



Conference 2021

Brief Talks – Day 1 – Track A Programming/Equity and Inclusion

4:30 - 5:10

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87447930712?pwd=VzlvNWVlOHBLUWQ1WXliY3BNejZTU09>

Higher Education at Attica 1971-2021

Doran Larson and Jason Rodriguez

The demands of the men who organized and died inside Attica from September 9 to 13, 1971, did not disappear. Among those demands were calls for more contact with the community and for formal education programs. Genesee Community College offered both by delivering credit-bearing classes inside Attica, classes that continued until Pell tuition support was placed beyond the reach of incarcerated people in 1994. GCC programming resumed inside Attica in January, 2011, with the support of a private donor. In 2020, Ashland University of Ohio, an institution that seeks out opportunities to get their online programming into prisons beyond Ohio's borders, was approved to deliver remote, online courses in NY DOCS and at Attica, drawing down the Second Chance Pell accounts of incarcerated students, and to do so even as GCC's in-person programming continues. The New York Consortium for Higher Education in Prison (NYCHEP) approached our Department of Corrections with concerns related to new program approvals, academic quality, and importance of in person learning but was ultimately unsuccessful in getting the Department to reconsider this decision. This presentation will address the historical irony, and risk, of college programming originally inspired by incarcerated people's desire for face-to-face human contact between incarcerated people and community members, being placed in competition with screen time managed from out of state. It will include thoughts from at least one program graduate and the organizer of the renewed GCC-Attica program. It will address the concerns that we should all bring to thinking about the restoration of Pell eligibility in an era of mass-produced and disseminated online education, and it will locate this discussion in the half-century shadow of the Attica rebellion.

Spreading Love Unapologetically

Gaylisa Carr

I am formerly justice involved and I created a simple program about cognitive behavior and I have presented this material to several people incarcerated since 2014. I presently program in a city jail in Ohio with groups of men. I am also an expert on all areas that this conference involves and I am living proof that people DO change. I broadcast every Wednesday from a radio station and our



mission is “Spreading Love Unapologetically “, and we talk about various issues and have guests who were previously incarcerated. I have a plethora of resources and information but am not privy to the funding. Hope to hear from someone soon and thank you.

Convict Criminology Testimony: Using Polar Opposites to Fight Against the Epoch of Neo-incarceration With Autoethnography

Lucas Alan Dietsche

Convict Criminology has existed for more than two decades. The main focus of Convict Criminology is in the classrooms researching various topics from the subjective position of the incarcerated person's experience and theory. There is not much in relation to convict criminology as a vocal and non-academic setting. This research uses evidence on how Convict Criminology can be used to resist the current contemporary epoch of the revitalization of the federal system, private prisons, the criminalization of immigration, and recently even more the criminalization of the activist. What is needed is that convict criminologists by advantage of two conflicting poles e.g. Stigma of being a social and academic privilege can use these for the primary use of testimonials though autoethnographies. The convict criminologist is the ex post facto expert by his refusal to acquiesce and defend the law and order stance within the criminal justice system. Their proficiency gives an expert witness account of a particular side of the field. But this expertise is married with theory, research praxis, thesis, and contemporary normalities; maturing their “legitimacy” for society. How useful convict criminologists are depends on the situation they are giving testimony, what information are they willing to disclose, and for what purpose.



Conference 2021

Brief Talks – Day 1 – Track B Advocacy/Stem

4:30 – 5:10

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84395974813?pwd=eERvYWRLenNhYU1pakdWbzFrUVJCUTog>

Liberation-P2P Program

Eric Shafi'i Bey

I'll be presenting an already established entity and program that I'm with, but with a spin on it from my point of view as well as ideas and resources I've collected over time to suffice future distractions when an individual has been reentered into society. I'll give the 411 on how to accomplish these things while working hand and hand with P2P as a scholar before reentry as well as building a foundation while incarcerated as to curb the distractions I've mentioned earlier.

Mandating Prison-Based Educational Spaces Through Comprehensive Land Use Ordinances- Urban Planning for Recidivism

Robert Woodmark

My name is Robert Woodmark, I spent roughly a year in prison in Japan, the entire time in solitary confinement because I was a foreigner. My presentation will focus on ways that urban planners can begin to imagine how they can better serve the incarcerated population through zoning ordinances and provisions, and how they can plan for recidivism. Mandating spaces for prison-based education can be achieved by implementing a relatively straight forward comprehensive community zoning ordinance requiring all institutionally zoned entities to provide a percentage of their total square footage for educational, and schooling purposes. The results will be twofold, first, it will force prisons and detention centers who have no educational programs to dedicate space for those purposes, and second, more students will be able to enroll and participate in the prison-based educational programs that currently exist. This will allow rapid expansion of new and existing programs. The unfortunate side of this strategy is that it is a piecemeal approach to increasing accessibility and outcomes in prison-based learning because it would have to be implemented on a municipal level. Many prisons are in Unincorporated County areas making that task even more difficult. Regardless, it would be effective at achieving the intended results where the ordinance was adopted. The presentation would be centered around the new land use provisions and zoning, a cost-benefit analysis and feasibility report of such a policy, and the cultural



shift that today treats punishment as an opportunity for an eye for an eye to a form of punishment that values and supports rehabilitation. The conversation will focus on the benefits to economic sustainability and social equity that providing rehabilitative services to those currently and formerly incarcerated creates rather than our current system that seemingly values the revolving door that is prison in America. It costs a lot less to provide rehabilitative services than it does to house the masses of incarcerated people. Access to education is an issue of equity and inclusion. It is also largely dictated by wealth. Eliminating the financial obstacle will close the income inequality gap if we adequately invest in prison-based educational programs. While the change in culture would be profound, the changes to local land use laws would not. This is something that could be an effective and tangible way to force the hand of prison-based education in America.

Education In Prison

Nathaniel Jay

My name is Nathaniel Jay, my association with the criminal justice system (residency wise) ended September 28, 2020 after 17 year and nine months. My presentation will be limited to the area of advocacy for education geared towards a career a chosen field of interest. My ideas and experiences are my own. For each of us as people they're different. The trial and tribulation under which I went, was in part based on my personality and interpretation of circumstances and life. No one can define life for you. This is a life imposed right that lasts, life long, with options and decision making along the way that will no doubt affect long term goals and future plans. No one for certainty can guarantee a choice and/or moment of decision, but time will tell. So my encounters with life were first interpreted according to the standard in place, by me then defined as options and possibilities to choose from. The theme of "Rise Up" as based upon liberation and transformative change, is directly responsive to my chosen subject area track which is advocacy. I will use my experiences and lived encounters which formed itself into my personal and private life styles. This gives it validation and authenticity in origin and makes it original. The results of my findings are my own, no one else's and therefore cannot be disputed as irrelevant and/or invalid. These are life's lessons and resulting factors in choice and decision making. From my living I emerged and evolved.