

6-2010

# A Content Analysis of Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1986-2008

Philip M. Stinson

*Bowling Green State University, stinspm@bgsu.edu*

Jennifer L. Huck

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania, jhuck@carrollu.edu*

Jason D. Spraitz

*IUP, spraitjd@uwec.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim\\_just\\_pub](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub)



Part of the [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

## Repository Citation

Stinson, Philip M.; Huck, Jennifer L.; and Spraitz, Jason D., "A Content Analysis of Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1986-2008" (2010). *Criminal Justice Faculty Publications*. 3.

[https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim\\_just\\_pub/3](https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/crim_just_pub/3)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Human Services at ScholarWorks@BGSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Criminal Justice Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@BGSU.

Running head: CONTENT ANALYSIS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY REVIEW

A Content Analysis of *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 1986-2008

Philip Matthew Stinson, Sr.

Bowling Green State University

Jennifer L. Huck and Jason D. Spraitz

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Corresponding Author:

Philip Matthew Stinson, Sr.

Assistant Professor

Criminal Justice Program

Bowling Green State University

232 Health Center

Bowling Green, OH 43403-0148

Telephone: 419-372-0373

Fax: 215-689-4363

E-Mail: [stinspm@bgsu.edu](mailto:stinspm@bgsu.edu)

Alternate E-Mail: [pmstinson@gmail.com](mailto:pmstinson@gmail.com)

An earlier version of this paper was presented at the annual conference of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 13, 2009.

### **Abstract**

Academic disciplines have been characterized as static institutions that do not change or conform to outside forces. Abbott (1999) and Silbey (2000) have discussed this issue in relation to how the history of refereed journals in the social sciences can provide information on department, institution, and disciplinary changes that often wear a false guise of continuity. This paper analyzes the content of *Criminal Justice Policy Review* by replicating the methodology Silbey (2000) used to study the content of *Law & Society Review* in terms of editorship, authorship, article contents, method and mode of research, and article topics. The results indicate that, although changes in the content of *Criminal Justice Policy Review* over time may be small, they exist and most correspond with changes in the department, institution, and discipline. Changes in journal content also appear to have been influenced by changes in editorial philosophy and increasing interest in raising the stature of the journal within the discipline.

**Keywords:** *content analysis, criminal justice policy, journal content*

A Content Analysis of *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 1986-2008

The journal *Criminal Justice Policy Review* (*CJPR*) was conceived in the Fall of 1984 by Robert Mutchnick and Paul McCauley, both of whom were, and are still, faculty members in the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The journal was “designed to provide a forum for articles, essays, research notes and book reviews that address the issues of criminal justice policy” (Mutchnick & McCauley, 1986, p. i). An additional stated purpose was to “publish interviews with identified experts from both the academic and practical fields of the discipline” that “represent alternatives to the traditional scholarly research that will be the focus of the journal” (p. i). *CJPR* was originally conceptualized as a forum for refereed scholarship, as well as a forum to facilitate multidisciplinary and intergovernmental dialogue:

Because criminal justice policy is studied by scholars, debated by politicians, enacted into law by legislators, executed by scores of functionaries, and is the focus of diverse commentary from a broad range of interests the *CJPR* wishes to be the medium through which all of these perspectives can be presented. Therefore, the *CJPR* will provide scholarly works as its primary thrust; however, appropriate interviews, public addresses, legislation, and other commentaries may be presented. The *CJPR* is interested in and committed to providing the best information, in whatever form available, to stimulate thought and to enhance our understanding of the nature, cause, and effect of criminal justice policy.

(McCauley, 1986, pp. ii-iii). The startup of the journal was funded by a \$50,000 five year decreasing award from the Imprint Series, a funding organization at Indiana University of Pennsylvania whose mandate was to “underwrite the establishment of new, quality, refereed journals that were designed to meet an identified need” (Mutchnick & McCauley, 1986, p. i).

The startup funding agreement included a charge to the editors of *CJPR* that the journal be self-sufficient at the end of the initial five-year period. The first issue of *CJPR* was published in January 1986, and consisted of invited papers that were not refereed; the inaugural issue was a collection of diverse original scholarship designed to reflect the scope of Mutchnick and McCauley's vision for the new journal (McCauley, 1986, p. ii). To that end, the inaugural issue of *CJPR* included original scholarship by Mario Cuomo (then the Governor of the State of New York) (see Cuomo, 1986), Gilbert Geis (see Geis, 1986), George Kelling (see Kelling, Edwards, & Moore, 1986), Lawrence Redlinger (see Redlinger & Shanahan, 1986), and Ernest van den Haag (see van den Haag, 1986). The scope of the journal was soon broadened to include "special features such as invited commentaries, transcripts of significant panels or meetings, position papers, and legislation" (Mutchnick, 1988, p. 1).

From the inception of *CJPR* through May 1986, McCauley was editor. Mutchnick served as editor of *CJPR* from September 1986 to June 1995. No issues of *CJPR* were published during the years 1988, 1993, and 1994. Kate Hanrahan and Nanci Wilson, both members of the faculty in the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, served as editors of *CJPR* from September 1995 through 1997, and Wilson served as editor of *CJPR* from 1998 to 2005. Under Wilson's leadership, the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania partnered with Sage Publications to publish *CJPR* commencing in 2000. In the inaugural Sage issue of *CJPR*, Wilson (2000) noted that there had been emerging disciplinary growth and change in scholarship relating to criminal justice policy since the 1980s, when the journal was founded. The growth included a continued and sustained interest by the public in crime control policy, an increase in the number of scholars making criminal justice their specialty, and increased membership in both the American Society of Criminology and Academy

of Criminal Justice Sciences. To that end, the editorial focus of *CJPR* evolved under Wilson's editorship:

In response to these developments, *CJPR* has broadened its focus. As a forum for criminal justice policy study and debate, we conceive each of these terms in as broad a manner as possible. Thus, for *CJPR*, *criminal justice* includes issues that impinge on criminal justice, not simply politics of criminal justice agencies; *policy* includes all policy relevant to criminal justice, not just government or public policy and not just American criminal justice policy; *study* includes a variety of methodologies and perspectives; and *debate* means debate over policy at the broadest level of social action as well as more specialized debates.

(Wilson, 2000, p. 4).

David L. Myers, also a faculty member in the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, assumed the editorship of *CJPR* in the Spring of 2005, shortly after Wilson's retirement from the university. Myers stated his vision of the journal in 2006:

The fundamental goal of *CJPR* is to serve scholars and professionals committed to the study of criminal justice policies and programs through both quantitative and qualitative methods. Traditionally, there have been noticeable gaps between crime policies, research findings, and criminal justice programs and practices. If studies on crime and justice are to play an increasing role in shaping society's efforts to prevent, reduce, and control crime, then more rigorous research must be conducted and disseminated in ways that are acceptable to policy makers and practitioners. *CJPR* seeks to serve as a bridge between academics, policy makers, and practitioners in the field of criminal justice by publishing

sound empirical research that addresses important issues in crime and justice and examines the effectiveness of policies and programs.

(Myers, 2006, pp. 3-4). Myers further defined his expectation of rigorous research methodologies in studies considered for publication in *CJPR* by asserting that “logical continuity between prior research and the research questions at hand; appropriate design, methods, and analysis; accurate interpretation of the findings; and a discussion of policy implications all will be expected” (p. 4). Of note, Myers appointed 40 members to the *CJPR* editorial board in an effort to assemble a “diverse group of outstanding academics who were willing to serve the journal” (p. 3). Since 2007, *CJPR* has held an annual meeting of its editorial board during the annual conference of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

## **Method**

### **Research Design**

The research design is a replication of Silbey’s (2000) quantitative content analysis of *Law & Society Review (LSR)*. In her study, Silbey “asked how the content of *LSR*—the size and texture of papers, the topics researched and methods used, and the authors—changed over its 34 years” (Silbey, 2000, pp. 860-861). Silbey’s content analysis of *LSR* was loosely based on the methods of Abbott (1999) in his analysis of the content published in the *American Journal of Sociology (AJS)*. Abbott describes the *AJS* as the “physical condensate” of life within the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago for one hundred years, “its history shows better than anything else the many ways in which institutional change wears a false guise of continuity” (Abbott, 1999, p. 80). Similarly, we hypothesize that the content of *CJPR* over its first 22 years will reflect how institutional change within the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania wears a false guise of continuity.

### **Content Analysis Protocol**

The three-member research team developed a coding protocol and coding sheet for the content analysis. Although the research design is a replication of Silbey's (2000) content analysis of *LSR*, the variables and categories in her study were not entirely suitable for the analysis of *CJPR* content due to the different emphases of the two journals. The research team developed the coding protocol in several steps. First, the variables and categories used in the *LSR* study were identified and listed. Second, categories were revised and expanded using an inductive process based on the team members' general familiarity with *CJPR*. Finally, the coding sheets were revised throughout a pilot coding process as needed, so as to best reflect the content of *CJPR*. Copies of the coding protocol and coding sheets are available from the authors upon request.

### **Coder Reliability**

Two members of the research team separately coded the content of everything published by *CJPR* from its founding in 1986, through the end of 2008 (which was, *CJPR* Vol. 19, No. 4). At the end of the coding process, all three members of the research team met to ensure coder reliability. The two researchers who coded the content compared their respective coding sheets, and when differences in coding were found, they attempted to resolve the discrepancies by amicable discussion. In the instances where coding agreement could not be achieved, the third member of the research team served as arbiter to resolve coding disputes. In the end, complete agreement was reached for all variables on all coding sheets.

## **Results**

### **Types of Articles Published in *CJPR***

There were 527 articles published in *CJPR* during its first 22 years (1986-2008). The largest portion of the articles (47.2%) was original research in which authors analyzed data,



observations, or texts in order to explain or interpret something, followed by reflective essays (25.2%), and book reviews (21.4%) (see Figure 1). Over the years, there has been a decrease in the number of book reviews published in *CJPR*, and a corresponding increase in the percentage of articles presenting original research. Under Mutchnick's editorship (from 1986 to 1995), the largest portion of articles published in the journal was book reviews (40.1%), while smaller portions were original research (30.4%) and reflective essays (26.6%), whereas under Wilson's editorship (from 1998 to 2005), the amount of original research grew (58.4%) while reflective essays (23.5%) and book reviews (9.6%) decreased. This trend continued in recent years during Myers' editorship (from 2005 to 2008), where over two-thirds of articles (67.4%) were original research, with reflective essays (18.5%) and book reviews (3.3%) accounting for smaller percentages of the articles published in *CJPR*. The portion of articles that were research notes increased under Myers (6.5%) from previous editors (about 1% each) (see Table 1).

<< INSERT FIGURE 1 ABOUT HERE >>

<< INSERT TABLE 1 ABOUT HERE >>

The types of original research articles published in *CJPR* consist largely of original research topics (52.2%), followed by direct policy topics (25.7%), general policy topics (17.7%), and theory-based topics (4.4%) (see Figure 2). Original research topics were those articles that discussed a study but did not fit in the categories of direct policy, general policy, or theory. Direct policy topics were original research articles that examined a specific policy, usually an ordinance, statute, law, or procedure such as statutes limiting police use of force and Megan's

Law. A general policy topic were original research articles regarding a broader policy issue such as prison overcrowding concerns and need for sexual offender notification laws.

In terms of the mode of original research, just over half (51.6%) of the articles published in *CJPR* do not involve research. Quantitative analyses (34%), qualitative analyses (10.8%), and mixed methods analyses (3.6%) were all represented in the original research articles (see Figure 3). Over the years, however, the modes of original research have changed with editorship. Articles explicating quantitative analyses increased over the years from Mutchnick (25.1%) to Wilson (38.8%) and to Myers (45.7%). Likewise, qualitative analyses increased from Mutchnick (3.9%) to Wilson (16.3%) and to Myers (18.5%) (see Table 2). In addition, the types of research methodologies were varied with greatest number of original research articles using secondary data analyses ( $n = 76$ ). The next most common research designs were survey instruments ( $n = 64$ ), content analyses ( $n = 53$ ), and interview ( $n = 28$ ) methodologies. Lastly, case studies ( $n = 20$ ) were more frequent than quasi-experiments ( $n = 14$ ), experiments ( $n = 3$ ), and other design methodologies (see Figure 4).

<< INSERT FIGURE 2 ABOUT HERE >>

<< INSERT FIGURE 3 ABOUT HERE >>

<< INSERT TABLE 2 ABOUT HERE >>

<< INSERT FIGURE 4 ABOUT HERE >>

### **CJPR Content Means by Volume and Issue**

Page content means over the life of the journal are of limited value, as the layout, fonts, and font size have changed throughout the years. Generally, however, the layout, fonts, and font size are consistent within the period of the self-published issues/volumes (i.e., *CJPR* Vol. 1-10) and within the period of the Sage-published issues/volumes (i.e., *CJPR* Vol. 11-19), but not across both periods. The mean pages per issue have ranged from a low in the Mutchnick years ( $M = 100.8$  pages) to higher means in the Wilson years ( $M = 127.1$  pages) and the Myers years ( $M = 123.5$  pages). Similarly, the mean pages per article have increased from the early years (over 11 pages per article) under McCauley and Mutchnick, to higher mean pages per article under more recent editors (roughly 18 to 20 pages per article under Hanrahan/Wilson, Wilson, and Myers). In addition, information was gathered on the number of authors, figures, tables, references to *CJPR*, total number of references, acknowledgements, and appendices per article. These forms of content were moderately consistent throughout different editorships, with the most obvious change in average number of references per article ( $M = 9.6$ ) under McCauley, the first editor, to a much higher average number of references per article ( $M = 44.1$ ) under Myers, the current editor (see Table 3).

<< INSERT TABLE 3 ABOUT HERE >>

### **Who are the Authors of CJPR Articles?**

Specific content about the authors including sex, co-authorship, and academic discipline was coded for analysis. Sex of the author was largely determined by social norms of names and author's biographical sketches. If these methods were inconclusive, an internet search of the

author was conducted, as a form of triangulation of sources, to make a determination. When all articles were included in the analysis, females accounted for 173 (32.8%) of the single-authored articles. When examining the rate per editor, the percentage of females as single-authors was lowest during the editorship of Hanrahan/Wilson (25.0%) and reached its high in McCauley's editorship (40.9%). In addition, Mutchnick (31.9%), Wilson (33.7%), and Myers (33.7%) had similar rates of publication for articles with females as sole authors (see Table 4). With book reviews removed from the analysis, there were 414 total authors (i.e., all main and co-authors). Of these authors, female authors accounted for 64 (33.9%) of the single-authored articles and 60 (26.7%) of the articles with two or more authors. When taking into consideration all authors for all articles in *CJPR*, about one-third (30.0%) of the authors are female (see Table 5).

<< INSERT TABLE 4 ABOUT HERE >>

<< INSERT TABLE 5 ABOUT HERE >>

Regardless of the editor's sex, female authorship remains much lower than male authorship. Under male editorship at *CJPR*, two-thirds (66.7%) of the main (i.e., corresponding) authors were male and one-third (33.0%) of the main authors were female. Likewise, with female editors at *CJPR*, about two-thirds (67.4%) of the articles published were written by male main authors, and just under one-third (32.5%) of the articles were authored by female main author. With respect to co-authors ( $n = 341$ ), 203 (59.5%) were male and 135 (39.6%) were female (three were unknown to the researchers). Under male editorship, 102 (55.4%) of the co-authors were male and 79 (42.9%) co-authors were female. During female editorships, the

proportion of male co-authorship (64.3%) increased and the proportion of female co-authorship (35.7%) decreased (see Table 6).

<< INSERT TABLE 6 ABOUT HERE >>

During the first decade of publication, the articles in *CJPR* rarely included any mention of authors' academic disciplines or areas of scholarship. Beginning with articles published in *CJPR* during Wilson's editorship, most articles now include the authors' biographical sketches. This research, as with Silbey's analysis of *LSR* (see Silbey, 2000, p. 861., n. 2), analysis was limited solely to the content of the journal, including authors' biographical sketches accompanying published articles (but see Abbott, 1999, p. 89, n. 10, who conducted extensive biographical research on authors in his exhaustive study of *AJS*). Criminal justice and criminology were coded as one category for this content analysis, as it is beyond the scope of this article to draw a bright line between the two disciplines. Further, there is often a lack of standardization in terminology, in terms of any differentiation as separate and distinct academic disciplines, from one university to another. If an author listed more than one academic discipline in their biographical sketch, then the discipline listed first was selected for coding, with the exception of authors who listed sociology and criminal justice/criminology. These authors were coded under a "sociology and criminal justice/criminology" category due to the quantity of authors self-describing their discipline in this manner. Although Silbey (2000) collected information regarding student and professional status, that information was not collected for this content analysis due to the limited availability of that specific information in the content of *CJPR*. As such, this replication omitted that variable from the content analysis. Information was

collected on affiliation of the author or whether the author was connected to a university, regardless of status. Out of the 527 main authors, only 45 (8.5%) had a non-university affiliation (e.g., parole agent, researcher, statistician), whereas 480 (91.1%) were affiliated with a university (two (0.4%) authors had unknown disciplines). With respect to the 341 co-authors, 57 (16.7%) had a non-university affiliation and 284 (83.3%) were affiliated with a university. Overall, of all *CJPR* main authors ( $n = 527$ ) 311 (56.0%) have unknown disciplines (i.e., unknown to the researchers using solely the content in *CJPR*) and 117 (22.2%) listed their academic discipline as being in the criminal justice/criminology field. When examining only the authors with known disciplines ( $n = 216$ ), over half of the authors (54.2%) indicated the discipline of criminal justice/criminology, 15 (9.3%) were researchers, 15 (6.9%) in sociology, and 10 (5.1%) in sociology and criminal justice/criminology (see Figure 5).

<< INSERT FIGURE 5 ABOUT HERE >>

### **Topics of Research Published in *CJPR***

Researchers coded the main topic, subtopic, and secondary topic of each article, when applicable; book reviews were not coded for main, sub, and secondary topic. The main topic was defined as the overarching subject of the article and contained 29 categories including “other” but only 28 were coded in the content of *CJPR* (see Appendix A, with categories listed in descending order of topic prevalence). Articles were coded with a secondary topic variable when an article contained more than one core theme or subject. The categories of the secondary topic were the same 29 categories as the main topic but only 24 were coded in the content of *CJPR* (see Appendix B, with categories listed in descending order of secondary topic prevalence).

Articles were also coded with subtopics, which were limited to providing differentiation of the content for the main topic categories of “policing,” “courts,” “corrections,” and “goals of the system.”

**Main topics of research.** The most prevalent main topics of research for *CJPR* articles are courts (22.1%), corrections (18.8%), policing (10.10%), and drugs (5.5%). These general findings hold true for most of the editors except for the transition period editorships of McCauley (with courts, corrections, goals of the system, and crime statistics being the most prevalent main topics of research), and Hanrahan/Wilson (with corrections, courts, policing, and juvenile being the four most prevalent main topics of research) (see Table 7).

<< INSERT TABLE 7 ABOUT HERE >>

**Secondary topics of research.** The most common secondary topics in *CJPR* were distinct from the main topics. The four most prevalent secondary topics were legislation (7.7%), drugs (7.2%), criminal justice programming (5.8%), and juveniles (5.3%) while nearly half of all coded articles (45.6%) did not contain a secondary topic. Secondary topics varied between editorships; only Wilson and Myers maintained similarities among the most prevalent secondary topics (see Table 8).

<< INSERT TABLE 8 ABOUT HERE >>

**Subtopics of research.** Four main topics (i.e. policing, courts, corrections, and goals of the system) were divided into ancillary headings of subtopics in order to gather a deeper

understanding of *CJPR* article content. The category of “no subtopic” was applied to articles when it was not necessary to divide the main topic, usually when the article was considered broad and general. In addition, the category “other” was used to code subtopics that appeared only once during coding. If a subtopic appeared more than once a separate category was created.

The main topic of courts was divided into seven subtopics ( $n = 91$ ), not including the “no subtopic” coding option. Sentencing (35.2%) was the most prevalent court subtopic, followed by the United States Supreme Court (17.6%), and a generic category of “other” (17.6%). No subtopic was coded in 15 of the articles (16.5%). Articles with other court-related subtopics included court administration (4.4%), judges (4.4%), prosecutors (3.3%), and the courtroom workgroup (1.1%). When coded by editor, the number of articles with court-related research subtopics fluctuated with the editorships of Wilson ( $n = 35$ ), Mutchnick ( $n = 29$ ), Myers ( $n = 18$ ), Hanrahan/Wilson ( $n = 6$ ), and McCauley ( $n = 3$ ) (see Table 9).

<< INSERT TABLE 9 ABOUT HERE >>

Next, the main topic of corrections ( $n = 78$ ) was divided into eight subtopics, not including the “no subtopic” coding option. The corrections-related subtopics included prisons and jails (60.5%), alternative sanctions (10.6%), corrections administration (6.6%), probation (5.2%), and parole (5.2%). With respect to editorship, Mutchnick ( $n = 28$ ) and Wilson ( $n = 26$ ) published the greatest number of articles with corrections-related content, followed by Myers ( $n = 14$ ), Hanrahan/Wilson ( $n = 8$ ), and McCauley ( $n = 2$ ) (see Table 10).

<< INSERT TABLE 10 ABOUT HERE >>



Policing articles ( $n = 42$ ) were divided into six subtopics, not including the “no subtopic” option. Articles with policing-related research subtopics included police administration (28.6%), other (26.2%), styles of policing (14.2%), community policing (11.9%), use of force/brutality (7.1%) and police stress (2.4%). The editorships of the police articles are similar to the general findings for the courts and corrections articles: Wilson ( $n = 18$ ), Mutchnick ( $n = 10$ ), Myers ( $n = 9$ ), Hanrahan/Wilson ( $n = 4$ ), and McCauley ( $n = 1$ ) (see Table 11).

<< INSERT TABLE 11 ABOUT HERE >>

Goals of the system ( $n = 16$ ) were divided into the six subtopics of deterrence, incapacitation, retribution/just desert, rehabilitation, restoration, and prevention, not including the “no subtopic” option. Even so, the only subtopics coded in the content analysis of the *CJPR* articles were restoration (37.5%), deterrence (31.2%), and rehabilitation (12.5%). No subtopic was selected for three of the articles (18.8%), as they were general articles about goals of the system or contained discussion about more than one goal. As to editorship of articles comprising the goals of the system content, Mutchnick ( $n = 6$ ), and Wilson ( $n = 6$ ) led the category with McCauley ( $n = 2$ ) and Myers ( $n = 2$ ) following. Hanrahan/Wilson did not publish any articles that were coded in this study within the goals of the system topic (see Table 12).

<< INSERT TABLE 12 ABOUT HERE >>

## Discussion

This study sought to answer if *CJPR* wears a false guise of continuity through a content analysis of articles during 1986 to 2008. During this two decade period, there were five different editorships of *CJPR*, two of which are best identified as transition periods (i.e., McCauley and Hanrahan/Wilson) (cf. Abbott, 1999, pp. 147-152, noting that editorial transitions are often ad hoc). Thus, this discussion focuses on the longer-termed Mutchnick, Wilson, and Myers editorships (cf. Abbott, 1999, p. 81, who similarly focused his investigation of the content of *AJS* into the periods of long-term editorships of the journal).

*CJPR* commenced as a journal with a focus on diverse commentary (McCauley, 1986, p. ii) and was unable to place many constraints on the acceptance of articles, due to difficulties of starting a journal (cf. Abbott, 1999, pp. 88-89, on efforts of editors to fill the pages of *AJS* in its early years). Many of the early articles submissions were invited by McCauley and Mutchnick out of the desire to have an interdisciplinary journal. Further, the need to fill space in the journal led to the higher proportion of book reviews and reflective essays in *CJPR* during Mutchnick's editorship (R. Mutchnick, personal communication, March 13, 2009). The journal became more selective after the transitional period of the Hanrahan/Wilson editorship. Additionally, Wilson and Myers both wanted to publish more research studies that reflected current scholarship in the fields of criminal justice and criminology. The findings support these intentions of Wilson and Myers. Under their editorships, the journal became increasingly research-oriented, more specialized, and better aligned with the field of criminology (cf., e.g., Abbott, 1999, pp. 163-164; Silbey, 2000, p. 861). Further, the journal contains a mix of qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods with secondary data analysis, surveys, and content analysis serving as the most used methods of research in *CJPR* articles. This corresponds with Silbey's (2000) finding that content

analyses and (secondary) analyses of existing data are the most frequent research methods utilized in articles published in *LSR*.

The findings regarding the content of *CJPR* can be distinguished from Silbey (2000) in two important ways. First, Silbey stated that *LSR* consistently published a rate of original research throughout its existence, whereas the amount of original research published in *CJPR* has increased consistently over the years through each period of long-term editorship (see Silbey, 2000, p. 862, Figure 1). Second, the rate of book reviews increased over the years in *LSR* (see Silbey, 2000, p. 862), whereas book reviews have decreased in *CJPR* over time. The difference in part may be that *LSR* did not seem to make a point of publishing book reviews in its early years, whereas *CJPR* purposely sought out and included book reviews in the journal – primarily out of necessity to fill space – during the early (pre-Sage) years of publication. In addition, *LSR* book reviews increased dramatically from 1970s to 1980s, and then decreased again in the 1990s (cf. Abbott, 1999, pp. 162-163, and his discussion of a decline in the number of book reviews published in *AJS* during the 1960s and 1970s). Silbey suggests that book reviews increased due to the growth of the scholarly publishing industry during the 1980s and the rise of research interest on topics of law and justice. Correspondingly, *CJPR* began in 1986 with the Mutchnick editorship from 1986 to 1995, which had the highest percentage of book reviews. Following the trend of *LSR*, book reviews decreased dramatically during the editorships of Wilson and Myers, collectively, from 1998 to 2008. Thus, *CJPR* followed *LSR*'s trajectory of high percentages of book reviews that decreased over subsequent years aligned with the desires and plans of editorship and perhaps the trends of publishing in the related disciplines of law, justice, and criminology.

It is difficult to quantify the typographical considerations of *CJPR* in the context of a content analysis because there was little consistency, especially in the early (pre-Sage) years of publication of *CJPR* (e.g., varying type size, column width, margins, and typography), from issue to issue and volume to volume of the journal. In addition, fluctuations in the number of pages per issue/volume in the early-years of the journal negate the ability to analyze the content quantitatively. Similar to what Silbey (2000) found, there is a general pattern that the number of authors, figures, tables, references, and acknowledgements increased as *CJPR* evolved. Silbey (2000, pp. 865-866) attributed this pattern in *LSR* content to the propensity of the field to work less in seclusion and the development of a specialized field that requires more in-depth research and statistics to explain findings. Information was also collected on the number of references to previously published *CJPR* articles. Although Silbey did not collect information on this variable in her content analysis of *LSR*, she suggested it as a potential improvement in the research design for future researchers in analyzing the content of a journal (see Silbey, 2000, p. 861). There was a slight increase in the number of references to *CJPR* over the years, but not enough to support Silbey's hypothesis that increased references to the journal equate with either professionalization or parochialism.

The authorship of *CJPR* content follows patterns similar to those recognized by Silbey (2000). First, the authors are largely from the academic disciplines of criminal justice and criminology, with smaller representation from other social science disciplines (e.g., sociology, law, public administration, political science, and psychology). As Silbey suggested, authors have numerous journals to choose when submitting a manuscript to a refereed journal for publication consideration. Perhaps for tenure and promotional reasons, it is best for authors to publish in journals that are well known and respected in their academic discipline. These trends may be

different in the earlier years of *CJPR* but due to the unavailability of the information, the disciplines of the majority of the early authors are simply unknown (through the content analysis, alone). As a collateral matter, the lack of an impact factor may also have played a role throughout the history of *CJPR* in serving as a discouragement for some authors to submit manuscripts to *CJPR* for publication consideration (A. Piquero, personal communication, March 12, 2009).

Second, the authors are proportionally male, regardless of whether there are one or more authors of an article. With respect to sex of authors, the proportion for all authors of *CJPR* content (70% male, 30% female) was comparable to *LSR* content (74% male, 26% female) and stays relatively constant throughout the different editorships (see Silbey, 2000, pp. 867-868). In addition, under McCauley in the journal's infancy, the highest proportion of female to male authorship was found. The lowest proportion of female to male authorship existed during the transition editorship of Hanrahan/Wilson. These findings suggest that the double-blind review process of *CJPR* maintains a bias-free acceptance and rejection of submitted articles, especially since the proportions of male/female authors remains stable throughout changes in male and female editorships.

Unlike Silbey (2000, p. 870), who found no discernable pattern of topics with her analysis of *LSR* content, *CJPR* topics do exhibit some general patterns. The main topics are aligned with the general components of the criminal justice system (i.e., policing, courts, and corrections). Although this finding is not surprising, this may also be a function of the content analysis since those main topics all had subtopics. If a subtopic was coded, it was used with the main topic and not the secondary topic. This may have influenced the researchers to mark these three main topics more often than secondary topics. Coding these areas as either a main topic or

secondary topic does not alter findings that suggest these three topics were written about most often, regardless if they are main or secondary topics. The secondary topics, however, are similar to Silbey's findings. When the content of an article was coded as having a secondary topic it was often legislation, drugs, criminal justice programming, or juveniles. The secondary topics, like the main topics, are somewhat predictable as they often are regarded as ancillary, albeit important, topics in the study of criminal justice system and criminology.

The content of the main topics and subtopics further suggest that analyzing the criminal justice system components was most popular during the years of 1986 to 2005. The majority of articles written on policing, courts, and corrections were published under the Mutchnick and Wilson editorships, and have more recently declined during Myers' editorship. This finding is consistent with each of the proffered editorial introductions of Mutchnick (1988), Wilson (2000), and Myers (2006). As *CJPR* has evolved, it has progressed from a journal (published in-house at a university) dedicated to offering scholarly discussion of topics important to governmental agencies, and, over time, into a refereed journal (published by an international publisher of refereed social science journals) covering broader topics of interest to criminal justice policymakers, academicians, and practitioners. The findings concerning the topics of content published in *CJPR* support this pattern of transition. It is arguable that system analysis is more important to governmental agencies in assessing how to operate law enforcement agencies, the courts, and corrections efficiently and effectively. As the system becomes more complicated and interconnected with the larger social structure, however, social science research must branch off into other areas of research than solely the systemic elements. Further, as research methods become more sophisticated, the expectations and mandates of original research – and the journals that publish the studies – grows exponentially.

Similar to Abbott's (1999) and Silbey's (2000) conclusions regarding the content of *AJS* and *LSR*, respectively, the content of articles published in *CJPR* demonstrates that there has been institutional change – both within the Department of Criminology at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and, more generally, in the academic disciplines of criminology and criminal justice – during the years throughout the history of *CJPR*. It is change, however, that does not wear a false guise of continuity. Examining the totality of articles during all editorships, it appears at first glance as though little change has occurred in *CJPR*. By looking solely at the Mutchnick, Wilson, and Myers editorships, however, change is apparent; changes in article topics, method and mode of research, and content of articles demonstrate that *CJPR* has evolved. This evolution is reflective of not only the characteristics of *CJPR* but also the disciplines of criminal justice and criminology as well as the editorial philosophy and vision of the various *CJPR* editors throughout its existence.

Many of the changes of *CJPR* described above perhaps best demonstrate professionalization and specialization of criminal justice and criminology (see also Abbott, 1999, p. 163; Silbey, 2000, p. 861). *CJPR* developed along with criminal justice and criminology as illustrated through the early publication of book reviews and reflective essays, and later publication of original research. Disciplines arguably must build their foundational elements (e.g., systemic elements of policing, courts, and corrections) before more rigorous examinations of the processes, procedures, and best practices of the field. The journal also evolved in order to survive, especially during its early (pre-Sage) years from 1986 to 1999 when *CJPR* was published in-house at IUP without the benefit and resources of a publishing company. In addition, readily available computer hardware and software has led to researchers' use of advanced statistics and analytic operations in many articles published in *CJPR* (see also, e.g.,

Williams, 1999, p. 86, who noted that “the ability to produce, store, and access large datasets on computers has clearly changed the face of the [criminology] discipline”). This movement was reflected in the changes of editorship. Changes in the content of articles published in *CJPR* appear to have been influenced by changes in editorial philosophy and increasing interest in raising the stature of the journal within the discipline. McCauley and Mutchnick created *CJPR* as a medium to encourage discussion between criminal justice policymakers and government advocates (see McCauley, 1986). Under Wilson’s editorship, *CJPR* transitioned into a journal that published a broader array of what is included in the conceptualization of criminal justice policy research and debate (see Wilson, 2000). Following the steps of Wilson, Myers has continued to bridge the gaps in knowledge acquisition and distribution among academics, policymakers, and practitioners while ensuring that research integrity and methodological rigor remain strong (see Myers, 2006). Thus, *CJPR* not only has reflected the paradigm shifts within the field of criminology as well as criminal justice policy, but also the vision of its editors.



### References

- Abbott, A. (1999). *Department and discipline: Chicago Sociology at one hundred*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
- Cuomo, M. (1986). Information management and the administration of justice. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, 1-15.
- Geis, G. (1986). On the declining crime rate: An exegetic conference report. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, 16-36.
- Kelling, G. L., Edwards, S. M., & Moore, M. H. (1986). Federally funded community crime control: Urban Initiatives Anti-Crime Program. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, 58-75.
- McCauley, R. P. (1986). Editor's comments. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, ii-iii.
- Mutchnick, R. J. (1988). Editor's note. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 2*, 1.
- Mutchnick, R. J., & McCauley, R. P. (1986). Founders' letter. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, i.
- Myers, D. L. (2006). From the editor. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 17*, 3-5.
- Redlinger, L. J., & Shanahan, D. T. (1986). Planning forward and planning backward: Approaches to policy implementation. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, 76-90.
- Silbey, S. S. (2000). From the editor. *Law & Society Review, 34*, 859-872.
- van den Haag, E. (1986). The neoclassical theory of crime control. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 1*, 91-109.
- Williams, F. P., III (1999). *Imagining criminology: An alternative paradigm*. New York, NY: Garland.
- Wilson, N. K. (2000). Editorial statement. *Criminal Justice Policy Review, 11*, 3-5.

## Appendix A

## Main Subject Attributes

1. Courts
2. Corrections
3. Policing
4. Drugs
5. Prevention
6. Legislation
7. Goals
8. Other
9. Juveniles
10. Victims
11. Crime Stats
12. Environmental Law
13. Media
14. Sexual Offenders
15. Capital Punishment/Death Penalty
16. Domestic Violence
17. Criminal Justice Programs
18. Research Methods
19. Elderly Populations
20. HIV/AIDS
21. Weapons
22. Gangs
23. Race, Class, Ethnicity
24. Re-entry
25. Terrorism
26. Mental Health
27. Recidivism
28. Sex/Gender

*Note:* The category of feminism was the only main topic not coded in the content of *CJPR*.

## Appendix B

## Secondary Topics

1. Legislation
2. Drugs
3. CJ Programs
4. Juveniles
5. Race/Class/Eth
6. Corrections
7. Death Penalty
8. Prevention
9. Other
10. Goals of System
11. Victims
12. Courts
13. Sex Offenders
14. Sex/Gender
15. Domestic Violence
16. Mental Health
17. Policing
18. HIV/AIDS
19. Crime Stats
20. Media
21. Re-entry
22. Weapons
23. Recidivism
24. Research Methods

*Note:* The five secondary topics of environmental law, terrorism, special population – elderly, gangs, and feminism were not coded in the content of *CJPR*.

Table 1

*Type of Article by Editor*

Type of Article	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers
	%	%	%	%	%
Original Research	18.1	30.7	57.1	58.4	67.4
Reflective Essay	36.4	26.8	39.3	23.6	18.4
Book Review	45.5	40.5	0	9.6	3.3
Editorial Introduction	0	1.0	0	3.9	3.3
Research Note	0	1.0	3.6	1.1	6.5
Other	0	0	0	3.4	1.1
<i>Total by Editor</i>	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2

*Modes of Research by Editor*

Type of Research	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers
	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
Not Original Research	18 (81.8)	144 (69.6)	11 (39.3)	73 (41.1)	26 (28.3)
Quantitative	1 (4.5)	52 (25.1)	15 (53.5)	69 (38.8)	42 (45.7)
Qualitative	2 (9.2)	8 (3.9)	1 (3.6)	29 (16.3)	17 (18.5)
Mixed Methods	1 (4.5)	3 (1.4)	1 (3.6)	7 (3.9)	7 (7.6)
<i>Total by Editor</i>	22 (100)	207 (100)	28 (100)	178 (100)	92 (100)

Table 3

*Content Means per Editor*

Content	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers
Pagers per Volume	475.0	397.7	396.2	475.9	497.8
Pages per Issue	126.4	100.8	142.9	127.1	123.5
Pages per Article	11.5	11.7	19.9	18.8	18.3
Authors	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.03
Figures	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.7
Tables	0.6	1.4	2.0	2.2	2.4
References	9.6	21.1	38.9	33.5	44.1
CJPR References	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
Acknowledgements	0.1	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.1
Appendices	0.1	0.03	0.04	0.16	0.12

Table 4

*Female Authorship by Editor*

Editor	Female Author %	Female Author <i>n</i>
McCauley	40.9	9
Mutchnick	31.9	66
Hanrahan/Wilson	25.0	7
Wilson	33.7	60
Myers	33.7	31
<i>All Years</i>	32.8	173

Table 5

*Author's Sex by Main Author*

Sex of Main Author	One Author	Two or More Authors	Total by sex
<i>Percentage of all authors</i>	45.7%	54.3%	
	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
Male Author	125 (66.1)	165 (72.9)	289 (69.8)
Female Author	64 (33.9)	60 (26.7)	124 (30.0)
<i>Total by number</i>	189 (100)	225 (100)	414 (99.8*)

\* One author's sex was unknown.



Table 6

*Author's Sex by Editor's Sex*

Main Authors				
	Male Author <i>n (%)</i>	Female Author <i>n (%)</i>	Unknown <i>n (%)</i>	Total by Editor <i>n</i>
Male Editor	214 (66.7)	106 (33.0)	1 (0.3)	321
Female Editor	139 (67.4)	67 (32.5)	0	206
<i>Author Total</i>	353 (67.0)	173 (32.8)	1 (0.2)	527
Co-Authors				
	Male Author <i>n (%)</i>	Female Author <i>n (%)</i>	Unknown <i>n (%)</i>	Total by Editor <i>n</i>
Male Editor	102 (55.4)	79 (42.9)	3 (1.6)	184
Female Editor	101 (64.3)	56 (35.7)	0	157
<i>Author Total</i>	203 (59.5)	135 (39.6)	3 (0.9)	341

Table 7

*Main Topics of CJPR Articles by Editor*

Main Topic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	All Articles <i>n</i> (%)
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	
No main topic *	0	1	0	3	2	6 (1.4)
Courts	3	29	6	35	18	91 (22.1)
Police	1	10	4	18	9	42 (10.1)
Corrections	2	28	8	26	14	78 (18.8)
Goals of the system	2	6	0	6	2	16 (3.8)
Victims	0	7	1	4	2	14 (3.4)
Legislation	1	6	2	5	6	20 (4.8)
Juveniles	0	4	4	3	4	15 (3.6)
Crime Prevention	1	6	0	5	9	21 (5.1)
Drugs	0	9	1	12	1	23 (5.5)
Other	0	6	0	5	5	16 (3.8)
Crime Stats	2	1	0	4	2	9 (2.2)

*Note.* Topics of less than two percent of the total articles are not listed in the above table.

The table does not reflect book review articles.

\*No main topic occurred in editor introductions and guest editor introductions.

Table 8

*Secondary Topics of CJPR Articles by Editor*

Secondary Topic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	All Articles
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>
No secondary topic*	7	69	14	67	32	189 (45.6)
Corrections	0	7	4	1	0	12 (2.9)
Goals of the system	0	5	1	2	1	9 (2.2)
Legislation	1	5	1	12	13	32 (7.7)
Juveniles	2	5	2	11	2	22 (5.3)
Crime Prevention	0	3	0	7	0	10 (2.4)
Drugs	0	7	0	8	15	30 (7.2)
Race, class, & ethnicity	0	4	0	7	2	13 (3.1)
Other	2	3	0	4	1	10 (2.4)
Capital punishment	0	2	0	8	1	11 (2.7)
Programming	0	2	1	11	10	24 (5.8)

*Note.* Topics of less than one percent of the total are not listed in the above table.

The table does not reflect book review articles.

\* No secondary topic was coded when the article could be described with one (main) topic.

Table 9

*Court Subtopics by Editor*

Subtopic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	Total by subtopic
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>
Sentencing	0	10	2	17	3	32 (35.2)
Prosecutors	0	1	0	1	1	3 (3.3)
Judges	0	1	1	2	0	4 (4.4)
Courtroom Workgroup	0	0	0	0	1	1 (1.1)
Administration	1	0	0	3	0	4 (4.4)
US Supreme Court	1	7	2	4	2	16 (17.6)
Other	1	7	1	6	1	16 (17.6)
No subtopic	0	3	0	2	10	15 (16.5)
<i>Total by editor</i>	3	29	6	35	18	91

Table 10

*Corrections Subtopics by Editor*

Subtopic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	Total by subtopic
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i> (%)
Probation	0	2	0	1	1	4 (5.1)
Parole	0	3	1	0	0	4 (5.1)
Jails	0	4	1	4	1	10 (12.8)
Prisons	1	13	3	10	9	36 (46.2)
Alternative Sanctions	0	1	2	5	0	8 (10.3)
Supervisors/Management	0	0	0	1	1	2 (2.6)
Administration	0	2	0	2	1	5 (6.4)
Other	0	0	1	1	1	3 (3.8)
No subtopic	1	3	0	2	0	6 (7.7)
<i>Total by Editor</i>	2	28	8	26	14	78

Table 11

*Policing Subtopics by Editor*

Subtopic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	Total by subtopic
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n (%)</i>
Use of Force	0	1	0	2	0	3 (7.1)
Police Styles	0	4	2	0	0	6 (14.3)
Community Policing	0	0	0	4	1	5 (11.9)
Administration	1	0	1	6	4	12 (28.6)
Stress	0	0	0	0	1	1 (2.4)
Other	0	4	1	4	2	11 (26.2)
No subtopic	0	1	0	2	1	4 (9.5)
<i>Total by Editor</i>	1	10	4	18	9	42

Table 12

*Goals of System Subtopics by Editor*

Subtopic	McCauley	Mutchnick	Hanrahan Wilson	Wilson	Myers	Total by subtopic <i>n (%)</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>n</i>	
Restoration	0	0	0	4	2	6 (37.5)
Rehabilitation	0	1	0	1	0	2 (12.5)
Deterrence	1	3	0	1	0	5 (31.2)
None	1	2	0	0	0	3 (18.8)
<i>Total by Editor</i>	2	6	0	6	2	16

*Note.* Data were collected on all the main goals of system but these were the only relevant topics.

Figure Captions

*Figure 1.* Types of articles published in *CJPR*.

*Figure 2.* Types of original research published in *CJPR*.

*Figure 3.* Modes of research published in *CJPR*.

*Figure 4.* Methods of research published in *CJPR*.

*Figure 5.* Known disciplines of the main authors published in *CJPR*.



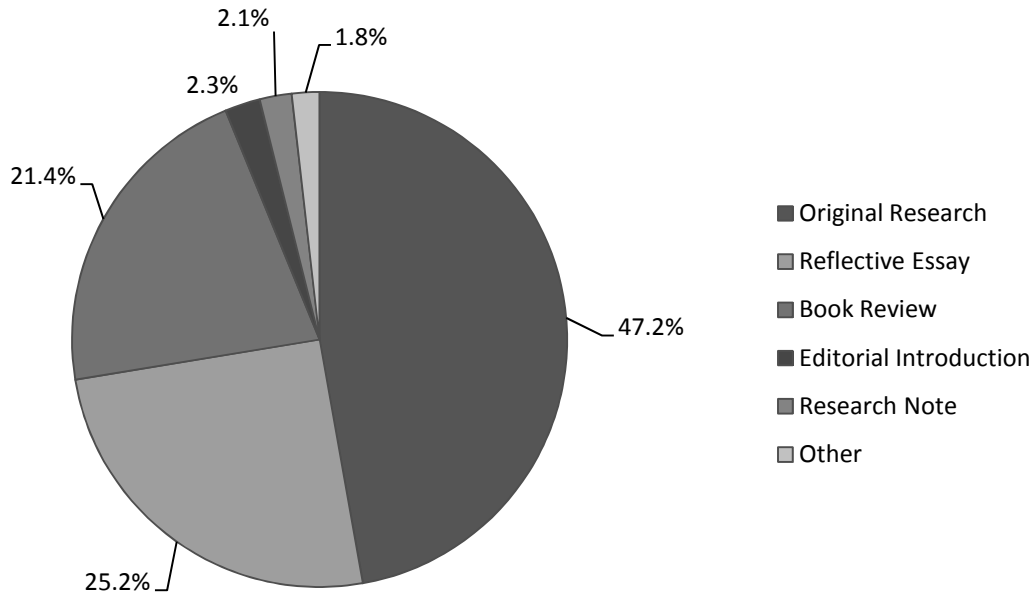


Figure 1. Types of articles published in *CJPR*.

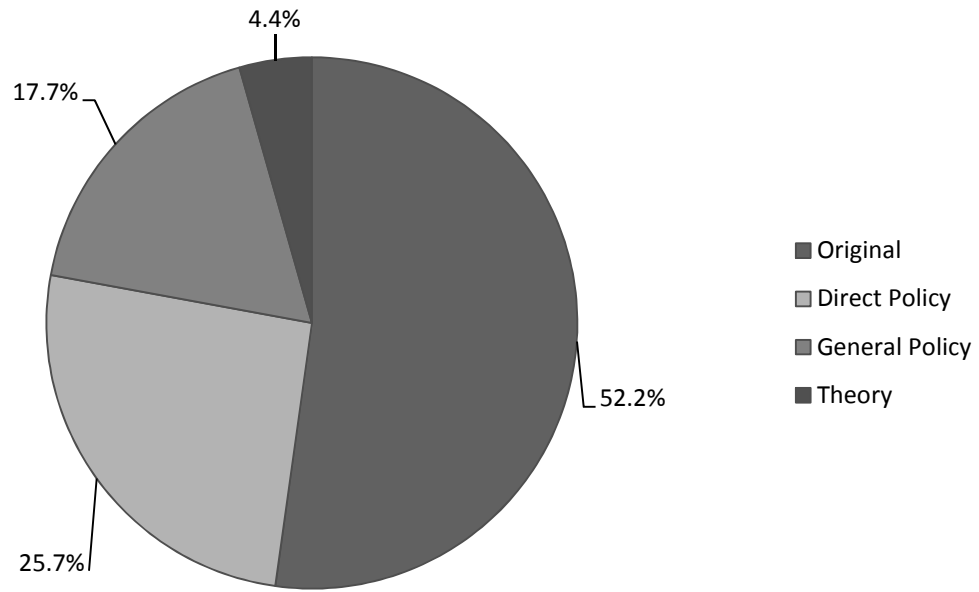
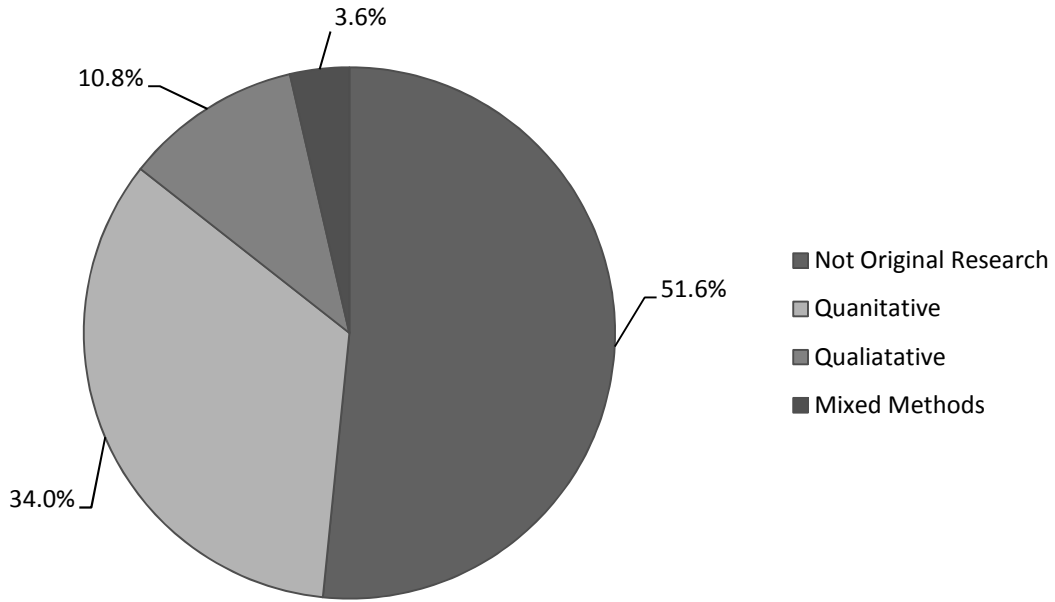
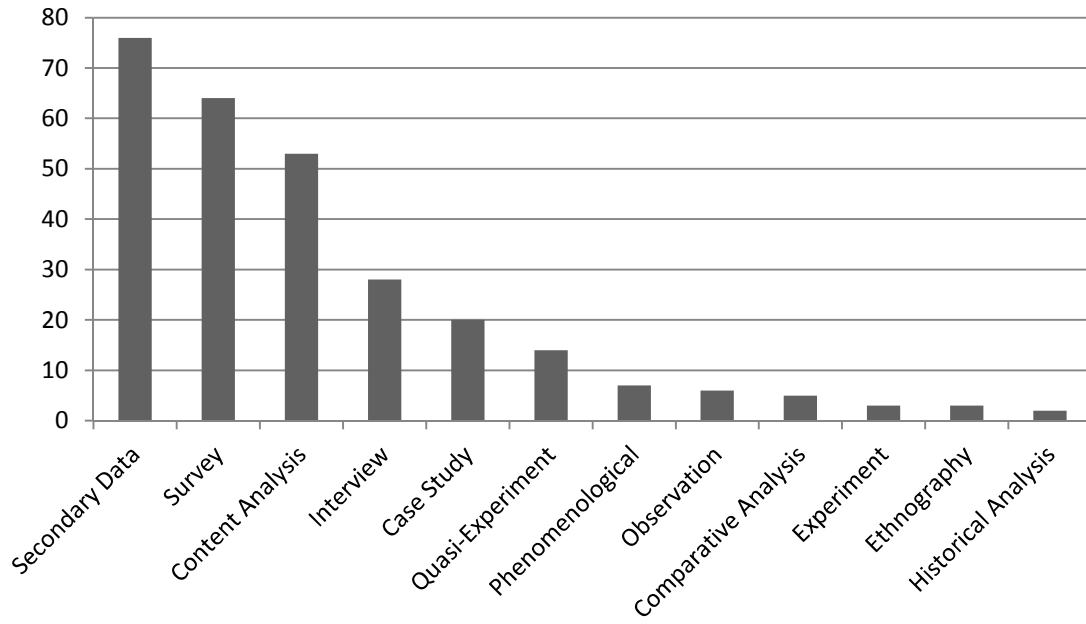


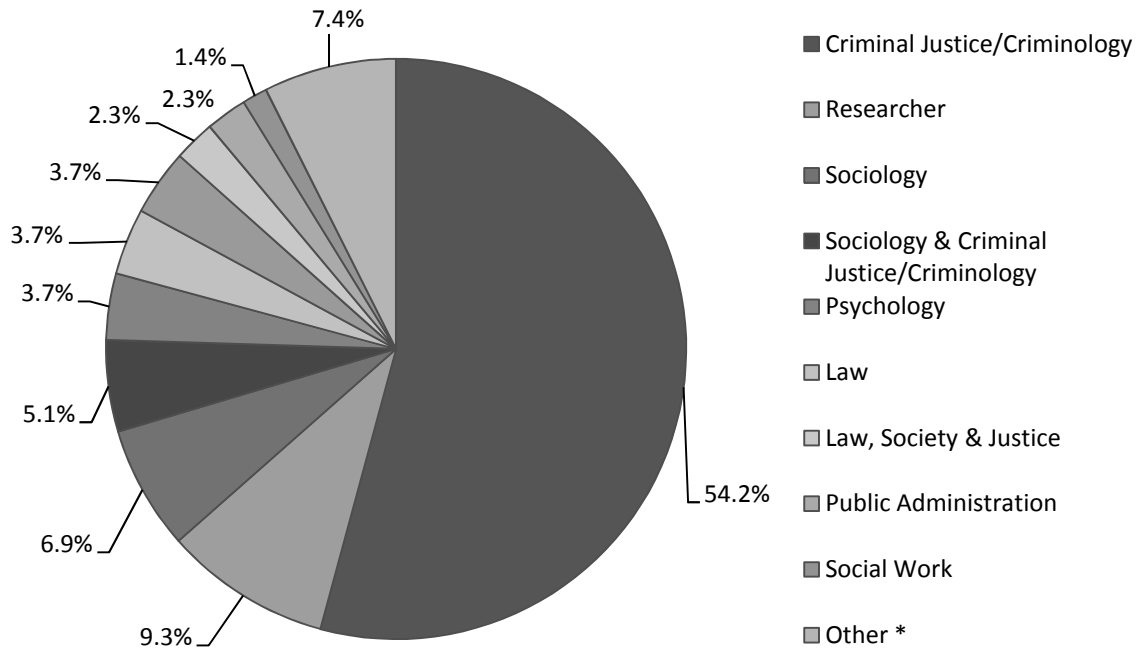
Figure 2. Types of original research published in *CJPR*.



*Figure 3.* Modes of research published in *CJPR*.



*Figure 4.* Methods of research published in *CJPR*.



\* Other includes the disciplinary categories of anthropology, urban studies, administration of justice, communication, and other.

Figure 5. Known disciplines of the main authors published in *CJPR*.