

**REPORT ON THE
CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY SECTION**

Prepared for the Board of ACJS

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CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY SECTION**

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Critical Criminology Section (CCS) are involved in many different pedagogical, empirical, and political activities, some of national and international interest. The purpose of this report is to provide in-depth information on the CSS activities for the years 2004-2005. It is to the issue of membership that I now turn.

MEMBERSHIP

In 2004, the CSS recorded 55 members. In 2005, it recorded 52 members. As of February 1, 2006, the CSS membership is at 28. Many critical criminologists maintain membership in the American Society of Criminology which, in part, accounts for the low figures. However, we anticipate that the ACJS numbers will grow (even beyond the total recorded in 2004) as the CCS becomes more actively involved in the affairs of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

CCS OFFICERS

The Officers for the CCS are:

Chair: Bruce A. Arrigo, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Vice Chair: Steven Muzzatti, Ryerson University

Secretary-Treasurer: Barbara Perry, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Executive Officers: Walter DeKeseredy, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Jeff Ferrell, Texas Christian University

Shahid Alvi, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

MaDonna Maidment, University of Guelph

BUDGET

As of January 18, 2006, the total CCS funds are \$7,383.00. This includes a carryover of \$6,483.00 for 2004-2005 and a \$900.00 year-to-date income (30 members @ \$30.00 per/member). No expenses were incurred during the 2004-2005 reporting period.

SECTION PUBLICATIONS

Critical Criminology: An International Journal is the official refereed journal of the CCS and is published three times a year by Springer Publishers. All members of the Section currently receive a subscription to the journal as part of their dues. Most of the members are also members of the ASC Division on Critical Criminology, and the dues there pay for the journal. Those who are only members of the ACJS Critical Criminology Section also receive a copy of the journal. Barbara Sims is the out-going Editor-in-Chief, and she has worked with an excellent group of Senior Editors. Note, too, that as of December 2005, the current Editorial Board consisted of a large body (N=29) of international scholars, including Dario Melossi, Ruth Jamieson, Julie Stubbs, Mark Israel, and Walter DeKeseredy, as well as a host of prominent US scholars such as Claire Renzetti, Jody Miller, and Richard Quinney.

Recently, the publisher of *Critical Criminology* queried the CCS board about the possibility of an increase in the cost of the journal. The original figure requested was \$30.00 per member. This was considered unsustainable in the view of many on the Executive Committee given current membership dues. A group including the current editor of the journal, a former editor, a former Chair of the Section, and our webmaster met with representatives of Springer in 2005 at ACJS. As a result of these discussions,

Springer made a new proposal whose key provisions were approved by the Division at the 2005 ASC meeting. The particulars of this proposal include the following:

- Starting with Volume 14, instead of receiving a print issue of the journal, all Section members will receive full **electronic access to the journal, including the back issues**, for \$15.00 - per member per Volume/ year.
- Section members who indicate that they would like to continue receiving the print version of the journal as well pay \$45.00 per Volume for that. This includes postage. Springer will send the journal issues directly to the members who want to have the print subscription and Springer will bill them directly as well. (The \$45 is a private subscription price exclusively for members of the Section)
- Springer is convinced that *Critical Criminology* is ready to become a **quarterly** in 2006 and that the journal would benefit from this with increases in subscriptions.
- In case *Critical Criminology* will be published four times in 2006, the above-mentioned prices of \$15.00 - per member per year for electronic access and \$45.00 - for an additional print copy still apply. These prices will be valid for at least two years (2006 and 2007)

Discussions will continue with Springer at the 2006 ACJS meetings regarding the journal, and the advisability of increasing the number of issues per volume (from 3 to 4). Following a Division request for Editorship applications, Shahid Alvi was approved as the new Editor-in-Chief of *Critical Criminology*. Barb Sims resigned at the end of 2005, after completing her superb term as Editor-in-Chief.

The CCS also publishes a Newsletter titled, *The Critical Criminologist*. The Newsletter is published three times a year. Presently, *The Critical Criminologist* is co-edited by Pam Preston and Steven Muzzatti and is financially supported by their respective universities. The Newsletter includes announcements, advertisements, brief articles, and other information of interest to critical criminologists around the world. Because Pam and Steven are completing their term as co-Editors at the conclusion of the Spring 2005 academic year (having done an excellent job), a request for a new Editorial

team was advertised in *The Critical Criminologist* and on the Section website. A new team will be in place, commencing with the 2006 Summer Issue of *The Critical Criminologist*. As an effort to further defray Section operating costs (and to maximize efficiency and timeliness), the Newsletter will be distributed electronically to all members.

Critcrim.org, our dynamic and content rich website, is ably managed by Ken Mentor. In addition to being the official website of the DCC, it also serves as the official website for the Academy of Criminal Justice Science's new Section on Critical Criminology. This site was completely redesigned in October 2006. One impact of the redesign is that 10 percent of the visitors spend 5 minutes or more on the site. This is a significant increase over the months prior to the redesign. Features of the redesign include: (1) registration; (2) e-mail; (3) newsletter; (4) discussion/announcement forums; and (5) the potential for an on-line journal.

The *criticrim.org* website received just over 5,000 unique visitors in November 2006. The number of unique visitors per month ranged from 4,000 to 8,000 in 2005. There were 7,500 site visits during the month of November. This number ranged from 5,000 to 10,000 per month with lower numbers during the summer months. There were 21,000 page views during November 2005. This means that each visitor viewed an average of 3 pages per visit. We continue to have visitors from all 50 states and over 50 countries each month. Because of its popularity, we aim to make much more use of the website as a place for exciting conversations on matters of importance to our members in the year's to come. Additionally, we have encouraged members of the Section on Critical

Criminology to post their course syllabi, current works published or those in progress, etc., on the site.

AWARDS

At the ASC Annual Meetings in Toronto, Canada the CCS presented the following awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award
David O. Friedrichs, University of Scranton

Critical Criminologist of the Year
David Kauzlarich, Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville

Graduate Student Paper Awards
Jennifer Gibbs and Kathryn Vincent, University of Maryland

Shahid Ali ably chaired our Awards Committee. We are actively soliciting nominations for next year's meeting.

2005/2006 Initiatives

This year a number of new initiatives are being launched. Most importantly, our website has been re-worked to incorporate a new Critical Criminology logo that is a mix of original artwork by Jeff Ferrell and design work by Ian Lind (see www.critcrim.org). This logo will grace a new flyer being prepared for the table at this year's annual meeting by Barb Perry. We will also feature a T-Shirt and a coffee mug with our new logo. The logo features the unique linkage that the Section creates between members of ASC and ACJS, and stresses the importance of the critical perspective in both our organizations.

The Section is also in the process of developing a basic email mentoring service. The Critical Criminology mentoring list will be posted on the division website, allowing interested parties the opportunity to contact division members for advice on careers,

graduate schools, publication, and activism. David Kauzlarich, the previous Section Vice-Chair, is coordinating this initiative.

The Critical Criminology Section is endeavoring to cultivate closer links between other Sections of ACJS and Divisions of ASC. In part, under the leadership of the incoming ACJS President, Jeff Walker, we are hopeful that these links will be meaningfully established. Other contacts forged by Barb Simms, an active member in ACJS, will further facilitate our efforts along these lines. Clearly more work is needed here, especially since our charge is to serve members of the ACJS/Critical Criminology Section.

2006-2007 ACJS PROGRAM COMMITTEE WORK

Several members of the CCS served on the 2005 ACJS and ASC Program Committees, including Jeff Walker, Marty Schwartz, Walter DeKeseredy and David Kauzlarich. Section members will be very active in Jeff Walker's term as President of ACJS. John Fuller is the chair of the Membership Committee and Section members are serving on almost every one of Jeff's committees. Further, there are seven program areas of the 2007 ACJS program headed by Section members, and for the first time in ACJS history, there will be a Critical Criminology program area for the Seattle Meeting. It is expected that this inclusion of critical criminology panels will substantially increase the number of section members and members of ASC's Division of Critical Criminology participating in the 2007 meeting.

CONCLUSION

Like other Sections of ACJS, the CCS is an exciting international organization. Members are consistently involved in many worthwhile and important activities, and the

CCS always welcomes new members, including those who do not identify themselves as critical criminologists. Further, the CCS looks forward to again working closely with the other sections and the Executive Board of the ACJS to help make this organization more visible around the nation and the world.