

**REPORT ON THE
DIVISION ON CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY**

Prepared for the Board of ASC

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
DIVISION ON CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Division on Critical Criminology (DCC) are involved in many different pedagogical, empirical, and political activities, some of national interest. The Division was extremely active at last year's ASC meeting, co-sponsoring a number of joint panels with other ASC Divisions, including a high level multi-division panel entitled, "To Divide is to Multiply". We also had a very successful meeting for business and social hour, and we were very pleased with an invigorated "outreach table" featuring our new logo, based on the art work of Jeff Ferrell. The purpose of this report is to provide in-depth information on DCC activities for the years 2004-2005. It is to the issue of membership that I now turn.

MEMBERSHIP

Currently (as of September 30, 2005), the Division recorded 304 members members, which is an increase over March, 2005 (when we had 204 members). By historical standards, as of December 31, 2004, we had 351 members compared to 2002 (when we posted 320 members). The fact that we have increased membership during a time when Division dues increased as a result of including a subscription to *Critical Criminology*) is 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, Keele University
Rick Matthews, Carthage College
Barbara Perry, Northern Arizona University
Jeff Ferrell, Texas Christian University

Shahid Alvi chairs our Committee on Nominations; we are currently holding elections next year's officers and expect to have the results before the Annual meeting.

BUDGET

The balance as of September 30, was \$2,751 which is down considerably from December, 2004 when it held \$9,981.00. The large decrease was due to a payment to Springer/Kluwer for our member's subscriptions to *Critical Criminology*. According to Chris Eskridge, Executive Director of ASC, a large payment (\$9,375 to be exact) was sent out to cover our member's subscriptions. While we will begin to pick up renewals in the Fall, as people begin to register for ASC and renew their Division memberships, this large financial drain the Division has caused the Board to initiate conversations with Springer/Kluwer re: our substantial involvement in funding *Critical Criminology*.

DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

Critical Criminology is the official refereed journal of the DCC and is published three times a year by Kluwer Academic Publishers. All members of the Division

currently receive a subscription to the journal as part of their dues. Barbara Sims, is the Editor-in-Chief, and she is currently working with an excellent 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.

Recently our publisher queried the DCC board about the possibility of an increase in our subsidy. The original figure requested was \$30.00 per member; the DCC Board was able to negotiate with Kluwer to an increase of significantly less (\$27.00 per member instead of the current subsidy of \$25.00).

Ultimately, though, this drain on the DCC coffers is unsustainable in the view of many on the executive committee, and for this reason, a group including the current editor of the journal, a former editor, a former Chair of the Division, and our webmaster met with representatives of Kluwer last spring (at ACJS). As a result of these discussions, Kluwer has a new proposal whose key provisions are listed below:

- Starting with Volume 14, instead of receiving a print issue of the journal, all Division-members will receive full **electronic access to the journal, including the back issues**, for \$15,- per member per Volume/ year.

- Division-Members who indicate that they would like to continue receiving the print version of the journal as well pay \$45,- 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 Division)

- Springer is convinced that *Critical Criminology* is ready to become a **quarterly** in 2006 and that the journal would benefit from this.

- In case *Critical Criminology* will be published four times in 2006, the above mentioned prices of \$15,- per member per year for electronic access and \$45,- for an additional print copy still apply. These prices will be valid for at least two years (2006 and 2007)

Discussion will continue with Kluwer at the upcoming ASC meetings regarding the journal, and the advisability of increasing the number of issues per volume.

Discussions will also revolve around the selection of a new Editor for *Critical Criminology* as Barb Sims (regrettably) will be resigning after this academic year. David Kauzlarich is chairing the committee to seek a new editor. We currently have three applications for this position, and we will be making a selection at this year's annual meeting. We will also present the Kluwer/Springer offer to the membership.

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. For example, we have had over 7000 visits so far in January 2005. Ken reports that we had over 10000 visits in November. Given that the average visitor views between 2 and 3 pages, we have around 200,000 page views per year. Once Ken is able to complete the site changes he believes we will increase to over a million annual page views within a couple years. 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, 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 Nashville, the DCC presented the following awards:

Lifetime Achievement Award

Ron Kramer, Western Michigan University

Critical Criminologist of the Year

Barb Sims, Penn State Harrisburg

Graduate Student Paper Awards

Grad 1st -- Emily Troshynski, London School of Economics

Grad 2nd -- Jennifer Gibbs, University of Maryland

Undergraduate Student Paper Award –

Christina Parlapiano, University of Scranton

Our Awards Committee was ably chaired by Martin Schwartz, and we are very pleased to have had a well attended Division meeting and Awards Ceremony. Our nominations committee is currently reviewing nominations for this year's Annual meeting. Award winners will be announced at our Annual Meeting for Business.

2004/2005 Initiatives

Last year saw a number of new initiatives 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 continue to grace a flyer being prepared for the table at this year's annual meeting by Barb Perry. Last year, we aimed to make the table a bit more visually exciting, than in past years, and we succeeded beyond our wildest imaginings. We also featured a T shirt and a coffee mug with our new logo. 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 last year's ACJS meetings in Las Vegas, and we are endeavoring to develop closer links between the activities of the section and those of the division. This linkage has been made stronger by the able participation of Jeff Walker and Barb Sims, both very active members of ACJS in the life of the Division. Of course, we understand that we still need to do better at serving members of the ACJS/Critical Section.

ASC PROGRAM COMMITTEE WORK

Several members of the DCC served on the 2004 ASC Program Committee, including Walter DeKeseredy and David Kauzlarich. The 2004 meeting, for the first time, included a session at which all the ASC Division Chairs presented information/perspectives, etc on their particular divisions. Entitled "To Divide is to Multiply" the panel was chaired by Julie Horney, incoming President of ASC. The session was very well attended, and stressed the unique benefit the divisions offer the ASC and also provided 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 were very pleased to be a part of this historic first for the ASC. This year, we were slightly less ambitious, but the DCC is sponsoring a number of panels in the 2005 program. We spent much of this year wrestling with our publications issues.

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 as well as the Board of ACJS to help make this organization more visible around the nation and the world.