

CRIM 410—Fall 2005

Research Seminar in Restorative Justice and the Life Course

Thursdays 1:30-4:30 pm, Seminar Room

Lee Center of Criminology, 3809 Walnut Street

Instructor: Dr. Heather Strang, Australian National University

(heather.strang@anu.edu.au), 583 McNeil Building

Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-12 noon, Fridays 10am-12 noon

Teaching Assistant: Daniel Woods, M.A., Albert M. Greenfield Scholar

(dwoods@sas.upenn.edu) 583 McNeil Building

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-5 pm, Fridays 2-4 pm

Enrollment Limit: 15 students

Purpose: To provide students with a major, supervised research experience of primary analysis of extensive observational, interview and criminal offending data covering ten years of the lives of over 1500 offenders and victims from four Australian randomized controlled experiments in justice.

Prerequisites. CRIM 100/SOCI 233, any statistics or research methods courses leading to knowledge of SPSS.

Overview. This seminar focuses on the ongoing data collection of Penn's Jerry Lee Program of Randomized Controlled Trials in Restorative Justice, the largest program of field experiments in the history of criminology. Since 1995, this research program has randomly assigned over 3400 victims and offenders to either conventional justice or restorative conferences of victims, offenders and their families, in Canberra (Australia), London, Northumbria and Thames Valley (all in England). The offenders have all been willing to acknowledge their guilt to their victims (or the community), and to try to repair the harm they have caused. Key questions to be answered by the research program include the effects of restorative conferences on the future crime rates of offenders and victims, on the mental health and medical condition of both, and on the changes over time in these dimensions of the life course of both victims and offenders. Students will be the first data analysts to explore a new interview data set for some 150 victims and some 900 offenders.

Objectives. Students should learn how to analyze survey data in the context of randomized experiments in justice, as well to understand the conceptual and methodological issues central to experimental criminology.

Student Performance Evaluation. Grades will be based upon three criteria:

Class participation and attendance:	33.3%
20-page paper on course readings	33.3%
Primary data analysis & presentation	33.3%

The **paper** must discuss the conceptual and methodological links across the five assigned books in the course (see below). The general theme for all papers will be "How Is Restorative Justice Likely to Affect Human Development Over the Life Course? Predictions from Theories and Data in Related Research." Students should submit an outline to the instructor by October 1, and the final 5,000 word (20 pages double-spaced, 12 pt font, 250 words per page) paper by November 1.

The **powerpoint presentation** must report the student's data analysis of the second-wave interviews of offenders or of victims, focused on one of the four experiments in the RISE (Re-integrative Shaming Experiments) Project in Australia, or several in combination. These data have never been analyzed before, and each student is expected to search for every possible major discovery to be found in the data. The presentations will be made to the entire class in 15-minute formats, followed by discussion, during exam-equivalent sessions during reading period and exam week. Powerpoint files are due to be submitted to the instructor before Thanksgiving break for comment and revision.

Class Participation grades will vary from zero to 100% based upon attendance, the depth and preparation reflected in comments made in class discussion, and overall indications of the student's comprehension of the reading material.

Publication Credit: All student discoveries contributing to publications of the research program will be properly credited with acknowledgements or co-authorship, as appropriate. Up to two best papers in the class will be submitted to the new Penn on-line Student Research Journal for sole authorship of the student.

Honors Thesis. Students who are eligible to continue work on the data sets for a senior honors thesis may do so with the thesis supervisor of their choice, in any Department of the University.

Instructor: The course instructor is Dr. Heather Strang of the Australian National University, where she is the Director of the Centre for Restorative Justice. See <http://crj.anu.edu.au> and <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/jerrylee/people/hstrang.htm>

Assigned Readings:

Braithwaite, John (2002). *Restorative Justice and Responsive Regulation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Laub, John and Robert Sampson (2003). *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives: Delinquent Boys to Age 70*. Cambridge: Harvard.

Strang, Heather (2002). *Repair or Revenge: Victims and Restorative Justice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Weekly Class Schedule

Week 1: Restorative Justice and the Life Course

Thursday, September 8: Restorative Justice; Braithwaite, chaps. 1-3
Crime in the Life Course; Laub & Sampson 1-3

Week 2: Crime Victims

Thursday, September 15: Crime Victims Wants & Needs: Strang 1-3
Treating Crime Victims: Foa reading (courseweb)

Week 3: Randomized Controlled Experiments

Thursday, September 22: RCTs in Principle; Sherman 2003 reading, Strang 63-72
RCTs in Practice; Intention-to-Treat Analysis

Week 4: Systematic Observation in Natural Settings

Thursday, September 29: What is systematic Observation? Reiss 1971 Reading
RISE Observation Instruments (courseweb)

Week 5: Interviewing Offenders

Thursday, October 6: Finding Offenders; Laub & Sampson 4
Admitting Crime; Woods MA Thesis (courseweb), Waves
1&2

Week 6: Interviewing Crime Victims

Thursday, October 13: RISE measures, Waves 1 & 2; Strang readings (JSI)
London & ARC measures; PTSS and Health

Week 7: Adaptation to Life: Genes X Environment; Race, Gender and RJ

Thursday, October 20: Genes & child abuse; Caspi et al 2002; drafts on race, gender

Week 8: Restorative Justice and Recidivism: RISE RCTs

Thursday, October 27: Violent Crime; Property Crime

Week 9: Restorative Justice and Recidivism: RISE Victimless Offenses

Thursday, November 3: Shoplifting, Drinking-Driving

Week 10: Restorative Justice and Recidivism: Northumbrian Victimized Offenses

Thursday, November 10: Violent Crime, Property Crime, juvenile & adult

Week 11: Research Week 1

Monday, November 14

Special office hours: Dr. Strang & Mr. Woods, 9am-12pm, 2pm-5pm

Thursday November 17—no class, American Society of Criminology in Toronto

Week 12: Research Week 2

Monday, November 21

Special office hours: Dr. Strang & Mr. Woods, 9am-12pm, 2pm-5pm

Thursday, November 24—No Class: Thanksgiving

Week 13: Crown Court Victims and Post-sentence Offenders

Thursday, December 1: Robbery, Burglary Victim Effects

Guest Speaker: Dr. Caroline M. Angel

Week 14: Student Presentations

Thursday, December 8 1:30-5 pm

Friday, December 9 1:00-5 pm

COURSE CONCLUDED