
Acknowledgments

We are very grateful to the authors for their important contributions to this volume, and for their commitment to engaging in and facilitating work that will foster an understanding of what we collectively refer to as the “deeper meaning” of the interrelationships among race/ethnicity, crime, and criminal justice. We asked contributors to think in terms of “messing up” any simplistic understandings that we have of these relationships and to offer suggestions for “fixing” the field. They all took this task to heart and delivered just the kinds of papers that are needed. Moreover, they did so while conforming to our timetable (fast) and space (limited) demands. They have been the most wonderful of colleagues.

We are also grateful for contributors’ participation in the activities that paved the way for this volume. Many of the authors spent long hours with us in workshops and other settings, engaging in thoughtful discussions about how best to foster quality research on the race/ethnicity–crime/criminal justice topic. This volume is the direct result of those meetings, and it represents the commitment of the contributors to laying the groundwork for the theoretical and empirical challenges ahead. We must also acknowledge workshop participants who did not develop chapters for the book. Their imprint is nonetheless on the volume through their contributions to the discussions that helped authors to refine their thinking. Thanks, Stacy Armour, Paul Bellair, Danice Brown, Khalilah Brown-Dean, Christopher Browning, Jorge Chavez, Dana Haynie, Donald Hutcherson, Kecia Johnson, Harwood McClerking, Joane Nagel, Mary Pattillo, Danielle Payne, Townsend Price-Spratlen, Sherod Thaxton, Harold Weiss, Patricia White, and Valerie Wright.

We are also very grateful to the National Science Foundation, especially its sociology and law and social sciences programs, for providing financial and institutional support for the workshops and meetings that allowed us to discuss and respond to one another’s ideas about directions for the field. These stimulating discussions inspired us and facilitated our

progress in developing the chapters. Importantly, too, they led us to recognize that important steps in moving the field can come from building on ongoing cutting-edge research and theorizing; focusing on the complexity and messiness of the relationships examined; integrating the ideas and perspectives of younger scholars with those of more seasoned colleagues; and drawing on the innovative ideas that stem from exchange among scholars of varied intellectual traditions and racial/ethnic backgrounds. As a whole, the volume is grounded in these dimensions, which were nurtured through our NSF-sponsored workshops.

We also received institutional support from a number of other entities. The Criminal Justice Research Center at Ohio State University provided the administrative home for the project. Ohio State University's Department of Sociology gave an intellectual boost to the project when it held a conference on "Inequality, Crime, and Justice" that featured a number of our contributors and gave us an additional forum for exchange of ideas about race/ethnicity—crime/criminal justice. We thank Robert F. Kaufman, chair of the sociology department, for giving us this opportunity. Ohio State University's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences provided support for a graduate research associate to assist with developing and finalizing the book. We are particularly grateful to Associate Dean Jan Weisenberger for her wisdom in seeing the value of supporting this work. Certainly we owe a debt of gratitude to the departments, schools, and organizations that are the intellectual homes of the authors: the American Bar Foundation; criminology/criminal justice/justice studies departments/schools at Arizona State University, Florida International University, the University of Florida, the University of Maryland, the University of Missouri—St. Louis, and Northeastern University; the College of Law at Columbia University; the human development and family studies department at Auburn University; the School of Social Work at the University of Houston; and the Departments of Sociology at George Washington University, Harvard University, Howard University, University of Iowa, University of Miami, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, University of Oregon, Stanford University, and the University of Washington.

We would like to thank several graduate and undergraduate students who worked diligently and very professionally to help bring the book to fruition. The team was led by Diana Karafin (who is also a coauthor of one of the chapters). Without a doubt, Diana's organizational skills kept our work on track, and her intellectual insights contributed to the creation of a better book. Susan Ortiz joined the project in its later phases

and brought to the work the same kind of commitment and attention as Diana. We thank Kareema McCree-Wilson and Alyssa Bernhoffer, undergraduate students who worked hard on putting together an integrated bibliography. Graduate students Danice Brown and Valerie Wright lent a hand with the myriad of last-minute logistical details. We cannot adequately express our gratitude to all of these students. Finally, we dedicate this book to the memory of our parents, whose own approaches to “truth seeking” continue to inspire us.

Ruth D. Peterson
Lauren J. Krivo
John Hagan

