



Agenda for the OCCJE 20th Annual Research Conference and Awards Ceremony

Bluffton University, April 22, 2022:

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration Coffee/Pastry Service
- 9:00 - 10:30 Breakout Session 1-2-3
- 10:45 - 11:15 Poster Presentations- Employment Tables
- 11:30 - 1:00 Luncheon, Keynote and Awards Ceremony
- 1:15 - 2:45 Breakout Session 4-5
- 3:00 - 4:00 OCCJE Membership Meeting

The Ohio Council of Criminal Justice Education (OCCJE) is a nonprofit organization that is celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Our mission is to promote education and research in the administration of criminal justice and to facilitate communication and cooperation with practitioners on matters of mutual interest concerning education in criminal justice

In carrying out the mission, OCCJE addresses the following four goals:

- Advance criminal justice education;
- Serve as a conduit for criminal justice education;
- Stimulate activities that enhance criminal justice education
(Research, assessment, experimentation, promotion, evaluation);
- Represent criminal justice educational programs before the public.

Bluffton University was founded as Central Mennonite College in 1899. As the cornerstone was laid for College Hall, President Noah C. Hirschy shared an idea that has proved as durable as the structure itself: “Let us expect great things.” Bluffton University seeks to prepare students of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation, for responsible citizenship, for service to all peoples and, ultimately, for the purposes of God’s universal kingdom.”

Breakout Session 1- Reichenbach Room- Prison Issues- Tristin Kilgallon Discussant

Life in Prison Ohio Northern University

Aaron Everhart	Camryn Waldrop
Gabrielle Kowalczyk	Gracie Shepherd-Frisby
Tyler Irigoyen	Jeorgia Templin

Re-Entry from the Inmate Perspective Ohio Northern University

Elisa Martinez	Cameron Harbour
Taylor Love	Denzeil Alvis
Chris Suarez	Davlyn Werner

Breakout Session 2- Kreider Room- Substance Abuse & Mental Health- Keith Durkin Discussant

The Impact of Impulsivity on Prescription Opioid Abuse in a National Sample of Rural Youth Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment Keith Durkin and Joseph Dule Ohio Northern University

Is There a Better Treatment Program for Sex Offenders? An Archival Study
Morgan O Halleran Tiffin University

Mental Illness & Social Media in College Students Wrae Steele Tiffin University

Deregulation of Buprenorphine; A Call to X the X-Waiver: An Ohio Case Study
Andrea Pappas Tiffin University

Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services in Ohio's Family Dependency Treatment Courts Brittany Hartranft and Joseph DeLeeuw Ohio Northern University

Breakout Session 3- Centennial Hall 109- Law Enforcement Issues- Mike Barrett Discussant

The Association Between the Elderly and Eyewitness Testimonies
Kerrigan Champagne Tiffin University

Perceptions of Defendant Confessions Based on Modality Used in Courtroom Presentations
Stephanie Fox Tiffin University

Mental Illness According to Law Enforcement Kierstyn Jackson Tiffin University

Criminal Justice Reform: Rethinking Pretrial Risk Assessment Instruments
Shay Locke Otterbein University

Student Perceptions of the Dangerousness of the Homeless Population
Brenda Prochaska Lake Erie College

Presidents Room-Poster Session- Employment Tables

Asch Conformity in Criminal Justice Nash Morgan Bluffton University

Improving the OCCJE Website Experience Based on Student, Faculty, and Practitioner Feedback

John Hazy, Hannah Heavener, Adam Klein, Stephen Patrick, Morgan Swinehart, Nicole Zitello, Alyssa Fillion, Laila Ali, Xandae Smith, Capt. Jason Simon, and Monica Merrill
Youngstown State University

Kreider Room Luncheon 1130am-1pm

Welcome to Bluffton: Lamar Nisly Academic Dean

Keynote Speaker: Nicole Dehner Executive Director of Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Dept. of Public Safety

Awards Ceremony

Breakout Session 4- Reichenbach Room- Issues in Corrections- John Hazy Discussant

The Criminalization of Non-Violent Offenders: A Case Study

Megan Clinger Bluffton University

Higher Education in Corrections: Reducing Recidivism

Stacie Shine Sinclair Community College

The School to Prison Pipeline Taylor Love Ohio Northern University

The Influence of General Belief in a Just World on Perceptions of Exonerees

Shannon Sertz Tiffin University

Lack of Educational Rehabilitation in Prison Naje Wright Ohio Northern University

Breakout Session 5- Centennial Hall 109- Criminal Justice Potpourri- Nancy Marion Discussant

Prime Minister's Rhetoric on Crime: A Comparative Analysis

Nancy Marion University of Akron

School Shooting Threat Assessment Samantha Shaffer Tiffin University

Crime in a Consumer Culture Flor Avilez Bluffton University

The Disputed Elections of 1876 and 2020

Jeorgia Templin Ohio Northern University

Trash Among the Stars: Knowledge and Perception of Space Pollution

Kelsey Hock Tiffin University

Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Nicole Dehner became the Executive Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) on Feb. 28, 2022. Dehner served as chief policy adviser at OCJS for three years from 2009 to 2012. Previously, she was an in-house attorney within ODPS for OCJS and the Ohio Investigative Unit.

OCCJE Student Awards- In order for a criminal justice student to be nominated, s/he should have demonstrated outstanding academic ability and involvement and leadership in professional, community, and/or campus related activities. Students must be eligible for graduation during the current academic year.

OCCJE Undergraduate Student of the Year- Flor Avilez Escoto- Bluffton University

OCCJE Graduate Student of the Year- Samantha Shafer- Tiffin University

OCCJE Graduate Student Paper Award Winner- Samantha Shafer- Tiffin University

OCCJE Educator-Academician Award- In order for a person to be nominated in this category, s/he should have made significant contributions, measured by any of the following:

1. public contribution of major importance in the criminal justice field and/or
2. a major contribution to the development of a criminal justice program beyond the home institution and/or
3. major involvement in national development of criminal justice education

OCCJE Educator- Academician Award Recipient- Keith Durkin- Ohio Northern University

OCCJE Professional-Practitioner Award- In order for a person to be nominated in this category, s/he should have distinguished herself/himself as a leader in the professional field of criminal justice measured by any combination of the following:

1. leadership in the criminal justice field recognized by practitioners and academicians alike and/or
2. involvement in contributions to criminal justice practice having an importance beyond the local area.

OCCJE Professional-Practitioner Award Recipient- Wade Melton Director of Programs, Hardin County Juvenile Court

OCCJE Service Award: In order for a person to be nominated in this category, s/he should have a record of continuous long-term contribution in criminal justice in the state, regional, or national organizations. A person must be a member of OCCJE to be eligible for this award

OCCJE Service Award Recipient- Dan Ponstingle Lorain County Community College (retired), Lakeland Community College.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF OFFICER DOMINIC FRANCIS OF THE BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WHO WAS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY ON MARCH 31ST.

Session 1 Abstracts

Life in Prison- In this presentation, we are going to be discussing about adjusting to life in prison. The topics that are going to be covered are: family impacts, mental health, jobs and affordability in prison, and the expectations vs. reality in prison. This presentation will also incorporate personal sentiments from inmates themselves regarding the topics listed previously.

Reentry from the Inmate Perspective- The point of our presentation is to discuss reentry into society from the perspective of an inmate. Focusing on the six main topics of mental illness, substance abuse, financial planning, integrating with new culture, realistic outcomes, and state obligations. My focus on the presentation will be on substance abuse and controlling/maintaining a life free from substances.

Session 2 Abstracts

The Impact of Impulsivity on Prescription Opioid Abuse in a National Sample of Rural Youth Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment- This paper utilizes a national data set and employs multivariate analysis.

Is There a Better Treatment Program for Sex Offenders? An Archival Study- The purpose of this archival research study is to examine if a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) program as an alternative sentencing to incarceration would be effective in reducing the recidivism rates among male sexual offenders. Sexual offenders are often ostracized from their community, the media, and even psychological research studies. This study seeks to answer the following research questions: What is the relationship between a cognitive behavioral therapy program and reducing reoffending among sex offenders? What is the relationship between sentencing sex offenders to be incarcerated and their recidivism rates? and What is the relationship between reoffending rates among sex offenders and their sentencing program? Archival data from Ohio correctional facilities and California correctional facilities were compared and analyzed. The researcher found compelling results on cognitive behavioral therapies for sexual offenders.

Mental Illness & Social Media in College Students- Social media has been a widely debated and studied topic of the younger generations—specifically how the extended use of social media affects mental health. There have been countless studies done on that topic alone, but a good many only focus on adolescents. With the specific demographic being college students for my own study, I looked into the correlation between depression and anxiety when social media is used frequently. I will talk about various other studies that have also been conducted, as well as compare my own findings to that of what already exists to come to a practical conclusion.

Deregulation of Buprenorphine; A Call to X the X-Waiver: An Ohio Case Study- Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) has been a serious public health issue that continues to increase and become more complicated. Buprenorphine is an effective Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) and harm reduction approach in addressing OUD, yet access to it is highly regulated by the DEA and access to it is limited.

Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Services in Ohio's Family Dependency Treatment Courts- Family Dependency Treatment Courts (FDTCs) are a type of specialized docket that handles civil child abuse or neglect cases where parents are found to be involved with alcohol or other drugs (Huddleston & Marlowe, 2011). A variety of community agencies are brought together by FDTCs to work as a team to develop a unified plan for child welfare cases (Pach, 2008). Among these community agencies are Substance Use Treatment (SUD) and mental health treatment providers. The purpose of this mixed-methods study is to gain a better understanding of the SUD and mental health treatment providers that are utilized by FDTCs in Ohio. In order to collect this information, surveys were sent to the FDTC coordinators of the 29 certified FDTCs listed on the Supreme Court of Ohio's specialized docket website.

Session 3 Abstracts

The Association Between the Elderly and Eyewitness Testimonies- It is common knowledge that eyewitness testimonies are not as reliable as we once thought. Psychologists over the years have tested, improved, and retested false identifications during eyewitness testimonies. Despite the numerous studies done, we have yet to specifically test individual age groups. This research was conducted to determine if there was a difference in correct identifications during eyewitness testimonies between young adults and adults over 60.

Perceptions of Defendant Confessions Based on Modality Used in Courtroom Presentations- On a typical day, consciously differentiating a lie from a truth for the average U.S. citizen does not carry with it life-changing consequences. However, with prior findings showing human lie detection is no better than chance, the U.S. court and criminal justice system at large incur serious consequences. The issue in present literature is researchers do not know which modality of recorded confessions (audiovisual, audio, text) would be best to present within a courtroom, when considering both the biases each modality presents and the impact each modality has on an individual's ability to accurately detect deception. For this study, ninety undergraduate students from a small midwestern university ranging in age from 18 to 35 years old, were recruited for this experiment. A FOSO questionnaire was constructed and used to gather participants' perceptions. Results are compelling and reveals much about the topic of research.

Mental Illness According to Law Enforcement- It is common knowledge that eyewitness testimonies are not as reliable as we once thought. Psychologists over the years have tested, improved, and retested false identifications during eyewitness testimonies. Despite the numerous studies done, we have yet to specifically test individual age groups. This research was conducted to determine if there was a difference in correct identifications during eyewitness testimonies between young adults and adults over 60.

Criminal Justice Reform: Rethinking Pretrial Risk Assessment Instruments- Pretrial Risk Assessment Instruments (PRAI) are actuarial assessment tools used across the United States to assist in the determination of the likelihood that a defendant will show up to trial or whether they would be arrested again during the pretrial period. These tools rely on logarithms that use criminal databases as well as factors such as individual criminal history, demographic information, and other socioeconomic data to determine the level of risk a defendant poses to the community. Recent sociological analysis of said tools has shown that PRAI unfairly target both racial and ethnic minorities and people with lower socioeconomic status. Considering these

findings and because of political and social movement pressure, many states have begun the process of revising their risk assessment tools to improve their validity and fairness. Each state developed their own PRAI and are using different formulas to determine 'risk.' They are also revising these quantitative assessments individually, rather than at the federal level. I have begun to gather and catalog data from across the country regarding how each state: (1) applies their individual PRAI's; (2) has revised or intends to revise PRAI assessments; and (3) accepts or resists revisions to the PRAI as one piece of criminal justice reform. The results of my data collection will reveal political attitudes toward this level of revision and garner a better understanding of context.

Student Perceptions of the Dangerousness of the Homeless Population - Previous research has found that people perceive the homeless population as more dangerous than other people. The existing research focuses more on the overall dangerousness or trustworthiness of the homeless and on violent crimes. Some studies include drug use, but do so as a cause of homelessness instead of examining perceptions of drug use in general among the homeless population. The current study seeks to understand the perceptions of college students about the dangerousness of the homeless population, drug use and the homeless population, and property crimes and the homeless population. This research project seeks to understand whether the perceptions vary by classification (i.e. freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate student), race, gender, and major of the students.

Poster Session Abstracts

Asch Conformity- We ran a study on 30 people in different groups to see who conformed the most on each scenario. In this study, we ran groups of 1, 2, and 3 participants with 3 confederates also in the group. Prior research had found that the groups with less participants conformed less than the groups with more confederates. Our research did not necessarily match these findings. We determined that Asch Conformity may not be as prominent in today's society. Asch Conformity can be used in criminal justice scenarios and help get a better understanding for certain situations.

Improving the OCCJE Website Experience Based on Student, Faculty, and Practitioner

Feedback- The purpose of this project is to describe the recommended changes to the OCCJE website based on interviews with students, faculty, and criminal justice practitioners. The existing OCCJE website (<http://www.OCCJE.org>) provides a minimal amount of information concerning the myriad of activities and information relevant to its members and those interested in issues related to criminal justice education. Three major changes to the website include: 1) a more student-focused section; 2) an in-depth, curated listing of websites pertinent to a variety of criminal justice topics; and 3) a greater emphasis of the efforts of the OCCJE membership with respect to its annual career fair, research conference and awards ceremony, and highlights of content from its peer-reviewed journal, *Criminal Justice Perspectives*.

Session 4 Abstracts

The Criminalization of Non-Violent Offenders: A Case Study- In 2014, a 19-year-old mother dropped her small son off at her mother's house but never returned. The week after, her family saw her mugshot on the local news station and to this day, she has not been home. This

presentation will focus on a mother who committed a non-violent crime yet was sentenced to fourteen years and is currently incarcerated in a level two prison. Her crime, sentence, and incarceration has impacted not only herself but also her family around her and her young son who will be seventeen at the time that his mother is released. This case study presentation will look at the hardships that this individual has faced during her time being incarcerated which includes violence, sexual assault, mental health issues, family issues, homosexuality, police corruption, and more.

Higher Education in Corrections: Reducing Recidivism- no abstract submitted

The School to Prison Pipeline- The school-to-prison pipeline has negatively impacted the lives of thousands of students around the U.S. Many of them attend various public schools located in low-income inner city communities. This pipeline has helped increase the “achievement gap” to where students from impoverished areas do not receive the same quality of education compared to students who reside in suburban areas. Their schools have low government funding, which limits those students' resources and other opportunities to gain more knowledge. There are higher rates of violence and lower rates of academic success from students at these educational institutions that have resulted in harsher school policies. For years “zero-tolerance” policies have scientifically shown that they are ineffective but are still being enforced in many public schools around the country. Changing school policies from punitive to rehabilitative and increasing social service based programming for students in inner city schools can potentially make a difference and put an end to this damaging school to prison pipeline cycle. This project examines the potential responses that could be used to disrupt the school to prison pipeline or mitigate the negative impact that it has on minority students.

The Influence of General Belief in a Just World on Perceptions of Exonerees- Once wrongfully convicted individuals are exonerated by DNA evidence, they still tend to receive a great amount of stigma and hardships from society. The aim of the current study was to uncover a potential motivating factor for the negative perceptions exonerees face. In particular, the researcher desired to know whether one's level of general belief in a just world would influence one's perceptions of exonerees

Lack of Educational Rehabilitation in Prison- My focus will be on how the lack of educational rehab will affect the prisoners, people around them, and society as a whole. Explaining being a child but being charged as an adult stripping away the education. The life before, during, and after prison without decent education. And what obstacles that brings without the rehab, and how much of an impact it would be if we took rehabilitation more seriously. I will do this by a little story telling, sharing research, and statistics.

Session 5 Abstracts

Prime Minister's Rhetoric on Crime: A Comparative Analysis- All elected officials commonly discuss crime during their campaigns for office, and if elected, they must continue to address the issue throughout their term in office. Issues surrounding crime and safety are often one of the top concerns of many voters, and constituents want to know how officials will keep crime to a minimum. Past research on crime control rhetoric by elected officials in the US. Shows that leaders on all levels of government and from every political party discuss crime. However, much

of that rhetoric is symbolic, which means that the language used provide few tangible proposals. Previous analysis of crime control rhetoric by elected officials has focused on American officials. The current study expands on this knowledge to apply findings to the language of Canadian national leaders. By analyzing Speeches from the Throne and statements made in parliamentary debates, this study will determine if elected Canadian leaders discuss crime control in the same way as U.S. leaders.

School Shooting Threat Assessment- School shootings are very prevalent within the United States. As of right now, there is no way to predict school shooting behaviors and traits. Since the Columbine shooting in 1999, psychologists have studied this shooting and others to build assessments to implement within schools. These assessments aim to predict various behaviors that are deemed threatening and use them to de-escalate situations before they occur. There are only seventeen states that have mandated threat assessment protocols on a legislative level. 1,257 school shootings were examined during a 30-year time frame, and 119 took place in states that have mandated threat assessment protocols. t-tests were run on the seventeen states, examining pre- and post-threat assessment implementation and the corresponding number of school shootings and casualties. F-tests were run when comparing states with threat assessment protocols and states without. Threat assessments are very new to the legislative world; 75% of the states with mandates did not mandate until 2018, following Parkland and Santa Fe. The author lays out four recommendations for the implications of this study.

Crime in a Consumer Culture- In this research I am exploring the different perspectives people have on consumerism motivating criminal behaviors. I interviewed people from diverse cultures, and backgrounds to see how things differ between cultures. The findings from my research reflect that college students believe that consumerism influences criminal behaviors.

The Disputed Elections of 1876 and 2020- Research over allegations of criminal interference in two disputed elections.

Trash Among the Stars: Knowledge and Perception of Space Pollution- Debris in earth's low orbit can stay there for decades, centuries, and sometimes longer before orbital decay can bring it back into the atmosphere to be burned away by atmospheric drag (UCSUSA, 2019). This is concerning because 73% of objects in low orbit are classified as debris, and this number is expected to increase tenfold in the next decade (Dhawan & Kumar, 2021). This will make Earth's low orbit uninhabitable. There is precedent of resource loss helping instigate collective violence (Heslin, 2021). This is worrisome as space pollution is on track to cause a global loss of resources and modern-day privileges. The topics included in this paper are the dangers of discarded and defunct satellite technology in low orbit, the increasing number of trackable and nontrackable objects in earth's low orbit, and the attitudes and knowledge that individuals hold before and after being informed of space pollution.

