

Robert Werth, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae
August 2018

Senior Lecturer
Department of Sociology
Rice University
Houston, TX

Office: (713) 348-4585
Email: rwerth@rice.edu

Academic appointments

2018- Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Rice University
Faculty affiliate: Politics, Law & Social Thought (PLST)
2012–2018 Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Rice University
2011–12 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Quinnipiac University

Areas of research/scholarly interest

Punishment and its effects on citizenship, subjectivity and social in/exclusion; Cultural conceptions of penal subjects; Risk assessments, classifications and logics; The use of technologies in community-based punishments; Parole and post-prison experiences; Specialty criminal courts; Rehabilitation; Law and society/socio-legal studies; Social theory; Ethnography

Education

Ph.D. Criminology, Law and Society. University of California, Irvine. 2011.
M.A. Social Ecology. University of California, Irvine. 2007.
B.A. Sociology. University of Iowa. 1993.

Publications

Peer reviewed journal articles

2018 “Theorizing the performative effects of penal risk technologies: (Re)producing the subject who must be dangerous.” *Social and Legal Studies*. Published online May 3, 2018.
DOI: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0964663918773542>
2017 “Editor’s introduction” to special issue: “Ethnographic explorations of punishment and the governance of security.” *Social Justice*. 44(1): 1-9.
2017 Robert Werth and Andrea Ballesterro. “Ethnography and governance of il/legality: Some methodological and analytic reflections.” *Social Justice*. 44(1): 10-26.
2017 “Individualizing risk: Moral judgment, professional knowledge and affect in parole evaluations.” *British Journal of Criminology*. 57(4): 808-827.
2013 “The construction and stewardship of responsible yet precarious subjects: Punitive ideology, rehabilitation, and ‘tough love’ among parole personnel.” *Punishment and Society*. 15(3): 219-242.
2012 “I do what i’m told, sort of: Reformed subjects, unruly citizens, and parole.” *Theoretical Criminology*. 16(3): 329-346.

Book chapters

- 2017 “Breaking the rules the right way: Resisting parole logics and asserting autonomy in the USA.” Invited chapter in *Parole and beyond: International experiences of life after prison*, Ruth Armstrong and Ioan Durnescu, editors. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Working papers

“Risk and punishment: The recent history and uncertain future of algorithmic, actuarial and evidence-based penal techniques.” Invited article for *Sociology Compass*, for submission September 2018.

“Shadowing sex offenders in parole: Making up, enclosing and erasing an extreme penal subject.” For submission to *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, October 2018.

““Operation boo” and “shadow day”: Spectacular and spectral surveillance in the carceral archipelago.” Invited chapter in *Ghost Criminology*, Kindynis, T., Fiddler, M. and Linnemann, T, editors. Under contract with NYU Press.

“From prediction to preparation: Risk assessments and imagining multiple futures in parole.” For submission to *Social Problems*, December 2018.

Professional Reports

- 2007 Turner, S., Janneta, J., Hess, J., Myers, R., Shah, R., Werth, R., and Whitby, A. “Implementation and early outcomes for the San Diego high risk sex offender gps pilot program.” Center for Evidence-Based Corrections Bulletin, UC Irvine.

- 2005 Werth, R. and Sumner, J. “Inside California’s prisons and beyond: A snapshot of in-prison and reentry programs.” Center for Evidence-Based Corrections Bulletin, UC Irvine. Available at: http://ucicorrections.seweb.uci.edu/pdf/WorkingPaperRe-entry_d.pdf

Book reviews

- 2017 Book Review: *On the parole board: Reflections on crime, punishment, redemption and justice*, by Frederic Reamer. *Punishment & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/1462474517731736

Grants and Fellowships

- 2010 Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Writing Fellowship. Graduate Division, University of California, Irvine.
- 2010 Social Ecology Alumni Fellowship. School of Social Ecology. University of California, Irvine.
- 2008 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant (# 0819562). Law & Social Sciences Division.
- 2007 Fellow Center in Law, Society and Culture. University of California, Irvine.

Honors and Awards

- 2018 George R. Brown Prize for Excellence in Teaching (The university’s most prestigious teaching award, awarded by the office of the President and the Faculty Senate’s Committee on Teaching)
- 2017 Distinguished Faculty Associate at Martel College, Rice University. (Awarded by office of the President in recognition of student mentoring activities)
- 2015 Distinguished Faculty Associate at Martel College, Rice University. (Awarded by office of the President in recognition of student mentoring activities)
- 2014 Sarah A. Burnett Teaching Prize in Social Sciences, Rice University. (Award for the best teaching evaluations across all social sciences in 2013-2014 academic year)

- 2010 Gil Geis Award for excellence in research, Department of Criminology, Law and Society. University of California, Irvine.
- 2010 Public Impact Fellowship Honorable Mention. University of California, Irvine.
- 2009 Pedagogical Fellow. Competitive award from the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center. University of California, Irvine. Focused on course development, advanced pedagogy, and mentoring of new graduate students.

Teaching Experience

- 2012-present Rice University, Department of Sociology.
Classes taught: Introduction to Sociology (SOC1101); Social Theory (SOC1380); Sociology of Law (SOC1324); Crime, Punishment and Society (SOC1358); Crime, Punishment & Society-graduate level (SOC1600); Law and resistance in the everyday – *joint undergraduate & graduate course* (SOC1/ANTH 396/596); Crime, Law and Justice in Popular Culture (SOC1349); Supervised Research (SOC1327); Judicial Practicum (SOSC406)
- 2011-12 Quinnipiac University, Department of Sociology.
Classes taught: Crime and Society (CJ283); Prisons and Jails (CJ261); Race, Crime and Justice (CJ242)
- 2009-10 Lecturer/Teaching Associate. University of California, Irvine, Department of Criminology, Law and Society.
Classes taught: Criminological Theory (C108); Sociology of Law (C104); Social Theory and Law (C154); Civil Legal Systems (C101)
- 2007 Lecturer. California State University, Long Beach.
Classes taught: Research Methods - for Advanced M.A. program in Criminal Justice.

Research Experience

- 2011-17 Ongoing, multi-sited ethnographic project conducted in California: participant observation and in-depth interviews with parole personnel and individuals on parole, and archival research.
- 2008-10 Dissertation fieldwork conducted in California. Includes archival research, focus groups, in-depth interviews and participant observation with parole personnel and individuals on parole. Research conducted June, 2008 through November, 2009.
- 2006 Ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Southern California for Master's Thesis. In-depth interviews and ethnographic observation with individuals on parole. Fieldwork conducted April through August 2006.
- 2006 Research Assistant. Center for Evidence-Based Corrections. UC, Irvine. Multi-method research project on the impact of GPS monitoring devices for "high-risk sex offenders" on recidivism and parole revocations. PI: Dr. Susan Turner.
- 2006 Data Analysis Consultant. Provided support with Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping on research project on parole and social disorganization. Results presented (in-absentia) at 2006 Annual American Society of Criminology conference.
- 2005 Research Assistant. Center for Evidence-Based Corrections. UC, Irvine. Included research and paper co-authored on rehabilitative programs available in California, and research on state-level measures of recidivism. PI: Dr. Joan Petersilia.

Presentations, Invited Talks, and Colloquia

- 2018 **Invited** participant on “Authors Meets Reader” session for *Addicted to Rehab: Race, gender and drugs in an era of mass incarceration*” by Allison McKim. At annual Law & Society Association Conference, Toronto, June 2018.
- 2018 “From prediction to preparation: Penal risk, relationality and multiple futures.” Paper presented at annual Law & Society Association conference, Toronto, June 2018
- 2018 Panelist at “Ethnography and critical criminology.” Roundtable at New Directions in Critical Criminology, Eastern Kentucky University, April 2018.
- 2017 “Risk assessments and sociotechnical relations: Exploring the institutional, automatic and ritual effects of penal technologies.” Paper presented at annual Law & Society Association conference, Mexico City, June 2017.
- 2017 **Invited** panelist at “Mass incarceration: Why we should care and what we should do?” Rice University, April 19.
- 2017 **Invited** roundtable participant at “Critical intersections of crime and social justice”, Old Dominion University, April 7-8.
- 2016 “(Re)Producing the logics of risk: The self-perpetuating dimensions of risk assessment in parole.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, New Orleans, November 2016.
- 2016 **Invited** panelist at “Policing, race and relations.” Organized by the Baker Institute Student Forum, Rice University, September 21.
- 2016 “Beyond compliance and recidivism: Reimagining success and how we recognize/measure it.” **Invited** presentation at Reimagining Incarceration and Reentry conference, Project Curate, Houston, TX, July 2016.
- 2016 “From the actuarial to the intuitive: Considering affect within parole evaluation.” Paper presented at annual Law & Society Association conference, New Orleans, June 2016.
- 2016 “Breaking the rules the right way: Resistance, autonomy and the reproduction of penal power.” Paper presented at New Directions in Critical Criminology conference at University of Tennessee, May 2016.
- 2016 “Breaking the rules the right way: Resistance, autonomy and reproducing penal power.” **Invited** talk, Eastern Kentucky University, Department of Justice Studies, May 2016.
- 2016 **Invited** discussant at Penal Boundaries II Workshop: Excesses, limits and the production of inequality, University of Toronto Center for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, April 2016.
- 2015 “From the actuarial to the intuitive: Considering affect within parole evaluations and relations.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, Washington DC, November, 2015.
- 2015 “New parole technologies, precautionary penal logics, and administrative decisions: Overriding the algorithm.” Paper presented at annual Law & Society Association conference, Seattle, May, 2015.
- 2015 “Rendering paroled subjects knowable: Assessing/assembling risk and (re)individualizing dangerous persons”. **Invited** Colloquia, Department of Anthropology, Rice University. March, 2015.
- 2014 “Uncertain but not unknown: Techno-moral evaluations, individualized risk, and rendering paroled subjects knowable.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, San Francisco, November 2014.

- 2014 “The performative production of risk: Evaluating risk and constituting subjects.” Paper presented at annual Law & Society Association conference, Minneapolis, May 2014.
- 2014 “Parole as performative: Constituting subjects, assessing risk, and recursively locating noncompliance.” **Invited** presentation at Penal boundaries workshop (“Excesses, limits and the production of inequality”), University of Toronto, Center for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies, April 2014.
- 2013 “What/where is the law in Turkish protests?” *Invited* presentation at “What is going on in Turkey”; Department of Political Science, Rice University, June 2013.
- 2012 “The construction and stewardship of responsible yet precarious subjects: Punitive ideology, rehabilitation and ‘tough love’ among parole personnel.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, Chicago, IL, November 2012.
- 2011 “I do what I’m told, sort of: Reform, resistance and autonomy among parolees.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 Discussant for panel “Retracing an old tidemark anew: The new anthropology of crime” at annual American Society of Criminology conference. Washington, D.C.
- 2010 “More of the Same or a Real Shift?: Reshaping Rehabilitation within Parole.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference. San Francisco, CA.
- 2010 “Informing Parole Agent Knowledge: Actuarial Assessments and Gut Feeling.” Paper presented at annual Law and Society Association conference. Chicago, IL.
- 2009 “From Risk and Reentry to Knowing and Anticipating Parolees.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2009 “The Uneasy Interplay of Risk, Rehabilitation and Reentry.” Paper presented at annual Law and Society Association conference. Denver, Colorado.
- 2009 “Rehabilitation, Reentry, and the Rise of Sex Offenders.” Paper presented at annual Western Society of Criminology conference. San Diego, CA.
- 2008 Discussant at “Experimental Systems as Ethnographic Modality” conference. Organized by the Center for Ethnography and Department of Anthropology. University of California, Irvine.
- 2007 “Reformed Subjects and Unruly Agents: How Individuals Navigate and Enact Parole.” Paper presented at annual American Society of Criminology conference, Los Angeles, November 2007.
- 2007 “Negotiating Parole and Power: Parolee Perspectives.” Paper presented at annual Law and Society Association conference, Berlin, Germany, May 2007.
- 2007 “Punishment, Governance and Ethnography.” Presented at conference: “What is so hard about soft law?” Sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and Center in Law, Society at Culture. UC, Irvine.

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2018 Co-organizer of paper session: “Technologies of identification, surveillance and prediction in the governance of crime.” At annual Law & Society Association conference, Toronto, June 2018.
- 2017 Co-organizer of series of 4 paper sessions: “Punishment, society and technology: Exploring big data, risk and emerging techniques of crime control.” At annual Law & Society Association conference, Mexico City, June 2017.

- 2016 Organizer of series of 3 paper sessions: “Ethnographic explorations of illegalities, penalty, and risk/security.” At annual Law & Society Association conference, New Orleans, June 2016.
- 2015 Co-organizer of paper session: “Rethinking reentry: Exploring logics, relations, and the governance of marginalization”. At annual American Society of Criminology conference, Washington, DC, November 2015.
- 2015 Co-organizer of nine panels (paper sessions and roundtables) for the Ethnography, Law and Society Collaborative Research Network at the Annual Law & Society conference, Seattle, May 2015.
- 2014 Organizer of paper session: “Dangerous subjects, actuarial knowledges, and revisiting the new penology: Critical carceral studies” At annual American Society of Criminology conference, San Francisco, November 2014.
- 2008 Organizer of “Conversations on California Parole.” One-day conference among parole personnel/practitioners. Sponsored by the Center for Ethnography. University of California, Irvine.
- 2008 Co-organizer of Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Graduate Student/Faculty Workshop on NGO’s and Non-Profit organizations. Annual American Anthropological Association meeting. San Francisco, California.

Media appearances

- 2018 Interview for Houston Chronicle article “Rice researcher finds risk assessment tools may increase incarceration rates” by Keri Blakinger, June 25, 2018. Available at: <https://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Rice-researcher-finds-risk-assessment-tools-may-13022090.php>
- 2016 Interview, Reclaimed Podcast: Dialogues on Justice and Kinship. September 20, 2016. Available at: <http://reclaimed.libsyn.com/>
- 2015 Radio interview, The Texas Standard (aired on public radio stations in Texas). On homicide rates and trends in Houston, TX, March 25, 2015. Available at: <http://www.texasstandard.org/shows/03252015/texas-standard-for-march-25-2015/>
- 2012 Television interview, Fox Connecticut. On police department disciplining of officers. April 2, 2012.
- 2012 Television interview, NBC Connecticut. On police department disciplining of officers. April 2, 2012.

Service

- 2016–2018 Co-chair of Ethnography, Law and Society Collaborative Research Network, Law & Society Association.
- 2014–2016 Member, Committee for panel organization, Ethnography, Law and Society Collaborative Research Network, Law & Society Association.
- 2013–present Faculty sponsor, Rice Coalition on Hunger and Homelessness, Student organization, Rice University.
- 2013–present Divisional adviser, Social Sciences, Martel Residential College, Rice University.
- 2013–14 First year faculty mentor, Martel Residential College, Rice University.
- 2013 Faculty judge, Walter and Helen Hall Paper Prizes, Undergraduate competition. Department of Sociology, Rice University.
- 2012–present Faculty Associate, Martel Residential College, Rice University.

- 2011–12 Faculty Sponsor, Society, Justice and Life Club, Student organization, Quinnipiac University.
- 2011 Member of Job Search Subcommittee. Department of Sociology, Quinnipiac University.
- 2009 Pedagogical Fellow for School of Social Ecology. UC, Irvine. Organized professional development workshops for teaching assistants. Served as liaison between Department of Criminology, Law and Society and graduate students regarding teaching issues and concerns.
- 2007-9 Editorial Assistant. *Law & Society Review*. Responsibilities included processing manuscripts and reviews, and corresponding with authors and reviewers.

Professional Organizations and Societies

- American Society of Criminology
- Law and Society Association
- American Society of Sociology
- Collaborative Research Network: Ethnography, Law and Society (Law and Society Association)
- Collaborative Research Network: Punishment and Social Control (Law and Society Association)