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Division on Critical Criminology - American Society of Criminology

# ANNUAL REPORT ON THE DIVISION ON CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY

Prepared by the American Society of Criminology

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March 29, 2004

## INTRODUCTION

Members of the Division on Critical Criminology (DCC) are involved in many different pedagogical, empirical, and political activities, some of national interest (see the recent article on Jeff Ferrell, member of the DCC board, in the March 26<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*). The purpose of this report is to provide in-depth information on DCC activities for the year 2003. It is to the issue of membership that I now turn.

## MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2003, 389 people belonged to the DCC. Thus, our membership appears to have increased substantially since 2002 (when we posted 320 members). This increase is we believe a reflection of the vitality of the Division as well as a significant comment on the value members see in such membership (since the division dues are not insubstantial).

## **DCC OFFICERS**

The Officers for the DCC are:

Chair:

Meda Chesney-Lind, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Vice Chair:

David Kauzlarich, Southern Illinois University

Secretary-Treasurer:

Shahid Alvi, St. Thomas University

At Large Members:

Walter DeKeseredy, Ohio University

Claire Valier, University of London

Rick Matthews, Carthage College

Barbara Perry, Northern Arizona University

Jeff Ferrell, Texas Christian University

## **BUDGET**

The balance as of December 31, 2003 was \$5,185.40.

## **DIVISION PUBLICATIONS**

*Critical Criminology* is the official refereed journal of the DCC and is published three times a year by Kluwer Academic Publishers. Barbara Sims, is the incoming Editor-in-Chief, and she is currently working to develop a new group of Senior Editors. Note, too, that the current Editorial Board consists 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.

The DCC also publishes a newsletter titled *The Critical Criminologist* three times a year. Now co-edited by Pam Preston and Steven Muzzatti and financially supported by their universities, the newsletter includes announcements, advertisements, brief articles, and other information of interest to critical criminologists around the world.

*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. During March 2004, the division website was visited by people from every state and over 50 countries. The site was visited by over 3300 unique visitors. There were over 4400 total visits and nearly 10,000 pages were viewed. The number of visitors and page views increase each month, except during summer months when these numbers drop by about 20%. There were over 100,000 page views during 2003. 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, and we have encouraged our members as well as members of the Section on Critical Criminology to post their course syllabi, current work in progress, etc on the site.

## **DIVISION AWARDS**

At the ASC Annual Meetings in Chicago, the DCC presented the following award:

Lifetime Achievement Award

*Jock Young, Center for Criminology, Middlesex University, UK.*

Currently, we have a newly constituted Awards Committee chaired by Martin Schwartz, and we are actively soliciting nominations for next year's meeting.

## **2003/2004 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 <http://www.critcrim.org>). This logo will also grace a new flyer being prepared for the table at next year's annual meeting by Barb Perry; we aim to make the table a bit more visually exciting, than in past years. The logo features the unique linkage that the Division creates between members of ASC and ACJS, and stresses the importance of the critical perspective in both our organizations.

The division is also in the process of developing a basic email mentoring service to complement the existing ASC mentoring program managed by Bonnie Berry. 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. This initiative is being coordinated by David Kauzlarich, the current division Vice-Chair.

I also chaired two meetings of the Section on Critical Criminology at the ACJS meetings in Las Vegas, and we are endeavoring to develop closer links between the activities of the section and those of the division.



## **2004 ASC PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Several members of the DCC will serve on the 2004 ASC Program Committee, including Walter DeKeseredy and David Kauzlarich. The 2004 meeting will also, for the first time, include a session at which all the ASC Division Chairs will present information/perspectives, etc on their particular divisions. Entitled "To Divide is to Multiply" the panel is chaired by Julie Horney. As designed, the session will stress the unique

benefit the divisions offer the ASC and will also provide an opportunity for the divisions to celebrate both their particular contributions to the field and the society while also exploring matters of common interest and concern. The DCC was instrumental in establishing the conversations across Divisions, and we are very pleased to be a part of this historic first for the ASC.

## CONCLUSION

Like other divisions of the ASC, the DCC is an exciting international organization. Members are consistently involved in many exciting and important activities, and the DCC always welcomes new members, including those who do not identify themselves as critical criminologists. Further, the DCC looks forward to again working closely with the other divisions and the Executive Council of the ASC to help make this organization more visible around the nation and the world.

	<a href="#"><u>Annual Report - 2001</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Annual Report - 2002</u></a>

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ASC Division on Critical Criminology - ACJS Section on Critical Criminology