



CRIME AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DIVISION NEWS

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

WINTER 2005

Chair: Ken Kyle, School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Penn State Harrisburg,
777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057. Email: kmk11@psu.edu

Editor: William Wood, 17200 SE 26th Drive, Vancouver, WA 98683. Email: woodwi@bc.edu

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Hello one and all, I would like to start off by offering my congratulations to **Stephen Morewitz**, our 2004 Outstanding Scholarship award recipient. Job well done! I would like to thank **Shela Van Ness** of the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and **Bruce Arrigo** of the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, for their work on the award committee, and **Lloyd Klein** of Bemidji State University for his work on the committee, and for chairing the committee as well. Along those lines, please put your thinking caps on and nominate those books that you feel merit recognition by the Division. Information on the award competition, contact information, etc. appears in an announcement later in the newsletter.

We're in the midst of putting together our Division-sponsored sessions this month. Accordingly, we'll preview Division sessions and related events of interest next issue. So, it is not too late to volunteer to help out with the upcoming conference. Discussants are also welcome. If interested, please contact me, or one of the other session organizers.

Finally, as you are already aware, we are in the midst of the election of our new Chairperson. I would like to thank all of you who nominated potential candidates. An excellent pool of potential candidates was offered. Each nominee was informed of their nomination and asked to run. In response, two outstanding nominees have "thrown their hat in the ring" and are running for the Chair position. Clearly, the Division wins no matter who is elected.

Stay warm and have a great Winter term or Spring semester!

Ciao . . . Ken Kyle

2004 DIVISION BOOK AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS to Stephen Morewitz

Stephen is the winner of the Division's 2004 book award for his work, *Domestic Violence and Maternal and Child Health: New Patterns of Trauma, Treatment, and Criminal Justice Responses*, published by Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Among the topics addressed in the work are partner violence, causes and risk factors, prevalence of abuse, partner and child abuse, parental child abductions, violence and reproductive decisions, maternal, fetal and neonatal outcomes, screening victims for violence, psychosocial treatment of abuse victims, and identifying and treating offenders.

Make sure to congratulate Stephen when you see him at the 2005 conference, or drop him a congratulatory e-mail message.



CHANGES IN *SOCIAL FORCES* AFFECTING CRIME AND DEVIANCE SUBMISSIONS

Crime and Deviance at *Social Forces*

I bring to the attention of my colleagues in the area of sociology of crime and deviance the new editorial policy at the journal *Social Forces* to not send out for review "specialized papers in the areas of criminology, public health, and urban planning" (Editor's note, *Social Forces*, December 2004, p. 460). Given that *Social Forces* is such a central journal that plays a leading role in the dissemination of groundbreaking social research, this drastic editorial change - if left unchallenged - will have serious consequences for our sociological specialty, especially in terms of its standing among our sociological colleagues outside the area.

The new editorial policy of exclusion of certain areas at *Social Forces* does not stand alone. It is (*Social Forces* cont) part of a major change at the journal that also involves the adoption of principles of so-called public sociology to include normative discussions in articles that do not have to pass the peer-review process (See Deflem, Mathieu. 2005. "Southernizing *Social Forces*." *The Southern Sociologist*, Newsletter of the Southern Sociological Society, 36(3):12-15.

If you wish to help in keeping our specialty area retain its due place in our discipline, I hope you will voice your concerns to our colleagues, to the SF editorial board (social_forces@unc.edu), and to the Sociology Department at UNC, which publishes the journal (sociology@unc.edu).

Mathieu Deflem, Ph.D.
University of South Carolina
deflem@gwm.sc.edu

BOOK REVIEW: *POLICING
WORLD SOCIETY*

Deflem, Mathieu. *Policing World Society: Historical Foundations of International Police Cooperation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002

**Marc Flacks
Department of Sociology
California State University Long Beach**

When and why do police officials in one country decide to cooperate professionally with police officials in another country? More specifically, under what conditions do police agencies in multiple countries decide to cooperate with one another, and under what conditions is such cooperation sustainable? These are timely questions to ask in light of such things as the global “war on terror”, the controversies surrounding international war crimes, debates about the viability of an international criminal court, the “war on drugs”, and other issues relating to global society and “deviant” behavior. In this book, Mathieu Deflem has asked these questions, and he has provided a Weberian answer to them: Historically, international police cooperation only occurred when police agencies achieved formal bureaucratic autonomy from their respective national governments, and only when such agencies were able successfully to construct an institutional myth that legitimated international police cooperation. Deflem, in other words, argues that international police cooperation has historically lived a life of its own, all but independent of the direction of economic elites, political elites, and even the normative concerns of societies.

Deflem makes his argument trenchantly, and he has meticulously assembled and analyzed an impressive array of primary and secondary materials in support of it. Deflem’s goal is to challenge the “naïve determinism” (p.32) of functionalist, state-centered, and economic theories, and to show that international police cooperation did not emerge logically in response to the internationalization of crime (as a functionalist might have it) nor did it arise at the

behest of economic elites intent on defending the free market from the “communist menace” (as an economic theorist might argue), nor was it the result of political leaders’ efforts to consolidate and expand their respective bases of power (state-centered theories). Instead, using a Weberian theoretical framework, Deflem argues that as police institutions became simultaneously more professionalized and bureaucratized, police officials in various countries sought cooperation with one another as a means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of their respective operations, even though such cooperation was often rejected and opposed by leaders in the political centers of their respective countries. Deflem’s data consist mostly of the minutes and proceedings from various meetings devoted to international police cooperation, and with these sources he is able to trace the development of such organizations and agreements as the Police Union of German States, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Secret Protocol for the International War on Anarchism, the International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic, the International Police Conference, and, most importantly, the International Criminal Police Commission (which later became Interpol). The implications of Deflem’s argument about the relative autonomy of police organizations from their respective national governments are troubling because it means that there now exists a “global police culture” (p. 230) that could be an obstacle to humanity’s efforts to respond to global problems. For example, as Deflem points out near the end of the book, in the wake of September 11, “police institutions in the United States and Europe have been placing much emphasis on the efficiency of means to combat terrorism, rather than on an appropriate definition of terrorism” (ibid).

International police cooperation is, as Deflem notes several times, “a relatively new and unexplored field of scholarly attention” and his book is therefore a welcome and substantial contribution. But since the book is fairly narrowly pitched toward specialists in police studies and comparative history, one fears that Deflem has missed an opportunity to broaden the appeal and significance of his work. That is, while the book presents itself rather dryly as a Weberian analysis of international police cooperation from the mid-

19th century to the end of World War II (the book began life as the author's dissertation), there is another book contained within it that is perhaps more interesting, and certainly more widely relevant: A social constructionist analysis of how the problem of "international crime" was created in order to advance the professional interests of police officials in a variety of national contexts. For example, Deflem provides fascinating illustrations of how police officials from different countries struggled to achieve shared understandings and definitions of terms like "anarchism" and "white slavery" and "ordinary" vs. "political" crime, or argued over which language (e.g., French? Esperanto?) should be the "universal police language" (p. 103). In addition, Deflem shows how formidable obstacles to international police cooperation—e.g., ideological differences, conflicting territorial claims, language barriers—were often overcome through construction of a common enemy, such as when Mexico and the US agreed on a treaty in 1882 that allowed Mexican and US troops to cross each other's borders in pursuit of 'savage Indians' (p. 81), or when "anti-Bolshevik arrangements" were "worked out between the German and Viennese police, [with] the common cause aided additionally by anti-Semitic sentiments" (116).

Although Deflem never cites W.I. Thomas (or any other social constructionist for that matter) he notes in his Conclusion and elsewhere that "international crime functioned as a professionally defined construct that was *real in its consequences* of expanding international police organization and facilities" (p. 222; emphasis added). As a comparative historian, Deflem focuses most of his attention on the consequences of these professional myths (i.e., the establishment of various international police organizations), but I personally hoped that he would further develop his social constructionist insights into how and why these professional myths were created and sustained in the first place. Had he done so, he might have been able to connect his analysis to larger questions about social problems in general (e.g., What are the implications of constructing a particular issue—like anarchism—as a "criminal" or "military" problem, as opposed to say, a "political" or "structural" problem? Under what conditions are police officials able to define a problem and claim "ownership" over it?), and to

questions about globalization (e.g., if international police cooperation was accomplished in the past despite the absence of "real" international norms and legal frameworks, to what extent and by whom is a global normative culture being constructed today, and what implications might this have for international police cooperation?). Deflem, in other words, limits himself rather modestly to a history of international police cooperation, when in fact his data and analysis bear on the larger issue of the collective construction of deviance on a global scale. His narrow focus, unfortunately, prevents him from engaging the vast literature on the social construction of social problems, even while he appears to draw substantially on its insights.

Deflem's book is to be commended for enhancing our critical understanding of globalization by identifying and analyzing a global trend that began well over a century ago. Still, when considering the contemporary global scene, one is struck less by the power and international cooperation of police bureaucracies (indeed, the failures of international intelligence agencies to predict and/or prevent September 11th, the scandals over faulty and/or fraudulent intelligence sharing on Iraqi WMD and weapons procurement, and the mistaken arrest of an American Muslim for the Madrid bombing, all seem to testify to the *disorganization* and *lack* of effective cooperation among such bureaucracies), than by the competing efforts to construct reality and achieve a mutual "definition of the situation" with regard to global problems like terrorism, weapons proliferation, East/West conflict, religious fundamentalism, etc. In fact, whereas Deflem focuses on how international police cooperation was historically driven by Weberian processes of bureaucratization and rationalization, a case can be made that the current approach to global security problems, at least here in the U.S., is dominated by a "neo-conservative" worldview that is in many ways anti-rational, anti-Enlightenment, and in some cases even in violation of international legal standards. So while Deflem apparently laments the fact that a problem like terrorism is being defined as an international "criminal" problem by international police agencies like Interpol, one wonders whether such a construction might not be an improvement over the prevailing one that

defines terrorism as a problem requiring a unilateral military solution.

ANNOUNCEMENT: THE 2005
CRIME AND JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY OUTSTANDING
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
COMPETITION

Each year the Division reviews published books in the field to determine if there is one whose merit deserves an award for Outstanding Scholarship. Nominations are now invited for 2005 award. This award is given to an author whose work makes a significant contribution to the sociological understanding of crime and/or delinquency. If you know of a published work within the past year (2004) that you feel should be considered for this award, please mail or E-mail the nomination to Lloyd Klein, Department of Criminal Justice, Bemidji State University, 1500 Birchmont Dr., Bemidji, MN 56601. E-mail: lklein@bemidjistate.edu Please follow E-mailed nominations with a mailed hard copy. Nominations must be for treatises; the committee will not consider textbooks, edited volumes, or articles for this award. Please include the author(s), the title of the book, the publisher, the publication date, and a brief statement of why you believe this work deserves the Outstanding Scholarship Award. The deadline for nomination is April 1, 2005.



SPECIAL UPCOMING ISSUE:
SOCIAL PROBLEMS FORUM

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR . . .

Following a successful call for contributions in our last newsletter, the Division will be sponsoring a “Convergences and Divergences: Perspectives on Social Problems” feature a forthcoming issue *Social Problems Forum: The SSSP Newsletter*. While the essays have not been finalized, the essayists have been selected. Keep on the lookout for insightful and provocative work on:

“Suspicionless Drug Testing for High School Students,” by Laura L. Finley (University of Northern Colorado)

“The Rights of the Accused and the Implications of the USA Patriot Act.” by Lloyd Klein (Bemidji State University)

“Social Inequalities and Social Control Ideologies in Contemporary Youth Justice,” by Brian Smith (Central Michigan University) & Deborah L. Smith (Saginaw Valley State University)

GENERAL SOLICITATIONS

The newsletter is looking for announcements and other relevant information for the next issue. We are also interested in printing book reviews, shorter journal pieces, opinion pieces or anything else that might be of interest to newsletter readers. Please contact the newsletter editor by April 15, 2005 for inclusion into the Spring Issue. The editor can be reached at the following address:

William Wood
17200 SE 26th Drive C12
Vancouver, WA 98683
Email: woodwi@bc.edu