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Senior Editor's Note

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SENIOR EDITOR'S NOTE

Volume 23 (2020) of *MSSJ* represents my final issue as Senior Editor. I am very pleased to be turning the editor's role over to the incoming Co-Senior Editors, Nirupama Deveraj and Bharath Ganesh Babu, both of Valparaiso University. Niru and Bharath currently serve as Deputy Editors and have been actively involved in the IASS over the past decade. I have no doubt they will carry forward the best traditions, knowledge, and innovation that have marked the journal for these past 10 years. I wish them every success as the new coeditors of this journal.

This year's volume offers eight richly researched and dynamic papers on the themes of discrimination and inclusion-exclusion, overlapping with law, deviance, and crime, explored from several social science disciplines and time periods. The first paper is an invited research essay from Professor Laura Wilson on the topic of how far women have come politically since the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was ratified 100 years ago—and how far they have to go to gain equity and inclusion in political life and participation as citizens in our country. Dr. Wilson graciously stepped in to write her paper on a topic parallel to Dr. Christina Wolbrecht's 2019 Keynote presentation at our annual meeting at Valparaiso University, after Dr. Wolbrecht was unable to do so. Following up on the theme of women's exclusion from major academic roles as doctoral students and professors, Bruce Bigelow introduces readers to the remarkable life and career of one Indiana woman, Elfrieda Lang, who bravely defied the odds and obstacles to earn a PhD in history from Indiana University in 1950, at the age of 46. As Dr. Bigelow notes, "In 1950, 288 doctorates were awarded to history students in American universities, of which 31 (9 percent), including Lang, were females." Women's positions in higher education in the United States today have certainly advanced in some major ways, though they continue to lag in others. Even while the overall majority of doctorates in the United States are awarded to women, with women well ahead of men in such fields as public administration, health sciences, education, arts, humanities, and the social-behavioral sciences, men earn the lion's share of doctorates in the STEM fields of "engineering (76.6%), mathematics and computer sciences (74.9%) and physical and earth sciences (65.9%)" (*CGS/GRE Graduate Enrollment & Degrees: 2007–2017 Report*).

Themes of discrimination, inclusion-exclusion, and social justice are tackled in several additional articles in this issue. Professor J. Michael Raley offers a deeply researched examination of the debate between colonizationism and abolitionism in the antebellum north as it played out at Hanover College over several decades. He shows how students and some faculty served as the conscience of the institution, in direct conflict with the president and board of trustees. In another paper, Professor Margaret Pollak shares her research in medical anthropology, addressing the diabetic-care needs among Indigenous Americans living in Chicago. Dr. Pollak observes that most of her subjects expressed a desire to care for their diabetes but faced both expected challenges, such as cost of care, and several unique obstacles related to differences in culture. Finally, Professor Evelyn Ravuri examines the topic of gentrification and racial

transformation by using an innovative technology to focus on how the Great Recession of 2008 affected one Cincinnati neighborhood.

Professor Beau Shine's paper marks a transition to the study of law, deviance, and crime. His research examines the linguistic needs of deaf defendants, an underserved and generally understudied population, in the criminal justice system.

In their article about Hirschi's deviance and social control theory, Professors Mathna, Roberts, and Koen explore the relationship between a person's social bonds with authority figures (parents, for example) and self-control as it pertains to use of alcohol and illicit drugs. Hirschi asked not why people break the law but rather why people obey the law. This is not a new question in the history of philosophy, sociology, or law; it has preoccupied political philosophers from Plato and Aristotle to Hobbes and onward. In the early 20th century, criminologist Edwin Sutherland also asked such a question and suggested, with his theory of differential association, that persons learn criminality the same way they learn respectability—though active association and social learning from others. This fundamental theoretical question demands an answer, and Mathna and colleagues offer empirical evidence in support of Hirschi's social control theory that the more developed or stronger the social bonds with authority figures such as parents and, by implication, the police, the greater the likelihood that a person will have developed sufficient self-control to maintain conformity with laws. Deviance results from the absence of such bonds with parents and other role models of conformity. One implication of this research is that community policing efforts are a vital part of the reduction of crime effort.

The next research paper, from historian Dr. Randy Mills, explores the lawless violence of the last Jesse James-type robbers, the Reeves Gang, in the Lower Midwest after the Civil War through the very early 20th century. The Reeves brothers, as with similar criminal gangs of the period, continued to deploy in civil society a set of values and skills associated with violence long after the Civil War had ended.

I have enjoyed serving as editor-in-chief over the past decade and having the opportunity to review and publish many fine exemplars of social science research. My editorial teams and I have accomplished a great deal during this time. This publication debuted last year (2019, Vol. 22) with a new title: the *Midwest Social Sciences Journal*. Our new journal name is in many ways an icon of the transformation the journal has been undergoing since 2010. Contributing authors, included scholarship, and readership of the journal grew from a more or less predominantly Indiana focus to a regional and even national focus. Although *MSSJ* remains rooted in traditional Hoosier values, contemporary social science recognizes that topics and issues do not exist in a vacuum and that a regional, national, and international perspective is called for today.

Indiana in 2020 is interwoven in many ways with regional, national, and international economics, culture, environmental concerns, politics, and media. It is no longer feasible to attempt to understand major social problems and crises such as health and illness, race relations, climate change, economic inequality, gender rights, and crime and policing without simultaneously understanding the regional, national, and global parts of the equation. The scourge of COVID-19, as well as new hope for neutralizing it introduced by the recent announcements of treatments and vaccines to stop its transmission, is an

illustrative if tragic example of the inevitable connection of Indiana with the rest of the world. Few if any serious social issues today can be understood, let alone solved, at the local level only. A social science that matters and hopes to make a difference must embrace the permeability and interconnectedness of the entire social *world*.

My charge from the Board of Directors as I assumed the role of Senior Editor in October 2010 was to transition the journal to a modern and contemporary publication. Toward this end, a number of significant changes were introduced. A double-blind peer-review system, with at least two referees for each article, was instituted. The requirement that a submission must have been presented at our annual meeting was dropped in favor of an open policy accepting submissions from any social scientist(s). Since 2011, we no longer publish a paper from every social science discipline; papers are accepted and published strictly on the basis of merit, with the result that any given issue is likely to feature papers from some disciplines but not every social science discipline. We encourage submission of exceptional research from students and over the years have published several outstanding examples of student scholarship. Beginning with my first issue, Volume 14 (2010–2011), the journal has been published online as well as in print. Since the development of the online edition of the journal, print copies are no longer mailed to members; instead, copies are available for members to pick up at the annual meeting (print copies may be ordered for additional cost plus a shipping-and-handling charge). Volume 23 (2020) will, as usual, be indexed and available through EBSCO and be listed in Cabell's Directory (of special interest for scholars in business, economics, and finance). The online journal was transferred from the IASS website to Butler University's Berkeley digital commons platform in 2017. The advantage of this online platform is that it records and maintains a rich database of information about downloaded articles. *JIAS* through Volume 21 (2018) will remain housed at Butler; *MSSJ*, beginning with Volume 22 (2019), will be available at Valparaiso University's Berkeley digital commons platform. As of November 2020, there have been more than 50,000 downloads of *JIAS* articles through Volume 21 (2018)—a remarkable milestone for the journal by any standard! Links to each volume of the journal will remain on the IASS website.

All of these developments represent important milestones for both the journal and the Academy and will ensure their successful transition to the 21st century of scholarly communication. I have been fortunate during the past eight years to have worked with a talented and dedicated staff of coeditors, referee-reviewers, and, of course, authors. My thanks to former Deputy Editors Dulce Maria Scott, Jaishankar Raman, and Surekha Rao. I continue to be fortunate and grateful for the fine editorial assistance of Stephanie Seifert Stringham, who has been my Copy Editor since Volume 14 (2010–2011). Stephanie continues to be a major editorial presence and resource behind the scene, ensuring that every single line of text and every graph, table, figure, and bibliographic reference meets the highest professional and technical standards prior to publication. Stephanie's attention to detail and her dedication and competence have helped to make every paper we publish shine. Over the years, I have also enjoyed the support of Dr. Mary Moore, University of Indianapolis, as Managing Editor. Her able administrative assistant, Julie Cripps, has also been greatly appreciated. Finally, I want to publicly recognize and thank our many referee-reviewers, who serve without fanfare, reading and evaluating papers submitted for

publication and helping to ensure that every issue maintains the highest standards of scholarly excellence. The names of our reviewers are published at the end of the journal and warrant a moment's attention. These reviewers deserve everyone's thanks because, quite simply, without their professional dedication and commitment, *MSSJ* would not be possible.

Last but not least, I acknowledge and thank Jay Howard, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Butler University, for his steady support of both IASS and my role as editor of *JIASJ/MSSJ* over the years. Dean Howard provided funding and advocacy for my work as editor, and I am grateful for his friendship and support.

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