

COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE & SACRAMENTO STATE'S
CENTER FOR PRACTICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS PRESENT

11TH ANNUAL
FALL ETHICS
SYMPOSIUM

The Ethics of Policing

NOVEMBER 21, 2016

COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE
RECITAL HALL

NOVEMBER 22, 2016

SACRAMENTO STATE
REDWOOD ROOM, UNIVERSITY UNION

The Ethics of Policing

Criminal justice reform is on the minds of many American citizens, and especially concerns about the use of aggressive tactics by law enforcement officers. In cities all over the country, law enforcement officers find themselves under intense scrutiny and criticism in the wake of several highly publicized and tragic instances of alleged police misconduct. How did we get into the current situation? What can we do to promote the morally best behavior in officers, the morally best outcomes for the communities they serve, and the morally best structures for accountability and reform?

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COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.

RECEPTION, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

All symposium participants are welcome!

8:45 - 9:00 am

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

Rick Schubert, Professor of Philosophy,
Cosumnes River College and Executive
Director, *CRC-CPPE Fall Ethics Symposium
Series*

Kyle Swan, Assistant Professor of
Philosophy and Director, Center for Practical
and Professional Ethics, *California State
University, Sacramento*

Christina Bellon, Professor of
Philosophy, Associate Dean for Budget
and Assessment, College of Arts & Letters,
California State University, Sacramento

Gregory McCormac, Interim Dean of
Humanities & Social Science, *Cosumnes
River College*

Torrence Powell, Associate Vice
President, Instruction and Student
Learning, *Cosumnes River College*

9:00 – 10:20 am

**SESSION #1: POLICE MILITARIZATION
AND ITS IMPACT ON MINORITY
GROUPS**

Main Speaker:

Abigail Hall Blanco
Assistant Professor of Economics
University of Tampa



Abstract:

Though a current hot topic, police militarization is not a new phenomenon in the United States. In fact, the current state of policing in the United States may be traced, at least in part, to a variety of foreign interventions including WWII and Vietnam. Using the tools of economics, we can explain how these conflicts, combined with the subsequent “wars” on drugs and terror have contributed immensely to the militarization of domestic police. In addition, we can come to understand how these problems are more likely to disproportionately impact individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, particularly racial minorities.

Abigail R. Hall Blanco is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Tampa. She received her Ph.D. from George Mason University. Her work includes topics surrounding women’s issues in business and the family, civil and economic liberty, the U.S. military and national defense, including, domestic police militarization, arms sales, weapons as foreign aid, and the political economy of military technology.

Additional Panelists for this Session:

Chris W. Surprenant, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of New Orleans

Keith J. Staten, Law Office of Keith J. Staten and Associates

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10:30 – 11:50 am

**SESSION #2: POLICE VIOLENCE AND
LEGITIMACY: OAKLAND, CHICAGO,
FERGUSON, AND BEYOND**

Main Speaker:



Claudio Vera Sanchez
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Roosevelt University

Abstract:

The nationwide patterns of violence against unarmed men of color by the police in cities like Oakland, Chicago, and Ferguson, suggest that the U.S. system of policing is in crisis. Chaney & Robertson (2015) report that 46% of those killed by the police are unarmed. Furthermore, they find that officers are rarely indicted when men of color die. Drawing from interviews with inner city residents and their experiences with the police, this presentation will explore the following questions: (1) what is the role/function of the U.S. police in a democratic society? (2) do patterns of violence against unarmed men of color impact police legitimacy? and (3) what are the policy implications of these alarming trends?

Claudio Vera Sanchez is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. His research focuses on how at-risk, inner city Latino and African American youth are affected by policing techniques and policies.

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Additional Panelists for this Session:

Sanjay Marwah, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, California State University, East Bay

Abigail Hall Blanco, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Tampa

Jody Johnson, RoccSolid Advisement

12:00 am - 1:20 pm

LUNCH BREAK

Please visit one of the dining establishments serving the campus community.

1:30 - 2:50 pm

**SESSION #3: DEMOCRATIZING
POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY: THE ROLE
OF COGNITION**

Main Speaker:

Sanjay Marwah
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
California State University, East Bay



Abstract:

Most efforts to promote police accountability emphasize authority in determining who implements accountability, how accountability will be garnered, and the purpose of standards and criteria of accountability. But without the involvement of police officers and the exercise of their cognitive capacities, police accountability will remain episodic, partial, and dictated by ideological preferences and those with greater power and influence to dictate accountability outcomes. This paper will examine the benefits of increasing attention to the cognitive capacities of police officers and how

police accountability can be democratized. This would involve allowing police officers to develop self-accountability. It would lead to healthier and more sustainable police accountability, increased agency by officers in the accountability of their discretionary decisions, and greater focus on evaluation through the exercise of cognitive capacities.

***Sanjay Marwah** is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at CSU East Bay. He received his Ph.D. in Public Policy from George Mason University and M.A. in International Political Economy from Claremont Graduate University. His teaching and research interests include democratic policing, cultural political economy, urban studies and social problems, Mertonian theory, and strain and anomie theories.*

Additional Panelists for this Session:

***Claudio Vera Sanchez**, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Roosevelt University*

***Jacob Velasquez**, Doctoral Student in Philosophy, University of California, Davis*

2:50 - 3:50 pm

RECEPTION, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

All symposium participants are welcome!

REDWOOD ROOM

UNIVERSITY UNION, SACRAMENTO STATE

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

RECEPTION, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

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9:15 - 9:30 am

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS

Kyle Swan, Assistant Professor of
Philosophy and Director, Center for Practical
and Professional Ethics, *California State
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Rick Schubert, Professor of Philosophy,
Cosumnes River College and Executive
Director, *CRC-CPPE Fall Ethics Symposium
Series*

Russell DiSilvestro, Chair, Department of
Philosophy, *California State University,
Sacramento*

Torrence Powell, Associate Vice
President, Instruction and Student
Learning, *Cosumnes River College*

Ming-Tung “Mike” Lee, Interim Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
California State University, Sacramento

Robert S. Nelsen, President
California State University, Sacramento

9:30 – 10:50 am



**SESSION #4: POLICING AND
PUNISHMENT: PHILOSOPHICAL
PROBLEMS**

Main Speaker:

Chris W. Surprenant
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of New Orleans

Abstract:

Perhaps the most important problem faced by the United States is addressing its broken criminal justice system. While it may seem obvious that the US is in need of criminal justice reform and that thoughtful reform must be preceded by thoughtful discussion, there has been almost no philosophical treatment of punishment and policing generally, or of most specific means of punishment that have become especially popular in the US: incarceration and fines paid to the state. This talk will focus on philosophical issues related to punishment and policing generally, consider the appropriate aims of punishment and criteria for identifying just and unjust punishment, and examine if our current approaches to punishment in the US are just.

Chris W. Surprenant is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of New Orleans. He received his Ph.D. from Boston University. He is also the director of the Alexis de Tocqueville Project on Law, Liberty, and Morality, which examines enduring questions in Western moral and political thought. He is the author of Kant and the Cultivation of Virtue and he specializes in the History of Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, and Political Philosophy.

Additional Panelists for this Session:

Ryan Getty, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, California State University, Sacramento

Timothy Houk, Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy, University of California, Davis

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11:00 am - 12:20 pm

LUNCH BREAK

Please visit one of the dining establishments serving the campus in the University Union or Riverfront Center.

12:30 am – 1:50 pm

**SESSION #5: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:
A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF YOUR
RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION
AND HOW TO HANDLE POLICE
ENCOUNTERERS**

Main Speaker:



Keith Staten

The Law Office of Keith J. Staten & Associates

Abstract:

This presentation will discuss the rights given under the constitution and a historical perspective on encounters with police. We'll explore why they exist along with the rights associated with police encounters. We'll talk about why citizens should exercise their rights and why there are benefits to doing so and the consequences when you don't. The goal of this discussion is to increase the education of the public and decrease violent encounters leading to the deaths of citizens at the hands of law enforcement.

Keith Staten is CEO and practicing attorney at the Law Office of Keith J. Staten & Associates. He received his J.D. from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. His practice specializes in handling complex criminal litigation, DUI litigation and administrative licensing issues and he also devotes a considerable amount of time

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to community service clinics, public speaking and mentoring. The Sacramento County Indigent Defense Panel named him Attorney of the Year in 2012. In 2014 The Hub magazine recognized him as a leader in the community. The Wiley Manuel Bar Association named him attorney of the year in 2014.

Additional Panelists for this Session:

Kyle Swan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Sacramento

Lotus Fung, J.D. Student, University of California, Davis

2:00 - 3:50 pm

SESSION #6: POLICE TRAINING AND SOCIALIZATION

Main Speaker:

Ryan Getty
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
California State University, Sacramento



Abstract:

Police are essentially gleaned from a biased sample; those who sincerely want to become police are those who apply. If an applicant is not deemed "suitable" by the organization's standards, they are dropped from the hiring process. The next step in organizational suitability is successful completion of the academy. Here is where some socialization occurs but uniformity within general standards is expected. If a recruit passes all these steps, he or she enters field training. This is systematic training done by senior officers and/or

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field training officers. This is the first stage at which unique behaviors are modeled and socialization becomes apparent to the department and citizens. These modeled behaviors can have a tremendous impact on organizations and the officers' career trajectory.

Ryan Getty is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at CSU Sacramento. He received his M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington and his Ph.D. in Criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas. He specializes in police administration, management, and officer training. He is also a 25-year veteran police officer and prior chief of police.

Additional Panelists for this Session:

Chong Choe-Smith, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, California State University, Sacramento

Lance Kennix, B.A. Philosophy, California State University, Sacramento

4:00 - 5:00 pm

RECEPTION, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

All symposium participants are welcome!

Acknowledgements

FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WAS PROVIDED BY THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMANE STUDIES AND BY THE WAGENLIS FOUNDATION THROUGH A GRANT TO THE COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE FOUNDATION.

We also thank:

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVE SERVICES,
SACRAMENTO STATE

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM, SACRAMENTO STATE

COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

COSUMNES RIVER COLLEGE PRINTING SERVICES

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ABOUT THE CENTER FOR PRACTICAL AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Founded in 2005 by the Philosophy Department as a complement to its teaching and scholarly focus upon ethics, The Center for Practical and Professional Ethics takes as its overriding mission to foster and enhance the place of ethics in professional and public discourse, and to foster and support ethical practice, both in the University Community and in the broader Sacramento Region. Its mission is, therefore, educative, scholarly and practical. For further information about this and future ethics events, to support our activities, or for consultation services, please visit www.csus.edu/cppe.



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