



# JUSTICE STUDIES

## JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

JMU JUSTICE STUDIES ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

February 2016

VOLUME THREE

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**Every fall the School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA)** holds a symposium on an important contemporary topic or issue. This past fall the Justice Studies Department organized the symposium around the topic of **"Sexual Violence: Community, National and Global Dimensions."** The symposium ran from September through November and included guest speakers, films followed by discussions with the audience, and panels. These events highlighted the impact of social inequality and culture on perceptions of sexual violence, and victimization narratives. Also examined were strategies for prevention, intervention, and effective response.

The College of Arts and Letters provided funding for two visiting scholars. Walter DeKeseredy spoke on "Ending Campus Violence: How Research on Men Can Help Inform Best Practices and Policies." Aisling Swaine spoke on "Bringing Women, Peace and Security into Focus: Best Practices for Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence." We showed three films in Grafton-Stovall Auditorium: ***The Mask You Live in, The Hunting Ground, and Sex and Money.*** Afternoon panels were composed of faculty in the Justice Studies Department and from around campus who spoke on teaching about sexual violence, sexual violence and films, and Title IX. A representative from the Collins Center spoke on their activities in the area of sexual violence against adults and children. Finally, the symposium included a satellite presentation to a JMU class on sexual violence in South Eastern Europe presented by Julija Sardellic who is with the European University Institute.

We were very pleased with the size of the turnout at these events and the quality of discussion that followed. As a follow up event this semester we are hosting a visit by Simona Sharoni who is at SUNY Plattsburgh. She will offer a public presentation on ***Leading Change on College Campuses: Race, Gender and Student Activism*** and conduct a faculty workshop on integrating materials about sexual assault into the curriculum in relevant fields through discussion of themes, films, articles, books and pedagogy.

Glenn Hastedt  
Professor & Chair



# ALUMNI DAY 2015



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE  
JOIN US  
FOR  
ALUMNI  
DAY 2016**



**FRIDAY**

**APRIL 15**


**9AM TO 5PM**



JUSTICE STUDIES hosted our second annual Alumni Day on Friday, April 17, 2015. After an opening reception in Leelou Hall, several alumni visited Dr. Peggy Plass's Introduction to Crime and Criminal Justice class to talk about their work, while others took a campus tour. A luncheon in Moody Hall offered faculty, alumni, and Justice Studies Student Society members opportunities to catch up and discuss current issues and careers in Justice Studies.

In the afternoon, approximately 100 current Justice Studies majors attended alumni-led roundtable discussions, where students asked questions, received advice, and benefited from alumni perspectives on career, education, and civic engagement opportunities in fields related to Justice Studies. The day concluded with a networking reception for alumni and faculty.

We look forward to celebrating our Third Annual Alumni Day, where alumni, students, and faculty will once again (re)connect to engage in a mutual learning and professional networking experience, and share insights about the diverse possibilities for career and civic engagement opportunities in Justice Studies. Please join us!



Connect with us on LinkedIn at  
JMU JUSTICE STUDIES ALUMNI

for more information about  
Alumni Activities contact:  
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# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



## DR. DAN ST. JOHN

earned his degree in Justice Studies in Track A from JMU in 2009, and went on to earn a master's degree and PhD. Originally from Newport News, Dan chose JMU after attending CHOICES, where Dr. Hastedt presented on the then-new Justice Studies major. From an early age, Dan wanted to work in law enforcement like his father, and the idea of entering into a brand new program was exciting. However, the program turned out to exceed his expectations, noting that before attending JMU, he "did not appreciate the social and global justice aspects," as well as the "aspects of equity and discrimination" which are so central to Justice Studies.

Starting his junior year at JMU, Dan worked as a student judicial coordinator through what was then called Judicial Affairs, which evolved into a rich experience that allowed him to be a part of the buzz in Student Affairs and Development and helped him truly appreciate the distinction between the "educative and the punitive."

Dan now works as Assistant Director of Academic Development at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk, VA and teaches at Old Dominion University on a variety of topics, including multiculturalism and art therapy. He says that he always returns to JMU for Alumni Day because of the strong friendships and respect created for professors, including Dr. Plass and Dr. Castle, who

inspired him with their teaching. Being a Justice Studies major also taught him critical thinking and writing skills, as well as a deep understanding and consciousness of social justice. Dan says despite what may seem like a non-linear career path, he would not change his choice to study Justice Studies because it has shaped the person that he has become in so many ways, and can provide a wide range of possibilities if one has an open mind.





# NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## HEATHER L. SCHEUERMAN

joined the Department of Justice Studies in the Fall of 2014 as an Assistant Professor. She currently teaches sections of the Justice Studies Senior Seminar, the Justice Research Methods course and a special topics course on Justice and Crime. She is also an instructor for the introductory course to the criminal justice minor at JMU, and teaches a course on Justice and Society, which is currently titled Interpersonal Dynamics and Justice for the department. Originally from Long Island, New York, Dr. Scheuerman earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Psychology and Spanish from the State University of New York College at Geneseo in 2005. "I originally thought I would be a social worker, but after my advisor encouraged me to pursue graduate study, I discovered that becoming a professor was a better fit. I enjoyed studying sociological social psychology and perpetually learning," said Scheuerman. After earning her BA, she enrolled in the graduate sociology program at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Her early research there considered how justice, status, and power processes operated among teachers and custodians via their perceptions of each other's work roles. She received a MA in Sociology at Emory in 2008 and a PhD in Sociology there in 2011. Her dissertation used General Strain Theory to examine the effects that perceptions of injustice have on individuals' propensity for criminal behavior. "I studied hypothetical scenarios where individuals were being underrewarded, and I examined whether certain stressors and perceptions of injustice they experienced could lead to an increase in their likelihood of using criminal coping mechanisms," she commented.

Before beginning her career at JMU, Dr. Scheuerman worked at Towson University near Baltimore, Maryland for three years. Her research there considered the impact of social psychological processes on human behavior and how individual personality traits affect perceptions of justice. Additionally, she studied anti-gay hate crime, looking specifically at whether certain states would enact legislation to protect against it. Dr. Scheuerman felt that JMU's three-track interdisciplinary Justice Studies program was a great match for her academic and teaching credentials as well as her research interests. Currently, these include intersectionality between race, gender, perceptions of injustice and the likelihood of criminal coping, factors affecting the occurrence of hate crimes, and the relationship between perceptions of parental monitoring and delinquency. "I have very high aspirations for my students," said Scheuerman. "I hope that the courses I teach will encourage them to think seriously about issues of justice, use available literature to justify their arguments, and engage academic material as critical consumers of knowledge."



Discover





## GIANLUCA DE FAZIO



joined the Justice Studies Department at JMU in the Fall of 2014 as an Assistant Professor. Dr. De Fazio teaches courses primarily for the Global Justice and Policy Track of the major. These include sections of the Justice Studies Senior Seminar, Race, Class and Justice, as well as special topics courses on Social Movements and Terrorism. Born and raised in Italy, Professor De Fazio earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology at the University of Trento. During an undergraduate semester abroad in 2002, his experiences in Dublin sparked his curiosity about the Troubles of Northern Ireland, an ethno-political conflict which remained an enduring area of research interest for him throughout his academic career. De Fazio later earned a Master's degree in Sociology in England and a PhD in Sociology at Emory University in 2013. Dr. De Fazio's graduate work extended his research on the conflict in Northern Ireland. It also included some study on

the use of collective violence in the United States, including lynching in Georgia. De Fazio has published cross-national comparisons of the civil rights movements and repression and political violence in Northern Ireland and the United States. Commented De Fazio, "I was interested in the use of violence for political purposes, and more specifically, how certain groups come to develop their social realities and their own versions of justice." Working with another scholar at the University of Florence, De Fazio co-edited a book, titled *The Troubles: Northern Ireland and Social Movement Theories*, which is scheduled to be published in 2017.

Dr. De Fazio felt that the Justice Studies Department's interdisciplinary approach to examining issues of justice offered an attractive teaching setting, as well as a great place to continue his socio-historical research. "I knew this was going to be a great opportunity for me," he said. In addition to the Northern Ireland conflict, De Fazio maintains research interests in other ethnic and racial conflicts, the use of racial violence, and the interaction between different social movements. His research and teaching seeks to develop a more complex understanding of rivaling groups, what justice looks like for them, and why they resort to violence as a means of achieving their goals. "I always wanted to be a professor. I aspire for my students to move beyond the topics of the courses I teach," he said. "I hope my courses give them a toolkit for understanding the social realities of our world and a way to assess them using principles of justice."

Adventure



# IN OTHER NEWS...



## THE NELSON INSTITUTE

under the direction of Dr. Peggy Plass, continues to provide a space where students are charged with finding solutions to contemporary policy problems. They offer a unique opportunity for students to engage in policy-oriented research that integrates classroom instruction, out-of-class group learning activities, and civic engagement and service learning opportunities. Projects and topics vary in nature, but have included needs assessment for after school programs, data management systems analysis for the Child Advocacy Center, client surveys for a non-profit center for individuals with disabilities, homelessness survey implementation and analysis, immigration policy, best practices in the delivery of healthcare services to immigrant and impoverished populations, and studying human trafficking and presenting the findings to law enforcement agencies. Students continue working with the Collins Center on a pilot program to prevent child sexual assault.



## THE GANDHI CENTER

for Global Nonviolence presented its Community Service Award in April 2015 to PAX of the Mennonite Central Committee, a group devoted to nonviolence and service. PAX was born in response to the social disarray left behind by World War II, and began their work by upstarting refugee housing projects. Soon, their work globalized, spreading to Algeria, Bolivia, Greece, Paraguay, Algeria, and other countries. Today, the spirit of their foundation is embodied by their work with Harrisonburg/Rockingham County's unique refugee and migrant communities on development projects.



**JUSTICE STUDIES** continues to expand its course selections to include a wide variety of issues facing local and global communities including:

- Race, Class, and Justice
- Terrorism
- Justice in Literature, Film, and Art
- Justice and Disability
- Religion, Crime, and Criminal Justice
- Role of NGO's in Global Society
- Truth and Reconciliation Commissions
- Supreme Court: Making Law and Justice
- Violence and Nonviolence

If you'd like to learn more about these courses, including suggested reading lists or guest lecturing opportunities, please contact the department at [justicestudies@jmu.edu](mailto:justicestudies@jmu.edu)



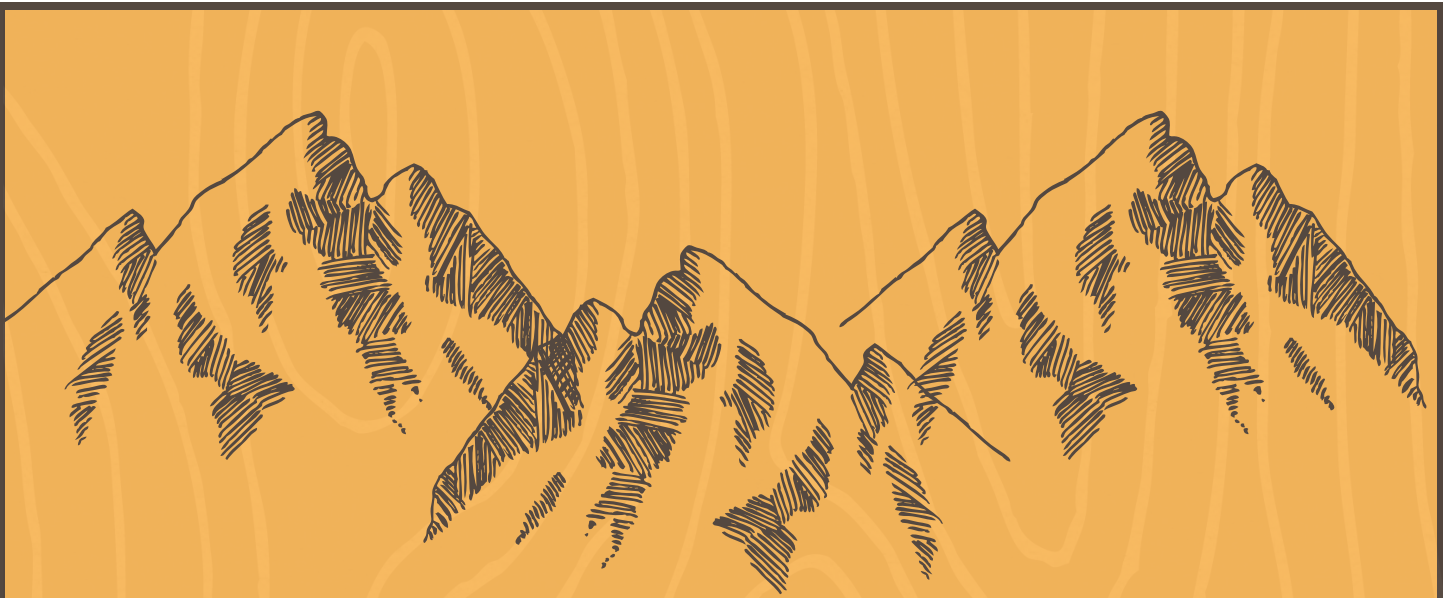
Justice Studies Student Society is an organization that explores global, social, and criminal justice issues. Members work on civic and community engagement projects, explore careers, and connect with alumni. They look forward to participating in our Third Annual Alumni Day.

Special thanks to Alum Quasar Parfitt and student assistant Amelia Morrison for contributing to these reports.

**JSSS**







"WE HAVE FLOWN THE AIR LIKE BIRDS AND SWUM THE SEA LIKE FISHES, BUT HAVE YET TO LEARN THE SIMPLE ACT OF WALKING THE EARTH LIKE BROTHERS."

Rev. Martin Luther King

