

**REPORT ON THE
SECTION 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 and international interest. The Division was extremely active at last year's ASC meeting, co-sponsoring a number of joint panels with other ASC Divisions. 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 artwork of Jeff Ferrell. The purpose of this report is to provide in-depth information on the DCC activities for the years 2004-2005. It is to the issue of membership that I now turn.

MEMBERSHIP

As of November 11, 2005, the Division recorded 341 members. This is an increase from the numbers reported on September 30, 2005, when the Division recorded 304 members. Both of these figures are an increase over the March, 2005 numbers when we posted 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. Moreover, it is a significant comment on the value members place in such membership (since the division dues are not insubstantial).

DCC OFFICERS

The Officers for the DCC 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 July, 2005, the Division balance was \$2,614.95. This figure was down considerably from December, 2004 when the balance was \$9,981.00. The large decrease was due to a payment to Springer/Kluwer for our members' subscriptions to *Critical Criminology*. According to Chris Eskridge, Executive Director of ASC, a large payment (\$9,375 to be exact) was sent out to Springer to cover our members' subscription costs. As of December 2005, this same fee was incurred for members' 2006 subscription to *Critical Criminology*, resulting in approximately a \$7,000 deficit for the Division. The ASC Executive Office is currently receiving DCC subscriptions so we fully expect that the deficit will be reduced. Our Division's strategy for addressing this financial shortfall is outlined below under the sub-section entitled, "Division Publications."

DIVISION PUBLICATIONS

Critical Criminology is the official refereed journal of the DCC and is published three times a year by Springer Publishers. Members come from the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, Belgium, England, Ireland and several other countries around the world. All members of the Division currently receive a subscription to the journal as part of their dues. 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, 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 Springer (formerly 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 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 Division-members will receive full **electronic access to the journal, including the back issues**, for \$15.00 - 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 \$45.00 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 Division)

- 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 ASC 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 DCC 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 mostly 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 Division website. A new team will be in place, commencing with the 2006 Summer Issue of *The Critical Criminologist*. As an effort to further defray Division 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.

DIVISION AWARDS

At the ASC Annual Meetings in Toronto, Canada the DCC 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, and we are very pleased to have had a well attended Division meeting and Awards Ceremony. 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 <http://www.critcrim.org>). This logo graced a new flyer being prepared for the table at this year's annual meeting by Barb Perry; 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. David Kauzlarich, the previous Division Vice-Chair, is coordinating this initiative.

The Critical Criminology Division is endeavoring to cultivate closer links between other Divisions of the ASC and ACJS. 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 the 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 Section.

2005 ASC/ACJS PROGRAM COMMITTEE WORK

Several members of the DCC served on the 2005 ASC and ACJS Program Committees, including Jeff Walker, Marty Schwartz, Walter DeKeseredy and David Kauzlarich. The 2004 ASC 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 continued this practice at the 2005 ASC meeting. We are very pleased to be a part of this ongoing activity.

CONCLUSION

Like other divisions of the ASC, the DCC is an exciting international organization. Members are consistently involved in many worthwhile 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.