1-24-1992

Correspondence, Division Report and Survey Results Submitted to the ASC

American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime.

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December 10, 1991

Professor Carol Garrison
Chair, Women and Crime Division
Women's Studies Program
Criminal Justice Department
Spicer Hall 129
University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44325-6218

Dear Carol:

The ASC Board, at its meeting in San Francisco last month, decided it would like to learn more about the operations of its various divisions, and so has asked me to request from you a report on your activities over the past year or so.

Would you please prepare such a report, and please include in it ways in which the Society might make better use of your division as well as the others. We would like this report no later than the beginning of March so that we can consider it at our mid-year meeting.

Any help or suggestions you can offer in this regard will certainly be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Alfred Blumstein

cc: Christy Visher
Sarah Hall
Delbert Elliott
Dear Carole and Gary:

I'm sure you received a request for a report from Al Blumstein, as did I. His request is antithetical to what I understood we wanted. We don't need more work, and busy work at that, as division chairs; and I simply don't see what purpose is served by a written report from divisions each year. I propose that we write him back jointly, and re-direct this effort at gaining voice in ASC matters.

I have drafted a letter from the three of us to Blumstein and enclosed it here. Please get back to me with your reactions, revisions, and decision about how to best proceed, i.e., tell me to send this letter, or, if you don't like what I've set up here, how we ought to respond to the board.

Enjoy the holiday break!

Peace,

Susan Caringella-MacDonald
January 13, 1992

American Society of Criminology
Alfred Blumstein, President Elect
School of Urban and Public Affairs
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Al:

This note is in response to your request for a written report of the recent activities of the Division of International Criminology. The idea of greater communication between the Divisions and the ASC board seems like a good one. Based on my limited experience, it seems that communication between the divisions and the board has been relatively poor in the past. At the same time, since I just became Chair of the Division in November, I know far less about what has been happening than the outgoing Chair, Wes Skogan. Nonetheless, I will try to summarize briefly what I see as major current activities of the Division.

Basically, the Division at present seems to have six main tasks: (1) preparation and organization for the annual ASC meetings, (2) a comparative criminology book award, (3) preparation of two or three newsletters each year for members, (4) selection of a visiting scholar each year, (5) support for subsidized issues of Criminology for scholars in non-hard currency countries, and (6) various public relations activities. Most of these are relatively self explanatory. By public relations I mean issues raised at the annual meeting or by individual members that relate to research on comparative criminology or perhaps affect members of the Division. For example, at our last meeting in San Francisco those present agreed that we should send a letter to the Bureau of Justice Statistics critical of the fact that BJS has decided not to join other nations in supporting the collection of international victimization data under a United Nations initiative.
In addition to the kind of communication you have proposed, I think it would be useful for Division chairpersons to be present at the annual November board meetings. This would keep us better informed of ASC business, especially as it reflects on concerns of division members. It would also make it easier for us to raise issues that are of interest to our membership. This would not be a voting membership, and I don't think our attendance need be extended to the midwinter board meeting.

Since the divisions now routinely produce two or three newsletters each year, it would probably also be useful to routinely forward copies of these to board members. This would also help keep the board aware of the activities of the divisions.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Sincerely,

Gary LaFree
Chair, Division of International Criminology

cc: Delbert Elliott, President Elect
    Susan Caringella-MacDonald, Division of Critical Criminology
    Kathy Daly, Executive Counselor
    Carole Garrison, Division on Women in Crime
To: Alfred Blumstein, President
From: Dr. Carole Garrison, Chair
Date: January 24, 1992
Re: Report for mid-winter meeting, 1992

Please accept the following report of the Division on Women and Crime’s recent activities, goals and concerns per your request of December 10, 1991.

The Division has a stable membership of over 250 members. It has two primary goals:

1) the legitimation of gender as a focus of study and feminist analysis as an appropriate conceptual framework;

2) the advancement and full acceptance of women as scholars, educators, professional/practitioners in the field.

These twin goals are promoted through a variety of activities at the annual conferences and throughout the year. As evidence of the quality of the work of our Division over the past few years, we need look no further than the Division’s activities in the most recent ASC meetings. We sponsored a luncheon to celebrate women’s accomplishments; our table was again a focus of feminist presence at the meetings; our work on child care resulted in the distribution of vital information to parents in this year’s general mailing; our work on an important policy initiative on the criminalization of women’s pregnancy is moving ahead; we reported on early results of our study of the dimensions of the problems of sexual harassment among the Division membership and in the process discovered the degree to which this is a serious problem for us all; we sponsored a special session bringing together practitioners, activists and feminist criminologists; and we accepted a new Long Range Planning document which will assist us in charting the course of the Division over the next few years. (see attachments). The special task forces we created on women in prison, criminologists in non-academic settings, and the women of color and lesbian issues task forces met, had workshops and are continuing to pursue their special focuses into 1992. Finally, we have also embarked on a plan to develop our own awards to recognize the scholarship and service of women criminologists.

Plans for 1992 include several new initiatives and continued attention to ongoing concerns. The Division is
developing an "Invisibility" panel with special attention to women of color. We will sponsor another luncheon in New Orleans and a workshop on sexual harassment. We have donated $100 to be used toward developing child care resources at the annual meeting and we have submitted a list of member-volunteers to President Elect Del Elliot.

The Division has several pressing concerns which we believe are jointly shared by the whole of ASC and thus will lend themselves to a mutual strategy and resolution. These concerns are:

- Greater interaction between the ASC Board and the Divisions to include in-person reporting at the annual ASC Board meetings.
- Finalization of an ASC policy on the Criminalization of Pregnancy
- Adoption of a code of ethics to include a policy on sexual harassment
- ASC sponsored child care at the annual meetings
- Promotion of a non-exclusion policy on NIJ funded research
- Elimination of critical scheduling conflicts at the annual meetings.

I have purposely tried to keep this report brief both for economy of everyone's time and to highlight only the most salient points. I hope however, it serves your initial purposes as well as demonstrating how unsatisfactory a written report is for in depth interaction between the Board and the Divisions.

On behalf of the Division I wish you a productive and pleasant mid-winter meeting.
Division on Women and Crime
Summary of Survey Results

The Long Range Planning Committee undertook a major review of the goals and objectives of the Division on Women and Crime. A portion of their analysis of the results of several tiers of surveys is attached.

These results summarize the respondents (N=68) rankings of a number of forced choices about the Philosophy and Goals of the Division and the Programs and events that the Division ought to be sponsoring.

In the survey of Philosophy and Goals of the Division, respondents chose, "professional development, enhancement of scholarship by and for women, and impact on feminist activism." (see Table 1 and Figure 1).

With reference to the most popular events and activities, the respondents favored Division sponsored roundtables on key topics of importance to feminist scholars, the formation of a mentoring committee, and panels at the conference. (see Table 2 and Figure 2).

Other key findings include the following. The membership of the Division feels that of the possible sponsoring events for the rest of the ASC, we should promote keynote addresses by women criminologists and panels. In terms of products the Division might produce, the membership felt that we should produce a guide to research funding in gender related areas as well as updating the curriculum guide. The membership felt that the money we collect should be spent on directories and newsletters, awards and scholarships. Finally, the respondents felt that we can attract and keep members by producing useful resources and having high visibility at the national meetings.

cm/draft/garrison
I. Philosophy/Goal of the Division

Rank Averages (3-highest)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Activism</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Forum</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Master</th>
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<td>4.77</td>
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<td>4.29</td>
<td>4.18</td>
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II. Programs/Events for Membership

Rank Averages (10-highest)

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<th>Discuss</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Master</th>
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<td>2.94</td>
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III. Programs for ASC Membership

IV. Products/Events for Revenue
V. How to Spend Division $

Rank Averages (9-highest)

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Exchange Awards</th>
<th>Scholar Expenses</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Publicity Member</th>
<th>Dance</th>
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Series A

VI. How to Attract/Keep New Members

Rank Averages (10-highest)

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Resource Utilization</th>
<th>Attract Free</th>
<th>Member Contact</th>
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<th>Copies</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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</table>

Series A
The American Society of Criminology  
Alfred Blumstein, President-Elect  
School of Urban and Public Affairs  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA  15213

Dear Prof. Blumstein:

We, the Division chairs of the ASC, appreciate your request for reports from us for the ASC board mid-winter meeting. They will be forthcoming as a first step toward better interface between the ASC Board and the Divisions. However, we would like to see the ASC's responsiveness to the Divisions taken in a different direction. It's not that we object to written reports, but instead that verbal reports would better suit our concerns. In addition to our individual reports, we thought the most productive response to your initiative would be a collective one, from the three ASC Divisions, delineating our shared interests and desired course of action.

The continuity in the Women and Crime, Critical and International Division's interests and concerns relates to having input, visibility and voice for the major paradigmatic areas that our Divisions respectively represent. What we are seeking is simply to be present at the annual November board meetings in order to: (A) Keep apprised of ASC matters and to be able to inform our Divisions of ASC business, decisions, and directions; and (B) Be able to raise opinions and/or issues concerning our substantive and research areas in the matters coming before the ASC board.

It is important to underscore that we are not seeking to be voting members of the ASC board, as there would be numerous legitimate problematics corollary with this. We instead are requesting that we, Division chairs, be requested to regularly attend the annual November ASC board meetings as a part of our Divisional responsibilities. Please note that we are not seeking to attend the midwinter board meeting, only those which take place at the annual conventions.
We believe that Division chairs can best serve their Divisions in the above described fashion. If the board would additionally like to have Division chairs report to the board, we suggest that this occur verbally at the November meetings, in order to allow for questions, clarification and discussion.

We thank you and the ASC board for your responsiveness to the division concerns as they have recently been raised, and look forward to working together towards a direction that meets all of the ASC interests jointly.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Caringella-MacDonald  
Chair, Division of Critical Criminology

Carole Garrison  
Chair, Division on Women and Crime

Gary LaFree  
Chair, International Division

cc: Delbert Elliot  
Kathy Daly
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Susan Caringella-MacDonald
Chair, Division of Critical Criminology

Carole Garrison
Chair, Division on Women and Crime

Gary LaFree
Chair, International Division

cc: Delbert Elliot
Kathy Daly
To: President Blumstein and the Executive Board of ASC
From: Susan Caringella-MacDonald, Chair of the Division on Critical Criminology
Re: Requested Division Report

The purposes and objectives, as delineated in our Division Constitution for the Division on Critical Criminology are:

1. To foster research and theory development in the field of critical criminology, which is widely recognized as one of the several major paradigms within criminology.

2. To provide a forum for members of the ASC to discuss ideas and to exchange information, both through events at the annual meetings and through a Divisional newsletter.

3. To organize conference sessions at ASC meetings.

4. To encourage appropriate and effective teaching techniques and practices and to stimulate the development of curricula related to courses on critical criminology.

The Division has been pursuing achievement along the lines of the above objectives by:

1. Publishing a quarterly newsletter - The Critical Criminologist - that contains essays, responses, announcements, book reviews, and so on. The Division newsletter averages approximately 15 pages per issue.


3. Proceeding on the development of a "Curriculum Guide" for the Division with articles, syllabi and other examples of teaching courses on critical criminology. Ray Michalowski is spearheading this effort.

4. Having a member of the Division serve on the program committee of the ASC each year, to organize panels, roundtables, etc. on critical criminology for the annual meetings.

5. Suggesting Division members to incoming officers of the ASC for service on the variety of ASC standing and ad hoc committees.
Working with the other two ASC Divisions to coordinate activities, concerns and directions. For example, the Division on Critical Criminology is now working with the Division on Women and Crime and the International Division to recommend and support the same candidates for ASC Awards and Fellows whenever possible. Similarly, this Division is coordinating with the other two ASC Divisions to nominate the same persons or slates to the ASC nominations committee, whenever agreement can be reached. Additionally, all three Divisions are now involved in trying to preclude scheduling conflicts by consulting on the ASC preliminary program. Further, the three Divisions have agreed to contribute money ($100 each) to the ASC child care project to demonstrate support for this undertaking, and to work with the ASC towards a policy on sexual harassment.

Mounting liaisons with other professional organizations and divisions, e.g., the Crime, Law and Deviance and Marxist sections of the ASA, the Crime and Delinquency Division and the Social Action Committee of the SSSP, the Women’s Caucus of the Law and Society, minority and student outreach work within and between these organizations and the ASC.

Other activities and working committees of the Division on Critical Criminology are:

8. A nominations/election committee, appointed by the chair each year, to replace Division officers as terms expire.

9. An award committee, designed to select and recognize outstanding contributions to critical criminology each year.

10. A steering committee, to advise and consult with the Division chair, on all Division matters. This committee is comprised of all officers (Chair, vice-chair, secretary/treasurer, 3 executive counselors, and 3 newsletter editors) of the Division.

We, the Division on Critical Criminology, would be happy to provide any further detail that the ASC executive board would find useful to its purposes, and thank you for your responsiveness to our concerns.