

**SOC 394 RESEARCH PRACTICUM**  
**Fall 2016 Project Descriptions**

**Project title: "Killed But Not Murdered: Justifiable Homicide, Negligent Shootings and the New Politics of Trauma"**

Researcher: Jennifer Carlson (Assistant Professor)

*Killed But Not Murdered* examines two overlooked sites of gun death: negligent and justifiable gun homicides. Though the gun debate tends to focus on the US's high rates of gun crime, justifiable and negligent homicides number nearly 1,000 deaths a year according to CDC and FBI data. These homicides are distinct from felonious homicides: rather than crimes involving a clear-cut perpetrator and a clear-cut victim, justifiable and negligent homicides blur the boundaries around victimhood and criminality. How do race, gender, class and other social lines of inequality shape how these homicides are deemed morally reprehensible versus tragic but blameless? How do impacted individuals experience and cope with the short and long-term trauma of justifiable and negligent homicides? How is this mediated by social structures of inequality? *Killed but Not Murdered* answers these questions with content analysis of news media accounts and a longitudinal study of families of victims of negligent and justifiable homicides.

In this project, an undergraduate will assist with the following:

- Reviewing existing literature
- Compiling a database of government assistance available to gun violence survivors in Arizona, California and nationally
- Compiling a database of gun violence support groups in Arizona, California and nationally
- Collecting research protocols from existing scholarship
- Developing an interview guide
- Developing the IRB protocol

**Project Title: The Green Rush: Relational Pragmatics and Institution Work in the Transitioning Cannabis Industry**

Researcher: Alexander Kinney (PhD Candidate)

This project explores the individual and field level dynamics that are assisting the cannabis industry to transition from its longstanding past as an illicit shadow economy, to a fully regulated, commercial industry. In particular, I am investigating how people influence institutional change through their daily practices navigating the contradictory regulations that are governing this exploding industry. This is a mixed-methods project including interviews with cannabis industry members and later will incorporate a nationally representative survey aimed at developing an integrated framework of field change. Research assistants will be responsible for timely transcription of interview data provided by me for the fall semester including weekly debriefings of the information. In addition to this transcription effort, research assistants will meet with me weekly for a lesson-based, but informal training on topics including, but not limited to 1. research ethics, 2. research methods, and 3. choosing a thesis topic and planning for project completion. These lessons will incorporate readings from sociological journals to assist in integrating your thinking. Research assistants will be encouraged to come to this assistantship with a thesis project idea so that throughout the semester we can apply concepts from our weekly discussions to your

own research success. Successful productivity will provide the opportunity for future work on this project. Priority will be given to students who have signed up for 4+ credits of practicum.

**Project title:** Safe at home? Understanding the Diffusion of Criminal Penalties for Rape within Marriage across the World, 1960-2012

Researcher: Andrew P. Davis and Morgan Johnstonbaugh (PhD Candidates)

Rape within marriage remains legal for most of the world. While legislation in some nations simply have not specified the legality of sex within marriage, other nations go as far as to provide overt legal exemptions for nonconsensual sex that occurs within marriage (UN Women 2011). Why have so few countries enacted legislation that criminalizes rape within marriage? While scholars have not yet pinpointed an explanation, there are three possible factors that may contribute to the enactment of women's rights focused policy. Some research suggests that women's participation in civil society is necessary for individual empowerment (Fallon 2003) and accessing political and social capital (Neumann 2017), although there are questions as to whether it leads to practical advances in women's rights in terms of legislation at the national level. An alternative explanation for the enactment of progressive, women's rights-focused policy focuses on women's representation in the halls of power, arguing that women in public office play an instrumental (Volden, Wiseman, and Wittmer 2016) and symbolic (Verge and Pastor 2017) role in the proposition and enactment of women's rights policy. Another explanation is that the presence of INGOs and WINGOs will have a positive effect on women's rights policy due to the spread of international norms and their ability to act as advocates for such policies (Frank, Camp, and Boutcher 2010). While scholars have investigated the effects of women's participation in civil society and public office and INGOs on the enactment of women's suffrage rights (Ramirez, Soysal, and Shanahan 1997), rape-law (Frank, Hardinge, and Wosick-Correa 2009), and same-sex relations (Frank and Mceneaney 1999), research has not examined their impact on the less visible issue of marital rape.

This research will address this question by conducting a cross-national analysis for 133 nations from 1960 to 2012 using a unique dataset merged from several available sources. Estimated as an event history analysis, this analysis specifically focuses on timing to criminalization across the nations of the world.

To register for SOC 394, please contact the researcher listed and fill out enrollment forms. Provide the completed form to Elena Cruz in Social Sciences, room 400.