Messsgage from RC29 President, Biko Agozino

Welcome to the new issue of our newsletter which you voted to name The Panopticon by popular choice.

We will welcome book reviews, field notes, announcements, conference reports and calls for papers for inclusion in the future issues of the newsletter.

Members who are not familiar with our statutes should visit the following site to learn more:

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rcs/rc29_st.htm

From the statutes you will find that we need more members to join the board of RC 29. We welcome nominations and self-nominations to fill the vacant slots on the board.

We are happy to announce that an eminent member of RC29 has agreed to fill the vacant position of Second Vice President and Secretary of RC29. His contacts are:

Robert Nash Parker, PhD
Professor of Sociology
Co Director of the Presley Center
for Crime and Justice Studies
College BLDG South
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521
V: 951-827-4604
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In this issue, you will find a draft proposals for grants from ISA to support RC activities. We will welcome the inputs of members before we submit the proposal for our RC. Thanks to the members who have already made suggestions that we ask for funding to support RC29 meetings. One such meeting will be held in Trinidad and Tobago in April and another in Brazil in July 2009.

Book Announcement by Parker and Asencio (2008)

GIS and Spatial Analysis for the Social Sciences: Coding, Mapping, and Modeling, by Robert Nash Parker and Emily K. Asencio is the first book to provide sociologists, criminologists, political scientists, and other social scientists with the methodological logic and techniques for doing spatial analysis in their chosen fields of inquiry. The book contains a wealth of examples as to why these techniques are worth doing, over and above conventional statistical techniques using SPSS or other statistical packages. GIS is a methodological and conceptual approach that allows for the linking together of spatial data, or data that is based on a physical space, with non-spatial data, which can be thought of as any data that contains no direct reference to physical locations. Link to view or purchase the book:
http://www.amazon.com/GIS-Spatial-Analysis-Social-
**Book Preview by Nonso Okafo**

*Counter-Colonial Criminology: Law and Justice Reform from the Base*

Nonso Okafo, Ph.D.
Professor
Norfolk State University

Counter-colonial criminology concentrates on the unique criminological perspectives emanating from colonized peoples, such as those perspectives rooted in the immemorial cultures of Africa. By this view, the true nature of African criminology and social control is to be found in an in-depth analysis and understanding of the continent’s pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial histories (Okereafọezeke, 2002; Agozino, 2003; Okafo, 2006; 2008). Thus, it is not alright for criminologists – African, Western, and otherwise – to lazily and condescendingly reduce discussion of law and justice issues in postcolonial societies to merely comparing the differences in the applications of Western ideas in the West versus their former colonies, mainly in Africa. The proper approach is to concentrate on the unique criminological perspectives originating from the former colonies. For Africa, these perspectives are rooted in Africans’ immemorial cultures.

Strong scientific evidence from postcolonial Africa concludes that the peoples’ pre-colonial social controls worked well and were dynamic. In the colonial and postcolonial eras, these indigenous-based systems, processes, and philosophies of crime and social control continue as invaluable players in the sustenance of the modern State (see as examples, Okereafọezeke, 1996; 2002; Agozino, 2005, Okafo, 2006; 2008). This, despite the British and French “indirect rule” and “assimilation” colonial policies, which respectively were designed to abrogate, and had some success in abrogating, the indigenous systems, processes, and philosophies. Early (before Africans’ contact with Europeans) African social control and justice were rooted in forgiveness, communalism, healing, and restitution, instead of retribution. Early African judges aimed primarily at compensating injured parties and their families and reconciling disputants, and not to punish offenders, as the Western penal ideology emphasizes. This is a fundamental source of disagreement between Africa and Europe. These intrinsic African justice and social control values remain valid in the post-colonial era, especially at the unofficial (non-governmental) levels. Any wonder that the various European law and justice systems, which the European imperialists forcefully injected into Africa, are largely ineffective means of social control in West Africa and other parts of the continent.

In a lot of ways, many postcolonial African (continues on page 3)
governments have continued the destructive tendencies of the English, French, and other Western colonial States towards Africa. These colonial or colonial-rooted policies serve as vehicles for repressing the post-colonial citizenry, just as the defunct colonial regimes did. It is necessary to correct the colonial policy of destroying or suppressing indigenous law and justice philosophies. A correction will be achieved by building the elements of counter-colonial criminology. What is required, as a component of counter-colonial criminology, is a reassertion of the law and justice systems, processes, and philosophies that reflect the indigenous ideas of each postcolonial society, while open-mindedly acknowledging, adopting, and using useful ideas from other societies. To this end, the postcolonial society is to appreciate, question, and creatively synthesize the good qualities of its indigenous and foreign justice and law systems. The post-colony is to allow for discourses and resolutions to determine the best justice, social control, and law for the society.

To appreciate, question, and creatively synthesize indigenous and foreign justice, however, a postcolonial society has first to overcome the following challenge. “The challenge of the post-colonial is to indicate the limits of Western ethnocentricity, to decentre and displace the norms of western knowledge, art and culture as presented within the institutional frameworks of the colonizers. In this context, decolonising the mind is not only about changing institutions, it also requires a decolonization of the mind and of our imagination; a rethinking of possibilities” (Cunneen, 2002, p. 42).

What is required, as a component of counter-colonial criminology, is a reassertion of the law and justice systems, processes, and philosophies that reflect the indigenous ideas of each postcolonial society.” - Okafo

and to question the assumptions of justice ...” (Cunneen, 2002, p. 47). It is justifiable then to assert that “decolonising the mind” and “moving the centre” (see Thiong’o, wa; 1986; 1993; 1997) are two critical prerequisites for rebuilding justice in a postcolony.

Thiong’o, wa (1986; 1993; 1997) explains the two ideas: “decolonising the mind” and “moving the centre”. By them, he exhorts the postcolonial leader and follower to disabuse their thoughts, reasonings, and rationalizations for continuing and even expanding the legacy of the colonial impositions on the postcolony. The postcolonial leader and follower should instead redirect their focus, energy, and resources to rebuilding their indigenous institutions and ways of life. Necessary accommodations should be made to account for changes in modern society and to take advantage of the positive attributes of the foreign ideas and institutions. However, the focus of the rebuilding effort should be primarily on strengthening indigenous ideas and institutions. Otherwise, the postcolonial society will remain perpetually without focus or meaningful purpose. Unless the leaders and citizens of...
a postcolony raise their thought and reasoning processes, rationalizations, self-values, and confidence levels to reassess and strategically reposition their indigenous systems and processes in the scheme of social control, the necessary restructuring of a postcolony’s law and justice will not be achieved.

Beyond decolonizing and changing the postcolonial mind and strategies, the following two major steps are required to better understand, explain, and solve crimes and criminals in a postcolony. First, consistently with the proper role of criminal law as a complement to civil law, the primacy of civil law should be amplified. This means that the meaning of “crime” should reflect the postcolonial society’s understanding and interpretation. Many criminal law violations will be redefined as civil wrongs. In recognition of the importance of the criminalizing process (norm definition as crime) in criminal law and justice, the legislature of a postcolony has the authority and power to redefine appropriate norm violations as civil, rather than criminal, violations. The decision as to the specific norms to be so redefined will depend on the importance of each norm for society. The less important a norm is, the more likely that it will be redefined as a civil wrong. Another important factor to be considered is the availability of parties’ or community’s capacity and/or desire to manage an issue unofficially (without official government involvement). The greater the capacity and/or desire of the private parties and/or the community to manage alleged violations of a norm, the more likely that it will be redefined as a civil wrong. Otherwise, a norm violation will be viewed as a crime. Many pre-colonial Africans, for example, defined “crime” narrower than its common law definition. A more restricted meaning of crime would allow the citizens increased roles in law definition, interpretation and application, enforcement, and execution, consistently with generally accepted guidelines within each society.

Second, the postcolonial State...
Please explain briefly how RC Officials and Board Members are elected/nominated/appointed and indicate the date for the next Board elections.

There will be a Board of 18 members (15 elected by mail ballot at least 12 months prior to an International meeting and three appointed by the newly elected Board). The past president will provide the president with a list of at least 25 names as nominees for the executive committee. A call for nominees for the Board must be submitted to every paid-up member before a ballot is circulated. The ballot sent to the membership will include a space for write-in votes. Each paid-up member will have five votes. Those nominees receiving the votes will serve on the committee but no country may have more than three representatives. Ballots will be sent to the past president for counting, the results will be published in a newsletter at least one year prior to the next international meeting, and the past president will deliver or send the ballots to the board meeting.

ONCE AGAIN, WE CALL FOR NOMINEES TO JOIN THE BOARD AND FOLLOWING THE NOMINATIONS THERE WILL BE A BALLOT
References


**PUBLICATIONS BY RC29 MEMBERS:**


of the Whole drafts resolutions while the Plenary hears member state reports and finalizes the resolutions drafted by the Committee of the Whole.

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATION AT ISA-UN ORGANIZED WORKSHOP**

From Rosemary Barberet: Here is something for the newsletter. It is about recruiting any RC29 members to come speak at an NGO panel at an ISA organized workshop run parallel to the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting in New York in March.
Presentation possibility. The title of the ISA session is "Equal Participation in Decision Making: Research and Action" which is one of the themes this year for the Commission on the Status of Women. (See <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/50sess.htm>. If you will be in New York City on March 5 and would like to give a presentation that fits within this broad theme (all areas; micro, meso and/or macro levels, focusing on research, action and/or a combination of research and action), please let her know by return email. The ISA can't provide any financial support for you to take part in this meeting, but, if you are in the area, she hopes you will consider giving a presentation. She thinks this is the first time the ISA has sponsored a session at the CSW and it would be wonderful if an RC29 members would give presentations. (The ISA has a slot that is just under two hours and so there can be three or four presentations.) Please send Jan a proposed title and a few sentences to explain your work in this area.

Contribution to the lists of selected references. The ISA is going to provide lists of selected references on this theme to those attending the CSW meeting and parallel events. Jan would like to make these lists as international as possible. If at all possible, please help her with this effort. It is fine if references are in languages other than in English. She would like complete references and (if possible) a translation of titles into English. It would be nice if the work has been written by sociologists or appeared in sociology journals/books, but please do not limit the references to sociologists or sociology. I hope you will help her identify what should be on these lists and/or identify RC29 members who could contribute to these lists based on the themes that are listed here.

Thank you in advance) for any help you can give Jan with this ISA project. To avoid email congestion, PLEASE RESPOND DIRECTLY TO Jan Marie Fritz. Her email address is jan.fritz@uc.edu

From Alfredo Bockholt [elfrad.bockholt@gmail.com] I wanted to ask you one other favour. One of the key issues in Latin America and the Caribbean that should be included is incarceration. While I may be able to get a contribution on prisons in Cuba, I have thus far not been able to find a scholar dealing with the issue in Latin America or the Caribbean. Would you know anybody who does?
RC29 Meeting at Caribbean Criminology Conference 2009

The Criminology Unit will be hosting its first ever conference from April 8th - 9th 2009 at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago and RC29 plans to hold a meeting at this conference.

Theme: Developing a Caribbean Criminology

Venue: Institute of Critical Thinking

Deadline for registration: March 16th 2009 (Limited spaces are available)

Further information can be obtained from the Criminology Unit Office, St. Augustine Campus, UWI.

Telephone: (868) 662-2002 ext. 3353, 3913
Fax: (868) 662-0718
Email: CaribCrim_Network@sta.uwi.edu
Website: http://sta.uwi.edu/fss/criminology/

On behalf of Prof. Agozino, the Criminology Unit's Coordinator, we wish to invite you to participate in our Criminology Conference, April 8-9, 2009: Developing a Caribbean Criminology, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. This conference is the culmination of a project funded by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to study the causes of crime in the Caribbean and globally. Therefore we thought it wise to host a Criminology Conference with the sole aim of evaluating the contributions of Caribbean Criminology. The Caribbean is a very unique region and as a result the field of Criminology and Criminal Justice would benefit tremendously with the continued involvement of Caribbean scholars in the international dialogue on crime. We hope from this conference the foundations could be laid for the development of a Caribbean Criminological School of Thought.

We therefore take this opportunity to invite you to submit a paper or propose an RC29 panel for presentation at the conference. Even if your research is not on the Caribbean but you have theoretical, methodological or policy contributions that could be made relevant to understanding crime in a small island state, feel free to join us.

Any further questions please feel free to email or check our website at http://sta.uwi.edu/fss/criminology/CONFERENCE2009.asp

RC29: Deviance and Social Control is one of the Research committees of the International Sociological Association and we would be happy to co-host this conference with RC29 members. Professor Biko Agozino is the President of RC29. Those of you who are not members of RC29 should feel free to join us and plan to participate in the 2010 World Congress of Sociology in Sweden: http://www.sociology.org/congress2010/

Keron King, Research Assistant, Criminology Unit

From First Vice President of RC29:

Brazilian Society of Sociology is going to have its XIV Congress and some Brazilian members of the RC 29 are preparing 03 Round Table named 'Crime, Violence and Punishment' 1, 2, 3. By this activity we intend to do a sort of State of Art of this subject. The congress will take place next July (2009) in Rio de Janeiro. Contact:

Maria Stela Grossi Porto [msgrossi@unb.br]
Application form for ISA Research Committees grant
to support forthcoming activities during the period 2008-2011

Submissions deadline:

1. Name of the Research Committee : RC29 Deviance and Social Control

2. Name and contact details of current post-holders

   President: Biko Agozino, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago  bagozino@yahoo.com

   Secretary: Maya Ruskova, Russia, maia@ngostellit.ru

3. Number of affiliated or other members: 44
   (i.e. those who are not ISA members and whose records are kept by the RC)

4. How much in total is requested: $450.00
   Please check against maximum amount available according to number of ISA members as listed in the accompanying Rules document.

5. How will this be used and in support of which RC activities?
   E.g. conferences, workshops, newsletters, etc. If more than one activity is listed, please indicate how much would be allocated to each activity.

   Activity 1: Mailing Newsletter to members without e-mail address
   Brief description: Costs of mailing newsletters to members without e-mail address
   Estimate of amount to be allocated $50.00

   Activity 2: RC Panels at the Developing Caribbean Criminology Conference
   Brief description: Costs of coordinating panels for RC29 at the Developing Caribbean Criminology Conference and offer of small subsidies to RC29 participants
   Estimate of amount to be allocated: $400

6. Add other activities as necessary

This form is also available at http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/about/rc_aims.htm

ISA Conditions

Please confirm, by answering the following questions, that the Research Committee is in good standing with the ISA.
Does the RC have at least 25 members whose membership fees in both RC and ISA are up to date (i.e. have been paid for the year of application)?

Yes

Are all the Board Members paid up (for the year of application) members of both ISA and the RC?

Yes

Has the RC sent a Newsletter (at least one per year B printed or electronic) to its members and to the ISA Secretariat?

Yes

Has the RC sent a detailed report of its activities to the ISA Secretariat when requested? (i.e. usually every 2 years: a mid-term report and a full-term report in Congress years).

Yes

Does the RC hold regular elections of its Board?

Yes

Does the RC have its own membership dues? If so, what are they?

Yes $30.00

Does the RC have up-dated Statutes?

Yes

Is the RC proposing to organize at least one international conference before the next World Congress where all members can participate?

Yes

Will the RC undertake to submit a report about the usage and expenditure of the RC grant if awarded?

Yes