

AMERICAN SOCIETY  
OF CRIMINOLOGY

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# DIVISION OF POLICING NEWS

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## From the Chair

During my initial term (2014-2016) on the Executive Board, I had the pleasure to serve on the Division's Ad Hoc Committee to the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. I was particularly excited last summer when asked to be a reviewer on the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) panel for "Research and Evaluation in Support of the Recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing," whereby NIJ planned to fund up to \$6.5 million toward this endeavor. My enthusiasm only grew upon reviewing and scoring the proposals when the panel met as a whole in Washington DC for a 3-day session in July. It was clear there were many strong proposals. Unfortunately, NIJ decided to fund only five projects at \$2.6 of the \$6.5 million originally allocated. This left many police scholars, including myself, collectively scratching our heads asking – really? As a result, I met with then NIJ Director Nancy Rodriguez and Deputy Director Howard Spivak. While they indicated what they hoped to do in the future to improve the process (e.g.,



requiring NIJ staffers to be more research active and hiring an in-house policing research specialist), they declined to discuss (i.e., shed light on) why NIJ failed to follow through on funding more projects under the President's Task Force solicitation. Unfortunately, NIJ has a checkered history on funding decisions, as frequently discussed by scholars, reported in numerous media outlets over the years, and explicitly detailed in a 2010 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report. For an organization that proposes to see the merits of transparency, NIJ could clearly use much improvement in this area. In fact, unlike other federal agencies such as the National Institute of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Science (NSF), NIJ still does not provide applicants with their numerical scores or where

they ranked in the scientific review process. Such practice only leaves applicants in the dark as to where the review panel scored their proposals and raises questions of potential, or actual, bias by NIJ officials. As Chair of the Division, I think it is important for NIJ to not only commit to funding quality policing proposals, but also to being transparent in the process. Within the context of the former, I asked Acting Director Spivak to offer a short description of NIJ's commitment to fund policing research moving forward. You will find his encouraging message on the following page indicating a commitment. I now call on him and other members at NIJ to not only follow through on such verbiage, but to also move toward a more open and trustworthy process so as to enhance legitimacy.

William Terrill, Ph.D.  
Chair, Division of Policing  
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## **Police-Related Research at the National Institute of Justice**

Howard Spivak, MD, Acting Director

NIJ has a longstanding commitment to policing research with the full expectation that this will continue. Our recent activities reflect this dedication; highlighted activities include:

- **NIJ's strategic plan around *Safety, Health, and Wellness*** (see: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250153.pdf>). This plan, released in late 2016, represents NIJ's 5-year research vision to support research that promotes safety, health, and wellness for law enforcement and correctional officers, as well as others directly or indirectly affected by the criminal justice system (e.g., children of incarcerated parents).
- **The *Sentinel Events Initiative Strategic Plan*** (see: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/250472.pdf>). This 5-year plan, released earlier this year, will support research to evaluate mechanisms of sentinel event reviews implemented to assist criminal justice stakeholders in learning from system weaknesses and errors to improve the administration of justice. We expect that this initiative will result in research investments over the next five years across a variety of areas including policing.
- **Forthcoming *Strategic Plan on Policing***. NIJ anticipates the release and posting of a broader 5-year policing research plan in 2017 to support research across a range policing areas.
- **Current *NIJ Solicitations***. NIJ recently made three new funding opportunities available through the release of our FY 2017 solicitations. This includes:
  - ***Research to Improve Officer Decision-making*** (see: <https://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2017-11500.pdf>)
  - ***Understanding the Impacts of Policing Strategies and Practices (Beyond Crime Reduction)*** (see: <https://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2017-11565.pdf>)
  - ***Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System*** (see: <https://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2017-11481.pdf>).
  - **The first two solicitations recently closed and submitted proposals will soon be going to peer review. The third solicitation has been extended to close in early May at which time, submitted proposals will be entering the peer review process.**

As these efforts clearly demonstrate, NIJ continues to actively pursue research activities around law enforcement, and looks forward to advancing our knowledge base in policing research.

# Member Feedback

**On February 9th of this year, the Division of Policing Executive Board sent out an email to the Division's membership requesting feedback and suggestions on how we could further our mission moving forward. We received several thoughtful responses, and the Executive Board has taken each into consideration. As way of holding the Executive Board accountable for being responsive to our members, we would like to share that feedback here. We will endeavor over the coming months to act upon the recommendations of our members.**

- The Division should advance systematic reviews of policing, and should be encouraged to put forward a candidate for nomination to the Campbell Steering Group.
- The Division should be looking to make a clear connection with the emerging Society of Evidence-based Policing
- It would behoove ASC to seek out opportunities to brief legislative sub-committees regarding potential policy implications of legislation based upon extant research. So many times legislation is pushed within a political context that is not necessarily in line with research findings. Additionally, in many cases even the practitioners are not fully aware of the policy implications of some "popular" legislation. It would serve the

ASC well, as well as law enforcement in the states, if the ASC could liaison with the various legislative committees to offer research findings regarding the various topics being considered in legislation each year. This would also go a long way toward building solid relationships between researchers, practitioners and legislators.

- The Division of Policing should form a partnership with the American Society of Evidence-Based Policing on a student paper award that includes a monetary prize.
- It will be important to see what direction Attorney General Sessions will be steering the Department of Justice towards. Once that direction is clear it would be useful to proactively reach out and offer assistance and guidance when we can, and thoughtful disagreement when appropriate.
- To influence the practice of policing requires that we communicate in a way that makes sense to practitioners. It's otherwise an echo chamber of academics and NGO executives. Journals aren't enough. The Division should host a blog that features contributions from academics and practitioners at large.
- The Division should be more inclusive for students, particularly at the conference (i.e. during receptions etc.). For other Divisions/Conferences

there are best student paper awards and student representative positions as well.

- It seems that there is a growing number of pracademics within public safety agencies, therefore more discussions on bridging the gap between research and practice would be great. Perhaps reaching out to practitioners using public safety focused (as opposed to academic focused) conferences and trainings might encourage them to come to the table. Also, training comes up numerous times throughout The 21st Century Policing Report (and the subsequent Evidence Assessment). As a practitioner, more research and discussion in this area would be beneficial.

**The Executive Board would like to thank members who took the time to provide us feedback. As evidenced by the creation of the Student Paper Award (details are provided in this issue), we are committed to being responsive to our member's suggestions. We will continue to explore ways of acting upon other recommendations and will keep members apprised of these efforts.**

## 2017 Membership Reminder

You can join the Division of Policing at the same time you renew your 2016 ASC membership. Go to [www.asc41.com](http://www.asc41.com) to access the online or paper membership forms. Don't delay, renew today!

# Division of Policing Awards



Bill Terrill



Cynthia Lum



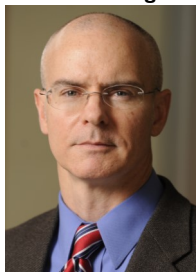
Evan Sorg



Brenda Bond



William King



Chris Koper

Since its inception, the Division of Policing has bestowed numerous awards to its members annually: **Lifetime Achievement, Early Career, Outstanding Book, and Outstanding Law Enforcement Practitioner.** Based on feedback from the broader membership, the executive board has sought to bring a greater degree of transparency to the process by which award winners are selected. The following is an attempt to bring clarity to each award's purpose, the specific requirements for award nominations, and how each nominee will be judged. In addition, we are excited to introduce a new award for the 2017 cycle, the **Outstanding Student Paper Award.** Members wishing to nominate an individual for an award should follow the nomination guidelines and submit application materials to Evan Sorg, Chair of the Awards Committee, at [ascpolicing@gmail.com](mailto:ascpolicing@gmail.com) by July 15, 2017.

## Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to a scholar to recognize their lifetime scholarly achievement in the field of policing. The award is not given for any single research project or study but rather for a body of research developed over one's career. To be bestowed the award the applicant's nomination package should demonstrate a lifetime commitment to high quality scholarly activity and the production of outstanding work that has had a demonstrable impact on the field of policing. The following are the specific requirements for the award and criteria for how nominees will be selected.

### Award Criteria

- The nominee should have a record of scholarly activity to include peer-reviewed journal articles, books, final reports and executive summaries, and/or a record of grant/research project activity that has resulted in the generation of knowledge that has influenced the field of policing in meaningful ways
- The nominee should have a record of working with the practitioner community and the application must be able to demonstrate their influence on the field of law enforcement not just via scholarly output, but also via tangible influence on police policy and practice
- The application should demonstrate the nominees record of mentoring younger scholars who have gone on to become influential in the field of policing

Although nominees need not have a record that includes all of the above, the awards committee will consider the breadth of the nominee's achievements against other nominees. Members may not self-nominate

### Application Requirements

All nominees' applications must include a current curriculum vitae and a nomination letter addressing each of the award criteria noted above. Where appropriate, numeric tallies for each of the above criteria should be provided.

# Early Career Award

The Early Career Award recognizes outstanding scholarly contributions to the field of policing by someone who has received his or her Ph.D. degree within the last five years. The outstanding contributions to the field of policing may consist of a single outstanding book or work, a series of theoretical or research contributions, or the recipient's accumulated scholarly contributions during the early years of their careers. The following are the specific requirements for the award and criteria for how nominees will be selected.

## Award Criteria

- The nominee must have completed a Ph.D. within the past five years
- The application should demonstrate their outstanding scholarly contributions by noting relevant publications, grant awards, research reports, books, research projects, or other scholarly outputs
- The application should demonstrate relevant membership and contributions to professional organizations, committees, and/or practitioner organizations

Although nominees need not have a record that includes all of the above, the awards committee will consider the breadth of the nominee's scholarly output against other nominees. Members may not self-nominate.

## Application Requirements

- A current curriculum vitae
- A nomination letter addressing each of the award criteria noted above. Where appropriate, numeric tallies for each of the above criteria should be provided
- One or two publications reflecting the nominee's work

# Distinguished Scholar Award

The Distinguished Scholar Award recognizes an established academic/researcher who has held a Ph.D. degree for at least ten years and is in the middle of their career. The outstanding contributions to the field of policing may consist of a single outstanding work, a series of theoretical or research contributions, or the nominee's accumulated scholarly contributions.

## Award Criteria

- The nominee must have held a Ph.D. for at least 10 years
- The application should demonstrate that the single work has made significant contributions to the field of policing if they are being nominated for a single outstanding work
- The application should demonstrate that the theoretical and research contributions have made significant contributions to the field of policing if they are being nominated for a series of theoretical or research contributions
- The application should demonstrate outstanding scholarly contributions by noting relevant publications, grant awards, research reports, books, research projects, or other scholarly outputs if they are being nominated for their accumulated scholarly contributions
- Members may not self-nominate

## Distinguished Scholar Award (Continued)

### Application Requirements

All nominees' applications must include the following materials in order to be considered:

- A current curriculum vitae
- An indication of whether the scholar is being nominated for a single outstanding book or work, a series of theoretical or research contributions, or the nominees accumulated scholarly contributions
- A nomination letter addressing each of the award criteria noted above
- One or two publications reflecting the nominee's work

## Outstanding Book Award

The Outstanding Book in Policing Award recognizes a monograph (not a textbook, anthology, or edited volume) published in the three calendar years preceding the year in which the award is made. The award honors a text that deserves recognition due to its significant empirical, theoretical, or policy-relevant contributions to the field.

### Award Criteria

- The nomination must relate to a monograph and not a textbook, anthology or edited volume
- The award must have been published within three calendar years of the year the award is being made (e.g. for the 2017 Award, the book must have been published in 2014 or later)
- The book must have been published by an academic press or trade publisher
- The nomination letter must make clear why the book deserves recognition by outlining the contributions that it has made to the field of policing, the specific areas to which it contributes, and its status relative to other works in policing
- Nominations may not come from a publisher and members may not self-nominate

### Application Requirements

All nominees' applications must include a current curriculum vitae, a nomination letter addressing each of the award criteria noted above, and the books name and publisher.

## Outstanding Student Paper Award

The Outstanding student Paper Award is given for a single outstanding paper on the topic of policing that was written by a student enrolled in a recognized Ph.D. program. It is not required that the paper be published in an academic journal. Papers under review or those that have not yet been submitted may be nominated.

# Outstanding Student Paper Award (Continued)

## Award Criteria

- The nominee must be enrolled in a recognized Ph.D. program at the time of submission
- If the paper has been published, it must not have been published greater than a year prior to the time of the award
- Co-authored papers may be submitted, yet the nominee must be the first author and must have made significant contributions to the paper
- The nomination letter must demonstrate why the paper is deserving of the award and the work's outstanding contribution to the field of policing
- Members may not self-nominate
- If the paper has multiple authors, co-authors may nominate the lead author

## Application Requirements

- A current curriculum vitae
- A nomination letter addressing each of the award criteria noted above. The letter should note whether the paper has been published, whether it is under review, or whether it is not yet submitted
- If the paper is co-authored, the nomination letter must discuss each author's contribution to the work
- A copy of the paper

## Awards Selection Process

Award decisions will be made by the Awards Committee. Upon the closing date for the call for nominations, the Chair of the Awards Committee will compile the applications and transmit all of the completed applications to the rest of the Awards Committee. Committee members will submit their top three selections in rank order (3=highest, 1=lowest) for each award category. The three candidates with the highest scores will be considered the top three nominees. After the top three nominees for each award category are established, the Awards Committee will convene to discuss the merits and qualifications of the nominees. Upon completion of the discussion, the top two nominees will be advanced to a second round of voting. Committee members will then be asked to select their top candidate within each category, and the candidate with the greatest number of votes will become the award winner within their category. In the event of a tie, the awards committee chair will act as the tie-breaker.

## Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

Executive Board and Awards Committee members are not eligible for award consideration and are prohibited from submitting or signing a nomination letter for a nominee. Committee members will further abstain from voting in a category when they are unable to remain objective toward a particular candidate within that category. Any committee member who will personally gain from the result of a committee decision will be considered to have a conflict of interest.