



## Inside:

Preparing a national toolkit for police use of body-worn cameras

Professors, students go behind bars to improve inmate outcomes

Safe zone: creating a culture of prevention

Collaborative study helps guide Phoenix Police approach to deadly use of force

school of

# criminology & criminal justice

college of public service and community solutions



# inside

## July 2016

### Published By

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### Director's welcome

2

### Research with impact

Preparing a national toolkit for police use of body-worn cameras	3
Professors, students go behind bars to improve inmate outcomes	4
Safe Zone	6
Collaborative study helps guide Phoenix Police approach to deadly use of force	8
Why do some parolees fail after release from prison?	10
Husband and wife professors come to the middle on crime	12

### Student success

Criminology students get a 'Clue'	15
Online master's degree ranked no. 2 by US News & World Report	16
Making a difference through undergraduate research	17
4 + 1 degree saves time, money	18
ASU, Arizona Western College unite to address workforce needs of Southwest Arizona	18
Eliminating doubt in criminal investigations	19

### Alumni

20

### Expanding our expertise

22

### In brief

24

**“investing in research today is how we fulfill tomorrow’s promise to improve justice with more accurate methods and sophisticated technology in our crime labs”**

Nancy Rodriguez



## Rodriguez guides National Institute of Justice

Professor Nancy Rodriguez is in her second and final year as director of the National Institute of Justice. The U.S. Justice Department agency sponsors research and provides tools to reduce crime and promote justice. A priority for Rodriguez is supporting research that has a meaningful impact on public policy and improves practices within the criminal justice system.

“It is our job to produce evidence-based knowledge on issues that are important to the nation,” says Rodriguez. “Issues like building trust between police and their communities, addressing the collateral consequences of incarceration and keeping schools safe.”

Rodriguez also wants to see more projects involving cross-collaboration where researchers and practitioners from multiple disciplines work together on projects. Rodriguez cites studies that show a multidisciplinary approach leads to innovation.

## Center for Problem-Oriented Policing joins ASU

Established in 1999 with funding from the Community Oriented Policing Services in the U.S. Department of Justice, the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing has a long history of advancing the concept and practice of problem-oriented policing and disseminating information about how police can effectively address public-safety problems. The Center, along with its director Michael Scott, joined ASU in 2015.

Center resources include:

- Problem-Oriented Guides for police
- Recommended readings in problem-oriented policing and situational crime prevention
- Online library of POP-related publications
- Online collections of POP project reports
- Situational crime prevention studies database
- Online Learning Center
- Translations in multiple languages

The Center sponsors the annual International Problem-Oriented Policing Conference, which will be held October 24-26 in Tempe, Arizona. Attendees describe it as the most substantive policing conference. Each year, police officers and police leaders, and all the ranks in between, as well as crime consultants and crime researchers, come together to discuss what they’ve learned about trying to reduce different crime and safety problems.

Center director Michael Scott also is a clinical professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Scott was formerly a clinical professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School; chief of police in Lauderhill, Florida;

special assistant to the chief of the St. Louis, Missouri, Metropolitan Police Department; director of administration of the Fort Pierce, Florida, Police Department; legal assistant to the police commissioner of the New York City Police Department; and a police officer in the Madison, Wisconsin, Police Department. He was a senior researcher at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) in Washington, D.C. In 1996, he received PERF’s Gary P. Hayes Award for innovation and leadership in policing. Scott holds a law degree from Harvard Law School and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

## Examining the ‘Ferguson Effect’

After the shooting of Michael Brown, there was widespread speculation that crime would surge.

In the most comprehensive study of its kind, researchers have found that is not the case—and in fact, crime rates have been relatively unaffected.

The one exception, notes co-author Scott Decker, Foundation Professor, is robbery

In a release on the new study, Decker said, “Robbery drives fear of crime among the general population and is among the most feared crime, so that’s concerning.”

Decker, working with colleagues David Pyrooz at U.C. Boulder, Scott Wolfe at the University of South Carolina and John Shjarback at the University of Texas at El Paso, analyzed crime data from 81 U.S. cities before and after the 2014 event in Ferguson. They covered a wide range of serious crimes including homicide, assault, burglary and theft.

## An international approach to the study of policing

An international summer school in the Scottish capital of Edinburgh benefited three Arizona State University Ph.D. students whose research focuses on policing. The Scottish Institute for Policing Research hosted students and professors from Scotland, Norway and the United States in early June. ASU School of Criminology and Criminal Justice students John Shjarback, Megan Parry and Jessie Huff joined assistant professor Cody Telep for the weeklong program. Their session included a trip to the Scottish government building and a meeting with researchers in the Justice Analytical Services Division.

“Going to Scotland, learning how the Scottish police do things—the organization, the structure—really opened my mind as to how police in different countries do things,” said Shjarback, who begins teaching at the University of Texas El Paso this fall.

The program featured presentations on the impact of new technology, the importance of mapping for criminal investigations and a look at how Scottish police handled organized crime. Professor Telep presented research on the integration of a Phoenix Police intelligence officer program and on the receptivity of police officers in the United States to evidence-based policing.

“Many of the most pressing current issues in American policing, including legitimacy, reform, and technology, are also the focus of much research in these other countries,” Telep said. “Our understanding of the police and the best ways to enhance fairness and effectiveness in policing can be improved through international collaborations with our colleagues in Europe and around the world.”

For graduate students, the week in Scotland was an opportunity to learn about new perspectives and cutting-edge research on policing policy and practice.

“These classes gave me new insight into thinking out-of-the-box,” said Parry. “My research isn’t exactly traditional, so it was nice to see other people who are in engaging in nontraditional policing research.”

Parry says the summer school was valuable as she now knows how to access international data. She also made many valuable connections and hopes to work on future research with her counterparts from Europe.



## The Prison Inmate Networks Study

A multi-institutional team was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation for their project, The Prison Inmate Networks Study. The team includes Jacob Young, assistant professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, David Schaefer, an associate professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Dana Haynie at The Ohio State University, Sara Wakefield at Rutgers University, and Derek Kreager and Gary Zajac at Pennsylvania State University.

The ASU team is responsible for the cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis of inmates’ networks and consequences of network position on post-release outcomes.

This study will advance our understanding of incarceration and its consequences by focusing on prison social systems and their informal network structures. The project will answer three related research questions: (1) What is the informal social structure within prison? (2) What are the processes through which informal social structure is created and sustained? and (3) What are the consequences of informal social structure and inmates’ positions within it for inmate-level and prison-level outcomes? Understanding the prison social system and its connections with risk and rehabilitative behaviors will improve inmate and ex-inmate health, thereby reducing the costs associated with recidivism and underemployment. Study results will also contribute to our understanding of the collateral consequences of mass incarceration on vulnerable communities (e.g., disadvantaged and minority communities) that receive the majority of released inmates.

## Use of stun guns could impact suspect rights

It’s a phrase most people have heard time and again on television crime shows.

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law ...”

The Miranda warning is read to suspects prior to police questioning. But new research from Arizona State University suggests people who have received an electronic shock from a stun gun may not immediately comprehend those rights when read to them.

ASU criminology and criminal justice professor Michael White led a study which found decreased cognitive functioning in participants who had been tased.

White says short term memory and auditory learning of study participants were impacted for up to an hour.

The study raises questions about “what should happen after a Taser is used in regards to the questioning of suspects.”

White says that police chiefs he has talked to about the study have been receptive to the findings. He says most in law enforcement don’t believe waiting an hour to interrogate a suspect who has been tased would hinder investigations.