



Fall 2020 Issue

# The White Collar Times

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

## Message from the Division Chair: Michael L. Benson

Let me begin by thanking all of you who voted in the recent election and especially Kenneth Sebastian Leon-Roosevelt, who organized and administered the ballots. The vote for chair ended in a tie between Nicky Piquero and Wim Huisman. After consulting with the Executive Board and Chris Eskridge, I asked them to serve as co-chairs for the next term and they agreed. Please join me in congratulating them and our new Secretary-Treasurer, Natalie Schell-Busey. I also suggested, and the Board agreed, that going forward the DWCC should consider permanently having Co-Chairs, one from the US and one international. There are a number of reasons why this makes sense. The idea of establishing joint working groups between DWCC and EUROCC to address issues of inclusivity in white-collar crime scholarship has already been under discussion. Having co-chairs would be an important step toward enhancing diversity in our field and would serve as an example for other Divisions as well. As we all know, the particular form of crime that we study often has international dimensions and consequences, so enhancing international cooperation makes a lot of sense. So, it would be good for the DWCC to strengthen its ties to scholars outside of the US. The main point would be to focus on enabling international authors, especially non-Western ones, to have increased access to resources as well as increasing their visibility, although we would, of course, continue to address inclusivity within our own national boundaries.



Under ordinary circumstances, this column would be devoted primarily to a discussion of Division events and activities associated with the ASC meetings, and I'm quite disappointed that I won't be able to do that one last time. It is always an eye-opening experience to see the number of panels dedicated to white-collar and corporate crime and to peruse the paper titles. But with just a little bit of luck, we should be back to normal by November 2021 in Chicago.

On a happier note, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the various Division awards this year. Arrangements have been made for them to receive their plaques soon, and they will also be officially acknowledged at the Division awards ceremony at the 2021 ASC meetings.

*Continued on the next page*

## ASC DWCC Organization

Chair: Michael L. Benson

*Incoming Co-Chairs: Nicky Piquero  
and Wim Huisman*

Vice Chair: Melissa Rorie

Secretary/Treasurer: David Maimon

*Incoming Secretary/Treasurer: Natalie  
Schell-Busey*

Executive Counselor: Mary Dodge

Executive Counselor: Adam Ghazi-  
Tehrani

Executive Counselor: Jay Kennedy

Past Chair: Kristy Holtfreter

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

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## Message from the Division Chair (continued)

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American Society of Criminology



Division of White-Collar and  
Corporate Crime

Special thanks to Melissa Rorie who chaired the awards committee and to all the members of the committee, including Steven Bittle, Averil Fegadel, Nicole Leeper Piquero, Cheryl L. Johnson, Lieselot Bisschop, Michael Maume, and

Kenneth Leon-Roosevelt. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The winners are listed below.

If you have not already done so, please be sure to renew your membership in ASC and in the DWCC. Right now, our membership count is way down. At the end of 2020, we had 86 members, but as of December 10, 2020, only 23 people have renewed for 2021. If you renew now, ASC will automatically credit your membership to 2021. Remember that one of the major benefits of joining the DWCC is that you get access to the *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*. I've made arrangements so that everyone who was a member in 2020 will receive access to the next issue of the digital version of the *JWCC*, which will be published in January. However, the issue after that will go only to those who have renewed their memberships for 2021.

In my message for the Spring issue, which was prepared right after the pandemic hit, I noted that we should expect COVID-19 related frauds to start popping up and that we should take advantage of the opportunity to study them. Melissa Rorie, Jay Kennedy and I have started a multi-faceted project on that and we hope to have results later this year. It would be great to hear if anyone else has taken up the challenge and what they have uncovered. As white-collar crime scholars, we should not miss the opportunity to participate in conversations both within and outside of our discipline about the effects of the pandemic on crime, especially since there is interest in this issue at the national level. For example, NIJ is planning to fund research in 2021 on the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of services to victims of crime. Perhaps a panel or several panels on COVID-19 and white-collar crime can be organized for the 2021 meetings.

Finally, I hope you all are safe and healthy and that you can remain that way, especially now that a vaccine appears to be coming soon.

I would also like to thank Emily Homer for her service on the Student Committee and for editing the newsletter. Emily is no longer a student and now has a job, so this will be her last issue. Please join me in thanking her.

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## ASC DWCC 2020 Award Recipients

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*A further discussion of these individuals and their achievements is on the next several pages.*

*Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award* – Gregg Barak

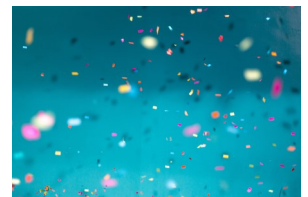
*Young Career Award* – Miranda A. Galvin

*Student Paper Award* – Kate Tudor for “Symbolic Survival and Harm: Serious Fraud and Consumer Capitalism’s Perversion of the *Causa Sui* Project”

*Outstanding Book Award* – Stephen Farrall & Susanne Karstedt for “Respectable Citizens-Shady Practices: The economic morality of the middle classes.” Oxford University Press.

*Outstanding Article Award* – Maria Laura Böhm for “Criminal Business Relationships Between Commodity Regions and Industrialized Countries: The Hard Road from Raw Material to New Technology” in *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, 2020, Vol. 1 (1): 34-49.

*Outstanding Article Award – Honorable Mention* – Tracy Sohoni and Melissa Rorie for “The Whiteness of White-Collar Crime in the United States: Examining the Role of Race in a Culture of Elite White-Collar Offending” in *Theoretical Criminology*, 2019, online only.



## Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award Winner – Gregg Barak

Gregg Barak received the Gil Geis Lifetime Achievement award. He was nominated by David Friedrichs. We asked David to introduce the award.

“Gregg Barak has established himself, principally over the past decade, as a leading figure in the criminology of white collar and corporate crime. He has done this by producing two outstanding books, *Theft of a Nation* (2012) and *Unchecked Corporate Power* (2017). Both books, addressing hugely complex – and consequential – forms of white collar and corporate crime, have been very well-received, and both were deservedly accorded the DWCC’s Outstanding Book/Publication awards. Barak has edited the *Routledge Handbook of Crimes of the Powerful* (2015), including his introduction. The concept of “crimes of the powerful” intersects in multiple different ways with the criminology of white-collar and corporate crime. And Barak has also played a key role in the establishment of the *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime*, and is the inaugural co-editor of this journal. The journal has gotten off to an outstanding start, and its establishment will be viewed further down the road as an important milestone in the history of the criminology of white collar and corporate crime.

In addition to the books identified in the preceding paragraph, Gregg Barak has produced many journal articles and book chapters during the past decade and earlier on various dimensions of corporate crime, state-corporate crime, Wall Street looting, securities fraud, the Dodd-Frank Act, and on state crime, among other especially significant forms of white collar and corporate crime. Some of his work has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese and Serb. A translated collection of articles of his is in the works. His essays, op-eds and reviews on white collar and corporate crime issues have been published in scholarly journals as well as in *The Crime Report*, *The Criminologist*, and *Crime Talk*.”

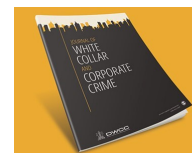
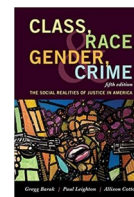
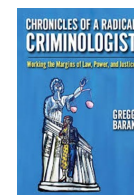
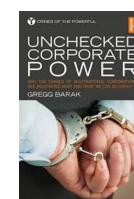
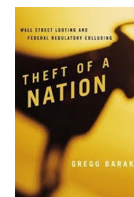
**We wanted to ask Gregg a few questions about himself and what the Gil Geis Award means to him.**

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

It was the Wall Street implosion and the Great Recession of 2008. Before the financial crisis, I had never conducted any research on either white collar or corporate crime, although my criminology and violence textbooks had included topical coverage of the crimes of the powerful. At the 2010 annual meetings of the ACJS I presented a paper differentiating the crimes of Wall Street from the crimes of Bernie Madoff. That paper would eventually evolve into chapter two of *Theft of a Nation: Wall Street Looting and Federal Regulatory Colluding* (2012). It is entitled “Bernie Madoff’s Ponzi Scheme and Wall Street’s Financial Melt-down: A Primer on Investment Fraud and Victimization”. When I delivered the conference paper I had no idea that I would soon be writing a book on financial looting, control fraud, and regulation. However, after some six months of consuming books written by economists, journalists, investment bankers, whistleblowers, and historians, I found myself swept up into the fascinating world of high-stakes financial crimes and regulation. And since very few criminologists were weighing in on this public controversy, I decided to provide what continues to be the one book-length treatment of these securities fraud violations written by a criminologist.

*Why do you continue to study white-collar crime?*

To grow this field because there are far too few criminologists examining these crimes. For example, something like three percent of the ASC membership studies white collar or corporate crime. Considering the disproportionate victimization caused by the crimes of the powerful compared to the victimization caused by the powerless, this omission by criminology represents a dereliction of duty. In short, from the days of Edwin Sutherland to the present era, there has been an overdue demand for the study of white collar and corporate crimes that remains unfulfilled. So locally and globally I continue to advocate for growing the community of white collar and corporate crime researchers.



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*What do you believe are your greatest accomplishments so far?*

In the area of white collar and corporate crime, I would point to my award-winning books, *Theft of a Nation* and *Unchecked Corporate Power: Why the Crimes of Multinational Corporations are Routinized Away and What We Can Do About It*. I am also very proud of having edited *The Routledge International Handbook of the Crimes of the Powerful*, which has garnered worldwide attention. Originally published in 2015 and now finally available in paperback. I would be remiss if I did not mention my co-authored *Class, Race, Gender, and Crime: The Social Reality of Justice in America* (2018), some 20 years in the making and now in its fifth edition. Since its inception the book has been in collaboration with Paul Leighton; with Jeanne Flavin during the first three editions and with Allison Cotton during the last two. One theme running through this book that distinguishes it from other criminal justice texts is that we have constructed an integrated narrative that describes, on the one hand, the changing nature of the treatment of crime control and justice administration that is forever being routinized by the state legal apparatus and, on the other hand, the differentially structured experiences of both powerless and powerful lawbreakers. Finally, the co-founding in 2019 and editing with Anne Alvesalo-Kuusi of the *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime* may prove to be the longest lasting legacy of my body of work.

*What do you hope to achieve with the rest of your career?*

After the ASC's Division on Critical Criminology in 2007 awarded me my first award of this kind, I knew that I had more work to fulfill and plenty of time in which to do it. Yet I had no idea that I was about to pick up another specialty, this time in the area of white collar and corporate crime. As the Gilbert Geis Lifetime Achievement Award recipient for 2020 and having accepted a "pandemic buyout" from Eastern Michigan University over the summer, I am not sure what the future holds. As a new emeritus professor, it is not clear to me how much longer I will continue, for example, serving as co-editor of the *JWCC* or as co-editor of the "Crimes of the Powerful" Series that I established with Routledge back in 2014. Should I re-emerge, post-pandemic, I will only do so as an academic manager or as policy wonk. More likely, the publication of my criminological memoir, *Chronicles of a Radical Criminologist: Working the Margins of Law, Power, and Justice* signifies the denouement of my career.

*Can you describe your relationship with Gil Geis? What memories do you have?*

Back in the 1970s Gil Geis had become a faculty member of the University of California, Irvine. At the time, he had an affinity for with several faculty members working at UC Berkeley. The Berkeley School of Criminology closed its doors to new student admissions in 1976 and ended all its activities in 1980. It was in the late 1970s that I became acquainted with Gil. He was doing research on the termination of criminology at Berkeley. Since I had been a student at Berkeley from the fall of 1967 to the winter of 1974, Gil interviewed me a couple times for an article that he would eventually write. Over the next three decades we kept in touch, mostly by way of professional meetings when our paths would cross. Our relationship started to change when I began writing *Theft of a Nation* in 2010. At the time, I knew very few white-collar criminologists. So, who better to approach than Gil for his vast knowledge and critical insights into the crimes of the powerful? Gil was receptive to the book's thesis and immediately agreed to read drafts of the chapters as they unfolded. I ended up sharing the working TOC, the introduction, and the first three chapters. Each time I emailed Gil something to read, he provided valuable feedback in a day or two. As his health was then declining, Gil passed the manuscript off to Henry Pontell, one of his trusted colleagues. Henry faithfully completed the task started by his close friend, for which I am also indebted.

*What does the Geis award mean in relation to other awards you have received?*

I would like to underscore that while academic awards that I have received are all meaningful and gratifying, these awards are often tied to ideological and political underpinnings. As a recipient of many of these awards over the years and as one who has been a member of several committees selecting these recipients, I am aware of the mitigating factors that go into these decisions. So in the scheme of things, receiving an award generically named makes the honor different, if not less special, from an award named for a particular person that a recipient can abstractly identify with. Of course, these social relations are further heightened when one actually knows the person as a human being. In the case of Gil, the honor is more meaningful yet because he was memorialized after his death by his colleagues at UCI as "one of the most prolific scholars in all of social science" who also collaborated with numerous academicians, as I have done over the course of my career.

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## Lifetime Achievement Award Winner – Gregg Barak (con't)

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Setting aside my three award-winning books, including *Gimme Shelter: A Social History of Homelessness in Contemporary America* (1991), I have received seven academic honors for outstanding research and scholarship. Three of these came from the ASC's Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice. As a founding member as well as a former chair of the division, recognition from one's fellow travellers is always appreciated. Becoming the 27<sup>th</sup> Fellow of the ACJS in 2003 was not expected and very validating to me; an honor that the ASC on two occasions has passed me over for. Two other awards that I received came from those universities where I spent most of my career, including the Ronald W. Collins Distinguished Award for Scholarly and Creative Activity. Collins was a chemist, a 20<sup>th</sup> century Renaissance person, and academic provost for 16 years at EMU. Ron was also one of my administrative mentors and an intellectual friend with whom in the 1990s I spent many hours chewing the fat. In 2001, Ron passed away. When I received the distinguished award in 2007 named on behalf of Ron, it was very emotional. Here's the bottom line for me: receiving the DCC Praxis Award in 2019 has been the most meaningful to me because the judgment "honors unique achievements in activism, commitment, persuasion, scholarship, service and teaching in areas that have made a significant impact on the quality of justice for underserved, underrepresented, and otherwise marginal populations."

*What do you hope to see in future white-collar and corporate crime research?*

In my view, the field is already rich, dynamic, and erudite as captured by the research published in such journals as *Crime, Law, and Social Change*; *Social Justice: A Journal of Crime, Conflict & World Order*; and *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*. Thus, I would like to see the study of white collar and corporate crime continue to develop as a broadly engaged scholarly enterprise, inclusive of the full range of theoretical and methodological frameworks. In the future, I hope that the *Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime* becomes the "go to" journal for the distribution of this type of criminology. In the meanwhile, I would like to see the editors of *Criminology & Public Policy* commit at least one of its four annual issues to an examination of public policy and the crimes of the powerful.

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## Young Career Award – Miranda A. Galvin

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Miranda A. Galvin received her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her dissertation explored patterns of prosecution and sentencing of white-collar crimes in federal courts and was given the Charles A. Caramello Award for Distinguished Dissertation in Social Sciences. She is currently studying gaps in regulation of and malfeasance by pharmaceutical companies as contributing factors in public health crises. She also studies issues related to the consequences of definitional ambiguity in white-collar research and public opinion of white-collar crime. In addition to her white-collar research agenda, Miranda also studies criminal justice processing more broadly, including the use of consecutive sentencing and promulgating evidence-based practices for substance-involved populations in the justice system. Miranda is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar in Sentencing at the Criminal Justice Research Center at Pennsylvania State University, where she works with the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing.

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## Student Paper Award – Kate Tudor

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Award-Winning Paper: Kate Tudor for "Symbolic survival and harm: Serious fraud and consumer capitalism's perversion of the *Causa Sui* Project." Published in *The British Journal of Criminology*, 2019, 59(5), 1237-1253.

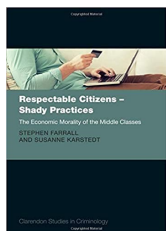
Kate Tudor is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology at Northumbria University in Newcastle in the UK. Kate's research interests lie broadly in the areas of criminal subjectivities, illicit entrepreneurialism and criminal markets, and she is currently carrying out some research on the theft and distribution networks of plant and agricultural machinery and vehicles. Her paper 'Symbolic Survival and Harm: Serious Fraud and Consumer Capitalism's Perversion of the *Causa Sui* Project' which has been awarded the DWCC's Student Paper Award, is based on data from her PhD research which focused on the subjective experiences of those involved in the perpetration of high yield investment (Ponzi) schemes. The findings of the research will also be published in a book titled 'Ponzi Schemes: Illicit Entrepreneurialism in Late Capitalism' in 2021 with Emerald Publishing. Kate is extremely grateful to the DWCC for this award and would like to thank the Awards Committee for this fantastic opportunity.



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## Outstanding Book: Stephen Farrall and Susanne Karstedt

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Stephen Farrall and Susanne Karstedt received this award for their book *Respectable Citizens – Shady Practices: The Economic Morality of the Middle Classes*.



Stephen Farrall is a sociologist who has always had an interest in crime and in particular offenders. His research has focused on the fear of crime, why people desist, politics and crime, and the motivations of petty 'white collar' offenders, the subject of his book with Susanne Karstedt. Stephen has held research positions at the universities of Oxford (where he also completed his DPhil in 2001), Keele, and Sheffield (where he was Deputy Head of School, 2015-2018) before taking up his current post as Research Professor in Criminology at the University of Derby. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. He first started working with Susanne when he took up the post of Research Fellow at Keele University in late-2000, and they have been collaborating on and off ever since. His most recent publication is in a recent edition of *Politics and Society* (48/3) devoted to essays on the relationship between politics and crime, and explores how political and economic structures shape individual-level offending careers.

Stephen wrote: "I was delighted to receive the DWCC's Outstanding Book Award with Susanne, which is definitely a career highlight for me, and am only sorry that we were not able to celebrate properly in Washington in 2020. I look forward to celebrating in 2021, and would like to extend my thanks to the DWCC's committee for awarding Susanne and I this award, which we're thrilled about."



Susanne Karstedt is a criminologist whose work and research is guided by an understanding of criminology as grounded in an empirical and evidence-based moral science. It is this perspective that triggered her interest both in middle class crime and 'white collar crime writ small' as well as in the most serious atrocity crimes committed by ordinary men as part of their roles. After working at the universities of Bielefeld and Hamburg in Germany, she moved to the UK, where she held a Chair in Criminology at Keele University and the University of Leeds before starting her current position in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, Australia, in 2015. Luckily, she met Stephen on her first day at Keele University in 2000, and they started working together. Her research combines large-scale cross-national and cross-cultural comparative research with explorations into individual moral decision making, like in this book on the 'crimes of everyday life'. A focus of her comparative research is the role of democratic values like individualism and egalitarianism in shaping violence in different nations, as well as imprisonment and prison conditions. With Stephen, she shares an interest in history and is presently working on the secular development of violent victimisation in Australia between 1850-1950 (with A. Kaladelfos and M. Finnane).

Susanne wrote: "It is wonderful to receive the DWCC's Outstanding Book Award, and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Stephen for making the book actually happen. It is sad that we cannot celebrate with our colleagues from the DWCC, but I look forward to celebrating in 2021 with them and the Award Committee and thank them personally."

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## Outstanding Article Award – Maria Laura Böhm

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"Criminal business relationships between commodity regions and industrialized countries: The hard road from raw material to new technology" *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, 2020, 1(1): 34-49.



**Abstract:** Extractive industries often cause serious environmental harm, and even social harm, to the local populations of the commodity regions, especially in the Global South. The increasing demand and extraction of raw materials needed for the production of new technologies in the Global North is a specific case of this, which emphasizes asymmetrical global economic conditions. This article describes these harmful commodity relationships and presents the meaning behind the increase in the demand for and production of raw materials. The case of lithium is offered as an example of this development. Further, in the article, it is suggested that the lack of regulation and control promotes a series of deviant and criminal practices which can be systematically organized for criminological analysis. The harm caused by this industry, by its part, is presented as well, as well as a first categorization of its impact on the local population even in terms of human rights violations. Instead of a conclusion, an invitation to the study of these renewed forms of exploitation and victimization is made to criminologists, and especially, to criminologists from the particular regions that benefit from the development of new, innovative "clean" technologies.

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## Outstanding Article Honorable Mention

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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." *Theoretical Criminology*, 2019, online only.

Abstract: While the role of race has been heavily scrutinized in terms of minority involvement in crime, it has remained largely invisible for Whites despite indications that Whites are overrepresented as offenders in elite white-collar crimes. We propose a theoretical model detailing how "whiteness" encourages cultural adaptations conducive to elite white-collar crime in contemporary US society. Many middle- and upper-class US Whites live in environments of relative social isolation, both geographically (in terms of schools and neighborhoods) and culturally (as mainstream media largely reflect the lived realities of middle- and upper-class Whites). When this social isolation is combined with financial advantage, it serves to block the development of empathy toward outgroups and increases feelings of individual entitlement, which leads to the formation of crime-specific cultural frames that include neutralizations and justifications for elite white-collar crime. We argue that whiteness plays a role that is independent from (but exacerbated by) socioeconomic status, and is an important contributor to the generative worlds from which many white-collar criminals emanate.



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## Featured Data Collection: Corporate Crime, Online, Source Book

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We are pleased to announce the creation of the Corporate Crime, Online, Source Book, 2000-2017 (CCOSB). CCOSB was a collaborative project under the direction of Michael J. Lynch at the University of South Florida, Department of Criminology. Working with Dr. Bryanna Fox's SPRUCE Lab, students volunteered to clean and organize the extensive data while graduate students created numerous tables and figures (more than 100) that represent all known federal crime convictions and punishments from over 50 federal agencies for the time period 2000-2016. The CCOSB presents aggregate data for this time period, by year and for the entire time period range. The data includes 324,670 cases over time. As examples, the data includes information on counts and graphs of: (1) primary offenses and secondary offenses, and by offense type; (2) case classification by origin (e.g., civil, criminal); (3) top ten offending companies and parent companies by year; and (4) penalty counts and penalty amounts and average penalty data.

These data may be freely accessed and shared. We simply ask that if you use the data, you cite the source using the suggested citation underneath each table/figure to acknowledge the volunteers who labored to create each table/figure. These individuals are graduate and undergraduate students who are, hopefully, just beginning their research career. CCOSB may be found at: <https://sprucecorporatocrime.weebly.com/>

We would also like to thank the following individuals for contributing to the background work for this project: Rikianne O'Byrne; Skylah Mello; Robert Perkins; Isabella Soldati; Sarah Alfalah; and Courtney Ramdhanie.

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## Member News and Announcements

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- Kenneth Sebastian León is a co-PI on a project funded by the Rutgers Center for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, where he and two RU colleagues are empirically documenting the relationship between COVID-19 and migrant detention and deportation within the state of New Jersey.
- Kenneth Sebastian León is also a primary collaborator in the "COVID-19 and (Im)Mobility in the Americas" project, which examines the transnational impacts of COVID-19 on measures and processes of racialized social control, migration, public safety, and human rights. More information about the project can be found at [www.inmovilidadamericas.org](http://www.inmovilidadamericas.org).
- Diana Sun received an Honorable Mention for the 2020 Larry J. Siegel Graduate Fellowship from the ASC Division on Women and Crime for her study titled "Understanding the Experiences of Female White-Collar Inmates."
- We would also like to welcome Nicky Piquero and Wim Huisman (Co-Chairs) and Natalie Schell-Busey (Secretary/Treasurer) to the DWCC Executive Board!

## Member Spotlight: Steve Bittle



*Steven Bittle is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa. His research and teaching focuses broadly on crimes of the powerful and corporate crime. He is currently conducting research on corporate*

*corruption in Canada and developing a project examining corporate and state liability for work-related suicide. He is the co-book review editor for the Journal of White Collar and Corporate Crime.*

We wanted to ask Steve some questions.

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

I remember being a student in an introduction to criminology course when I first became interested in studying corporate crimes. As first-year course, we naturally surveyed a variety of topics and issues. However, it wasn't until towards the end of the semester that we learned anything about corporate crime. I remember thinking it was odd that we had spent the entire semester talking about different types of crime and violence without ever mentioning corporate offending. And yet, there we were, reading a chapter in our course textbook about how corporate crimes cause exponentially more harm and devastation than any conventional crimes. I was particularly struck by the fact that corporations routinely kill with impunity. I also found it puzzling that the following week we simply went back to discussing mainstream crimes, as if the previous week's discussion on corporate crime had never happened. I've always been perplexed by mainstream criminology's failure to address corporate crimes. The lack of attention afforded the topic, and the struggle for justice for those victimized by corporate offending, is what drove me to this field of study.

*What is your favourite theoretical explanation of crime?*

I have many theoretical interests. I'm most influenced by critical and neo-Marxist perspectives. As an undergraduate student I took a seminar course in which we spent the entire semester reading *Capital, Volume 1* – an experience that changed my thinking about capitalism. Today, while I draw from various theoretical perspectives, including Foucault, Bourdieu, and critical and feminist socio-legal theories, it's neo-Marxism that most significantly shapes my thinking. I frequently rely on the work of Althusser, Bob Jessop, David Harvey, as well as various post-modern Marxists. I believe that to study corporate crime is to be

confronted by a system of capitalism which is at the source of so much pain and suffering. The social theories I've mentioned help me work through this problem, particularly as it relates to the role of states and corporations in the production of corporate harm and crime. They challenge me to keep in mind that it's not enough only to seek reforms to the corporation or corporate crime-related laws (although these efforts do matter when it comes to struggling against corporate harm), but that it's also about imagining ways to transform society.

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

This is a tough one. I admire so many corporate crime scholars. The one thing I'll say about researching corporate crime is that you get to meet a lot of super interesting and supportive people. I've been fortunate to have worked with great people who have also been fantastic mentors. Having said that, I put Laureen Snider tops on my list. She's such an excellent person and scholar. Caring, thoughtful in her work, supportive of students, gracious, open to different ideas, all the hallmarks of a great academic. I try to emulate Laureen in my own teaching and research, although I'd never claim to be anywhere close to as good at it as she is. Laureen was my PhD supervisor and I can say that, without a doubt, she helped me get to where I am today. We still work together, most recently for a project on corporate corruption in Canada. I think many of us conducting corporate crime research have had similar experiences. It's wonderful group of scholars to be associated with.

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

Sadly, despite all the excellent research that's been done, the nature and extent of corporate crime means there's still lots of work to be done. I think COVID-19 exposes a range of crimes of the powerful. Abusive and illegal working conditions are certainly front and centre during the pandemic. I've recently started developing a research agenda on work-related suicide, wanting to explore state and corporate liability for toxic workplaces that affect workers' mental health and, in some cases, the decision to complete suicide. I'm concerned about the ways in which the pandemic makes things worse for so many workers. Corporate corruption is another area that I think could become even more of a concern as a result of the pandemic – for instance, corporations fraudulently accepting government (and hence taxpayer) bailouts, shorting the markets during moments of pandemic-related instability, or stealing wages from workers to recoup lost revenues.

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## Member Spotlight: Steve Bittle (continued)

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*Given the pandemic, how have you seen COVID-19 affecting research, writing and teaching across the discipline? How have you handled your workload? Do you have any recommendations for maintaining balance during this unpredictable time?*

There's no doubt the pandemic has been extremely difficult for everyone. For me, personally, I made the decision in the early days of the pandemic to 'take my foot off the gas pedal', so to speak, and acknowledge that I wasn't going to be as productive as I'd like. Of course, this decision was partly made for me because we had our seven-year-old son at home full-time for the first 6 months of the pandemic (schools where I live were closed from March to September). It hasn't been easy – there's been lots of anxiety-filled moments at my lack of productivity. There's no doubt I'm more behind than usual on several fronts. Also, I'm fortunate enough to have a full-time, tenured position at my university, so I was able to make the decision to slow down knowing I was in a relatively comfortable position professionally. There's way too much precarity in academia these days, and the pandemic has certainly exposed this problem. I'm afraid many colleagues have not been able to avoid the grind of academia during the pandemic.

As for teaching, I've really missed face-to-face classes, even though I'm happy from a safety perspective that my university shifted the entire year to online. It's not the same trying to work through issues or theoretical questions over Zoom and being online makes it a lot more challenging to connect with students. For their part, the students have done an amazing job. I teach Introduction to Criminology, with over 200 students, and I'm amazed how they've adapted, although I don't think we should underestimate how difficult it's been for them. If anything, the pandemic has forced me to rethink my teaching expectations, to really reflect on what I want students to focus on, and why. And it's been tough for graduate students, too. They've also done an amazing job keeping their work moving forward during the pandemic. I've tried to meet regularly with them online, and all the graduate students I'm working with have been super supportive of each other. At the same time, they're all exhausted and feeling more than a bit isolated. We all need to do what we can to support each other during this extremely difficult time.

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*Do you tweet? Follow us on Twitter @ASCdwcc to keep updated on DWCC events, announcements, job postings, and more!*



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## Featured Book: *Corrupt Capital* by Kenneth Sebastian León

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*Corrupt Capital – Alcohol, Nightlife, and Crimes of the Powerful* (Routledge) was released September, 2020.  
Authored by Kenneth Sebastian León.

This book offers a deep dive into the social, political, and economic forces that make white-collar crime and corruption a staple feature of the nightlife economy. The author, a former bouncer-turned-bartender of party bars and nightclubs in a large U.S. city, draws from an auto-ethnographic case study to describe and explain the routine and embedded nature of corruption and deviance among the regulators and the regulated in the nightlife environment.



This text offers a contemporary and incisive theoretical framework on the criminogenic features and structural contradictions of capitalism. The author both describes and explains how the dominant political economy is rife with structural contradictions that, in turn, generate various manifestations of white-collar crime, organizational deviance, and public corruption. The author uses the bar and nightlife environment to empirically anchor these claims. Methodologically, the research is innovative in advancing inquiry into ethically and logistically challenging environments. The style of writing and framing of the text is one that punches upward and avoids the voyeuristic and reductionist tropes historically associated with "dangerous fieldwork."

Through a range of disciplinary perspectives, *Corrupt Capital* offers both scholarly rigor and inviting prose to advance our understanding of crimes of the relatively powerful and powerless alike. An accessible and compelling text, this book will appeal to readers in criminology, sociology, law and society, political science, and all those interested in learning about the relationship between power, law, and routinized corruption in the nightlife economy.

*Description from the publisher's website.*

Read more about this text [here](#).

## Member Publications

- Alalehto, Tage. (2020). The logic of agency or the logic of structure in the concept of white-collar crime: A review. *Crime, Law and Social Change* Editor's Special Symposium.
- Albanese, Jay S. (online only). Why organized crime seeks new criminal markets. In: Zabyelina Y., van Uhm D. (eds) *Illegal Mining*.
- Alvesalo-Kuusi, Anne and Gregg Barak. (online only). Confronting some of the difficulties of developing a "law and order" of white collar and corporate crime. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Atilas, Jose (2020). Book review: The financial curse: How global finance is making us all poorer. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 154-155.
- Barak, Maya, Kenneth Sebastian León, and Edward Maguire. (2020). Conceptual and empirical obstacles in defining MS-13: Law-enforcement perspectives. *Criminology & Public Policy* 19(2): 563-589.
- Benson, Michael L. (2020). Theoretical and empirical advances in the study and control of white-collar offenders. *Journal of Justice Evaluation*.
- Benson, Michael L., Ben Feldmeyer, Shaun Gabbidon, and Hei Lam Chio. (2020). Race, ethnicity, and social change: The democratization of middle-class crime. *Criminology*.
- Bittle, Steven. (2020). In the land of corporate impunity: Corporate killing law in the United States. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 131-139.
- Böhm, Maria Laura (2020). Criminal business relationships between commodity regions and industrialized countries: The hard road from raw material to new technology. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(1): 34-49. \*recipient of the DWCC Outstanding Article Award.
- Braithwaite, John. (2020). Sexual assault, corporate crime and restorative practices. *IIRP Presidential Paper Series number 2*.
- Carlson, Susan M. (2020). The U.S. student loan debt crisis: State crime or state-produced harm? *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 140-152.
- Castle, Taimi. (2020). Book review: The fifth risk. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 153-154.
- Copenhaver, Allen, and O. Hayden Griffin III. (2020). White-collar criminality within the video game industry. *Games and Culture*.
- de Nardin Budó, Marília de Nardin. (online only). Corporate crime and the use of science in the case of asbestos: Producing harm through discursive shields. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Dodge, Mary and Megan Parker (2020). In the current environment, can we afford to marginalize white-collar crime? *Crime, Law and Social Change* Editor's Special Symposium.
- Eren, Colleen P. (online only). Cops, firefighters, and scapegoats: Anti-money laundering (AML) professionals in an era of regulatory bulimia. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Eren, Colleen. (2020). Club fed? White-collar incarceration in the American imagination. In *The Palgrave Handbook of Incarceration in Popular Culture*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Farrall, Stephen and Susanne Karstedt: *Respectable Citizens – Shady Practices: The Economic Morality of the Middle Classes*. \*recipient of the DWCC Outstanding Book Award.
- Friedrichs, David O. and Dawn L. Rothe. (2020). Regulatory rollback and white-collar crime in the era of Trump: The challenges of perspective. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 95-102.
- Gorsira, Madelijne, Wim Huisman, Adriaan Denkers and Linda Steg. (online only). Why Dutch official stake bribes: A toxic mix of factors. *Law and Social Change*.
- Gottschalk, Petter. (online only). Filling the gap in white-collar crime detection between government and governance: The role of investigative journalists and fraud examiners. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Greife, Matthew J. and Michael O. Maume. (2020). Stealing like artists: Using court records to conduct quantitative research on corporate environmental crimes. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 36(3), 451-469.
- Griffin, III, O. Hayden. (online only). Promises, deceit and white-collar criminality within the Theranos scandal. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Guertin-Martín, Favian Alejandro. (online only). Book review: Banned: Immigration enforcement in the time of Trump. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Hebert, Jasmine. (online only). Book review: Dead labor: Toward a political economy of premature death. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Heydon, James. (online only). Book review: Ecocide: Kill the corporation before it kills us. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Homer, Emily M. and Higgins, George E. (online only). Mapping geographic patterns in federal corporate agreements. *Journal of Financial Crime*.
- Jaspers, J.D. (online only). Strong by concealment? How secrecy, trust and social embeddedness facilitate corporate crime. *Crime, Law and Social Change* Editor's Special Symposium.

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## Member Publications (continued)

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- Kramer, Ronald C. (2020). Rolling back climate regulation: Trump's assault on the planet. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 123-130.
- Lemaître, Sophie (2020). Illicit financial flows within the extractive industries sector: A glance at how legal requirements can be manipulated and diverted. *Crime, Law and Social Change Editor's Special Symposium*.
- Levi, Michael. (2020). Making sense of professional enablers' involvement in laundering organized crime proceeds and of their regulation. *Trends in Organized Crime*.
- Lord, Nicholas, Yongyu Zeng, and Aleksandra Jordanoska. White-collar crimes beyond the nation-state. *Criminology and Criminal Justice Oxford Research Encyclopedia*.
- McClanahan, Bill. (online only). Book review: Carbon criminals, climate crimes. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- McGrath, Joe. (2020). Regulating white-collar crime in Ireland: An analysis using the lens of governmentality. *Crime, Law and Social Change Editor's Special Symposium*.
- Michalowski, Raymond. (2020). The necropolitics of regulation. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 83-85.
- Michalowski, Raymond and Meredith Brown. (2020). Poisoning for profit: Regulatory rollbacks, public health, and state-facilitated corporate crime. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 113-122.
- Mulinari, Shai, Courtney Davis, Piotr Ozieranski. (online only). failure of responsive regulation? pharmaceutical marketing, corporate impression management and off-label promotion of enzalutamide in Europe. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Nash, Rebecca, Martin Bouchard, and Aili Malm (2020). Twisting trust: Social networks, due diligence, and loss of capital in a Ponzi scheme. *Crime, Law and Social Change Editor's Special Symposium*.
- Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. (2020, 12th edition). The rich get richer and the poor get prison: Thinking critically about class and criminal justice. Routledge.
- Rorie, Melissa. Matthew West. (online only). Can "focused deterrence" produce more effective ethics codes?: An experimental study. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Shichor, David and John W. Heeren. (online only). Reflecting on corporate crime and control: The Wells Fargo banking saga. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*.
- Snider, Lauren. (2020). Beyond Trump: Neoliberal capitalism and the abolition of corporate crime. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 86-94.
- Sohoni, Tracy and Melissa Rorie. (2019). The whiteness of white-collar crime in the United States: Examining the role of race in a culture of elite white-collar offending. *Theoretical Criminology* 2019, 1-22. \*recipient of the DWCC Outstanding Article Award Honorable Mention.
- Wilson, Jeremy M., and Grammich, Clifford (Online first). Protecting brands from counterfeiting risks: Tactics of a total business solution. *Journal of Risk research*.
- Wonders, Nancy A. and Mona J. E. Danner. (2020). Regulatory rollbacks and deepening social inequalities. *Journal of White-Collar and Corporate Crime*, Vol. 1(2): 103-112.



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## Student Help Wanted!

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The DWCC is looking for students to join our Student Committee! Students should be enrolled in either a doctorate or master's program and be active members of ASC and the DWCC. Students members assist with DWCC events and meetings, participate in our Division Mentorship program, and contribute to the building of this newsletter.

If you are interested or know someone who is, please reach out to Diana Sun, Chair of the Student Subcommittee, at [SunD2@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:SunD2@ucmail.uc.edu).



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## Calendar of Events

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Due to current conditions internationally, the DWCC recommends members investigate all potential events for cancellations or postponements.

The 2021 American Society of Criminology annual conference will be held in Chicago, IL, November 17-20, 2021 (COVID willing).

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*Renew your ASC membership now!*  
Remember to include the DWCC section membership!

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