

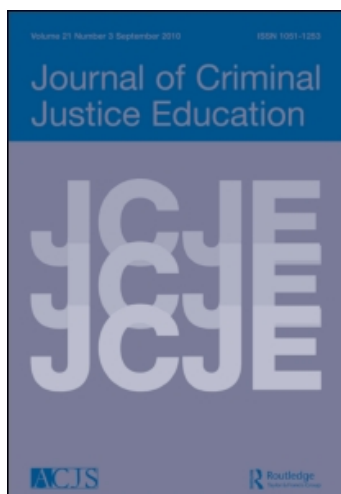
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Exploring the Scholarly Output of Academic Organization Leadership in Criminology and Criminal Justice: A Research Note on Publication Productivity

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A number of studies analyzing publication productivity of criminology and criminal justice scholars have emerged in recent years. More specifically, this body of literature applies varied cross-sectional and longitudinal methodological approaches to demonstrate the publication productivity of scholars. Furthermore, these studies often diverge in their operationalization of the key construct of interest (publication productivity); however, one relative consistency is the list of "elite" criminology and criminal justice journals. This study seeks to explore the elite publication productivity among recent executive board members of the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences along with the board members of Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences' regional affiliate associations. Comparisons are made between and within organizations/associations, and individual board member rankings are also presented. The results of this study indicate that publishing in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals is rare and there is variation across organizations/associations and variation among their respective members in the rate of publishing in these elite journals. Suggestions for future research examining publication productivity are also discussed.

Introduction

Prior studies examining scholarly publication productivity among criminology and criminal justice scholars have primarily focused on identifying "stars" of the discipline or ranking the publication productivity of certain departments/programs that offer degrees in criminology, criminal justice and related disciplines (e.g. Cohn & Farrington 1998; Cohn, Farrington, & Sorensen 2000; Kleck, Wang, & Tark 2007; Rice, Cohn, & Farrington, 2005; Sorensen & Pilgrim, 2002; Sorensen, Patterson, & Widmayer 1992; Steiner & Schwartz 2006, 2007). These

studies have historically been useful in a variety of ways such as giving individuals and/or departments "bragging rights," being helpful for recruitment of new undergraduate and graduate students, securing financial support from the college and/or university in which the scholar or department is housed (Frost, Philips, & Clear 2007), and these studies may also play a role in hiring, tenure and promotion decisions. In addition, a new movement in this line of research has also sought to examine the publication productivity trajectories for criminal justice and criminology scholars throughout the various phases of their academic careers (see Jennings, Gibson, Ward, & Beaver, 2008; Rice et al., 2005; Rice, Terry, Miller, & Ackerman 2007; Frost et al., 2007).

Consider the following scenarios. First, assume that one individual in a particular department feels that they deserve more "merit" money than another based on their scholarly productivity in the previous year. Second, imagine a situation where a potential graduate student is searching to find the best program that will offer them the most financial support and the opportunities to work with leading criminology and criminal justice scholars in the discipline. Third, consider a circumstance where a university is faced with enormous budget cuts and is pressured to make a quick and effective decision on which programs are "worth" saving and which programs can be easily dissolved with little long-term effect on the stability of the university. Finally, picture an assistant professor who is going up for tenure review and, while their file is solid, he/she still wishes to add the "icing on top of the cake" by including peer-reviewed empirical sources of data that demonstrates how he/she pans out in comparison to others in their discipline. Taken together, it is certainly not hard to believe the impact that publication productivity studies such as those that have been done previously can have in situations such as these.

While it may be apparent that these types of studies have particular relevance in the hypothetical situations described above, it is also reasonable to assume that they would have a bearing on how members in criminology and criminal justice associations such as the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) vote to determine who they support for the top organizational positions, i.e. the executive board members. Similarly, it logically makes sense that the individuals that hold these important and influential positions reflect the quantity and quality of publication productivity that is considered the "bread and butter" of academia. The success of these individuals often provides a benchmark that other new criminology and criminal justice scholars that are still "wet behind the ears" can aspire to. Acknowledging the possible impact that faculty publication productivity studies can have in various arenas (recruitment, financial assistance, hiring, tenure, promotion, etc.) and the assumption that the executive board members of the esteemed associations of the discipline (i.e. ASC and ACJS) should be publishing in "elite" criminology and criminal justice journals, this research note provides an exploratory investigation into the elite publication productivity of the recent executive board members of ASC and ACJS along with an additional comparison across the executive board members of ACJS's regional associations.

The American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

ASC and ACJS are international organizations dedicated to the disciplines of criminal justice and criminology. Both of these organizations open their membership to students, practitioners and those in academia in criminal justice, criminology and related fields. Although these organizations share some similarities in membership and benefits (e.g. receiving journals), differences exist. More specifically, ASC focuses on criminology through the "measurement and detection of crime, a review of legislation and the practice of law, as well as an examination of the law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems". ASC also recognizes the importance of sharing criminological knowledge among those engaged in research, teaching, and practice (<http://asc41.com/>). Comparatively, ACJS emphasizes the importance of issues in criminal justice such as those concerning crime and criminal and social justice. These issues are addressed by the association members through the practices of education, research and policy analysis (<http://acjs.org/>).

Within the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences there are five regional affiliates. These affiliates, or associations, include the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA), the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ), the Northeast Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NEACJS), the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) and the Western Pacific Association of Criminal Justice (WPACJ). Memberships in these regional associations are open to practitioners, educators and students in criminal justice and related disciplines and each of these regional offices also disseminates its' journal to the respective members. Although the two main professional associations (ASC and ACJS) and ACJS's regional affiliates differ in their particular organizational structure, the commonalities in their executive board member positions include a president, a former president and a vice president. These positions are also represented in each of ACJS's regional associations. In addition, the executive board members of ACJS and its regional associations include a second vice president. Executive counselors and directors also exist, but because these same positions are not found among the ACJS regional affiliates, these positions are not included in the analysis.

Current Study

Recognizing the different organizational structure and mission of ASC and ACJS, an empirical question remains. Are all of the elected executive board members of these associations (and ACJS's regional affiliates) publishing in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals? While there has been a series of studies examining the publication productivity of criminology and criminal justice scholars, most of these studies incorporate a variety of ways to operationalize publication productivity. The issue is that the chosen journal selection criterion

is the key determinant of who ranks where. If the list is based on the most comprehensive list of scholarly publications (book chapters, government reports, books, textbooks, internally reviewed and externally reviewed journal articles, law reviews, etc.) then it is likely that the rate of publications will be large and certain scholars may disproportionately be involved in pursuing non-peer-reviewed outlets for their work (i.e. books, book chapters, etc.). Similarly, any less comprehensive list of 100, 50 or 25 journal outlets runs the risk of missing a large range of publication outlets that criminology and criminal justice scholars seek to publish in. While the decision is rather arbitrary when deciding where to draw the line on what publications count, there appears to be a rather large consensus on which journals are considered "elite" within the discipline. Thus, acknowledging the "science" of determining what publications count and matter and what publications do not, this study aims to rank the recent executive board members of ASC and ACJS (and regional affiliates) solely on the most restrictive (and consistent) criteria for determining publication productivity, i.e. the elite criminology and criminal justice journals.

Methods

Data

The sample used in the current study was obtained by visiting the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences websites (along with the websites of ACJS's regional associations) and identifying the recent executive board members of their respective associations. After having identified the executive board members, an effort was made to retrieve and download all of the CVs of these individuals. However, as is to be expected, not all of the CVs were electronically available via the web. Therefore, we also made an additional effort to personally contact via email the individuals who did not have their CV posted online and request a copy. Thus, these search criteria yielded 26 executive board members and 17 (65.4%) of the CVs were obtained either by downloading from a web site or by personal email submission.

Our total sample (including those with missing CVs) was predominantly male (80.8%) and associate professors (46.2%), followed by full professors (34.6%), assistant professors (15.4%), and one individual's title was an instructor. Nearly half of the sample had a Ph.D. in sociology or a Ph.D. in criminology/criminal justice. A handful of individuals had their degree in political science and others had their Ph.D.s in either public administration, studies in higher education or urban and public affairs. In addition, one individual had an LL.B. (law degree) and another scholar's terminal degree was a Master's in education. The year in which these individuals received their terminal degrees spanned nearly four decades with the earliest reported terminal degree being received in 1970 and the most recent terminal degree being bestowed in 2005. On average, these individuals received their terminal degree in 1993 (median = 1997).

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the recent executive board members of ASC and ACJS compared across their respective positions within their organization, i.e. president, first (and second) vice president and former/immediate past president. As can be seen, all of the individuals that hold executive board member positions in either ASC or ACJS are full professors and the majority of the board members are male. There are also a range of current institutional affiliations for the executive board members of ASC and ACJS as well as the universities from which they received their terminal degrees. Only one CV was unobtainable/missing for the ASC and ACJS executive board members.

Table 2 provides the descriptive statistics of the recent executive board members for ACJS's regional affiliate associations. As can be seen, the majority of the ACJS's regional affiliate board members are associate professors, followed by assistants, and only two board members are full professors. Once again, the majority of the board members are male; however, there is more representation of females among ACJS's regional affiliate associations than among ASC and ACJS's executive board members. Similar to what was observed among ASC and ACJS board members, there is a range of current institutional affiliations along with a range of universities from which they received their terminal degrees. Unfortunately, there were several unobtainable/missing CVs from these board members (eight of 19 were missing), and the majority of the unobtainable/missing CVs were from the first vice presidents.

Measuring Elite Publication Productivity

As mentioned previously, a series of publication productivity studies in the discipline of criminology/criminal justice have operationalized publication productivity in a number of ways and all ways are subject to criticisms and limitations. Nevertheless, these studies have been fairly consistent in how they measure elite publication productivity. Thus, we include seven journals when operationalizing our measure of elite publication productivity and these journals include: *Crime and Delinquency*, *Criminology*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* and *Justice Quarterly*. The elite publication productivity measure as presented in the analysis that follows has been standardized by number of years since the receipt of their terminal degree.

Results

The results of the standardized mean elite publication productivity is presented in Table 3. Not surprisingly, publishing in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals is a rare event. However, the executive board members of ASC had nearly three times the elite publication productivity compared with the

Table 1 Recent board members of ASC and ACJS

Board members	Association	Academic rank	Gender	Institutional affiliation	Highest degree earned (year)	Degree granting institution
President						
Michael Tonry	ASC	Full	Male	University of Minnesota	LL.B. (1970)	Yale University
Ronald Hunter	ACJS	Full	Male	Western Carolina University	Ph. D. in Criminology (1988)	Florida State University
First Vice President						
Steven Messner	ASC	Full	Male	SUNY	Ph.D. in Sociology (1978)	Princeton University
Wesley Johnson	ACJS	Full	Male	University of Southern Mississippi	Ph.D. in Criminology (1992)	Florida State University
Second Vice President						
—						
Janice Joseph ¹	ACJS	Full	Female	Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	Ph.D.	York University
Former President						
Gary LaFree	ASC	Full	Male	University of Maryland	Ph.D. in Sociology (1979)	Indiana University
Jeffery Walker	ACJS	Full	Male	University of Arkansas at Little Rock	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice (1992)	Sam Houston State University

¹Denotes missing curriculum vitae (i. e. missing data).

Table 2 Recent board members of ACJS's regional associations

Board members	Association	Academic rank	Gender	Institutional affiliation	Highest degree earned (year)	Degree granting institution
President						
Alexis Miller	SCJA	Associate	Female	Middle Tennessee State University	Ph.D. in Urban and Public Affairs (1999)	University of Louisville
Willard Oliver	SWCJA	Associate	Male	Sam Houston State University	Ph.D. in Political Science (2000)	West Virginia University
Yolanda Scott	NECJAS	Associate	Female	Roger Williams University	Ph.D. in Sociology (1999)	University of Kentucky
William Wells	MCJA	Associate	Male	Sam Houston State	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice (1999)	University of Nebraska at Omaha
Wayne Williams ¹	WPACJE	Instructor	Male	Southern Utah University	M.Ed. in Education (1998)	Southern Utah University
First Vice President						
J. Mitchell Miller	SCJA	Full	Male	University of Texas at San Antonio	Ph.D. in Sociology (1996)	University of Tennessee
Phil Rhoades ¹	SWCJA	Full	Male	Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi	Ph.D.	SUNY
James Ruiz ¹	NECJAS	Associate	Male	Pennsylvania State—Harrisburg	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice	Sam Houston State University
Daniel Dahlgren ¹	MCJA	Assistant	Male	Kent State University	Ph.D. (2001)	Kent State University
Cary Heck ¹	WPACJE	Associate	Male	University of Wyoming	Ph.D. in Political Science (1998)	Washington State University
Second Vice President						
Elizabeth Mustaine	SCJA	Associate	Female	University of Central Florida	Ph.D. in Sociology (1994)	The Ohio State University
Tracy Andrus ¹	SWCJA	Assistant	Male	Wiley College	Ph.D.	
Larry Rosenberg ¹	NECJAS	Assistant	Male	Millersville University	Ph.D.	University of New Hampshire

Table 2 (Continued)

Board members	Association	Academic rank	Gender	Institutional affiliation	Highest degree earned (year)	Degree granting institution
Justin Patchin	MCJA	Assistant	Male	University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice (2004)	Michigan State University
—	WPACJE					
Former President						
Brandon Applegate	SCJA	Associate	Male	University of Central Florida	Ph.D. in Criminal Justice (1997)	University of Cincinnati
Ronald Burns	SWCJA	Associate	Male	Texas Christian University	Ph.D. in Criminology (1997)	Florida State University
Penny Shtull ¹	NECJAS	Associate	Female	Norwich University	Ph.D.	
Charles Corley	MCJA	Associate	Male	Michigan State University	Ph.D. (1984)	Bowling Green State University
David Mueller	WPACJE	Associate	Male	Boise State University	Ph.D. in Political Science (2001)	Washington State University

¹Denotes missing curriculum vitae (i.e. missing data).

Table 3 Elite publication productivity of recent board members of ASC, ACJS and ACJS's regional associations

Association	N	Total elite seven publications (standardized)
ASC	3	0.61
ACJS	3	0.23
ACJS regional associations		
SCJA	4	0.57
MCJA	3	0.35
SWCJA	2	0.14
WPACJE	1	0.14
NECJAS	1	n/a

ACJS executive board members. Once attention is turned toward the ACJS regional affiliate associations, the evidence suggests that these executive board members are largely on pace with their parent organization (i.e. ACJS), and the recent executive board members of SCJA publish in the elite journals almost as much as the ASC recent executive board members. In addition, MCJA board members publish in the elite journals more frequently than the ACJS board members.

Table 4 presents the individual elite publication productivity by the recent ASC and ACJS executive board members by position. There are a few interesting comparisons here. First, Steven Messner has the highest elite publication productivity of any of the ASC or ACJS executive board members and more than twice the rate of the second and third ranked board members, Gary LaFree and

Table 4 Elite publication productivity of recent board members of ASC and ACJS

Board members	Association	Total elite seven publications (standardized)
President		
Michael Tonry	ASC	0.16
Ronald Hunter	ACJS	n/a
First Vice President		
Steven Messner	ASC	1.23
Wesley Johnson	ACJS	0.25
Second Vice President		
—		
Janice Joseph ¹	ACJS	—
Former President		
Gary LaFree	ASC	0.45
Jeffery Walker	ACJS	0.44

¹Denotes missing curriculum vitae (i.e. missing data).

Jeffery Walker, respectively. Second, the ASC executive board members publish in elite journals at a higher rate compared with the ACJS executive board members across all comparable board positions (e.g. president, first vice president, former president). Finally, the gap in the elite publication productivity is the least pronounced (roughly equivalent) when comparing the former ASC and ACJS presidents.

Table 5 presents the elite publication productivity of the individual board members of ACJS's regional affiliate associations by position. Among the recent presidents of ACJS's affiliate associations, elite publication productivity is noticeably rare (with the exception of William Wells). J. Mitchell Miller has a fairly high rate of elite publication productivity; unfortunately none of the first vice presidents for the regional affiliate associations provided their CV in order to make a comparison. Justin Patchin published in the elite journals at the highest rate among the second vice presidents, and Brandon Applegate

Table 5 Elite publication productivity of recent board members of the ACJS regional associations

Board members	Association	Total elite seven publications (standardized)
President		
Alexis Miller	SCJA	n/a
Willard Oliver	SWCJA	n/a
Yolanda Scott	NECJAS	n/a
William Wells	MCJA	0.44
Wayne Williams ¹	WPACJE	—
First Vice President		
J. Mitchell Miller	SCJA	0.83
Phil Rhoades ¹	SWCJA	—
James Ruiz ¹	NECJAS	—
Daniel Dahlgren ¹	MCJA	—
Cary Heck ¹	WPACJE	—
Second Vice President		
Elizabeth Mustaine	SCJA	0.07
Tracy Andrus ¹	SWCJA	—
Larry Rosenberg ¹	NECJAS	—
Justin Patchin	MCJA	0.50
—	WPACJE	—
Former President		
Brandon Applegate	SCJA	1.36
Ronald Burns	SWCJA	0.27
Penny Shtull ¹	NECJAS	—
Charles Corley	MCJA	0.09
David Mueller	WPACJE	0.14

¹Denotes missing curriculum vitae (i.e. missing data).

leads the list among former presidents. In addition, Brandon Applegate's rate of elite publication productivity is the highest of any of the recent executive board members across all of ACJS's regional affiliate associations.

Now that the recent executive board members have been compared by organization (ASC vs ACJS) and across ACJS regional affiliate associations (SCJA, SWCJA, NECJAS, MCJA and WPACJE), it is interesting to examine how these individual recent executive board members rank on their own against one another. Table 6 provides the individual rankings of the recent executive board members who published in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals. Brandon Applegate (former SCJA president) ranks at the top of the elite publication productivity list, followed closely by Steven Messner (first vice president of ASC) and then by J. Mitchell Miller (first vice president of SCJA). The remaining individuals who make up the rest of the top 10 all are fairly equivalent in their elite publication productivity, ranging from 0.14 (David Mueller) to 0.50 (Justin Patchin). Once again, the results of this ranking list demonstrates the rarity of publishing in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals, particularly considering that only two of the 17 recent executive board members (for whom CVs were available) published in the elite journals at a rate of greater than 1 (e.g. Brandon Applegate and Steven Messner).

Discussion

This research note sought to demonstrate the prevalence/frequency of elite publication productivity of the recent executive board members of ASC and ACJS along with that of ACJS's regional affiliate associations. Several key findings from

Table 6 Ranking of recent board members of ASC and ACJS and ACJS's regional associations based on elite publication productivity

Board members	Association	Total elite seven publications(standardized)
1. Brandon Applegate	SCJA	1.36
2. Steven Messner	ASC	1.23
3. J. Mitchell Miller	SCJA	0.83
4. Justin Patchin	MCJA	0.50
5. Gary LaFree	ASC	0.45
6. Jeffery Walker	ACJS	0.44
William Wells	MCJA	0.44
7. Ronald Burns	SWCJA	0.27
8. Wesley Johnson	ACJS	0.25
9. Michael Tonry	ASC	0.16
10. David Mueller	WPACJE	0.14
11. Charles Corley	MCJA	0.09
12. Elizabeth Mustaine	SCJA	0.07

this research emerged. First, publishing in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals is a statistically rare event. This finding, in and of itself, is not surprising considering the high rejection rate of submissions to these journals. Second, ASC recent executive board members published at a higher rate than the ACJS recent executive board members across all comparable positions (president, first vice president and former president). Third, the SCJA had the highest elite publication productivity among the ACJS regional affiliates. Fourth, two SCJA recent executive board members (Brandon Applegate and J. Mitchell Miller) ranked in the top three based on the individual rankings and all of the ASC recent executive board members ranked in the top 10 (with two in the top five).

In light of these organization comparisons and rankings, a few limitations of this research are worth noting. One such limitation is the percentage of CVs that could be retrieved online or received through an email request. While a response rate of 65% is not considerably low, it is still less than optimal. Also, the response rate was more problematic for one board position (first vice president of ACJS regional affiliate associations) in that only one of these board members posted their CV online/provided a copy of their CV. Nevertheless, future research examining elite publication productivity should make attempts to expand the sample size and increase the response rate of this study by including other board member positions (executive counselors, executive directors, treasurers, etc.). Another limitation that is inherent in this study based on its design is that it only focuses on publication productivity in the elite seven criminology and criminal justice journals. It is quite possible that the rankings of the recent executive board members and their respective organization/association rankings may change if another method for operationalizing publication productivity is used such as: (1) including other criminology/criminal justice journals that have been considered elite (e.g. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Law and Society Review* and *Criminology and Public Policy*); (2) expanding the list of journals beyond merely the elite (e.g. Sorensen et al.'s (1992) list); (3) making the list more comprehensive by counting publications in elite sociology journals (e.g. *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review* and *Social Forces*); and/or (4) including international journals (e.g. *European Journal of Criminology*, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* and *British Journal of Criminology*). Lastly, this study only relied on one measure of comparison across board members, i.e. elite publication productivity. There are certainly many more measures that could provide unique comparisons and contrasts across these organizations/associations and their respective board members, such as total publication productivity, extent of discipline-related service, quality of teaching, receipt of distinguished awards, success in obtaining external funding, etc. Thus, it is important to view the findings from this research note in a narrow lens according what it was trying to accomplish, i.e. explore the elite publication productivity among recent executive board members of ASC and ACJS along with ACJS's regional affiliates.

Taken together, we believe that this study adds to growing amount of literature devoted toward showcasing the publication productivity of criminology and

criminal justice scholars. The findings also further emphasize that elite publication productivity is rare even among our discipline's elected ASC and ACJS board members. So, in an effort to advance the knowledge on publication productivity in general, and publication productivity in the elite criminology and criminal justice journals in particular, we hope that we have provided evidence that, while a gap exists between ASC and ACJS recent executive board members, some of ACJS's regional affiliate associations (e.g. SCJA and MCJA) are certainly making their mark in the pages of our discipline's elite criminology and criminal justice journals. It is simply an empirical question as to whether or not this gap in elite publication productivity between ASC and ACJS continues and/or whether this trend among some of ACJS's regional affiliate associations persists. This is the question that we encourage future research in this area to explore.

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