

CrimSL News

Fall 2019

Newsletter of the Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies
at the University of Toronto



Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

CrimSL

On the Cover

Congratulations to CrimSL's newest alumni, who convocated on November 6th.

Roxy Shlapak (pictured on the cover with Centre Director Audrey Macklin) received the John L. Edwards Award for outstanding overall performance. Shlapak is one of three CrimSL MA graduates, alongside Huibin Lin and Ravita Surajbali, beginning the Centre's PhD program this year.

Read about all our new doctoral students on page 3.

Welcome, Professor Laniyonu

Assistant Professor Ayobami Lanoyonu is CrimSL's newest faculty member



Dr. **Ayobami Laniyonu** joined the Centre as an Assistant Professor in July, having previously served as Senior Research Scientist at the Center for Policing Equity in New York City. Dr. Laniyonu earned his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles Department of Political Science in 2018, with a specialization in Racial and Ethnic Politics & Statistical Methodology.

Dr. Laniyonu's research interests include criminal justice reform, urban politics, and statistical methodologies, with a particular emphasis on spatial statistics. He is currently working on a series of projects that explore police use of force against the homeless and

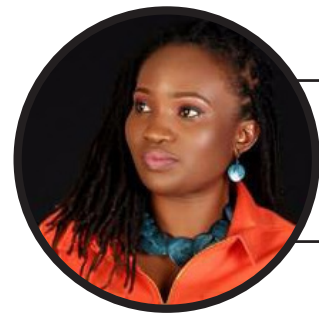
individuals with serious mental illness, the effect gentrification on eviction rates in large urban areas, and the effect of police violence on political behavior. His past research has been published in the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, Political Behaviour, the British Journal of Criminology, and more. "Coffee Shops and Street Stops: Policing Practices in Gentrifying Neighborhoods," published in Urban Affairs in 2017, was the winner of the Law and Society Association's 2018 Best Graduate Student Paper Prize.

This year, Dr. Laniyonu is teaching two undergraduate courses, CRI 390H –

Topics in Criminology and Sociolegal Studies: The Politics of the Criminal Justice System and CRI 428H – Neighbourhoods and Crime, as well as CRI 2010H – Methodological Issues in Criminology & Sociolegal Studies at the graduate level.

Introducing...

Our new doctoral students



Wumi Asubiaro Dada

Nigerian lawyer with a master’s degree in Law from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. I have worked as a human rights activist, with particular expertise in women and gender issues. My areas of specialty include gender-based violence, political participation, legal reform and legislative processes as well as advocacy.



Huibin Lin

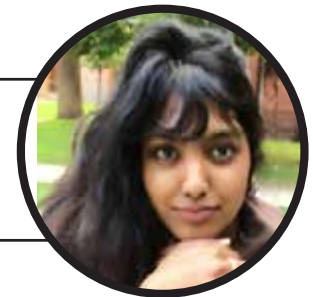
Huibin Lin is a current PhD student at the Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, University of Toronto. Having spent the majority of her life in China, Huibin became fascinated by the transfer of power from the military to police organizations under totalitarianism.

Roxy Shlapak is a first-year PhD student at the Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies. Born in Ukraine, Roxy immigrated to Canada at an early age where she discovered her passion for learning and academia. Her research interests are predominately situated within the realm of policing, as she is interested in examining the relationship between police and racialized communities. Specifically, she is interested in exploring and comparing the relationship between local police services and Black youth, and between local police services and Indigenous youth. She aims to also research practices and possibilities for reconciling relationships between these groups and local police.



Roxy Shlapak

Ravita Surajbali is a first year PhD student at the Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, University of Toronto. Ravita’s research interests focus on gender, violence, and criminal justice. She is particularly interested in exploring institutional practices and outcomes for sexual violence on campus cases—across post-secondary institutions’ administrative tribunals and the criminal justice system.



Ravita Surajbali

My research explores the use of prosecutorial discretion in human trafficking, drug trade and gender related offenses. My career so far is the outcome of working experiences in academia, as an instructor of social theory and criminology courses, and in criminal justice agencies, both at a national and international. These positions granted me with the opportunity to practice ethnographic research in Peru’s most emblematic artisanal mining and drug trade scenarios, experiences that had a tremendous effect in shaping the scope of my current research.



Diego Tuesta Reátegui

Workshop Retrospective

Detention practices, criminalization of migrants and border control in Canada

On Sunday, May 12 and Monday, May 13, academics from across Canada and beyond gathered at CrimSL for a two-day workshop organized with **ecrim**, the Research group on Criminology, Legal Psychology and Criminal Justice in the 21st century at the University of A Coruña, Spain.

The workshop, “Detention practices, criminalization of migrants and border control in Canada” was part of a European Commission funded project under the scientific program Horizon 2020 within Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, *Governmigration: Governing irregular migration through detention. Discourses and*

practices from an interdisciplinary approach.

Participants included CrimSL director **Audrey Macklin**, who presented “State of containment,” and Centre alumna **Sarah Turnbull** (Birkbeck, University of London), who presented “Beyond detention: Detainability, deportability, and precarity in the community.” Moderators included Professors Macklin and **Kelly Hannah-Moffat**, PhD student **Jona Zyfi**, and postdoctoral fellow Dr. **Ana Ballesteros Pena**.

The event was coordinated by Ana Ballesteros Pena, with the help of PhD students **Fernando Avila**, **Daniel**

Konikoff, **Grace Tran**, and **Jona Zyfi**.

In June, Ballesteros Pena, Tran and Zyfi authored a post on the Border Criminologies blog published by the Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford Faculty of Law in which they looked back at the event.

They write, “The three main ideas of the workshop—detention practices, criminalization of migrants, and border control—as well as the manner in which these elements intersect, served as common threads, bridging two days of engaging discussions.”



First Law of the Land

PhD candidate Jacquie Briggs describes the First Law of the Land: Sharing from the Great Dish

Jacquie Briggs (PhD Candidate in Criminology & Sociolegal Studies) and **Chandra Murdoch** (PhD Candidate in History and Junior Fellow at the Centre) co-organized an Indigenous law event on September 28th, 2019 titled First Law of the Land: Sharing from the Great Dish.

The goal of the event was to learn from Indigenous knowledge keepers and scholars about the pre-contact Dish With One Spoon wampum covenant between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples in the Great Lakes territory (which includes Toronto), with the goal of understanding how the covenant shapes our obligations and responsibilities in the present day.

Framing the presentations was discussion of how our current university practices of Indigenous land acknowledgment are an insufficient engagement with the existing Indigenous legal traditions in this territory.

The event was opened in the Haudenosaunee way with the Ohen:ton Karihwaterkwén (Thanksgiving Address) spoken in the Tuscarora language by **Mia McKie**—citizen of the Skarù:re’ (Tuscarora Nation), member

of the Turtle Clan, and PhD Candidate in History at U of T.

Knowledge Keeper **Wendy Phillips** then opened the event in the Anishinaabe way with a traditional smudge and teaching. Wendy is Ojibwa and Potawatami from Wasauksing First Nation, and belongs to the Bald Eagle Clan; her spirit names are Ahwidokazit—One Who Helps, and Bezhagobe—One Who Stands Alone.

Teachings about the Anishinaabe understanding and history of the Dish With One Spoon wampum covenant were offered by **Alan Corbiere**, Bne doodem (Ruffed Grouse clan), an Anishinaabe from M’Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. (Two days later, Alan successfully defended his PhD dissertation in the Department of History at York University!)

Teachings about the Haudenosaunee understanding of the Dish With One Spoon were then provided by Richard Hill, Beaver Clan of the Tuscarora Nation, who is resident in Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

The event was generously funded by (in alphabetical order) the Centre for

Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, the Centre for Indigenous Studies, the Department of History, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Provost), Victoria University, and Woodsworth College. Event support was graciously provided by **Cate MacLeod**, **Zora Anaya**, **Jessica Chlebowski**, **Lori Wells**, **Tanya Pitel**, and **Silvia Cocolo** of the Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, and by Woodsworth College. Victoria University generously provided the use of the Isabel Bader Theatre, which enabled almost 300 Indigenous community members and members of the U of T community to listen and learn from these four amazing speakers.

Jacquie Briggs

Race & Policing

A report for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission is continuing to make headlines eight months later

On March 27, CrimSL Professor **Scot Wortley** presented his report on police street checks in Halifax prepared for the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission (NSRHC).

The research included analysis of 12 years of data from Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP, community consultative meetings, interviews with police and community representatives, and an online survey. The report culminates in a series of recommendations for removing or regulating the practice of street checks, implementing data collection on all police stops (of which street checks are just a small fraction), and improving police-community relations.

“The research clearly demonstrates that police street check practices have had a disproportionate and negative impact on the African Nova Scotian community,” says Dr. Wortley in a press release from the NSHRC. “Street checks have contributed to the criminalization of black youth, eroded trust in law enforcement and

undermined the perceived legitimacy of the entire criminal justice system.

“Concrete action is required. I hope this report can make a difference and lead to a stronger, more trusting relationship between the police and the community.”

Reactions to the report were seen in protests, community meetings, and in responses at both the municipal and provincial level.

The Halifax board of police commissioners recommended in April that Halifax Regional Police and RCMP suspend the practice of street checks, and in September, requested that both city police and the RCMP submit plans to address street checks going forward. In June, the Halifax Regional Police announced that the force would purge fourteen years of street check data by 2020, and in October, the new Police Chief, **Daniel Kinsella**, announced that he would formally apologize to Nova Scotia’s Black community for the long history

of racial bias in policing.

Following the release of the report, Nova Scotia’s Justice Minister and Attorney General, **Mark Furey**, issued a directive to stop using street checks in association with quotas. Then, in April, Furey announced a moratorium across Nova Scotia of random stops of pedestrians and vehicle passengers. In June, it was announced that former chief justice of the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal, **Michael MacDonald**, would examine legality of Halifax street checks. When an assessment by MacDonald and research lawyer Jennifer Taylor was released in October, Furey announced that the temporary moratorium would be made permanent.

OHRC Interim Report

Report released in December 2019 looks at police use of force cases in Toronto

In December 2018, the Ontario Human Rights Commission released an interim report on race and policing. “A Collective Impact: Interim report on the inquiry into racial profiling and racial discrimination of Black persons by the Toronto Police Service” includes as one of its sections the Wortley Report, a report by Professor Scot Wortley, which provides a preliminary analysis of police use of force cases investigated by the Government of Ontario’s Special Investigations Unit (SIU).

From the Wortley Report’s introduction:

The study is designed to address the following five research questions with respect to the TPS:

1. *To what extent are Black people represented in police use of force incidents?*
2. *To what extent are Black people represented in police use of*

force cases – including police shootings?

3. *To what extent do cases involving Black civilians differ from cases involving civilians from other racial groups?*
4. *What proportion of SIU investigations result in criminal charges against police officers?*
5. *What proportion of SIU cases experience problems with police cooperation?*

There has been extensive coverage of the OHRC report in local, national, and international media. Professor Wortley, CrimSL PhD grad and instructor Dr. **Akwasi Owusu-Bempah**, who is cross-appointed to the Centre from the Department of Sociology, and PhD candidate **Julius Haag** have made television, radio, and print appearances regarding the report.

SIU Advisory Panel

2019 Arbor Award

Professor Emeritus Tony Doob is chair of the Structured Intervention Unit (SIU) Implementation Advisory Panel

Professor Emeritus **Tony Doob** has been appointed as the chair of a new Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness advisory panel. The Structured Intervention Unit (SIU) Implementation Advisory Panel “will help monitor and assess the implementation of SIUs established by Bill C-83,” provide feedback to the Commissioner of the Correctional Service of Canada, and alert the Minister directly about any problems or concerns related to the implementation of the new system.

Bill C-83, An Act to amend the Corrections and Conditional Release Act and another Act, received royal assent in June. Provisions of Bill C-83 will eliminate the use of administrative and disciplinary segregation in all federal correctional institutions on November 30 and establish SIUs. “In SIUs, offenders who need to be separated from the mainstream inmate population for safety reasons will have enhanced access to rehabilitative interventions and mental healthcare and meaningful interactions with other people.”

Professor Doob is quoted in the government press release announcing the panel: “We know from recent debates there are few simple solutions to the complex, multi-dimensional problems of accommodating offenders who need to be separated from the general population. I am pleased to chair this panel

that will have a role in advising how structured intervention units might be implemented in a thoughtful, humane fashion.”

The seven other members of the panel have expertise in fields including forensic psychiatry, human rights, criminal law, correctional operations and the rehabilitation of Indigenous offenders.



Dr. **William Watson**, Lecturer and Undergraduate Coordinator at CrimSL, is one of this year’s recipients of U of T’s Arbor Award, which recognizes and celebrates the incredible volunteers who consistently contribute to the experience of U of T students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community.

From Woodsworth College’s Award Recipients profile:

For the past 12 years, William has graciously and with great success been the reader at the Woodsworth College convocation ceremonies. He takes this

responsibility very seriously and will spend time before each ceremony ensuring that he has the correct pronunciation of each student’s name—students have been known to thank him for ‘pronouncing their name correctly’!

The 2019 Arbor Award ceremony was held on Monday, October 10, 2019.

Professor William Watson, Chancellor Patten and President Gertler

