Tom Tyler

Tom Tyler is a Professor of Law and Psychology at Yale Law School. Prior to joining the Yale Law faculty in 2012, he served as University Professor at New York University, where he taught in both the psychology department and the law school. He has also taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and at Northwestern University. Professor Tyler’s research and teaching has focused on social psychology and the psychology of procedural justice—the fairness of group rules and processes, and the motivations that lead people to cooperate when they are within groups. Among his many publications are the books, “Why People Cooperate” (2011), “Psychology and the Design of Legal Institutions” (2007), “Why People Obey the Law” (2006), and “Trust in the Law: Encouraging Public Cooperation with the Police and Courts” (2002). He was awarded the Kalvin prize for “paradigm shifting scholarship in the study of law and society” by the Law and Society Association in 2000. He holds a B.A. in psychology from Columbia and an M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Tyler’s research group is concerned with a variety of issues broadly related to the dynamics of authority within groups, organizations, and societies. As psychologists, his particular interest is in the factors that shape people’s motivations when they are dealing with others in group settings. Because justice has been found to be especially important to people’s motivation when dealing with others, he studies social justice. In particular, his work focuses on the psychology of procedural justice — the fairness of group rules and processes. Research consistently finds that people are strongly influenced by their assessments of procedural justice when they are evaluating authorities and institutions. Tyler explores the motivations that lead people to cooperate when they are within groups. There are two aspects of such cooperation. First, there is deference to authority. The study of regulation is generally concerned with understanding why people accept the decisions made by others. Legitimacy, the quality of being viewed as being entitled to be obeyed, is consistently linked to exercising authority in fair ways. Because of its implications for regulation, his work has always shared a connection with the concerns of the field of law. The question of how to manage undesirable behavior is central to the work of legal authorities, and he examines the motivations that shape people’s rule-related behavior.

His primary book on this topic (“Why People Obey the Law,” Tyler, 2006) establishes the key role of legitimacy in shaping obedience to the law. That finding is important to bringing psychology into social regulation, since the study of law-related behavior had been dominated by economics analysis linking behavior to sanctions. Tyler’s work shows that people will also take on the responsibility for obeying the law when asked to do so by a legitimate authority. In other words, people become self-regulatory. The further finding in his work that procedural justice is a key antecedent of legitimacy has led to a literature on procedural justice in legal institutions and in interactions with legal authorities.

The findings of this book have been widely cited within law. They are important because the question of how to motivate compliance with law and legal rules is central to many areas of law and these findings therefore have wide applicability. Recent applications include the study of commitment hearings in mental hospitals, people’s reactions to mass tort settlements, the emergence of international law, and the popularity of mediation hearings.
Tomorrow’s Professors

Congratulations to the following students who have accepted teaching positions with the following institutions:

Youngoh Jo has accepted a position as Assistant Professor with the State University of New York, College at Brockport.

Pierre Rivolta has accepted a position of Assistant Professor in the Criminology & Criminal Justice Department at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU). CCSU is located in New Britain, CT.

Shawn Ryals-Keller has accepted a position as an Assistant Professor with Florida Gulfcoast University in Fort Myers, Florida.

Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertations:

Ji Seun Sohn defended her dissertation proposal entitled, “Predicting Houston’s Residents’ Perceptions of the Houston Police Department” on February 24, 2012. Her committee chair is Dr. Phillip M. Lyons Jr.


A Word from the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Director of the CJ Ph.D. Program

Welcome to the Spring 2012 semester and the 12th issue of the CJ Grad Newsletter. While some of our students are on the job market and landing jobs for next fall, the Graduate Standards and Admissions Committee (GSAC) are combing through applications for next fall admission. We have offered admission to potential Forensic Science students, MA Criminology and Criminal Justice students, MS in Criminal Justice Leadership and Management students, and Security Studies students. The challenge now is to get them to accept our offers.

The external review team that wrote our Academic Program Review (Self-Study) last year recommended that we consider interviewing Ph.D. applicants prior to offering them admission. Thus, for the first time, the GSAC is interviewing our top Ph.D. applicants. We are in the process of inviting to campus and interviewing around 10 Ph.D. applicants. The competition is fierce for the best students across the nation, and we think that the interviews will help us sway some applicants that are sitting on the fence to choose Sam Houston to do their Ph.D. in Criminal Justice. The GSAC wants to thank the faculty and the Ph.D. students who have been involved in this process as it continues to unfold. I think it is a step in the right direction for our Ph.D. program.

Faculty News

Dr. Kate Fox will be leaving at the end of the Spring 2012 semester. Her new position will be Assistant Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University, which is located in Phoenix, AZ. Her areas of specialization include victimology, gangs, corrections, fear of crime, gender, and research methods. Dr. Fox said she will sincerely miss the faculty, staff, and students here at SHSU!

Dr. Rolando del Carmen will be retiring after 38 years of service with SHSU. Dr. del Carmen joined the College of Criminal Justice in 1974 and will be leaving as a Regents Professor and Distinguished Professor. His books, publications and presentations have won him several awards. He will be greatly missed by the College and the University.

Dr. Janet Mullings has been selected to serve as the Executive Director of the new, SHSU-the Woodlands Campus. Dr. Mullings has done an outstanding job as the Associate Dean and Chair of the Faculty and her service will be missed. Dr. Mullings will retain faculty rank and tenure in CJ and down the road she will teach an occasional CJ course.

Dr. Glen Kercher will be retiring at the end of the Spring 2012 semester. Dr. Kercher joined SHSU in 1970. His current research works-in-progress include Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Immigrant Victimization, Annual Survey of Adult Victims of Crime, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence. Dr. Kercher said he is looking forward to retirement and setting his own schedule and being able to do the things he couldn’t because of work. Dr. Kercher stated, “It has been gratifying to see the College progress from the Institute of Contemporary Corrections and the Behavioral Sciences to a more national visibility due to scholarship and research opportunities.” His most rewarding experience during his time at SHSU has been his position as the Director of the Crimes Victim’s Institute. In his words, “The research was cool.”
Graduate Research Exchange

The 15th Annual University-wide Graduate Research Exchange is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, 2012, from 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Building, Second Floor. At the Graduate Research Exchange, graduate students are able to present their professional research to peers and faculty, receive feedback, and have a chance to be published. Also CASH PRIZES are given to the most outstanding papers. Requirements for submission are a written proposal highlighting your purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, and implications. The research can be complete or in progress.

Graduate Students may email Molly Doughtie in the Graduate Programs office at gradeducation@shsu.edu for paperwork.

Student Governance Committees

**Student Advisory Committee to the Dean**
Cassandra Atkin, Seth Fallik, and Matt Matusiak

**Faculty Search Committee**
Pierre Rivolta-Student Representative

**Curriculum Development Committee**
Tasha Menaker – Student Representative

**Awards & Beto Chair Committee**
Youngoh Jo – Student Representative

**Ad Hoc “Year of the Undergraduate” Committee**
Jeannine Subjack- Student Representative

Graduate Commencement Information

The Spring 2012 Graduate Commencement ceremony will take place on Friday evening, May 11, 2012 at 7:30pm. Detailed information regarding undergraduate and graduate commencement is available on the SHSU Web site at [http://www.shsu.edu/~reg_www/destination/index.html](http://www.shsu.edu/~reg_www/destination/index.html). Additional questions may be directed to the Graduation Office at (936) 294-4245. The CJ pre-commencement reception will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the CJava.

What Did You Do This Semester?

Did you work on an amazing project? Did you conduct really interesting research? Tell us about it! You worked hard and you deserve some recognition. Send the CJ Graduate Office a brief description of your project or research. We’ll share it with the rest of our community in the next issues of the newsletter.

Be proud! Brag a little! We want to know what our graduate students are up to.

In the News

**Michael Cavanaugh**, Bouffard, J., Wells, W., and Nobles, M. paper titled, “Student Attitudes Toward Concealed Handguns on Campus at Two Universities,” was accepted for publication in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

**Joongyeup Lee** and **Leana Bouffard**'s article titled, “Maternal Employment and Juvenile Delinquency: A Longitudinal Study of Korean Adolescents” was accepted for publication in *Crime and Delinquency*.

**Tatyana Menaker**'s manuscript co-authored with **Courtney Franklin** titled, “Juvenile Female Prostitutes and Subject Perceptions of Blameworthiness: Examining the Effects of Victimization History Disclosure and Prostitute Race,” has been submitted to the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

**Robin D. Jackson** won first place in the graduate student paper competition at the annual SWACJ conference in Bryan, Texas. Her paper was titled, “Social Bonds and Nonmedical Prescription Drug Use by Adolescents.”

**Youngoh Jo** won second place at the SWACJ conference for his paper titled, “The stability of self-control: Hirschi’s redefined self-control.”

ACJS Annual Meeting

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) will hold its annual meeting March 13-17, 2012, at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in New York, New York. The theme of the meeting will be “Sustainable Justice.” For more information on ACJS, please contact Cathy L. Barth at manager@acjs.org.

Call For Papers

Presentations are invited for the American Society of Criminology’s (ASC) Annual Meeting, to be held at the Palmer House Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, on November 14-17, 2012. The theme will be “Thinking About Contest: Challenges for Crime and Justice.” Posters and roundtable abstracts are due May 11, 2012.
Critical Criminology on Tap

An informal event geared toward discussing critical criminology’s theory, method, and role within the discipline and how it can be used to advance the field. No readings or prior knowledge required so students and faculty are invited to attend, have a drink, and join the conversation. CCoT is open to both students (masters and Ph.D.) and faculty. For more information, please contact Kevin Steinmetz at kfs006@shsu.edu.

By the Numbers-Spring 2012 Enrollment

The College of Criminal Justice would like to welcome all new and returning students for the 2012-2013 academic year. The College admitted 34 new graduate students for the Spring 2012 semester.

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<td><strong>Total New and Returning Students</strong></td>
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December 2011 Graduates

**Ph.D.**
- J. Michael Bozeman
- Kyung Yong Jhi
- Hee Joo Kim
- Joseph D. Serio
- Samuel V.S. Swindell

**Master of Arts**
- Katie Akeroyd
- Melissa Bisset
- Bradley Campbell
- Gustavo Gallegos
- Zayra Hernandez

**Master of Science**
- Osman Balaman
- Saída Franklinbrugger
- Rachel Garza
- Laura Meza
- Jairo Patino
- Ana Swaminathan

**Security Studies**
- Laura Aguilar
- Kyle Collins
- Michael Knighton
- Matthew Thomas
- Tristan Ware
- Lane Yarbrough

**M.S. Criminal Justice Leadership and Management Online**
- Douglas Bell
- Chris Clem
- Laura Dzwigalski
- Michael Ferguson
- Courtnay Gates
- Dina Gonzales
- Emily Hill
- Daniel Jones
- John Krueger
- Diana Kukua
- Ian Lovestock
- Wendell Mitchell
- Christopher Petrowski
- Thomas Reynolds
- Gary Tittle

**M.S. Criminal Justice Leadership and Management Weekend**
- Alale Allal
- Craig Boyett
- David Coleman
- Daniel Dickerson
- Billy Hirsch
- Travis Lacoix
- Andre Mitchell
- Yvonne Stanley

Spring 2012 Thesis/Dissertation Timeline

- **March 2, 2012** Last day to submit draft thesis/dissertation to Library for format and style review.
- **March 9, 2012** Degree applications to be filed in Registrar’s Office by students graduating in August 2012.
- **March 30, 2012** Last day to complete a public defense of a thesis/dissertation.
- **April 11, 2012** Last day to submit complete, defended and signed thesis/dissertation to the appropriate academic dean’s office.
- **April 13, 2012** Last day to submit final thesis/dissertation (defended and signed) and Route Sheet to the Director of the Library.
- **April 20, 2012** Last day to make all final copies of thesis/dissertation and submit to the NGL for binding. Last day to submit Route Sheet to the Dean of Graduate Studies.