

Sharon Melzer

Curriculum Vitae

American University
Department of Justice, Law and Society
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Melzer@american.edu
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Education

- 2009
(Expected,
December) **Doctor of Philosophy in Justice, Law and Society**
American University, Washington, District of Columbia
Committee: Louise Shelley (chair), Brian Forst, & Laura Langbein
Dissertation: *Trafficking in Counterfeit and Contraband Cigarettes: Illicit Organizations, Criminal Opportunities, and Governance*
- 2005 **Master of Public Administration**
The Pennsylvania State University, Middletown, Pennsylvania
Master's Project: *Understanding the Savings and Loan Debacle: Who Were Held Accountable and How They Were Punished*
- 2003 **Master of Science in Criminology**
The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
Master's Area Paper: *From Valenkis to Flip-Flops: The Globalization of Russian Organized Crime*
- 1999 **Bachelor of Arts in Administration of Justice**
Bachelor of Arts in History
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania

Research & Teaching Interests

Research Interests

Transnational crime, organized crime, white collar and corporate crime, the crime-terror nexus, terrorism, sentencing, sentencing guidelines, and punishment

Teaching Interests

Organized crime, criminological theory, research methods, introduction to criminal justice, comparative criminal justice, white collar and corporate crime, and terrorism

Publications

- Shelley, L. & Melzer, S. (2008). The Nexus of Organized Crime and Terrorism: Two Case Studies in Cigarette Smuggling. *The International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 32 (1), p. 43-63.
- Melzer, S. A. (2007). International Trafficking of Women and Children. In *Organized Crime: From Trafficking to Terrorism*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, p. 206-210.
- Melzer, S.A. (2007). Sentencing in the Nation's Capital: Factors that Influenced the In/Out and Sentence Length Decisions, *The Public Purpose: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 5, p. 1-18.
- Melzer, S. A. (2006). Citibank and Misdirected Russian IMF Loans. In *Encyclopedia of White-Collar Crime*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group. p, 47-52.
- Shelley, T.O. & Melzer, S.A. (2006). Hooker Chemical Corporation. In *Encyclopedia of White-Collar Crime*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group. p, 131-133.
- Melzer, S.A. (2003). "Russian and Post-Soviet Organized Crime" (2002) by Mark Galeotti. A book review for *International Criminal Justice Review*, 13, p. 214-215.

Works Under Review or In Progress

- Book Review: *Mafia and Organized Crime* (2007) by James Finckenauer. Under review at *International Criminal Justice Review*.
- Funding Instability: Trafficking Cigarettes and Oil between Turkey and Iraq (with Bilal Wahab) under review at *Crime, Law, and Social Change*.
- Managing Discretion and Disparity in Sentencing: What Happens When Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Meet 'Unique Judicial Stylings'? (with Brian Forst).
- Financing Criminal and Terrorist Organizations through Cigarette Smuggling. Awaiting publication in the 2nd Istanbul Conference on Democracy and Global Security conference proceedings. Ankara, Turkey. (Forthcoming).

Fellowships, Honors, Grants, and Awards

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| 2009 | ACJS' Student Paper Competition Winner (for <i>Insight into the Illicit, Global Cigarette Trade: A Quantitative Analysis</i>) – Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences |
| 2008-2009 | University Doctoral Fellowship Recipient - American University (Competitive) |
| 2008 | School of Public Affairs Award for Outstanding Scholarship at the Graduate Level - School of Public Affairs, American University |

- 2006 TraCCC Summer Research Fellowship Recipient– The Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC), American University
- 2005-2008 Merit Graduate Student Award – School of Public Affairs, American University (Competitive)
- 2005 Penn State DuBois’ Outstanding Young Alumni Award. - Penn State University, DuBois Campus, DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Teaching Experience

American University, Washington, District of Columbia

Professor of Record (Instructor)

- Spring 2009 Introduction to Justice Research (JLS 280)
Organized Crime (JLS 313)
- Summer 2008 Topics in Criminology: Human Trafficking (JLS 445)
Organized Crime (JLS 313)
- Fall 2007 Organized Crime (JLS 313)
- Summer 2007 Civil Rights and the War on Terrorism (JLS 102)

Teaching Assistant

- Fall 2005 Western Legal Tradition (JLS 110)
- Spring 2006 Western Legal Tradition (JLS 110)

Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia

Professor of Record (Instructor)

- Fall 2008 Theories of Social Deviance (SOC 510)*
*Graduate Level Course

Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Teaching Assistant

- 2001 – 2003 Introduction to Criminal Justice (CCJ 2020)

Related Academic Experience

- 2009 Participant - ICPSR Summer Workshop on Sentencing and Other Federal Case Data Analysis. I completed a four-day workshop on how to better understand and use federal sentencing data. The workshop was offered by U.S. Sentencing Commission, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Institute of Justice and held as part of ICPSR’s Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Michigan). (Competitive; Stipend)

- 2007 Participant - Applications of Hierarchical Linear Models (HLM). I completed a three-day introductory workshop on HLM offered by the University of Michigan's Center for Statistical Consultation and Research (CSCAR).
- 2005- 2008 Greenberg Seminar & Ann Ferren Teaching Conference Participant - American University's Center for Teaching Excellence. Greenberg is a three-year program that focuses on preparing students for academic careers.
- 2005 – 2008 Research Assistant – American University. I assisted Professor Golash with her research on a variety of topics, including various views on marriage and punishing war crimes and crimes against humanity in an international context. Supervising Professor: Deirdre Golash.
- 2005 The Graduate School Teaching Certificate, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania. This certificate program helped prepare students for college level teaching.
- 2002 - 2003 Graduate Research Assistant - Florida State University. I assisted in textbook research for *Exploring Criminal Justice: An Introduction to Criminal Justice Textbook*. Publishers: McGraw - Hill. Supervising Professor: Cecil Greek, Ph.D.
- 2002 Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations correlated to "Introduction to Criminal Justice" 9th Edition by Joseph Senna and Larry Siege and "Criminal Justice" 6th Edition by Joel Samaha. Wadsworth Publishing Company.
- 2001 Graduate Research Assistant - Florida State University. Hamilton Fish School and Community Violence Prevention Florida Intervention, funded by Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Program Director: Isabelle Potts, J.D.

Presentations at Professional Conferences and Invited Lectures

- Shelley, L. & Melzer, S. (September 2009). *How the Trade in Cigarettes Enriches Organized Crime and Terrorists*. The Terrorism Transnational Crime and Corruption Center Presents (TraCCC) conference on "U.S. Policy on Transnational Crime." George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia.
- Melzer, S. (June 2009). *Organized Crime*. Lecture for Colorado State University's Comparative Criminology Study Abroad Program in Prague, Czech Republic.
- Melzer, S. (March 2009). *Insight into the Illicit, Global Cigarette Trade: A Quantitative Analysis*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts.

- Forst, B. & Melzer, S. (November 2008). *Advisory Sentencing Guidelines and Sentencing Disparity: An Empirical Test*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, St. Louis, MO.
- Melzer, S. & Golash, D. (May 2008). *An Inquiry into How We Can Restore the Restorative Justice Aspects of Restitution*. Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, Montréal, Québec, Canada.
- Melzer, S. (November 2007). *Trafficking in Legal and Illegal Commodities: Illicit Organizations, Criminal Opportunities, and Weak Transnational Governance*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Melzer, S., Sikich, K., & Souris, N. (November 2007). *DC's Sentencing Guidelines: Reducing Judicial Disparity?* Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Melzer, S. (June 2007). *Financing Criminal and Terrorist Organization through Cigarette Trafficking*. The 2nd Istanbul Conference on Democracy and Global Security, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Melzer, S. (March 2007). *Sentencing in the Nation's Capital: Preliminary Findings on the Effectiveness of the DC's Sentencing Guidelines*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Seattle, Washington.
- Melzer, S. & Shelley, L. (November 2006). *The Nexus Between Organized Crime and Terrorism: Trafficking in Cigarettes*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Los Angeles, California.
- Melzer, S. (March 2006). *The Evolution of Russia's Penal System*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fischer, S., Melzer, S., Maloney, K., McInerney, M., & Rene, H. (January 2006). *How a Professor's Myers-Briggs Personality Type Affects Their Classroom Teaching Style*. Seventeenth Annual Ann Ferren Teaching Conference, American University, Washington, D.C. (Poster)
- Melzer, S. (November 2005). *Sanctions Received by White Collar Offenders in the Savings and Loan Scandal*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Toronto, Canada. (Poster)
- Melzer, S. (March 2005). *Understanding The Savings and Loan Debacle: Who Was Held Accountable And How They Were Punished*. Twentieth Annual Graduate Exhibition. The Pennsylvania State University, University Park. (Poster)
- Melzer, S. (March 2003). *From Valenkis to Flip-Flops: Globalization of Russian Organized Crime*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Boston, Massachusetts.

Melzer, S. & Greek, C. (November 2002). *Partners in Crime: Russian Organized Crime and the State*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Weber, A. & Melzer, S. (November 2002). *Globalization, Organized Crime and Money Laundering: An Interdisciplinary Examination*. Annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Melzer, S. (March 2002). *A History of Corruption and Crime: Menatep and Russian Organized Crime*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Anaheim, California.

Melzer, S. (April 2001). *A Viable Alternative: Mental Health Alternatives in the Juvenile Justice System*. Annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Forthcoming Conference Papers

Cigarette Trafficking: Decade Old Problems Manifesting Themselves in this Ever-growing, Transnational Crime. To be presented at ASMEA's (The Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa) 2009 Annual Conference: The Middle East and Africa: Historic Connections and Strategic Bridges. Washington, D.C., October 2009.

A Multiple Method Inquiry into International Cigarette Smuggling. To be presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. November 2009.

Maple Leafs and Eagles: An Examination into Cross-Border Smuggling Between Canada and the United States (with Courtney Waid – North Dakota State University). To be presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. November 2009.

Managing Discretion in Sentencing: Can Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Moderate 'Unique Judicial Stylings'? (With Brian Forst - American University). To be presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. San Diego, California. February 2010.

Professional Experience

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| 2003 - 2004 | Research, Evaluation and Financial Analyst - Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing and Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. |
| 2000 | Case Manager - Child Guidance Resource Centers, Media, Pennsylvania. |
| 1999 - 2000 | Residential Rehabilitation Counselor - TRIS Comprehensive Mental Health, Voorhees, New Jersey. |

1998 - 1999 Youth Care Counselor - Central Counties Youth Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Employee: March 1999 to June 1999, Volunteer: Fall 1998 and Spring 1999 semesters.

Service to the University & Professional Organizations

2008-2009 Member, Outstanding Book Award and Outstand Student Paper Award Committee. White Collar Crime Research Consortium.

2008 – 2009 Member, School of Public Affairs 75th Anniversary Planning Committee (Alumni Committee).

2007-2008 Student Representative, Search Committee for Assistant Professor, Department of Justice, Law and Society – American University.

2007-2008 Member, Committee to establish awards for outstanding research in White Collar Crime. White Collar Crime Research Consortium.

2006-2007 Student Representative, Search Committee for Temporary Faculty, Department of Justice, Law and Society – American University.

2006-2008 Reviewer, *The Public Purpose: An Interdisciplinary Journal*.

Professional and Community Memberships

International Association for the Study of Organized Crime (IASOC) – Member & Trustee
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) - Member
American Society of Criminology (ASC) – Member
White Collar Crime Research Consortium (WCCRC) – Member
European Society of Criminology (ESC) – Member
Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA) - Member
The Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association – Life Member
Crime, Law and Justice Alumni Program Group - Pennsylvania State University - Member

References

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*Louise Shelley, Ph.D.
Professor, School of Public Policy
Director, Terrorism, Transnational Crime & Corruption Center (TraCCC)
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*Dissertation Committee Member

Updated: September 15, 2009

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