

## PREFACE

I am very proud to bring you Volume 2 of *Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance*. Not only does it include thirteen high quality contributions, but these contributions represent a wide variety of substantive topics, methodological approaches, and theoretical developments. As I described in my preface for Volume 1, I see such diversity as a strength, and I want the series to showcase excellent work that represents such diversity.

The volume is organized into four thematic sections. The first section presents three quantitative studies of prominent criminological issues: criminal sentencing, communities and crime, and fear of crime. Cassia Spohn and Miriam DeLone contribute to the literature on courts and sentencing, extending Spohn's other work (Spohn 1995; Spohn and Holleran 2000) and other studies (Steffensmeier, Ulmer & Kramer 1998) empirically demonstrating the conditional nature of the influence of race and other extra-legal factors in criminal sentencing decisions. Barbara Warner and Pamela Wilcox Rountree articulate a exciting and provocative new theoretical model for research on community social organization, community-level culture, and crime – the cultural attenuation model. They then empirically test – and find substantial support for – the cultural attenuation model. Third, Min Sik Lee presents a very unique investigation of fear of crime among a population not often studied by criminologists, Korean Americans. Lee applies and extends Ferraro's (1995) symbolic interactionist-based risk assessment model of fear, and uses it to investigate whether potentially problematic relations with police in the Korean American community may exacerbate fear of crime.

Next, three excellent ethnographies examine legal and formal social control institutions. The first two ethnographies describe key transformations in law and policing. Jerry Van Hoy combines insights from the sociology of work and professions with a political economy perspective to illuminate the transformation of the status and work of lawyers near the bottom of the legal profession – in particular, those in large 'McDonal-dized' franchise law firms. Albert J. Meehan, one of the most careful and insightful ethnographers of policing in American sociology, brings us an examination of how the proliferation of information technologies transforms the police subculture. Then, Elizabeth McLin's unique and

sensitive ethnography presents a narrative-style thick description of sociological and ethical problematics surrounding the death penalty, as these confront a correctional officer whose work mandated his close and direct participation in executions on a routine basis.

The third section presents three contributions that focus in one way or another on discourse and symbols surrounding legal processes or criminal justice. Morgan Blake Ward Doran and Gray Cavender's discourse analysis draws from social constructionist perspectives on social problems, along with recent conceptions of framing activity in social movements, to track the careers of newspaper stories, frames, and logics surrounding anti-abortion violence. Bruce Arrigo and Christopher Williams bring theoretical conceptualizations of organizational symbolism and metaphors to bear to identify eight metaphors of prisons and how they structure correctional theory, research, and practice. Stacy Burns then develops the concept of 'impeachment work' in trials, and analyzes dynamics of impeachment work and its resistance in the context of the famous Menendez brothers murder trial.

The final four pieces are bold attempts to develop new directions in theory and/or reconceptualize existing theoretical formulations. Ronald Weitzer literally reconceptualizes an entire area of inquiry in the field of deviance – sex work. David O. Friedrichs uses the Clinton impeachment process and earlier scandals to delineate a new integrated, interdisciplinary theory of elite crime. Barbara Perry's contribution seeks a more complex and nuanced sociology of violence between oppressed minorities. Rebecca Katz's piece draws from and builds upon Gregg Barak's methods of theoretical integration in criminology, and she uses these methods to articulate a new integrated model of male violence and substance abuse.

I am also enthusiastic about a couple of changes for the series. First, starting with this volume the series will move to an annual, rather than biannual, format. Even numbered volumes will be "open" ones that publish contributions on a variety of topics, like Volume 1 and this current volume. Odd numbered volumes will be special thematic volumes, and these will usually be guest edited. For example, Volume 3, scheduled for 2001, will be a thematic volume on sociological studies of the legal profession, guest edited by Jerry Van Hoy. Another future special thematic volume planned focuses on crime and justice in Latin America, currently being developed by guest editor Juan Mario Fandino of the Federal University of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul. And of course, I will be

soliciting and welcoming a wide variety of high quality contributions for the next open volume, Volume 4 (scheduled for 2002).

In addition, this volume marks a transition of publishers. JAI Press was bought by Elsevier Science, an international publisher of books and journals in the natural and social sciences. I really think this transition will be a beneficial one for the series, and will help the series reach a wider audience and attract an even broader range of contributors. In particular, since the social sciences division of Elsevier is based in and marketed from Oxford, I hope the series gains a wider audience and pool of contributors in the United Kingdom and Europe. While I am enthusiastic about the future and working with our new publishing editor in Oxford, Ann Marie Davenport, I also want to express my deep gratitude to the series' previous executive editor, Sue Oppenheim. *Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance* was actually her idea, and it will always bear the mark of her guidance. Thank you, Sue. I hope the series continues to make you proud.

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