

Psychology Professor Seeks to Aid Society's 'Most Stigmatized'

Since early in his career, psychology Professor Philip Yanos has been devoted to advancing knowledge and services for people afflicted with serious mental illness, particularly bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. Yanos is currently in the midst of a four-year project funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to assess the efficacy of a treatment aimed at reversing such patients' internalized stigma.

The hope, he says, is to help people with mental illness develop coping skills that work in conjunction with medication to give them healthier, more positive self-identities.

"People who have severe mental illnesses are the most stigmatized in society," said Yanos. "Unlike other stereotypes, people in the community have no problem endorsing stereotypes about mental illness — they believe they are true. People with mental illness are affected by that, they begin to think they can't be trusted, they can't work, they can't get better. The worst

part of it is the hopelessness associated with the self-stigma. So, this research will help change how people with mental illness view themselves."

A 20-week group-based intervention will be conducted in three phases. The first phase educates the participants about self-stigma and challenges myths about mental illness. In the second phase, researchers will teach about cognitive restructuring, which is the practice of changing one's thoughts in order to change one's feelings. Negative thoughts linked to self-stigma are particular targets of this phase. The third phase focuses on narrative enhancement, which asks participants to tell personal narratives about themselves and aspects of their lives. This phase also includes a group discussion intended to generate new themes and new perspectives on old stories of self-defeat that participants may have told themselves every day for years.

"We're trying to get them to not buy into stereotypes themselves. My ex-

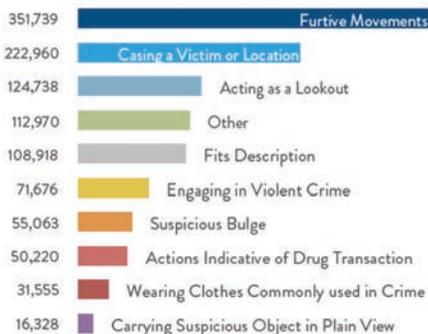
perience is that it's often the people who have the most promise, the most potential to succeed, who have the hardest time getting over self-stigma," said Yanos. "They are so well qualified for a number of things, but they are paralyzed by sense of 'I am a failure.' Our hope is that the intervention will make a difference and help people who are affected by mental illness to find work, have relationships and feel better about themselves in all respects."

Yanos developed an interest in people with mental illness as a boy. His father, a psychiatrist, worked at a state hospital on Wards Island in New York City, and Yanos grew up on the hospital grounds. He later worked as a volunteer in the hospital, where, he says: "I fell in love with the humanity of people who have serious mental illness and wanted to help this very needy group. My sense was, 'Wow, I had the wrong idea about them — they are just regular people.' This would be my chance to make a difference."



Professor Philip Yanos

Reasons Given for Stops by Police, 2011



Taking Research Public, Stop & Frisk Web Site Debuts

Combining cutting-edge research, provocative videos and thought-provoking articles and reports, the Web site stopandfriskinfo.org was launched recently by John Jay's Center on Race, Crime and Justice (CRCJ), with an eye toward promoting open data and public scholarship on a criminal justice topic that is as volatile as it is timely.

Funded by the Tides Foundation as part of its Funds for Fair and Just Policing, the new Web site works closely with Communities United for Police Reform (CPR), a consortium of academics, grass roots or-

ganizations and advocacy groups. The Marijuana Arrest Research Project at Queens College is also a partner in the consortium. The site includes links to numerous organizations with kindred interests or agendas, including the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Consortium for Policing Leadership in Equity, the Public Science Project, the Sentencing Project and the Urban Institute.

The Web site was developed and is being overseen

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'Literature & Law' Finds Receptive Audience in China

Hendrick, a Fulbright Scholar, Takes Show on the Road

During the spring 2013 semester, Professor Veronica C. Hendrick found herself half a world away from the John Jay Department of English, having won a Fulbright Scholar award to teach at Shanghai International Studies University in China. The overseas assignment capped a busy academic year for Hendrick, who also won the Faculty Scholarly Excellence Award from John Jay for her prolific output of articles, lectures and book chapters, and had her first book, *Servants, Slaves, and Savages: Reflections of Law in American Literature*, published by Carolina Academic Press.

In Shanghai, Hendrick taught an undergraduate course on American literature and a graduate course on literature and law. "All the students were fantastic and the law students were delightfully interested in American literature," said Hendrick. "They were insightful, which made teaching quite fun."

In addition to her classroom teaching, Hendrick traveled to five different regions in China to present lectures, as well as lecturing at the United States Consulate in Shanghai. During her 2013-2014 sabbatical, she will return to the Shanghai university for one month each semester to lecture and assist with program development.

Hendrick was struck by her students' incisive critical analysis, particularly in her graduate class, where they read Arthur Miller's "The Crucible," which deals allegorically with issues of

anticommunism in the United States in the 1950s. "The students quite naturally made the connections between anticommunism in the U.S. and different governmental structures," she noted. "And they also had very interesting things to say as modern Chinese citizens unrelated to communism.

The class generated such outstanding research papers that Hendrick will travel with her students to Australia in December to deliver presentations at a conference on law, literature and humanities. Hendrick will present a lecture titled "Teaching 'The Crucible' in China: The Separation of Church and State." Her students will participate in a graduate panel focused on Miller's work.

"Literature and Law is a fascinating way to approach literature," Hendrick observed. "When students are able to apply something as concrete as law or policy to their literature interpretation, they enjoy that analysis, and I just like to watch them do it."

Hendrick said that her two favorite aspects of teaching and living in China were the exposure to other faculty members' cutting-edge research and the Chinese people's kindness and sense of humor. "As I attempted to speak Chinese, the people were so friendly and nice about it," she said. "They thought my pantomimes were hysterical. I ultimately decided to start formally studying Chinese because, as much as I like laughing with shop ladies, I wanted to get what I ordered."



Professor Veronica Hendrick with one of her Chinese students, enjoying a cultural site visit.



Interest is palpable as Professor Hendrick leads a graduate class on focusing on Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

Stop & Frisk Web Site Puts Data in Public's Hands

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by Professors Delores Jones-Brown of the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration and Brett Stoudt of the Department of Psychology. "The site is an essential resource for providing and publicizing factual, scientifically valid information about current stop-and-frisk policing practices," said Jones-Brown. It includes videos, scholarly articles and public policy reports on the legality, effectiveness and impact of stop and frisk-related policing, along with alternatives to current practices. There are international articles and policy reports, as well as a page through which scholars can submit their work for possible inclusion on the site.

Anchoring the Web site is the CRCJ's newly revised report "Stop, Question and Frisk Policing Practices in New York City: A Primer," written by Jones-Brown along with Stoudt and doctoral students Brian Johnston and Kevin Moran.

To learn more about the new Web site, visit www.stopandfriskinfo.org.

Visit the Office for Advancement of Research's Web site at www.jjay.cuny.edu/academics/960.php

'I wasn't cut out for walking a beat...'

Fighting Crime with Science

Andrew Schweighardt, who received his master's degree from John Jay in 2009 and his PhD in 2012 from the CUNY/John Jay doctoral program in criminal justice (forensic science specialization), says he is fortunate that the right paths in life have always seemed to reveal themselves.

"You know it when you see it," said Schweighardt about recognizing the "right" decision to pursue graduate studies in forensic science. His research at John Jay, coupled with his serendipitous meeting with a John Jay alumna at a Christmas party, led him to a post-doctoral fellowship with one of the world's top intelligence and law enforcement agencies. (A non-disclosure agreement signed by Schweighardt bars him from identifying the specific agency.)

Schweighardt said he was always fascinated by law enforcement, but realized in high school that the life of a police officer wasn't really for him. "I wasn't cut out for walking the beat, carrying a firearm and making arrests, but I was interested in the law and science," he said. After learning about and applying for the fellowship through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, Schweighardt, a lifelong New Yorker, was soon packing up and moving to the Washington, DC, area to begin work in a high-security federal laboratory.

Schweighardt was discreet in describing the classified DNA research in which he participated during his fellowship. "The primary goal of any research laboratory connected to law enforcement or national security is to perform work that contributes to the future, work that might potentially be used by forensic scientists one day, if it is successful,"



Andrew Schweighardt

he said. "I like working with DNA because it is often referred to as the gold standard in forensic science. It is supported by a vast body of knowledge in core natural sciences such as genetics and molecular biology, unlike newer branches of forensic science which sometimes struggle to find their underpinnings in a hard science."

The post-doctoral fellowship also allowed Schweighardt to receive training in microbial forensics, work that built on the doctoral dissertation he produced under the guidance of Professor Margaret Wallace. This research, which involved a method to identify bacteria that could be used by a bioterrorist, earned Schweighardt the 2012 Best Dissertation Award presented by the John Jay PhD program.

While effusively grateful for his 14-month-long fellowship, Schweighardt is happy to be back in New York City, where he now works as a criminalist in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. He is part of a team of scientists who process evidence for mitochondrial DNA, a less commonly known form of DNA that is often relied upon in challenging cases because of its robustness and resistance to degradation. "It is very rewarding to take the knowledge and problem-solving skills acquired through years of research and apply them to a casework setting," said Schweighardt.

Schweighardt attributes his successful and fulfilling career choice to the time he spent at John Jay: "John Jay prepares students for public service, and its dedication to this cornerstone of its mission extends all the way to the faculty. Teaching was a second or part-time career for many professors; a lot of them had done casework for a substantial part of their early career. Classes were so much more interesting when a professor could relate the coursework to an actual case that he or she had once handled. John Jay couldn't have prepared me better for where I am today."

Shades of (Jonathan) Gray

Professor Jonathan Gray of the English department wears a number of different hats. A scholar of post-World War II American literature and culture, Gray recently published his first book, *Civil Rights in the White Literary Imagination: Innocence by Association*, in which he explores how the civil rights movement altered the literary landscape for four iconic white American authors.

Published in January 2013 by the University Press of Mississippi, the book examines the creative arc of Robert Penn Warren, Norman Mailer, Eudora Welty and William Styron, all

of whom had prominent best-selling works prior to two watershed events: the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* and the Montgomery bus boycott that began the following year. "All were known figures, but none of their work was engaged with the story of race of America," Gray explained. "I wanted to look at how they did a 180."

Gray noted that his book breaks new ground by prompting the field of Africana Studies to "think more comprehensively and have a more capacious understanding of racial movements and what race means."

"It's a book on African American literature that doesn't have any African American writers," he observed.

In *Civil Rights in the White Literary Imagination*, Gray describes how each of the authors influenced — and was influenced by — the events and discourse of the period. For Gray, the material would be full of surprises. For example, Warren, best known for the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *All the King's Men*, "was a Southern agrarian who was hostile to change," Gray said, "but by the end of the 1960s, he wrote *Who Speaks for the Negro?*" The latter



Professor Jonathan Gray

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GRANTS UPDATE

AMY ADAMCZYK (Sociology), \$18,344 from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, for “Public Opinion about Homosexuality: A Comparative Analysis of the Factors that Shape Tolerance in Taiwan and Confucian and Non-Confucian Nations. Also, \$1,187 from the University of South Florida – Association for the Sociology of Religion, for “Gender and Homosexuality in the Public Press: The Roles of Religion and Economic Development in Shaping Claims and Claims Markets.”

JEFFREY BUTTS (Research and Evaluation Center), \$191,296 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, for “Supplementing Ongoing Research on the Community-Based Violence Prevention Demonstration and the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention.”

CALVIN CHIN (Counseling), \$10,000 from the Fund for Public Health in New York, for “Alcohol in the College/University Environment.”

BEVERLY FRAZIER (Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration), \$24,795 from The Louisville Institute, for “Case Studies for Prisoner Reentry.”

JESSICA GORDON-NEMBHARD (Africana Studies), \$225,164 from the U.S. Department of Education, to support the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

STEPHEN HANDELMAN (Center on Media, Crime and Justice), “\$174,508 from the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, for “Media, Correctional Health Care and the Affordable Care Act.” Also, \$98,000 from the Tinker

Foundation, for a symposium and workshop for Mexican and Central American journalists, “Changing Justice: Human Rights and Criminal Justice.”

ELIZABETH JEGLIC and **CYNTHIA MERCADO** (Psychology), \$29,480 from the CUNY Collaborative, for “The Economics of Sex Crime Policy and the Reduction of Sexual Recidivism.”

SAUL KASSIN (Psychology) and **JEFFREY KUKUCKA** (PhD student, Forensic Psychology), \$352 from the National Science Foundation, to support Kukucka’s dissertation research on “An Investigation of Factors that Create and Mitigate Confirmation Bias in Judgments of Forensic Evidence.”

JANE KATZ (Health and Physical Education), \$25,000 from the Agnes Varis Trust, for an Aquatic Wellness Program.

DAVID KENNEDY (Center for Crime Prevention and Control), \$300,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, to support the National Network for Safe Communities. Also, \$75,000 from the Peoria Police Department, for the Don’t Shoot Initiative in Peoria.

BILAL KHAN (Mathematics and Computer Science), \$249,780 from the National Science Foundation, for “Towards a Cellphone Infrastructure for Harvesting Dynamic Interaction Network Data.”

MARGARET KOVERA (Psychology) and **AMANDA NICHOLSON** (PhD student, Forensic Psychology), \$19,304 from the National Science Foundation, to support Nicholson’s dissertation research on “The Impact of Jury Diversity on Deliberation Quality.”

NATHAN LENTS (Sciences), **MICHAEL PULS** (Mathematics and Computer Science) and **JASON RAUCEO** (Sciences), \$157,365 from the National Science Foundation to support the John Jay Forensic Science and Computer Science Scholarship Program.

SAMANTHA MAJIC (Police Science), \$6,000 from AAUW, for a study of the “American Prostitutes’ Rights Movement.”

SILVIA MAZZULA (Psychology), \$3,650 from the American Psychological Association, for a Professional Development Program for Ethnic Minority Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty.

ERIC PIZA (Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration), \$66,500 from the National Institute of Justice, via Rutgers University, for “A Multi-Jurisdictional Test of Risk Terrain Modeling and a Place-Based Evaluation of Environment Risk-Based Patrol Deployment Strategies.”

BRETT STOUTD (Psychology), \$40,250 from the Bernard van Leer Foundation, for the Uganda Dataset.

SANDRA SWENSON and **YI HE** (Sciences), \$150,101 from the National Science Foundation for “A Multi-Tiered Approach to Undergraduate Science Learning in an Urban Public College.”

MARIA VOLPE (Sociology / Dispute Resolution Center), \$2,000 from the U.S. Institute for Peace, for “Counter-Memories: Envisioning Alternatives through Peacebuilding and the Arts.”

MEGAN WELSH (PhD student, Criminal Justice) and **VALLI RAJAH** (Sociology), \$30,000 from the National Institute of Justice, for “How Women and Front-Line Workers Manage the Bureaucratic Process of Prisoner Reentry.”

DARYL WOUT (Psychology), \$266,343 from the National Science Foundation, for “Creating a Diverse Society that Works: Investigating the Role of Social Identity in Interracial Interactions.”

PHILIP YANOS (Psychology), \$197,460.52 from the U.S. Department of Education, for “Examining Determinants of Community Participation among Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities.”

Black, White & (Jonathan) Gray

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work is a collection of interviews with key civil-rights figures.

Gray’s book, the publication of which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, has generated a good amount of positive feedback thus far, he said, although he admitted to some lingering frustration that “a book on Kim Kardashian will sell more in one day than mine will in total.”

Gray has other arrows in his intel-

lectual quiver, including his freelance work as a columnist for *Entertainment Weekly* and his lifelong fascination with comic books and graphic novels. “When I was first at John Jay, I designed a class on graphic novels,” he recalled. “I grew up reading them and felt they’d gotten short shrift as literature. The class changed my academic perspective.

As an EW columnist, Gray recently had the opportunity to interview U.S. Representative John Lewis, one of the seminal figures of the civil rights movement, who is crafting a three-part memoir in graphic-novel format. “I was sent an advance copy of Lewis’s book, *March: Part One*, and was blown away,” he said.

“Every professor is passionate about what he or she does,” he observed. “I’m particularly blessed in that regard.”

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