



Corrections &
Sentencing

DCS Fall 2024 Newsletter

Editor: Dr. Colleen Berryessa
School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University

Division Chair's Corner

It's time to gear up for San Francisco! The DCS Board has been busy behind the scenes getting things in place for our breakfast meeting, social, and panels. Our Special Events committee is working to bring some extracurricular opportunities to the membership and our Program Committee has outlined some key sessions throughout the conference week. We'll continue to have great outreach opportunities at our division table – be sure to sign up for a shift at the table – it's a great way to meet other DCS members and a low effort way to get involved.



Eileen Ahlin
DCS Chair

Key events to put into your calendars (please check the ASC app for any updates):

- Wednesday, November 13th Social, 5:30-7:30p (Golden Gate C1 – B2 Level)
 - The social is on-site this year due to restaurant closures in the city, amount of space we need (we're the largest ASC Division!), and costs (San Francisco is \$\$\$)
- Thursday, November 14th Breakfast Meeting, 7:30-9:20a (Golden Gate C2 – B2 Level)
 - Be sure to buy breakfast tickets when you register for the conference
- Thursday, November 14th Coffee Hour with Mentoring Match, 9:30-10:50a (Laurel – B2 Level)

We are also delighted to present a “Trauma-Informed Yoga” session led by DCS member and yoga instructor Dragana Derlic on Friday, November 15th beginning at 7:30a (Laurel – B2 Level) so bring your yoga mats or simply come to share a moment of peace and learn some techniques for your practice or work in our shared corrections and sentencing space.

Finally, we are so thankful for our sponsors who make our conference activities possible each year. Costs across ASC host cities vary greatly and we continue to prioritize member feedback from our recent membership survey to coordinate the most meaningful activities to you year after year.

I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco!



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Annual Meeting Reminder:



**See you in SF
next month!**





Congratulations to our new PCS Board Members!



**Debi Koetzle,
Vice Chair**



**Daniel Butler,
Secretary/Treasurer**



**Janani
Umamaheswar,
Executive Counselor**



Division of Corrections and Sentencing Social

Wednesday, November 13th

5:30-7:30pm

Golden Gate C1 – B2 Level

**Division of Corrections and Sentencing
Breakfast Meeting**

Thursday, November 14th

7:30-9:20am

Golden Gate C2 – B2 Level

**Coffee Hour with Division on Corrections &
Sentencing Mentoring Match**

Thursday, November 14th

9:30-10:50am

Laurel – B2 Level

AltAc Corner

In this issue, we continue to explore different types of AltAc careers with a focus on the nonprofit sector. We've also launched a survey to ask those with experience working in AltAc to help us demystify salary expectations for graduate students considering AltAc careers.

EXPLORING THE SPACE: THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

Defining the Space:

The nonprofit career space is diverse, encompassing roles in organizations dedicated to social change, public service, and policy influence. Instead of prioritizing profit, these organizations aim to create lasting societal impact. Nonprofits often collaborate with government agencies and hire a wide range of professionals, including executives, researchers, advocates, program staff, and grant managers. Temporary or consulting positions are also common, reflecting the sector's need for specialized skills and adaptability.

Frequently described as: *Mission-Driven; Impact-Focused; Collaborative; Strategic; Community Oriented; Flexible; Fast-Paced*

What types of roles does the nonprofit sector offer?

- Executive Director
- Director of Research
- Principal, Associate, or Assistant Researcher
- Policy Analyst, Advisor, or Manager
- Program/Project Director, Manager, Associate or Assistant Government Relations Specialist

Where can I find jobs in the nonprofit sector?

- Idealist.com
- Indeed.com
- Organizations' websites
- LinkedIn

QUICK FACTS

- **Pace of Work:** Often fast-paced
 - Usually dependent on funding, legislation cycles, and current events.
- **Compensation:** \$ - \$\$\$\$\$
- **Job Security:** Depends on the role and grant/contract funds.
- **Work Schedule:** Variable
 - Hours may change based on projects and funding cycles
 - Remote/hybrid work possible
- **Examples from Our Rockstar Career Series:**
 - Dr. Jason Wilks - Public Management Specialist, InterAmerican Development Bank
 - Dr. Sarah Desmarais - Senior Vice President, Policy Research Associates

DIVISION ON CORRECTIONS & SENTENCING ALTAC SERIES



SALARY SURVEY

The **goal of this survey is** to collect data about individuals' first AltAc jobs **to empower social science, graduate-level job seekers** to maximize their starting salaries and benefits packages.

- We aim to gather valuable information about **your first full-time position in AltAc after completing your Master's or Doctoral studies in the Social Sciences.**
 - **Alternative Academia or AltAc** includes non-traditional academic roles like those in universities, government research, non-profits, and specialized fields.
- The survey will take you about **15 minutes.**

[TAKE SURVEY HERE](#)

The survey has been reviewed by the San Diego State University Institutional Review Board. **If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Kim Kras at kkras@sdsu.edu**

ALTAC SERIES STATS

Since ASC 2023, the DCS AltAc Team has:

- hosted 3 additional Rockstar Researcher webinars with researchers from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, UN Women, and CNA, **for a series total of 22 Rockstar Researcher Webinars.**
- added 25 more individuals who requested access to the AltAc Listserv, **for a current total of 295 active members from over 50 Universities.**
- disseminated 138 job postings on the listserv across industry spaces, **for a series total of 592 positions shared.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



CHECK OUT THESE PANELS GEARED TOWARDS NAVIGATING CAREERS IN ALTAC AT ASC 2024

Wednesday, November 13th

**DCS'S ALTAC SERIES: A PANEL FOR JOB SEEKERS
- NAVIGATING INTO ALTAC CAREERS**

**3:30 PM to 4:50 PM
Sierra J - 5th Level**

This thematic panel will cover four main topic areas: 1) the basics of AltAc industry spaces and the varied types of work across spaces; 2) why scholars are at times pushed into these spaces and away from traditional academia; 3) the kinds of impact(s) scholars can make in these career settings; and 4) advice for faculty mentors about helping students navigate AltAc paths.

Thursday, November 16th

**ROUNDTABLE: CONVICT CRIMINOLOGY #3:
NAVIGATING CAREERS IN THE NONPROFIT
SECTOR WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE**

**12:30 PM to 1:50 PM Salon 7 -
Lower B2 Level - Area 1**

Sponsored by the Division on Convict Criminology, this roundtable will provide insight into careers outside of academic positions and the experiences of people impacted by the criminal legal system in those roles. Discussants will share their experiences navigating the job market and working in positions at nonprofit organizations. Discussants will describe the distinct advantages and challenges to working in the nonprofit sector with lived experience related to the criminal legal system.

STAY IN TOUCH

Subscribe to our Listserv:

dcs.studentgroup@gmail.com

OR

[alt-academic-workshop-
subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:alt-academic-workshop-subscribe@googlegroups.com)



**Visit the AltAc Team's
Webpage:**

[http://ascdcs.org/alternative-
academic-careers-workshop-
series/](http://ascdcs.org/alternative-academic-careers-workshop-series/)



New NIJ-funded Evaluation of Pennsylvania's 8th Edition Sentencing Guidelines and their Impacts on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Dr. Clare Strange (cs3846@drexel.edu) and Dr. Jordan Hyatt (jmh498@drexel.edu)

Drexel University

Dr. Jeffrey T. Ulmer (jtu100@psu.edu)

Penn State University

Dr. Clare Strange (Principal Investigator) and a team of researchers from Drexel University (Dr. Jordan Hyatt), Penn State University (Dr. Jeffrey Ulmer), and the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing (PCS) (Jordan Zvonkovich) are conducting a study entitled, 'A Statewide Mixed-methods Evaluation of Pennsylvania's 8th Edition Sentencing Guidelines and their Impacts on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Sentencing Outcomes.' This project is a five-year process and outcome evaluation (2024-2028) with financial support from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System.

The 8th edition of Pennsylvania's sentencing guidelines represents a sweeping and meaningful revision of previous editions. Over the last decade, PCS staff and members of the Commission have sought the expertise of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and the public (including advocates and incarcerated individuals) to inform the proposed revisions. At the core of many discussions were the two dimensions of the basic sentencing matrix—offense gravity score (OGS, i.e., the severity of the current offense) and prior record score (PRS, i.e., a quantitative summation of criminal history)—which are used to calculate the standard range recommendation. The resulting revisions to OGS and PRS, among others, were intended to produce more specific, fair, and proportionate sentences. Most relevant to the

current study, the 8th edition, was specifically designed to decrease the impact of the accumulation of criminal history on sentencing to reduce racial and ethnic disparities therein.

This study seeks to address two overarching questions: 1) did the 8th edition succeed in reducing racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing, and 2) how were the various components of the 8th edition developed? When it comes to policy evaluation, many assessments downplay the importance processes and implementation in favor of outcomes and impact. To accommodate for this gap, this project is rooted in implementation science frameworks and focuses heavily on the events during the ten years preceding the 2024 adoption of the 8th edition.

In service of these questions, qualitative and quantitative data are being collected from three sources: 1) secondary documentation (e.g., reports, legislation, recorded presentations, Commission meetings, and public hearings), 2) semi-structured interviews with subject matter experts (e.g., academics, PCS staff), policymakers (e.g., legislators, Commission members), and practitioners (e.g., judges, prosecutors, attorneys, court administrators), and 3) statewide administrative sentencing event data.

The evaluation aims to produce rich and transferable knowledge for other jurisdictions seeking to revise their sentencing policies and reduce disparities. The level of insight into the policy reform process that this requires is not possible without the meaningful inclusion of project partners like PCS staff and current and former Commission members, whose input informs many aspects of the study (e.g., interview topics, sampling strategy, potential outcomes, the design and content of practitioner-facing deliverables) and helps to ensure that the evaluation has a positive and long-term impact on sentencing disparities in and beyond Pennsylvania. The published results of the process and outcome evaluations can be anticipated in 2026 and 2028, respectively.

Join your fellow DCS'ers for an afternoon

ALCATRAZ TOUR



NPS / Justin Scott

Thursday, November 14th

Are you interested in learning more about Alcatraz? Join us for a daytime tour on Thursday, November 14th. To join, please sign up [here](#) and [purchase your ticket](#) in advance for the 1:35 Day Tour (tickets sell out early, so don't wait!). Meet up with Cassandra Atkin-Plunk at 12:45 pm sharp in the lobby of the Marriott Marquis and we'll Uber over to the pier. The tour will last approximately 2.5 hours, and we should be back to the conference hotel in time for the poster session! Any questions? Reach out to Cassandra (catkinplunk@fau.edu), Stacie St. Louis (sst.louis@american.edu) or Debi Koetzle (dkoetzle@jjay.cuny.edu).

Purchase your tickets [here](#) and let us know you're attending [here](#)!

DCS Panels at ASC 2024

The DCS Program Committee has put together a list of over 90+ panels about corrections and sentencing at this year's ASC meeting! Rather than highlighting just a few, they have created a GoogleDoc, broken down by day, with the title, abstract and details about each of these panels for DCS members to refer to before and during the meeting.

You can visit this link to download or bookmark this year's DCS-related panels at ASC [here](#).

Please email TaLisa Carter, Program Committee Chair, with any questions.



Trauma-Informed Yoga

Instructor: Dragana Derlic



Start the day in stillness

End the conference with resilience

Friday, November 15th beginning at 7:30a

Laurel - B2 Level

NOTE: No yoga mat needed, but you're welcome to bring one with you

From the Editor



Colleen Berryessa
DCS Vice Chair



I am sad that this is my last newsletter as Vice Chair, but I am leaving you in great hands! I'm looking forward to another great ASC jam packed with DCS panels and events. As a plug, the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice is celebrating its 50th Anniversary and we are hosting a range of panels that I think would be of interest to many DCS members. I also hope you enjoy the Bay Area while you're visiting! Since I am originally from here, I enjoy coming back when I can. I am even catching a 49ers game Sunday before I leave. I hope everyone has a great rest of the semester and holiday!