

## **Meet & Greet with Dr. Kim R. Kras**

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 2pm ET/11am PT

### **Dr. Kim R. Kras Biography:**

Kimblery R. Kras, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2014 following a career with the Missouri Division of Probation and Parole. Kim's research examines community corrections organizations and practices, reentry from prison and desistance from offending behavior, and uses both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Her research considers how behavior change occurs from the perspective of both justice-involved individuals and community corrections agents by examining reentry-related experiences, collateral consequences of conviction, and the implementation and use of evidence-based practices. Her work considers the impacts of criminal justice policies on the system, most recently among individuals convicted of sexual offenses and those agents working with them. Kim's work is published in *Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *Criminology and Public Policy*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, and the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. Kim also serves as the Associate Editor of *Victims & Offenders*, and holds affiliations with the Global Community corrections Initiative (UMass Lowell) and the Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (George Mason University). In addition to teaching and research at SDSU, Kim also focuses on translating research findings into practice through practitioner publications, on-site and web-based trainings, and a continued partnership with the American Probation and Parole Association.

### **Dr. Kim Kras Contact Information**

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### **Questions Asked during Meet & Greet**

*Your experiences with applied research:*

1. This is a series dedicated to Alternative Academic careers, but you're on a tenure-track at San Diego State! Your dream job!! But, you're committed to applied research. After you graduated from UMSL, how did you know you wanted to take this kind of approach to your research agenda? What personal experiences led you to this approach?
  - a. How do your experiences working in a probation agency enrich your research, the types of questions you ask, and how you interpret your findings?
  - b. You know, we've been talking about "applied research" but we haven't really defined, yet. How would you define applied research? Does that differ in a university setting versus a research center or other alt-ac spaces?
  - c. How did your values, positionality, professional and personal priorities, and perspective on applied research impact your job search process (both the University and alt ac markets)? How did you filter through the position listings and determine where to apply and accept positions?

*But, what's a post-doc?*

2. Before teaching at SDSU and UMass-Lowell, you completed a two-year post-doc. First, can you tell us what a post-doc is! How is it connected to research? Why you chose to pursue one and why you selected a university based post-doc?
  - a. Can you give us examples of where else you might find post-docs?
  - b. What about the and myth that people only accept a post-doc position because they were not successful on the job market? Is this true, and why is there stigma around post-docs (similar to the stigma surrounding seeking alt ac positions)?
  - c. While completing your post-doc, what types of projects did you work on and what was your role?
  - d. What are the benefits of a post-doc position?
  - e. While completing your post-doc, did you have time to write? What kind of writing did you do?
  - f. Did you teach during your post-doc? And, is that an option?
  - g. Not to pry, but like, do you at least make a living wage and off a damn GRA stipend? You have a PhD, after all!
3. What skills did you develop in your post-doc that are critical to your success on the university market, your university role now, and your commitment to applied research?

*Translating Your Post-Doc Experience:*

4. Before and after your post-doc you applied for some alt ac jobs, but you ultimately chose to pursue a tenure-track position versus an alt-ac position. Can you talk to us about this decision?
5. How did you talk about the skills you learned and experiences you had in your post-doc (which was very applied)? What was the receptivity on the market from this approach to research?

*Advocating for Yourself:*

6. Last session, we met with Dr. Taxman to learn more about how to advocate for yourself with your faculty mentor to get the skills you want/need for alt-ac spaces. As a faculty mentor now, what's your receptivity to students asking for specific alt-ac skills and how do you go about helping them get them? What if students aren't sure about what they want, how do you help them identify their priorities and areas of interest?
  - a. Would you prefer students ask you little by little? Would you like to know all the skills they want to make a long-term plan?