

ROBERT PRESLEY CENTER OF CRIME AND JUSTICE STUDIES STRATEGIC PLAN

I. Our Vision

“A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan is just drudgery. But a vision with a plan can change the world.” – Unknown Author

The Presley Center aims to become one of the regionally recognized centers for criminal justice and criminological research. As such, policymakers and criminal justice leaders can rely on applied, theoretical, and evidence-based studies produced by the Center affiliates to inform their practices. Moreover, the Center’s vision is also to disseminate research findings to the larger community through hosting expert speakers and conferences that cover an array of criminal justice topics. Taken together, the hope is these efforts will ultimately improve crime policies and public safety.

II. The Five Year Plan

“Think Globally, Act Locally” – Founding Dean Anil Deolalikar, School of Public Policy

The Robert Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies (Presley Justice Center), and associated faculty and students, intends to work with regional Inland Southern California criminal justice policy makers and their departments. The goal is to identify innovative approaches, best practices, and policies that will help prevent and reduce violence and crime to better protect the public as California continues to implement its new decarceration and local community rehabilitation strategy.

The primary focus of the Center’s work will be on research projects that have significant policy implications for regional criminal justice public safety efforts. This includes on-going research about California’s recent decarceration trends and its impact on crime, recidivism rates, crime prevention and reduction. The Presley Justice Center will also examine cutting edge rehabilitation programs provided by the Probation Department, the Sheriff Department, other criminal justice agencies and community-based organizations for convicted criminal offenders under supervision at the local level.

While our mission encompasses a broad criminal justice studies approach, the Presley Justice Center Co-Directors have designated that future research projects will be conducted by a team of faculty, post-docs, and students in collaboration with the local justice policy decision makers. To that end, the Center will focus on current and emerging criminal justice issues as evidenced by the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) and recent related legislation. One leading academic

researcher described AB 109 and its on-going realignment complexity as *the biggest criminal justice experiment conducted in America and most people don't even know it is happening*. Such research collaboration will offer future research, publication, teaching and training opportunities for those with an interest in the fields of public policy, political science, psychology, sociology, criminology, public health and social work. Future efforts will also include collaborations and partnerships with other University of California departments and centers that are similarly focused on criminal justice policy issues.

Over the next five years the Center's projects will continue to examine the consequences of AB 109 and its progeny. This will include assessing innovative community offender programs, and developing a countywide mapping project that identifies all existing community based groups working with criminal justice agencies on rehabilitation and re-entry programs. (See *V. Ongoing Projects* for additional details.) Future plans also include implementing a Riverside and San Bernardino project that tracks and analyzes California's new decarceration policy. The Center's plan is intended to be flexible in that it may be adapted to changing circumstances or other external events. To that end, the Center's progress will be reviewed annually and this plan will be updated according to shifting priorities or needs.

Finally, in addition to research projects, The Presley Justice Center is enhancing its website content to include source material on national, state and local correctional research and emerging criminal justice and correctional issues. As well, the Center will host on campus events and speakers to showcase relevant research, policies and practices, which are open for all community members.

III. Values

- Integrity-Ethical, fair and unbiased approaches to criminal justice interdisciplinary research is the cornerstone of the Center's values. This principle underpins everything the Center does and its research goals are to be non-partisan and fact finding. The research will be in accordance with the University of California's highest academic standards for excellence.
- Faculty and Student Focus-The Presley Justice Center's viability, strength and productivity depends upon research collaboration between faculty, interns, postdocs, and graduate and undergraduate students spanning across other UC campuses.
- Value Based Metrics-Decisions about projects and resulting research will be guided by scholarly commitment based on the University of California values and standards of excellence.
- Policy Maker and Criminal Justice Practitioner Focus-The Presley Justice Center views its role as to assist and support criminal justice system leaders by providing rigorous research studies and information on relevant programs, laws and crime policies.

- Value Based Resources-The School of Public Policy and the Presley Justice Center are committed to seeking out potential local, state, federal and private funding sources in order to successfully conduct research projects.

IV. Overarching Goals

- Increase Presley Justice Center's collaborative research capacity with regional criminal justice agencies from law enforcement to the courts.
- Enhance research opportunities for faculty affiliates and post-doctoral, graduate and undergraduate students by connecting them to local and regional criminal justice agencies.
- Provide internships for the School of Public Policy undergraduate and graduate students by connecting them to available openings within the local and regional criminal justice agencies.
- Develop long term partnerships with criminal justice agencies and their leaders.
- Develop long term collaborations and partnerships with other UC campuses focused on criminal justice research projects.
- Pursue necessary funding and resources from the, federal, state and local governmental agencies and private sources.
- Enhance the Center's website so it becomes a go-to reference that showcases and summarizes the latest research studies on an array of criminal justice and criminology topics.
- Organize and host expert speakers and annual conferences on campus that address criminological topics. These events are free and open to students, faculty, criminal justice practitioners, and community members. Such activities generate opportunities for dialogue and debate across diverse perspectives.

V. Ongoing Research Projects

- a. *Realignment, Reentry, and Recidivism: A mixed methods impact evaluation of the Riverside County Probation Department's Day Reporting Centers (2019-2021)*

This research project is a collaboration between the Presley Center and the Riverside County Probation Department that evaluates the efficacy of the County's Day Reporting Centers as an alternative to traditional custodial sentencing as a mechanism for reducing recidivism rates against the backdrop of realignment (AB 109). The proposed research project uses a mixed methods design to evaluate the efficacy of DRCs in reducing recidivism, how the type and duration of DRC services affects re-entry success, and DRC's economic impact on Southern California's labor market as individuals attempt to re-enter the work force.

b. *Dispatcher Discretion: How 911 Operator Descriptions Influence Officer-Civilian Domestic Violence Exchanges*
(2020-2021)

Police departments receive more calls for domestic violence (DV) related incidents than for all other violent crimes combined and, as first responders, police officers have the potential to provide critical resources for the victims. To effectively provide resources to victims, assuage further violence, and ensure their own safety when arriving on-scene, officers need to be able to identify situations with the propensity to escalate. This project focuses on the role of 911 dispatchers and how specific features of 911 DV calls shape police-civilian outcomes and degree of escalation. This study implements a mixed-methods design and will provide recommendations for dispatchers and officers to enhance public safety.

c. *Easing Reentry: Geospatial Mapping of Resources Available for the Formerly Incarcerated*
(2019-)

This project develops a comprehensive model of community resources located in Riverside and San Bernardino counties using state-of-the-art geospatial mapping technologies. The key deliverable, an interactive map, will be searchable by location and/or service-type and made available to criminal justice policy makers, practitioners, and the public. Once established, this information will not be contingent on a referral from a case manager, probation officer, or other member of the criminal justice community. This project will improve targeted service delivery for those in need and has the potential to be expanded to other counties within California, contingent on funding.