



Fall 2021  
Volume 3, Issue 1

# *The White Collar Times*

*The official newsletter of the American Society of Criminology  
Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*

## Message from the Division Co-Chairs: Nicole L. Piquero and Wim Huisman

It is an honor to open this new edition of “The White Collar Times” as the new co-chairs of the ASC Division of White Collar and Corporate Crime. Upon your votes, the Executive board decided wisely that it would take two to fill the big shoes that past president Michael Benson left us. We would therefore like to start with thanking Mike for setting such an excellent example and for all the important work he has done for the division being president. We look forward to enjoy Mike’s mentorship for many more years to come.

Having two chairs allows us to diversify tasks and responsibilities, while also sharing the work and the fun of chairing the division. We roughly divided these responsibilities by having Nicky acting as ‘domestic’ chair and Wim as ‘international’ chair. This will for instance mean that Nicky makes sure that the division’s activities will keep on facilitating excellent scholarship in the US, while Wim will work on strengthening the division’s ties to scholars outside the US, including with its European counterpart EUROCC.

The items in this newsletter reflect these aims. Next to various announcements and invitations to join the division’s activities, there is a call for participating in organizing a joint DWCC-EUROCC online seminar. In this stand-alone seminar, white-collar crime scholars from the US and Europe, as well as other parts of the world can meet and share their research. While we all may be tired of working from home and having online meetings due to the COVID-pandemic, this new reality has also shown us new ways to share research interests and to meet with colleagues across the world, without having to make long flights and spend scarce budgets.

*Continued on the next page*

## ASC DWCC Organization

Co-Chairs: Nicole Leeper Piquero and  
Wim Huisman

Vice Chair: Melissa Rorie

Secretary/Treasurer: Natalie Schell-  
Busey

Executive Counselor: Mary Dodge

Executive Counselor: Adam Ghazi-  
Tehrani

Executive Counselor: Jay Kennedy

Past Chair: Michael L. Benson

Organization website: [https://  
ascdwcc.org/](https://ascdwcc.org/)

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## Message from Division Chairs (continued)

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*Nicole Leeper Piquero is a Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Miami.*



*Wim Huisman is a Professor of Criminology and the head of the VU School of Criminology. He is also the founder and board member of the European Working Group on Organizational Crime (EUROC) of the European Society of Criminology.*

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, academic societies have had to make difficult decisions, weighing various options and thinking about the best ways to meet and interact under uncertain and continuously changing conditions. The European Society of Criminology has successfully organized two fully online annual conferences. Notwithstanding time differences, this made it easy for US scholars to join the ESC conference and participate in the sessions – which many did. While the continuation of academic exchange was a success, the opportunity to meet in person and to informally catch up with colleagues was dearly missed. The members of this division had to miss out on both because of the cancellation of the 2020 ASC meeting.

Thankfully, and fingers crossed, this will be different this year. We hope that many of you will be able to travel to Chicago and join the ASC annual meeting. Those of you can expect the usual that we so dearly missed: meeting other white-collar crime scholars, joining thematic panel sessions, applauding the laureates at the division meeting and (perhaps the most important of all) socializing during the division drinks. The latter became an instant tradition after the first time at the 2019 ASC meeting in San Francisco!

Due to continuing restrictions however, many white-collar crime scholars may not be travelling to Chicago, especially those from outside the US. We looking forward to meeting you all on the joint online seminar.

An important announcement in this newsletter is about the vacancies in the

Executive board of the division. While we hope that many excellent colleagues will be nominated for these positions, this also means that some excellent colleagues will vacate their post after serving the appointed terms. It is therefore our pleasure to thank Mary Dodge, Jay Kennedy, Adam Ghazi-Tehrani and Melissa Rorie for devoting their time and energy to the division. We would especially like to thank Melissa for being such an excellent vice-president and making our start as co-chairs easy. A third reason to thank Melissa is for chairing the award committee for the second time. And these thanks go to all members of this year's awards committee: Averi Fegadel, Cheryl Johnson, Kenneth Sebastien Leon-Roosevelt, Lieselot Bisschop, and Michael Maume.

Further, we would like to thank Gregg Barak and Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi as well as their associate editors of the Journal of White-Collar Crime for making one of the most important initiatives of the division – launching its own academic journal – such a great success. With two volumes and four issues, the journal has now taken its place as a leading journal in the field.

Finally, we would like to thank the new student committee for their initiatives and hard work. Special thanks go to Emily Homer for maintaining the DWCC twitter account and for her member recruitment efforts and to Diana Sun and Megan Novak for putting together (and taking the initiative!) this newsletter. This again proves that grad students are the division's most precious asset!



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## Invitation to Joint DWCC and EUROCR Seminar

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Both the American Society of Criminology and the European Society of Criminology have active divisions that bring together criminologists studying white-collar crime. Both divisions have the ambition to collaborate with each other. In previous years, both divisions have organized joint panel sessions at the annual meetings of the ASC and the ESC. The board of both divisions think that it is now time to organize a stand alone seminar together. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have dearly missed meeting each other at the conferences. At the same time however, we have learned the benefits of meeting online. While we miss informal meetings and conversations during breaks and drinks, the online conferences have given us the opportunity to exchange research and to present current work, without travelling and budget restrictions.

While we hope to meet many of you during upcoming conferences, we propose to use the newly obtained experiences to organize a thematic online session in 2022 in which we can share our research on white-collar crime in both the United States of America and in Europe. To make the effort of participating and presenting research extra worthwhile, we propose to combine the seminar with a special issue of an academic journal, in which worked out versions of the paper presentations at the seminar will be published as articles.

For producing a special issue it is good to have a theme for both the seminar and the special issue. We would like to propose to form an ad hoc committee, responsible for selecting the theme, sending out the call for papers and organizing the seminar. For such a committee, a combination of senior and junior scholars from both divisions would be ideal. We think of a committee consisting of two to three members of each division. We would therefore like to invite members to show their interest in being part of the committee. Of course being a member of the committee will take time and energy. But we think this is also a wonderful opportunity to work together with colleagues from another part of the world and especially for junior members to build and expand their professional network. And of course we will be immensely grateful for bringing both divisions and the research on white-collar crime further. If you are interested in joining us organizing the seminar and the special issue, please let us know at [w.huisman@vu.nl](mailto:w.huisman@vu.nl)

To learn more about the European Society of Criminology: <https://www.esc-eurocrim.org/>

To learn more about EUROCR: <https://www.esc-eurocrim.org/index.php/activities/working-groups/48-euroc>





## Member Spotlight: Kip Schlegel



*Kip Schlegel is an Emeritus Professor at Indiana University*

### **Do you recall what first sparked your interest in studying white collar crime?**

I became interested in white-collar crime in a round about way. I was fortunate to work as an undergraduate research assistant at the University of New Mexico for a political science professor, Peter Lupsha, who was studying the political economy of drug trafficking. As part of that project, I started working with the New Mexico Organized Crime Commission. We were using early forms of network analysis to look at the organizational structures of several large-scale heroin and cocaine trafficking groups. That got me interested in broader aspects of organized crime. I decided to go to graduate school at Rutgers to work with Dwight Smith, who was challenging the conventional understanding of the mafia. In a nut shell he argued that criminal organizations could be better understood by examining their activities in relation to the law, or what he referred to as the spectrum of legitimacy (as shaped by the law). Organized crime groups that engage in “unwanted” or illegitimate activities, such as heroin trafficking, operate at one end of the spectrum, while corporations largely viewed as legitimate yet engaged in criminal activity operated at the other.

He used James Thompson’s organizational model described in his book, *Organizations in Action*, to demonstrate that all organizations involved in criminal activity are structured and operate to respond to the uncertainties of their task environment (customers, suppliers, competitors and regulators) in large part on the basis of where those activities stand in relation to the law along this spectrum of legitimacy.

From there my interests turned more toward white-collar crime generally and corporate crime more specifically. I took a course from Andrew von Hirsch on sentencing theory which of course was really a course on the theory of Just Deserts, which he conceived and developed. Without going into detail about the theory, I decided to write my term paper on the challenges of Desert Theory in relation to white-collar crime. He liked it, and encouraged me to pursue it as a dissertation topic. Three long years later I defended it, and was fortunate to have it published by Northeastern University Press as *Just Deserts for Corporate Criminals*. That pretty much sealed the deal.

### **What is your favorite theoretical explanation of crime?**

I guess after 40 years I still haven’t resolved in my mind the debate around the primacy of general theory over relational theories. Certainly, there are differences in what propels armed robbery and what propels say, market manipulation. That said, like Sutherland, I’ve always believed that there has to be something in common to behaviors that are labeled crime, so a theory, such as differential theory, is theoretically appealing by its ability to generalize. Because it is so difficult to test empirically, the theory has never really gained the traction I think it deserves. Of course, as they say, the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, so it’s hard for me to let that one go. Ever since I read *Power and Powerlessness*, by John Gaventa as an undergraduate, I’ve believed that all crimes have at least one thing in common—they are all expressions of power, or power imbalance. Some crimes are efforts to gain power, others to maintain power, others to regain power. To some extent Charles Tittle’s Power/Control theory comes the closest to this idea and for me there is a lot of appeal to it. Power is such a complex and nuanced idea, and like differential association, suffers from the difficulty in converting variables to numbers for empirical testing. As someone who is more excited by theoretical ideas over empirical data, I much prefer to play with different ideas than to take a conventional theory and try to test it under different conditions. That’s just me though, and I’m afraid we’ve moved away from theory for theory’s sake and I get why there’s not much of that going on these days.

### **What is one area you think could use updated research?**

All areas require updating. That’s the essence of intellectual and scholarly development. I do get discouraged sometimes because I’m not really convinced that we’ve evolved very far in our understanding of white-collar crime. We have come a long way from my graduate school days when the study of white-collar crime was largely the province of “radical,” or “marxist” or “new” criminologists. I certainly believe they had much to offer the field, especially the vital but often ignored symbiotic relationship between the behaviors and those who sanction them. The turn off was their contempt for other perspectives and what Richard Sparks described as their annoying belief that they were the only ones permitted entrance to heaven. The White-Collar Crime Project led by Stanton Wheeler at Yale, along with his colleague, Al Reiss, took the direction of research in organizational crime down groundbreaking paths. There have been important and more recent contributions no doubt, but I think there is a certain stagnation that has existed for some time. To answer the question more directly, however, I would say if there was one area of largely untapped potential it would be victimization. Whether it be the social construction of harm, the personal experience of victimization over time, or the relationship between regulation and victimization, I believe the area is wide open for both qualitative and quantitative research, and I believe easier to study when compared to say, motivation. This would be the topic I would likely encourage graduate students and young researchers to pursue. It’s highly relevant, open to different types of research and one that is less easily influenced by powerful interests, in other words, accessible.



### **Who do you admire as a scholar? Who do you admire as an individual?**

That is a tough and loaded question. Of course, I admire every scholar who has the courage and desire to study white-collar crime. The field has been shaped by a number of excellent scholars, and there are quite a few young researchers who have made important contributions and have promising careers ahead of them. If I think more broadly, both outside of the field, and in terms of both research and teaching, and if I had to name individuals who are now deceased and thus rule out the possibility of offending anyone, I would say Al Reiss, for his remarkable intellectual breadth and depth, and Julie Horney as a teacher and mentor. If you go back and read Al's work you will see that he had something unique and enlightening to say about almost every topic related to crime and criminal justice. Julie was just a remarkable person in every way. She was an excellent researcher, a wonderful and truly gifted teacher and mentor who shaped so many, and a kind, generous and humble human being. Like many who knew her, I miss her smile, her hug and her heart a great deal.

### **You've spent most of your career teaching the longest running white-collar crime course in the department that is largely associated with Sutherland. What's the best piece of advice you could give to someone who is just beginning to teach white-collar crime?**

I should start by setting the record straight. Edwin Sutherland was in the Department of Sociology, not the Department of Criminal Justice. The Department of Criminal Justice at Indiana University is arguably the oldest program in criminal justice, though my friends at Michigan State would likely disagree. It began as the Department of Police Administration, changed its name to the Department of Forensic Studies and changed again in the early 1980s to Criminal Justice. It's unclear what role Sutherland played in establishing the Department of Police Administration, though it was a pretty small and more collegial world back then so I'm sure Bob Borkenstein (the inventor of the Breathalyzer and true founder of the Department) had discussions with folks like Sutherland, Al Lindesmith, Karl Schuessler and Jerome Hall about the creation of the program. To be perfectly honest, I'm not positive Sutherland ever taught a course specifically on white-collar crime. The course on white-collar crime I had the privilege of teaching was created by Paul Jesilow. I took over for him when he departed for the University of California at Irvine in 1985. I taught that course as an upper-level, intensive writing requirement course (with a course limit of 25) for 62 semesters before retiring [in Spring 2020].

With that said, the most important advice I would give young scholars who are teaching or hope to teach white-collar crime comes in the following order. First, less is more. We all know white-collar crime is a complex and confusing subject. You could spend the entire course on the definitional issues alone. As they say, get over it. Most students don't care. Find a definition that works for you and move on. Second, as much as you might be hesitant to do so, narrow the topics. I focus on corporate crime. I don't get into identity theft, Nigerian mail scams or Ponzi schemes (though we do talk about Bernie Madoff). My goal is to demonstrate that crime is all around us and integral to the vital functions of our daily lives in ways we don't often realize. That alone is overwhelming for most students. Third, get the students involved. I find that a team-based approach is the most conducive to generating productive discussion. I have also found problem-based learning to be very successful. I use case studies with topics and events students can see themselves in. I believe that, with some obvious exceptions, much of white-collar crime is the accumulation and amalgamation of a series of bad or unfortunate, or misguided decisions that culminate in law breaking, often by coverup and fraud. (Diane Vaughn's *Challenger Launch Decision* is an excellent example of this idea). For example, I have a case study where students are placed in the role of a product engineer who is asked to falsify and sign a test report. When I ask students whether they would sign the report they all say no. After I layer on sequences of additional information, the actions of other individuals and the dynamics of organizational forces, I can have them all agreeing to sign the report at the end. The more students are placed in roles where their own decisions seem either minor or inconsequential, but ethically a little uncomfortable, the more they come to understand the interconnection of individual decisions, the complexity of organizations both structurally and culturally, and the more they see how different decisions could shape different outcomes. What I like about this approach is that it helps somewhat in overcoming the most dangerous aspect of this course—the feeling of complete and utter powerlessness and anomie and the belief that nothing can be done about it. What I tell them at the end of the course is that they know more about white-collar crime than 95 percent of the population—go out and educate. Ultimately that is what we are doing as teachers. Model it for them.

For what it's worth, please feel free to contact me if you are currently teaching or thinking about teaching a course on white-collar crime. I'm happy to discuss different approaches, ideas or roadblocks you might have.



### What's on the Website?

The DWCC website has undergone major revisions in the past year. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to explore our page:

<https://ascdwcc.org/>



Our website now hosts a wealth of information on several topics, including information on our Division's purpose, executive board, journal and more. You can also locate our previous ASC's Business and Awards Meeting minutes as well as photos from the event online.

Our website helps scholars connect with the Division and we always welcome contributions. Specifically, we are interested in developing our [History](#) page to catalogue our Division's triumphs within the past years. One of our goals is to document the changes and challenges our members have face, from the early years of the White Collar Research Consortium (WCCRC). If you have any interest in being a part of organizing and sharing our Division's history or have any ideas, please reach out to the Student Committee.

Finally, we would like to highlight the addition of the productivity tips and tools tab on our website. This option provides an exciting opportunity to centralize expert advice on teaching and researching white-collar crime. Additionally, we are always interested in promoting effective ways to reach students. For more information about this section of the website, please see Jay Kennedy's segment below.

### A Brief Description of the Productivity Tools and Tips Tab on the DWCC Website

*by Jay Kennedy, Michigan State University—School of Criminal Justice*

The early months of the coronavirus pandemic saw many people shifting to remote learning, adapting teaching and learning styles, and generally trying as best as possible to cope with the uncertainty of the time. Over the past 12 months we have all come to experience what may be a "new normal" in university education, be it undergraduate or graduate, and have likely learned many new skills along the way. The *Productivity Tools and Tips* section of the DWCC website is designed as a place to share with each other the lessons and skills that have been learned throughout a career of academic service, as well as those developed in more recent times. Intended to be a general resource repository available to DWCC members, this section was developed with the goal of helping students and faculty continue the process of learning, growth and development – both for their own personal benefit, as well as in their professional service as a guide, mentor or instructor to others. Ideally, this portion of the website will be a go-to resource for new and seasoned faculty and students who will be as willing to contribute a tool or tip as they will be to take a tool or a tip. Together, we can create a community of engaged scholar educators who find value in supporting each other and the field of white-collar and corporate crime.

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*Do you have content you'd like to make available on the DWCC website?  
Email Diana ([sund2@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:sund2@ucmail.uc.edu)) to submit productivity tips and tools  
material!*

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## Member News and Announcements

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### Students needed to serve on Student Committee!

Are you interested in getting more involved in our Division?

If so, we need your service! We have 3 open roles for Graduate Student Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

As a committee member, you will be responsible for:

- Contributing and developing Student Committee proposals for student-led events/projects
- Attending Student Committee meetings
- Managing the DWCC newsletter, website, and listserv

If this is something you may be interested in, please contact Diana at [sund2@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:sund2@ucmail.uc.edu) for more details.

**\*Note:** only members in good standing can serve. If you are interested in the position but have not paid dues yet, please update your ASC membership and include DWCC. Students who are appointed will serve in their role for 2 years.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to reach out to me or Megan Novak ([megnovak@indiana.edu](mailto:megnovak@indiana.edu)) at any time.

We would love to have you on board.

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## The Criminology Academy: Features with Wim Huisman and Sally Simpson

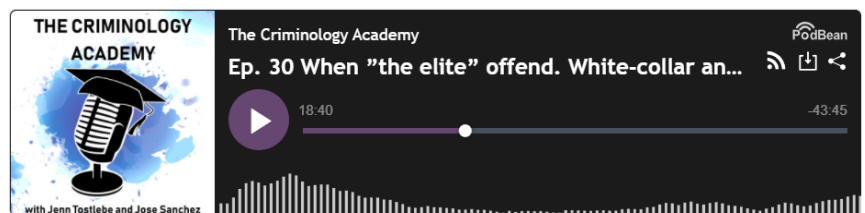
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### Do you listen to podcasts?

If so, consider tuning in to the latest The Criminology Academy episodes to hear from members Sally Simpson and Wim Huisman as they discuss their research and their careers.

**Episode 30:** White-Collar and Corporate Crime with Wim Huisman

**Episode 32:** Career Reflection of a Corporate Crime and Feminist Criminology Scholar with Sally Simpson





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## List of ASC DWCC Award Winners 2020 and

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**Please join us in congratulating all the award winners for 2020 and 2021!**

We will be honoring the award winners at the 2021 Division Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony, which will take place November 18th from 2:00—3:20pm.

American Society of Criminology



Division of White-Collar and  
Corporate Crime

### 2020

**Gregg Barak** - Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award

**Miranda Galvin** - Young Career Award

**Kate Tudor** (*Symbolic Survival and Harm: Serious Fraud and Consumer Capitalism's Perversion of the Causa Sui Project*) - Student Paper Award

**Stephen Farrall and Susanne Karstedt** (*Respectable Citizens – Shady Practices: The Economic Morality of the Middle Classes*) - Outstanding Book Award

**Maria Laura Böhm** (*Criminal Business Relationships Between Commodity Regions and Industrialized Countries: The Hard Road From Raw Material to New Technology*) - Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award

**Tracy Sohoni and Melissa Rorie** (*The Whiteness of White-Collar Crime in the United States: Examining the Role of Race in a Culture of Elite White-Collar Offending*) - Honorable Mention, Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award.

### 2021

**David Friedrichs** - Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award

**Kenneth Sebastian Leon** - Young Career Award

**Averi Fegadel** (*Toxic Colonialism and Green Victimization of Native Americans: An Examination of the Genocidal Impacts of Uranium Mining*) - Student Paper Award

**Marie Springer** (*The Politics of Ponzi Schemes: History, Theory, and Policy*) - Outstanding Book Award

**Maya Barak** (*Family Separation as State-Corporate Crime*) - Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award

**Mike Benson, Ben Feldmeyer, Shaun Gabbidon, and Hei Lam Chio** (*Race, Ethnicity, and Social Change: The Democratization of Middle-Class Crime*) - Honorable Mention, Outstanding Article or Book Chapter



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## DWCC 2021 Election Announcement

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Dear DWCC Members,

The DWCC Election Committee (this year, that consists of Melissa Rorie and Mike Benson) seeks nominees for **four** open DWCC Board positions to begin this January 2022 through November 2024.

These are two-year terms for the sole position of **Vice-Chair** and three **Executive Counselors**. Descriptions of the positions are provided at the end of this email.

If you are interested in running for either position – or would like to nominate someone (who has confirmed to you that they would accept the nomination) – please email me (Melissa Rorie; [Melissa.rorie@unlv.edu](mailto:Melissa.rorie@unlv.edu)) no later than **Tuesday, November 30th, 2021**.

In that email, please include your/the nominee's name and a short (150 word maximum) biographical statement.

**Elections will be held electronically throughout December 2021, so please keep an eye out for that email notification. Polls will close on December 31st, 2021.**

If you have any questions about either position, please don't hesitate to ask me. I will be at the ASC meetings, or you can reach me at the above email address.

On behalf of the DWCC, Mike and I thank you for considering serving in this capacity.

Sincerely,

Melissa Rorie  
DWCC Vice-Chair (2019 – 2021)

Mike Benson  
Former Chair



**Vice-Chair:**

The Vice-Chair will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chair and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division if the office of Chair is vacant or if the Chair is unable to serve.

The Vice-Chair will assist the Chair in matters of the Division.

The Vice-Chair will serve as the Chair of the Awards Committee, overseeing the process of receiving nominations for Division awards, choosing recipients of Division awards, ordering plaques for award winners, and presenting awards. The Vice-Chair will also serve as an advisor to the Awards Committee for one year after the Vice-Chair leaves office.

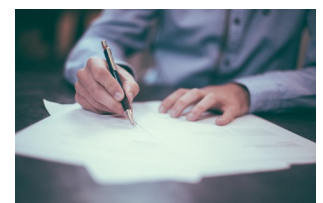
**Executive Counselors:**

Executive Counselors will assist the Chair with executive decisions for the Division, and each will chair at least one committee of the Division.



## Member Publications

- Barak, G. (2021). Debt Relief Reforms are not Enough to Alter the Relations of Inequality and Harm Reproduction: The Case of Educational Debt and the Need for Structural Reconstruction. *Critical Criminology*, 1-13.
- Burmon, Kate Melody. (2021). Using civil law approaches to hate crimes in the United States for illicit antiquities and fine art cases. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Davies, Jon. (2021). Criminogenic dynamics of the construction industry: A state-corporate crime perspective. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Eduardo Carvalho Nepomuceno Alencar, Bryant Jackson-Green. (2021). Applying synthetic control method to estimate the impact of the Lava Jato operation on the worldwide governance indicators in Brazil. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Fisher, B. W., Higgins, E. M., & Homer, E. M. (2021). School crime and punishment and the implementation of security cameras: Findings from a national longitudinal study. *Justice Quarterly*, 38(1), 22-46.
- Gottschalk, Petter. (2021). Investigation reports: Convenience themes and review maturity. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Gottschalk, Petter. (2021). *White-collar crime and fraud investigation: A convenience theory approach*. Routledge.
- Homer, E. M., & Higgins, G. E. (2021). Community Service Sentencing for Corporations. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 32(1), 49-65
- Levi, M. & Smith, R. (2021). Fraud and its relationship to pandemics and economic crises: From Spanish flu to COVID-19. Research Report no. 19. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rr/rr19>
- Lord, Nicholas, Éva Inzelt, Wim Huisman, and Rita Faria, editors. (2021). *European white-collar crime: Exploring the nature of European realities*. Bristol University Press. Includes chapters from Nicholas Lord, Éva Inzelt, Wim Huisman, and Rita Faria, Karin van Wingerde, Michael Levi, and Melissa Rorie, among others.
- Lynch, Michael J. & Michael A. Long. (2021). Green criminology: Capitalism, green crime and justice, and environmental destruction. *Annual Review of Criminology*, online only.
- Marmo, Marinella & Rhiannon Bandiera. (2021). Modern slavery as the new moral asset for the production and reproduction of state-corporate harm. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Oosterman, Naomi, Simon Mackenzie, Donna Yates. (2021). Regulating the wild west: Symbolic security bubbles and white collar crime in the art market. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Peixoto, Ângela, T. Gouveia, P. Sousa, R. Faria, P. R. Almeida. (2021). Dark personality traits and tolerance towards unethical behaviors on entrepreneurship: A comparison between entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurs. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.
- Reiman, J., & Leighton, P. (2020). *The rich get richer and the poor get prison: Thinking critically about class and criminal justice*. Routledge.
- Schmidt, Marshall R., Tucker S. McGrimmon, Lisa M. Dilks. (2021). Social roles and organizational culture: attributions of responsibility and punitiveness for financial crime. *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, online only.





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## Teaching White-Collar and Corporate Crime

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### A Favorite Classroom Activity

By Jay Kennedy, Michigan State University—School of Criminal Justice

One of my favorite classroom activities is having students dissect the ethical and legal spiderwebs woven throughout the film *Glengarry Glen Ross*. While this film was released nearly three decades ago (way back in 1992), it offers an engaging and very honest and realistic look into the multifaceted ways in which crime/deviance and business interact. Over the course of two class sessions we watch the film as a class – we do not engage in any discussion during class, we simply watch. After this, students are assigned to working groups and tasked with creating a presentation that reflects upon the themes they have identified with in the film relating to personal and organizational deviance, criminality, and business conduct. This film touches upon crime/deviance committed by and against a business, as well as the outcomes of organizational deviance and the ways in which individual pushes and pulls and organizational culture create motivations for crime/deviance. As a warning, there is a lot of strong language in this film and many of the overt and covert themes are far from politically correct – some are downright offensive. Yet, in my experience working in industry I have to say that this film accurately reflects many realities of an office where you “keep what you kill” (i.e., commission-based pay) and pushing the boundaries of what is legal or ethical is all a part of maximizing one’s efforts in pursuit of the goal. The pressure to perform or be fired is a central part of the film, yet what is more subtle but as important (if not more important) is the connection that is made between work as an activity and the worker’s perception of self-worth. The ways in which deviance that is sanctioned by the business creates a toxic climate from which the employees are unable to separate themselves has relevance in all times and is something of which academia should take note. Ultimately, the film describes how personal and professional pressures can make someone susceptible to deviance and criminality and how the functioning of an organization can create the ideal opportunity for that deviance/criminality. Having students wrestle with the ethical challenges that develop throughout the film can help them to appreciate the importance of organizational climates, employee welfare, effective management and leadership.



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*Do you have teaching recommendations, activities and resources you want to share? If so, please contact the Student Committee for more information.*

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## Using Film to Teach White-Collar Crime

By Bryan Burton, Sonoma State University—Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies

My love for using films as a teaching tool in white-collar crime and in other courses in criminology and criminal justice was no accident. I was greatly influenced by Professors Paul Jesilow, Henry Pontell, and Diego Vigil, who developed a course called *Classics in Crime Cinema* at the University of California, Irvine.

This course explores a multidimensional understanding of crime films and how they shape public thinking about crime and criminal behaviors. One goal of the course is to focus on crime cinema and its impacts on criminal justice policy. For example, *I am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang* (1932) starring Paul Muni is about a World War I veteran who faces inhumane prison conditions when he is wrongfully sentenced to hard labor. Some claim this was one of the few pictures made at the time that brought about social change, which help to end the chain gang system in the United States (but there has been a resurgence of chain gangs in some states, see [Booth 1995](#)). Other movies incorporated in this course spotlight other social impacts on criminal justice policy. Most of the films shown in this class are based on or inspired by true stories. I am currently developing an updated version of this course for use at Sonoma State University.

Their film course inspired me to use movies in my white-collar crime class to highlight major course concepts. This topic is often like a foreign language to many students, who frequently visualize white-collar crime as only financial offenses involving banks and wealthy individuals on Wall Street. Students regularly see such crimes as having no direct impact on them. The aim of my course is to dispel these commonly held misunderstandings.

In the first few weeks of my class, I provide a definition of white-collar crime. I define white-collar crime as originally envisioned by Edwin Sutherland. Sutherland in 1939 defined white-collar crime as, “approximately as a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his [and her] occupation.” I inform my students that white-collar crime has many definitions, but that I will not focus on them. One goal of my class is to focus on the crimes of the powerful, since most criminal justice courses commonly focus on the criminal behaviors of the poorest and weakest members in our society.

I then discuss the financial, physical, and social cost associated with white-collar crime. Each of these costs are highlighted with numerous examples. Students learn the financial costs of white-collar crimes are several times more than street-level offenses. I also discuss how white-collar crimes can be violent. That is, people are maimed and killed (e.g., unnecessary medical procedures and unsafe products). Lastly, I address the social cost of these offenses. Social costs cannot be numerically calculated, and they include such matters as a loss of respect for and trust in our social institutions.

To reinforce these course concepts, I show movies like *Dark Waters* (2019) starring Mark Ruffalo to illustrate the financial, physical, and social cost associated with white-collar offenses. This film is based on a true story and closely follows the 2018 documentary, *The Devil We Know* (see [Phelan, 2019](#) for comparisons between the documentary and movie). Mark Ruffalo in *Dark Waters* plays Robert Bilott, a real-life corporate defense lawyer. Bilott spent the first part of his career defending large chemical companies. His life course changed in 1998 when he was approached by Wilbur Tennant a resident from Parkersburg, West Virginia. Tennant knew of Bilott from his grandmother who was also from Parkersburg.

Tennant was unsuccessful in obtaining legal assistance for (correctly) believing his cattle were dying due to DuPont polluting the Ohio River, waterways, and air with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), also known as C8. PFOA is used in the process of making Teflon, which is a common manmade household chemical found in nonstick pans and hundreds of other products. DuPont produced Teflon at its facility outside Parkersburg. The company was also dumping thousands of tons of toxic sludge in a landfill close to Tennant’s farm. Bilott learns, upon visiting Tennant’s farm, that 190 of his cows died from an unusual medical condition. This sets off numerous civil settlements against DuPont (for more information about these settlements see [De La Garza, 2019](#); [Rich, 2016](#)).

*Dark Waters* clearly illustrates to my students the financial, physical, and social costs of white-collar crime. DuPont financially had to





settle more than 3,500 disease cases amounting to \$671 million. The company's illegal discarding of PFOA also caused serious physical harm. DuPont knew from internal scientific studies, dating back to the 1960s, that PFOA caused cancers and birth defects in both humans and animals. They failed to disclose this information to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to their workers, and the public. Many workers at the Parkersburg's DuPont facility died from numerous types of cancer and some gave birth to babies with serious deformities (for more information, see [Sisk, 2020](#)). The social costs of DuPont's offenses are difficult to measure. DuPont for decades provided the community with good paying middle-class jobs, sponsored local sporting events, and supported educational programs. At the same time, DuPont was poisoning the very residents that made the company successful. DuPont's credibility and trust from the community was undoubtedly tarnished. DuPont no longer operates a facility in Parkersburg.

I reference *Dark Waters* several times throughout my course to draw attention to other major concepts foundational to the study of white-collar crime. The film shows students that regulatory agencies often fail to prevent serious white-collar offenses from occurring (for a classic discussion on regulation, see [Pepinsky and Jesilow, 1984](#)). One major difficulty for regulators is that white-collar crimes are often hidden. That is, individuals often do not recognize their victimization (such as being poisoned by PFOAs) and subsequently do not report to regulatory personnel.

Another long-standing issue discussed in *Dark Waters* is the revolving door problem and regulatory capture. This is where pro-industry appointments to regulatory bodies sabotage prevailing regulatory policies to benefit corporate giants at the expense of public health (see [Benson et al., 2019](#) for a recent discussion). *Dark Waters* also discusses the limited budgets of regulatory agencies and how they generally seek non-criminal and non-combative resolutions to legal matters.

Students engage in both a class and a graded online discussion after viewing *Dark Waters*. Firstly, I ask students to tell me about their general opinions about the film. Students commonly express to me how upset and angry they are about the crimes of DuPont. They are often in disbelief that a company would knowingly poison their workers and the surrounding community for short-term profits. Secondly, I ask students to convey the most interesting and/or concerning fact that they learned. Students frequently respond by saying they never realized such crimes exist and the film was eye-opening for them. Lastly, I ask the class to relate the film to the concepts covered in the first few weeks of white-collar crime. Students are normally excellent at connecting the financial, physical, and social cost of DuPont's crimes.

The goal of this assignment is to inform and empower students. *Dark Waters* does not necessarily have a feel-good ending. Students learn DuPont in a rebranding effort simply replaced PFOA (or C8) with GenX in Teflon products. GenX has been shown to cause many of the same health problems as PFOA ([Rae et al., 2015](#)). My intent is not to have students feel hopeless about protecting themselves and their families from the reckless actions of corporate giants. Students are required to read a [7-day chemical detox challenge](#). This resource informs students about easy and inexpensive ways to someday improve the agencies charged with protecting us from white-collar offenses. ways of removing harmful chemicals from their homes. One idea is to buy products that are committed to ingredient transparency, such as Seventh Generation and Method. I suggest to students that they can use their purchasing power to force changes to how companies do business. Students then discuss what actions (if any) they may take from the detox challenge. The ultimate goal of the course is to help students recognize the dangers of white-collar crime. Of course, I hope I can inspire some of my students to someday improve the agencies charged with protecting us from white-collar offenses.

#### Recommended White-Collar Crime Movies and Documentaries

The movies and documentaries in this table are not an exhaustive list; rather, they serve as a starting point for materials to show in your white-collar crime course.

Movies		Documentaries
<a href="#">Trading Places</a>	<a href="#">Civil Action</a>	<a href="#">Inside Job</a>
<a href="#">The Big Short</a>	<a href="#">Arbitrage</a>	<a href="#">PBS: The Untouchables</a>
<a href="#">The Insider</a>	<a href="#">The Wolf of Wall Street</a>	<a href="#">Kids for Cash</a>
<a href="#">Dark Waters</a>	<a href="#">Michael Clayton</a>	<a href="#">The Devil We Know</a>
<a href="#">Erin Brockovich</a>	<a href="#">American Hustle</a>	<a href="#">Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</a>



# Edwin H. Sutherland's White Collar Crime Unexpurgated: A Rare Find

## Edwin H. Sutherland's White Collar Crime Unexpurgated: A Rare Find

By Ryan T. White

The author of this essay now finds himself in possession of a carbon-copy typescript for Sutherland's original version of his seminal contribution to the literature of the criminology of white-collar crime: his book entitled *White Collar Crime*. While the author is neither a criminologist nor a white-collar crime expert, he has for some years been reading books relating to business, economics and the world of finance. Among books he has read fairly recently, several specifically focused upon white collar crime and the prosecution of such crime: Eugene Soltes' (2016) *Why They Do It: Inside the Mind of the White-Collar Criminal*, Jesse Eisinger's (2017) *The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives*, and Jennifer Taub's (2020) *Big Dirty Money: The Shocking Injustice and Unseen Cost of White Collar Crime*. The authors of these books all inevitably discuss Edwin H. Sutherland. This inspired the author of the present essay to investigate further, online, what could be learned about Sutherland's *White Collar Crime* book.

As is well-known to white collar crime criminologists, Sutherland's *White Collar Crime* was first published in 1949 (by Dryden Press), with the names of the corporations identified by Sutherland in his book expurgated from his original manuscript. This form of censorship was demanded by the publisher out of fear of possible libel lawsuits filed by one or more of these corporations, if identified by name. It was not until 1983 – some thirty-four years after the book's original publication - that an unexpurgated version of the book was published by Yale University Press, with a new introduction by Gil Geis and Colin Goff.

On Abebooks.com the author of this essay found a number of listings for Sutherland's *White Collar Crime*, with one copy being an outlier in price. It was listed as "Unexpurgated" - or uncut - from 1962. How was that possible? The experts said that the book was censored until 1983, and yet here was a copy from 1962, uncut, 21 years before Yale published it in that form.

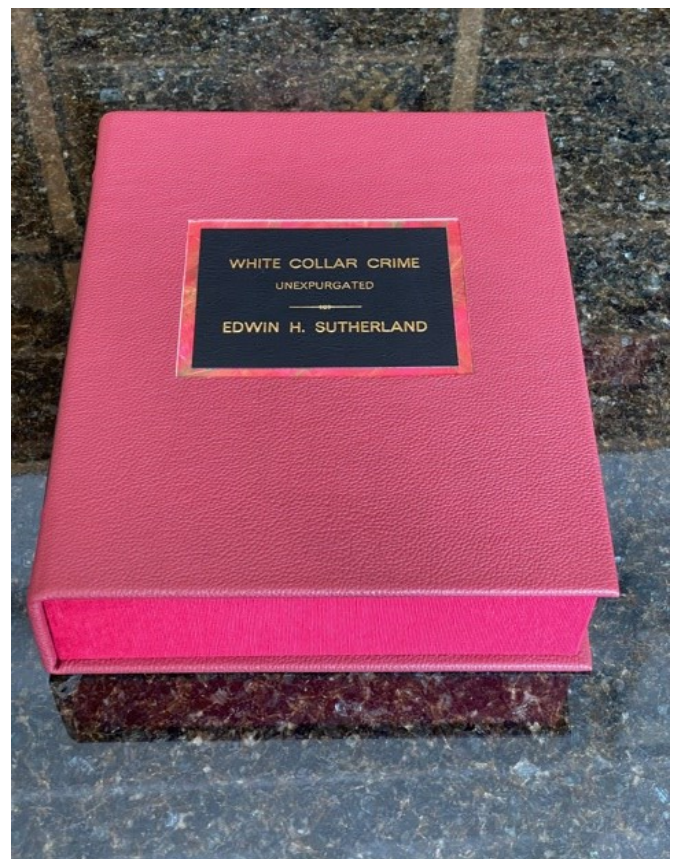
In 1960 the rare books and manuscripts collection opened at the Lilly Library at Indiana University. In 1962, Edwin Sutherland's widow, Myrtle, donated his *White Collar Crime* collection to the Lilly Library, including the ribbon-copy typescript of the unexpurgated version of *White Collar Crime*. The typescript included a message on the title page from Mrs. Sutherland stating that this copy should not be made available to the public.

The copy of Sutherland's book acquired by the present author is the carbon-copy of this typescript, bound the same way, with the same note from Myrtle Sutherland. The signature of Karl Schuessler – Sutherland's Indiana University colleague, and the editor of *Edwin H. Sutherland: On Analyzing Crime* (1973) appears on the inside of this copy.

In a letter to Myrtle Sutherland Schuessler, in 1961, suggested the language to be used with the cover letter of her donation of the original typescript of *White Collar Crime* to the Lilly Library, and Myrtle Sutherland followed this advice. The Schuessler letter was included with the book purchase.

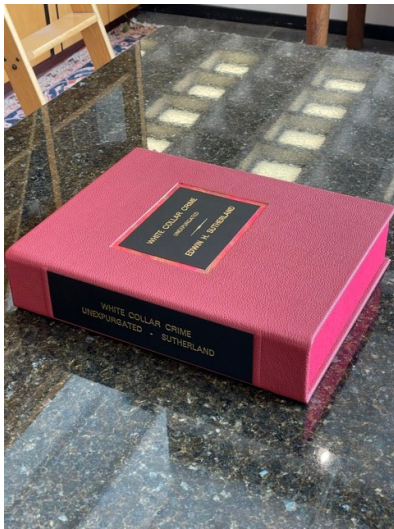
In 1979 Myrtle Sutherland died. By the early 1980s Professor Stanton Wheeler was over-seeing a major research program for the study of white-collar crime and the justice system response to it, at Yale University. While Yale wasn't able to share with this author any correspondence related to the Sutherland book, an employee of Yale University Press was able to confirm that in 1980 or 1981 the Press became aware of the uncut version of *White Collar Crime* and that the censored version of the book had gone out of print. At the time, Yale University Press senior editor Gladys Topkis was involved with finding out if the press should pursue publication of the uncut version of the book.

The second letter that came with the book acquired by this author is from Wheeler to Topkis. In that 1982 letter Wheeler recommended that Yale University Press publish an uncut version of *White Collar Crime*. A year later, in 1983, Yale University Press did in fact publish the uncut version.





## Sutherland Rare Find (continued)



The second letter that came with the book acquired by this author is from Wheeler to Topkis. In that 1982 letter Wheeler recommended that Yale University Press publish an uncut version of *White Collar Crime*. A year later, in 1983, Yale University Press did in fact publish the uncut version.

In 2007 Stanton Wheeler died and in 2018 his widow, Marcia Chambers, died. The seller of this carbon-copy typescript confirmed that he purchased the book from an estate sale of possessions of Marcia Chambers, in 2018 or

2019, and he listed it for sale on Abebooks.com in 2019.

Following acquisition of the typescript copy of *White Collar Crime* the present author attempted to track down some individuals who might be helpful in terms of learning more about it. David Friedrichs – author of *Trusted Criminals: White Collar Crime in Contemporary Society 4e* (2010) – was especially helpful in producing some information relevant to this project.

Here is what the present author has come to understand about the typescript copy of *White Collar Crime* now in his possession:

In 1949 *White Collar Crime* was published in a censored form. It was a compromise between Sutherland and the publisher, Dryden Press, but the spirit of Edwin Sutherland's work was in the uncut version. Sutherland unfortunately died a year later, in 1950. By 1962 an aging Myrtle Sutherland desired to keep Edwin Sutherland's legacy alive and donated his supporting documents and the ribbon copy of the typescript to the recently opened Lilly Library at Indiana University. This would seem, in part, to be supported in a 1961 footnote to the forward for *White Collar Crime* by Donald Cressey stating that the manuscript in the original uncut form was still held by Myrtle Sutherland. That year Myrtle Sutherland had sought advice from Sutherland's Indiana colleague Karl Schuessler about the typescript. Schuessler was given the carbon-copy of the typescript that had been donated to Lilly Library. This seems to be confirmed in Gil Geis's 2007 *White-Collar and Corporate Crime* where he mentions that prior to the 1983 publication of the uncut version the manuscript had been in the possession of Karl Schuessler.

Stanton Wheeler, while directing the Yale Studies white-collar crime research program, came into possession of this unexpurgated copy of the book from Schuessler, and the Yale University Press likely used this copy to produce the uncut version of the book. When the Press was done using the typescript, it was returned to Wheeler. It would remain in the possession of Wheeler (and subsequently his wife Marcia Chambers) until it was sold as part of an estate sale following her death.

To the best of this author's knowledge, the carbon-copy typescript he recently purchased is the only typescript copy of the original version of this iconic work, as written by Edwin Sutherland, outside of the ribbon-copy

original in the possession of the Lilly Library. Mindful of both the rarity and the historical significance of this typescript copy the author of this essay has taken steps to ensure its preservation, along with the letters that came with it.

In addition to the assistance received from David Friedrichs, the author appreciates further assistance from Erika Dowell of the Lilly Library. He is thankful as well to Steve Vanilio at BookArts for helping him take steps to protect and preserve this copy of *White Collar Crime*. Should any readers of this essay have further information relating to this rare artifact in the history of the criminology of white-collar crime they can let the author know at [ryan.t.white.pr@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.t.white.pr@gmail.com).

Ryan T. White is a public affairs specialist at the U. S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. He received a Bachelor of Science in government from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and a Master of Professional Studies in strategic public relations from George Washington University. He lives in Virginia with his wife and daughter.

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# American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

## November 17 - 20, 2021, Chicago, IL

### Palmer House Hilton

## Science and Evidenced-Based Policy in a Fractured Era

### List of DWCC Panels and Events of Interests

<b><u>Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime</u></b>					
<b><u>Panels</u></b>					
<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>	<b>Day of the Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Room</b>
Prosecuting Corporate Crime	8:00AM	8:20 AM	Wednesday	11/17/ 21	Salon 2, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
DWCC & EUROCC-Sponsored: White-Collar Offenders and their “Fall from Grace” Experience	9:30 AM	10:50 AM	Wednesday	11/17/ 21	Clark 7, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
New Directions in Fraud Research	12:30PM	1:50PM	Wednesday	11/17/ 21	Medinah Parlor, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Organized Crime and Animals	3:30PM	4:50PM	Wednesday	11/17/ 21	Salon 9, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
International Issues in Corporate Crime	8:00AM	9:20AM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Kimball Room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
White-Collar and Financial Crimes	9:30 AM	10:50 AM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Dearborn 1, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
<b><i>Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime Business and Awards Ceremony</i></b>	2:00PM	3:20PM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Monroe Room, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Organized Crime and the Mining Industry	2:00PM	3:20PM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Clark 1, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Modeling Green/Environmental Crime: Theoretical and Empirical Studies	2:00PM	3:20PM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Medina Parlor, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
<b><i>DWCC Social Hour</i></b>	4:00PM	6:00PM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	2Twenty2 Tavern
ASC Poster Session	6:30PM	8:00PM	Thursday	11/18/ 21	Grand/State Ballroom, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Corporate Crime in Times of Crisis	8:00AM	9:20AM	Friday	11/19/ 21	Burnham 2, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Crimes of the Powerful/State Crime Workshop	8:00AM	9:20AM	Friday	11/19/ 21	Water Tower Parlor, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Green/Environmental Crime Enforcement and Policies	8:00AM	9:20AM	Friday	11/19/ 21	Clark 1, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
State Crimes	11:00AM	12:20 PM	Friday	11/19/ 21	Burnham 2, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Fraud and Fraud Detection: Current Research and Landscape	2:00PM	3:20PM	Friday	11/19/ 21	Salon 12, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Meta-analyses of State/State-Corporate Crime Case Studies	9:30AM	10:50 AM	Saturday	11/20/ 21	Buckingham Room, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor



Come join the Division of White Collar  
and Corporate Crime



**When:** Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm  
**Where:** 2Twenty2 Tavern  
(2-minute walk from Palmer House Hilton)  
**Website:** <https://www.2twenty2tavern.com/>  
**Phone:** (312) 878 - 9994  
**Questions:** Melissa Rorie ([melissa.rorie@unlv.edu](mailto:melissa.rorie@unlv.edu))



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