal provides a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas among criminologists, policymakers, and practitioners, by publishing papers relating to crime, crime prevention, criminal law, medico-legal topics and the administration of criminal justice in Asian countries. The journal also invites shorter reviews or research notes, as well as book reviews.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to contact the editor-in-chief:

Prof. Jianhong Liu – JLiu@umac.mo

For manuscript submission, please proceed online at

<http://www.edmgr.com/ajoc/default.asp>

The guideline for manuscript submission and the online issues are available at

<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/criminology/journal/11417>

2010 Call for Presentations

Though the 2009 meeting has yet to start, we are making preparations for 2010 in San Diego. The Call for Presentations should be available for submissions on the Annual Meeting page of <http://www.acjs.org> <<http://www.acjs.org/>>; shortly after the Boston meeting ends. You will note that the ACJS Program Topics/Sub-Topics have been expanded in 2009 and again in 2010 to include a broader range of topics to meet the needs and interests of our expanding membership. Though every ACJS annual meeting has a theme indicative of the current ACJS President and Program Chair's interests, current research on topics of interest to the general criminal justice/criminology community of scholars is always welcome. *We encourage your active involvement in the 2010 ACJS Annual Meeting.*

The first *SAGE Junior Faculty Professional Development Teaching Awards* will be presented in Boston to seventeen junior faculty members selected from over forty highly qualified applicants. The reimbursement travel awards are funded by an annual donation from SAGE as well as from royalties donated by participating SAGE authors. We are pleased that their generous contributions supported seventeen awards this year: five \$700 awards; seven \$600 awards; and five \$190 awards. Those receiving the award will participate in the first ACJS Professional Development Teaching Workshop to be held on Tuesday evening Wednesday morning during the ACJS 2009 Annual Meeting in Boston. All applicants for the awards have been invited to participate in the workshop, which will be opened to the general membership until the workshop is full. The HotTopics section of <http://www.acjs.org> <<http://www.acjs.org/>>; will have more information about the workshop. Anyone wishing to register for the workshop should email msoutherland@acjs.org no later than Feb. 28.

Announcements

ACJS 2009 Annual Meeting – Boston – March 11-15, 2009

The ACJS Annual Meeting is fast approaching. If you did not pre-register by the January 31, 2009, deadline, you will be able to register onsite beginning Tuesday, March 11, at 1:00 PM.

The program has over 450 events to choose from and the conference should be our best ever!

A few items to remember:

*The final program will be posted online in early February. You will be able to search for your presentation time and date. Search instructions will be posted at www.acjs.org under “Annual Meeting.”

*If you are scheduled to present and find that you now cannot attend, please notify the National Office and the chair of your panel. We will be making a list of those who do not attend and have not contacted ACJS in advance for future reference.

*LCD projectors will be provided in all event rooms for use by presenters. You are responsible for bringing a laptop computer to connect to the projector. No overhead projectors will be available. If you require an overhead, you should either bring one with you to Boston, or make arrangements to rent and pay for the rental through the hotel.

*Again this year, thanks to the generous contribution of Wadsworth Cengage, free WiFi will be available in the Exhibit Hall on the 3rd floor of the hotel.

*Tours and ride alongs are being planned for Boston – be sure to watch your emails for these announcements and how to participate.

*The deadline to reserve a guest room at our host hotel is February 16, 2009. After that date, you will no longer be able to reserve a room at our special conference rate. The hotel is filling quickly, so be sure to finalize your travel plans as soon as possible. To reserve a room, go to www.acjs.org, and look under “Annual Meeting” for the hotel reservation link.

*The Marriott is attached to a food court and across the street from fast food options for luncheons.

*Make the most of your time in Boston! The Marriott is centrally located and Boston is a great walking city full of history, culture, dining, and nightlife. Be sure to check your totebag inserts for maps, lists of attractions, and special offers just for ACJS meeting attendees.



2009 Workshops

Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice Data

Dates: June 23–July 18

Designed for faculty, professionals, and graduate students who wish to learn advanced quantitative data analysis methods practiced in the fields of criminology and criminal justice.

Competitively-selected participants will:

- Study methodology of major data collections sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics including the National Crime Victimization Survey and various Uniform Crime Reporting System datasets
- Learn innovative statistical applications to analyze complex survey data
- Analyze data on one of any number of topics such as crime, victimization, law enforcement, sentencing, and correctional populations
- Design, conduct & present a quantitative research project
- Receive a lodging and travel stipend

Applicants must include a vita and cover letter describing their background and interest in using Bureau of Justice Statistics data resources housed at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Review of application materials begins in early March. Space is limited to 12 students.

Using National Juvenile Corrections Data Files: 1997–2006

Dates: June 1–3

8:30am Monday to 12:00pm, Wednesday

Topics: Trends in juvenile corrections populations at the national and state levels, the residential facilities that hold them, the variations in practices in place, and the services provided to young persons in custody.

Audience: State and local juvenile justice researchers, academic researchers, and policy makers at the local, state, and federal levels. Jurisdictional teams are welcome.

Purpose: This inaugural workshop will make a wealth of national data from OJJDP's data collections from 1997–2006 available to researchers and practitioners along with the tools necessary to understand and use the data appropriately.

Objectives: Participants in this 3-day workshop will learn to analyze multi-year national data files on juvenile corrections using Secure Survey Documentation and Analysis (Secure SDA), a powerful online data analysis tool that enables descriptive to multivariate analysis of data from different surveys and over time.

Datasets: • Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2006 • Juvenile Residential Placement Facilities Census (JRFC) 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006

Stipend: Stipend support of up to \$1,000 for travel and living expenses is available for a limited number of students admitted to the workshop. The workshop is limited to 25 participants.

Details and application will be available in early 2009 at www.icpsr.umich.edu/sumprog.

The ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods is a comprehensive, integrated program of studies in social science research design and statistics. The workshops are held in Ann Arbor, at the University of Michigan, and are managed by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) and sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), U.S. Department of Justice.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN

Criminal Justice Faculty Positions Announcement

Department of Criminal Justice
Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences
University of New Haven, 300 Boston Post Road, West Haven, CT 06516

The Department of Criminal Justice, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, **University of New Haven** is recruiting for two tenure-track positions at the Assistant Professor rank. For each tenure-track position, a Ph.D. is required. A Ph.D. in Criminal Justice is strongly preferred. An earned doctorate in a discipline consistent with the position specializations will be considered. A J.D. degree alone is not otherwise sufficient for a tenure-track position.

Each faculty position requires teaching, scholarship, service and other duties consistent with the University's Faculty Handbook. Specializations are noted below:

Position #1: The primary areas of interest are criminal justice with a preference for law enforcement and policing or for investigative services. Crime prevention and problem-oriented policing are also desirable areas. For this position, please reply to **Search #08-54** indicating **Position #1**.

Position #2: The primary areas of interest are national security, homeland security, and related security areas. For this position, please reply to **Search #08-54** indicating **Position #2**.

The department may also consider individuals that can contribute as full-time non-tenure track faculty for the areas identified above or for one or more of its several program concentrations including, but not limited to computer crime and forensic computer investigations, corrections, juvenile justice, victimology, international/comparative justice, forensic psychology and crime analysis. For non-tenure-track consideration, a minimum of a master's degree in criminal justice or a related area or a J.D. is required. For consideration for a non-tenure-track appointment, please reply to **Search #08-54, Position #1 or #2**.

Candidates may apply for more than one position. Candidates with an interest in one or more of the areas noted above, but with a primary specialization in other areas of Criminal Justice are also encouraged to apply. Research methods and statistics are highly desirable areas and any expertise, experience or teaching in these areas should be noted in the application. Candidates with strong records of scholarship and strong backgrounds with externally supported grants and research projects are highly desirable.

Application Procedure: Send cover letter indicating position/positions applied for and summarizing relevant background, a vita and contact information for three references to:

Search #08-54
University of New Haven
300 Boston Post Road
West Haven CT, 06516
or via e-mail to hrdept@newhaven.edu.



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Upcoming ACJS Annual Meetings

March 10-14, 2009

Marriott Copley Place

Boston, Massachusetts



February 23-27, 2010

Town & Country Resort &
Convention Center
San Diego, California

March 1-5, 2011

Sheraton Centre Toronto
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 University of Central Florida
 Department of Criminal Justice/Legal Studies, HPA355
 4000 Central Florida Boulevard
 Orlando, FL 32816
 407-823-0757
 407-823-5360 (fax)

lross@mail.ucf.edu

Region 3—Midwest

Ken Novak
 Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
 University of Missouri – Kansas City
 Department of Sociology/Criminal Justice and
 Criminology
 208 Haag Hall
 5100 Rockhill Road
 Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
 816-235-1599

novakk@umkc.edu

Region 4—Southwest

Ronald Burns
 Texas Christian University
 Criminal Justice
 Box 298710
 Fort Worth, TX 76129
 817-257-6155

r.burns@tcu.edu

Region 5—Western/Pacific

Craig Hemmens
 Boise State University
 Department of Criminal Justice
 1910 University Drive
 Boise, ID 83725
 208-426-3251

chemmens@boisestate.edu

Executive Director—Ex Officio

Mittie D. Southerland
 1525 State Route 2151
 Melber, KY 42069
 270-674-5697
 270-674-6097 (fax)

execDir@acjs.org

Association Manager—Ex Officio

Cathy L. Barth
 P.O. Box 960
 Greenbelt, MD 20768-0960
 301-446-6300
 800-757-2257
 301-446-2819 (fax)

manager@acjs.org

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 ACJS Today
 P.O. Box 960
 Greenbelt, Maryland 20768-0960