Lecture 14: Conclusions, Class Discussion, and Review

4/26/2016 Chris Uggen – Soc 4141

today

• Announcements
• Study Guides
• Conclusions
  – Course goals – Uggen’s historical outline
• Evals & volunteer to take to rm 923 Soc Sci (slide under door)?

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juvenile justice

• Current Trends and Stubborn Problems
  – Increasing formality
  – Overuse of detention
  – Physical and sexual abuse
    • 10,000 juveniles (still) in adult jails and prisons
    • Juveniles 5X more likely to be sexually assaulted in adult facilities & much more likely to commit suicide
  – Racial disparities
    • Racial impact of proposed changes
    • Weapons v. drug crimes

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Barry Feld (MN law) – abolish the juvenile court?

- Shift from a “nominally rehabilitative social welfare agency into a scaled-down second-class criminal court for young people.”
  - Kids get neither therapy nor justice
  - Substantive and procedural convergence with adult system
- Alternative: An “age discount”
  - Youth as a mitigating factor
  - 14 year old gets 25-33% of adult time; 16 gets 50-66%; 18 year old gets 100%
  - Merits? What about 50-year-olds?

Readings

- Inderbitzin, Walraven, & Cain (2014)
  - Young juvenile lifers – “stuck”
  - Growing up & now leading in prison
  - Walraven, LC Prez at 29, more than ½ his life in prison (now released and working in OR)
- Uggen (2006): life course desistance & reintegration
  - Socioeconomic (education, employment)
  - Family (parents, partners)
  - Civic (voting, volunteering, coaching)
  - Housing (Shared or independent)

Rios’ Recommendations?

- Rios’ Youth Support Complex
  - Hypercriminalization of “exclusion, punishment, racialization, gendered violence, harassment, surveillance, and detention” (Jose in prison)
  - 3 of 40 boys desisted and moved on
  - Eliminate zero-tolerance approach
  - Transfer resources from criminal justice to “nurturing institutions”
- Messner & Rosenfeld (2014)
  - Social Welfare v. Security State solutions to crime
  - Trade-offs: what liberties are you willing to give up to reduce crime by .0001%?
  - Each additional dollar spent on criminal justice is a dollar that can’t be spent on other pressing needs.
Uggen's Recommendations Based on Randomized Experiments or “Blueprints”

- Abandon harmful programs (Scared Straight)
- Expand diversion for status & minor delinquents (cost and availability)
- Maintain routine probation as most frequent sentence option (PSIs)
- Apply effective community programs
  - Prevent: e.g., nurse visits; preschool; life skills
  - Treat: e.g., MST, FFT, in community
- Reserve institutions for personal index offenders (incapacitation & deterrence)
  - Treat: e.g., CBT; Family Integrated Trans.
- Attend to abuse (can’t always go back)

next

- 5/4 – 2nd Midterm
- Office hours:
  - 5:30-7:30 Monday
  - 1-2 Tuesday
- evals