ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
CHRIS UGGEN’S 1995 WISCONSIN SOCIOLOGY DISSERTATION

Faculty, friends, and family members have helped me to complete this dissertation. I would like to express my gratitude to these individuals for their support and assistance. It is customary for dissertators to reserve their purplest prose and most overblown sentimentality for their acknowledgements. Given my fondness for hyperbole and weepy, wordy, emotionalism -- and the great difficulty I have in purging this style from my scientific work -- I present these gratuitous expressions of gratitude unedited and uncensored. If readers cringe at this section, but accept the balance of the dissertation as good science, I will be delighted.

The faculty of this department have provided me with a tremendous graduate education: they have taught me how to think about social problems; they have provided me with scientific opportunities and economic support; and they have shown me how to approach my work as a social scientist. Several individuals deserve special mention for their contributions to this dissertation.

Ross Matsueda has been a strong and supportive advisor to me throughout my graduate school career, but he has always given me great freedom to pursue independent work. Before meeting with Ross on June 26, for example, I doubted my ability to finish the dissertation on time. Ross helped me outline an ambitious timetable for finishing that carried me through the summer. More importantly, he demonstrated his faith in my ability to rise to the occasion and do the necessary work. In reviewing my writings, he offers painstaking comments, but always respects my voice. I read his comments on my work with a strange mixture of gratitude (for their detailed attention to my arguments), exhilaration (because he always sees ways to dramatically improve it), and jealousy ("why didn't I think of that?"). His own work is a constant reminder that criminology can make for the very best sociology. Ross has also helped me immeasurably in my professional socialization. He has always taken time to introduce me to people within the discipline; has always shown faith in my work; has always been a strong advocate for me.

As I weaved my way through the crowded bookcases of Jack Ladinsky's office at the age of eighteen, I had no idea that I would continue to return there for more than a decade. Jack gave me an early push as an undergraduate that continues to propel me forward. He provided access to a computer terminal in his office when I began analyzing data for my senior thesis. When I received my Bachelor's degree at 21, I got my foot in the door at a local job training agency largely on the strength of Jack's recommendation. During my time at the Private Industry Council, I began to think about the scientific and policy questions that I raise in this paper. I want to thank Jack for his unflagging encouragement and for introducing me to the sociological study of crime and the law. Among my favorite graduate school memories: Jack presenting me with an award at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings.

I didn't meet Irv Piliavin until my first semester of graduate school, but I soon realized that we thought the same way about work, crime, and desistance. I believe, as Irv believes, that desistance studies of adult offenders will yield important sociological insights and policy guidance. He has been a tremendous resource in discussions about these issues and has always encouraged my work and kept me focused on the important issues. Most conspicuously, Irv provided the data that I analyze in this dissertation. Irv has also been generous with his time and his insights: he rattles off brilliant ideas with alarming frequency. To the extent that I've stolen from others, I've probably stolen more ideas from Irv than from anyone else. As I leave Wisconsin, I only wish I had committed more of them to paper.
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When recounting a series of adventures, Satchel Paige was known to say, "Them were tall times." This phrase aptly expresses the sheer scale of the excitement, frustration, and rich rewards this project has brought me. Tall times, indeed.