



Division of Victimology Newsletter

American Society of Criminology

Summer 2026

2026-2027 Executive Board

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Dear DOV Members,

What a time it has been! When I became a candidate to chair the division in summer 2024, higher education was already bracing for the “demographic cliff”, and AI was fast becoming a worrying unknown. And then, before I even took office in November 2024, clouds were gathering that I knew would upend higher education.

Life is what happens to you when you’re busy making other plans. Though none of us knows what the future will bring, and we cannot control the weather, chance sometimes can work in our favor. And that’s where the DOV can help.

The Division of Victimology’s purpose hasn’t changed. The Division exists because of you and to serve you. We’re in solid financial shape with a large membership and can support opportunities for you to prosper as a person and professionally. So:

- Please read this newsletter and learn about the wonderful work being done by your colleagues. And please reach out to them. You have no idea how much a genuine word of encouragement matters, and your initiative possibly could lead to a connection that takes you in an unexpectedly wonderful direction.
- Please consider running for office in the coming elections, or volunteering to serve on (or chair) our committees. First, your engagement gives you the opportunity to take ownership of the DOV’s direction and initiatives. Second, service is a great opportunity to connect. Third, if you’re an academic, at some point in your career either death or administration will be your only options for advancement. The DOV is a great and supportive environment to build experience that will prepare you later.
- Please share with me any suggestions for the DOV, questions, or even if you just need advice and support (Christopher.schreck@mu.ie).

I wanted to express my appreciation to Joan Antunes, my predecessor, for her support and encouragement. Emily Strohacker, our current co-chair, is a person with amazing energy and initiative and a role model. Sarah Rogers and Jordana Navarro, former board members, both stood out in their helpfulness and kindness. Sarah Wouters, who handles our website and social media, is a treasure. I cannot name everyone who committed time and effort in support of the DOV, but I know who you are and think of you all with honor and respect.

All the best,
Christopher J. Schreck
Chair, ASC Division of Victimology (2024-2026)

Newsletter Contributions

Newsletter Committee Members



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Co-Chair

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Member

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Sandra Stone

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University of South Florida

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Contribute to the DOV Newsletter!

Please consider contributing submissions to the division's newsletter by emailing the co-chairs. We are always looking for contributions in the following areas:

- Commentary on victimology topics
- Research and teaching features
- Recent or upcoming books
- Mentorship experience
- Advice for graduate students
- Upcoming events of interest
- Community engagement work
- Job openings
- And more! New ideas are very welcome.

ASC Division of Victimology

Standing Committees and Members



Interested in joining one of our committees?
Contact Emily Strohacker (ers50@psu.edu) to find out how!

ASC NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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Dana Radatz

AWARDS COMMITTEE

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Mackenzie Kile (Co-Chair)
Victoria Kurdyla
Rebecca Lennox
Amy Reckdenwald
Wendy Regoeczi
Marie Tillyer
Caralin Branscum

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Ellen G. Cohn
Marie Tillyer
Lane Gillespie
Jordana Navarro

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

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Alvi Ali
Loretta Addo-Danso
Yasemin Irvin-Erickson

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Marie Tillyer
Caralin Branscum
Michelle Harris
Rachael Goodman-Williams
Christina Mancini

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Jordan Parker
Amanda Osuna

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Michelle Harris (Co-Chair)
Mohammed Jahirul Islam
Sandra Stone

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Laura King
Samantha Manuel

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Nicole Wilkes
Laura King
Lane Gillespie
Rachael Goodman-Williams
Amanda Goodson

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Yunming Jia
Elizabeth Carlisle
Caralin Branscum
Alyssa Yetter

TEACHING/RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Kathleen (Katie) Ratajczak (Co-Chair)
Rachel Corsello
Amanda Osuna
Jordan Parker
Yunming Jia
Nicole Wilkes
Shannon Santana
Stacie Merken

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Sarah Wouters (Chair)
Shannon Santana

Book Review & Meet the Author



The Price of Justice: Money and the Limits of Sexual Violence Lawsuits 2026, University of California Press By: Benjamin R. Weiss, Ph.D.

What is your target audience for this book?

Amid high-profile litigation against individuals (Trump, Weinstein, Cosby) and organizations (the Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts), *The Price of Justice* offers victims and their advocates clear-eyed insight into what civil lawsuits can and can't deliver. While civil lawsuits look promising on paper—unlike criminal prosecutions, they're victim-initiated and victim-led, demand a lower burden of proof, and can produce what victims need to heal (e.g., money, recognition of harm, and reforms to keep others safe)—the reality isn't so straightforward. Gender-based violence scholars will appreciate the book's attention to who gets "justice" from the civil system, and who doesn't. For legal scholars, the book surfaces lawyers' role deciding whether and how victims use the law to right wrongs.

In what ways does your book add to the conversation surrounding victimology?

Sexual violence generates needs—physical, mental, and reproductive healthcare, housing, relocation, childcare—that our criminal legal and social welfare systems fail to meet. *The Price of Justice* asks whether civil lawsuits can fill that gap. The answer: lawsuits work for some, often sorted by race, class, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation, but not others. Rather than explaining this through interpersonal discrimination, the book looks at how the civil legal system's normative beliefs and practices—codified in law or maintained through professional training and organizational constraints—generate unequal outcomes. For example, plaintiffs' attorneys don't turn away poor victims hurt by family members because they see them as less deserving; they turn them away because they need to recover against wealthy defendants to keep the office lights on.

Which aspect/part of the book are you particularly proud of?

There are no villains in this book. Plaintiffs' attorneys aren't greedy; defense attorneys aren't callous. The professionals I interviewed universally condemned sexual violence, but were constrained by law, professional norms, and workplace realities in who they could help and how. Rather than individual explanations, *The Price of Justice* shows how the structure of the civil legal system itself limits the justice lawsuits can deliver.

After someone is done reading the book, what do you hope they walk away with?

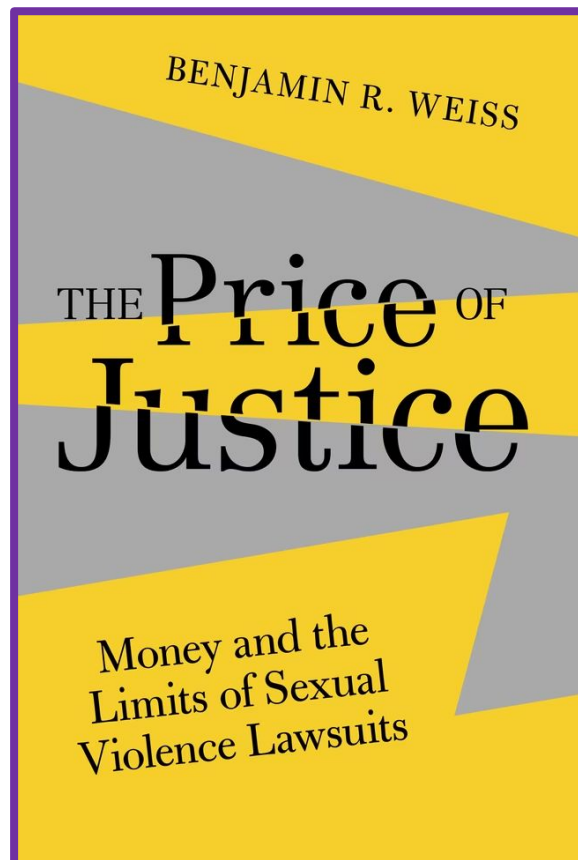
Lawsuits can deliver some justice—redress, recognition, and reform—to some victims. But most victims can't access the civil system at all, and even those who can may not get everything they need. I close the book urging readers not to treat lawsuits as a panacea, however splashy the headlines. Instead, I join decades of feminist scholars and activists in framing sexual violence as a social problem we're all responsible for addressing, including by ensuring victims who can't bring lawsuits still get the healthcare, housing, and childcare they need to recover.

What advice would you give to first-time authors?

A mentor, Krystale Littlejohn (University of Oregon), once told me some projects are article projects and others are book projects. While articles can offer sharp, modest insights for the handful of people who care about the same narrow question, book projects need a topic interesting enough to sustain 200+ pages. A good test: talk about your work, especially with non-academics unlike you—if they're interested and offer thoughts of their own (no polite nodding), you may have a book. Make sure the project wants to be a book before you commit to one.

What did you learn while putting this book together? Is there anything you would have done differently if given the chance?

Ask for help, and take the advice seriously. I'm often shy about showing colleagues my work, but every time I did, I was met with real generosity—though I suspect feminist gender-based-violence scholars may be an unusually collaborative bunch!



Book Review & Meet the Author



The Victims' Rights Movement: What It Got Right and What It Gets Wrong

2023, New York University Press

By: Michael Vitiello

What is your target audience for this book?

The audience includes lawyers, judges, law students, criminologists, victimologists, and any other intelligent members of the public.

In what ways does your book add to the conversation surrounding victimology?

The book develops a serious critique of the Victims Rights Movement with a focus on its early history and on more recent developments. It also discusses problems with victimhood. Finally, it also argues that the Victims Rights Movement's supporters could advance victims' rights by supporting gun regulations and a robust national health system.

Which aspect/part of the book are you particularly proud of?

I am especially proud of the discussion of the cost of victimhood; the discussion of how victim impact statements may distort fundamental criminal law policies; and the discussion of ways in which the Victims Rights Movement could advance their agenda more effectively by supporting gun regulations and a robust national health system.

After someone is done reading the book, what do you hope they walk away with?

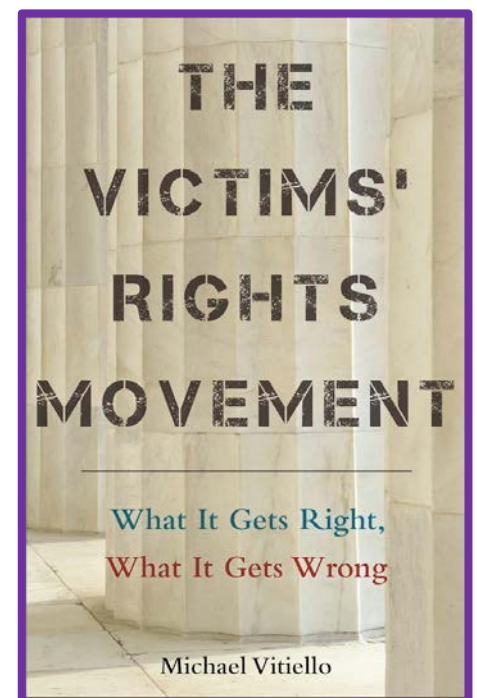
I would hope that they would be more aware of why the Victims Rights Movement may be attractive to them, but of how the movement has distorted fundamental and important policies of the criminal law, including equality and proportionality in assessing criminal punishment. I would also hope that they would be more open to supporting gun regulations and to expanding national health programs.

What advice would you give to first-time authors?

I would urge them to be willing to explore their own biases.

What did you learn while putting this book together? Is there anything you would have done differently if given the chance?

I realized that I had to make my readers understand that my criticisms of the Victims Rights Movement did not mean that I did not empathize with victims. That realization led to the last chapter about what we should do if we really care about victims.



Book Review & Meet the Author

Feeling Trapped: Social Class and Violence Against Women

2023, University of California Press

By: James Ptacek

Winner of the Robert Jerin Book of the Year Award!

What is your target audience for this book?

The book was written for researchers, college students, survivors, and those who work with domestic violence survivors and offenders. This includes advocates, social workers, mental health professionals, attorneys, and feminist activists.

In what ways does your book add to the conversation surrounding victimology?

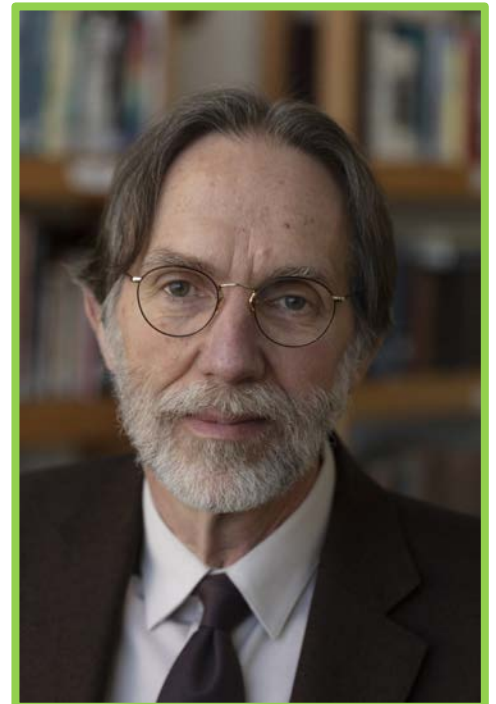
This book examines the traps women face in abusive relationships, with a focus on both class privilege and class disadvantage. In the literature on intimate violence, social class is not usually studied in this comparative manner. This research draws from a unique sample of 60 women in the United States from poor, working-class, professional, and wealthy communities. Roughly three-quarters of the survivors are white, and one-quarter are African American. This research places intimate violence in the context of multiple social inequalities. Feminist theories of patriarchy are combined with sociological theories of social class in this investigation.

Which aspect/part of the book are you particularly proud of?

I argue that intimate violence is best seen as a kind of social entrapment rather than as an individual experience. Along with the violence, women feel trapped by the responses of family, friends, and institutions such as the police, the courts, and the “helping professions.” Class privilege and class disadvantage, racial privilege and racial disadvantage further shape the traps that survivors experience. Naming intimate violence as social entrapment connects men’s violence against women to both social inequalities and to the failure of community and institutional responses.

After someone is done reading the book, what do you hope they walk away with?

The women I interviewed were eloquent in the description of their experiences. Extensive quotes from these interviews drive the narrative of the book. I believe that readers of this book will be moved by their testimony. They offer a vivid and memorable portrayal of the complexities of surviving abuse.





What advice would you give to first-time authors?

Try to write as accessibly as you can. Reach beyond jargon to address your work to a wider public! Also, don't be afraid to talk with book publishers before the draft manuscript is complete. You can get a lot of good feedback early on in the process.

What did you learn while putting this book together? Is there anything you would have done differently if given the chance?

I thought my background as a researcher and a counselor with abusive men had fully prepared me for this project. But a colleague who is a survivor warned me that I might not be able to bear all the pain I would encounter in the interviews. She was right. During one stretch I conducted 11 interviews over 12 days. That was too much. I was so strained from these conversations that I sought guidance from my minister. She had worked in a domestic violence shelter herself, so she was able to offer me guidance about processing such upsetting conversations.

Member Spotlight



Dr. Caralin Branscum is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of South Florida (USF). Her research and teaching interests lie at the intersection of gender-based violence, human trafficking, and institutional and community responses to victims of crime. At USF, she is a faculty affiliate of the USF Trafficking in Persons - Risk to Resilience Lab (TiP Lab) where she collaborates on several community-engaged research projects studying human trafficking prevention and intervention efforts in Florida. She is also a Co-Investigator on a project titled, "A National Review of Multidisciplinary Teams Addressing Child Sexual Exploitation" which was funded by the National Institute of Justice (Award No. 15PNIJ-24-GG-01653-MUMU). In addition to this work, she is passionate about conducting research that involves meaningful engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders and practitioners, maximizing the utility of findings for policy and practice. Some of her recent work has been published in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and *Victims & Offenders*.

Community Scholar

Dr. Katelyn Hancock University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Dr. Katelyn Hancock has developed an innovative, community-engaged teaching project called **"Pouring for Purpose"** that transforms how students learn about ethics in criminal justice—while raising funds for local victim services. In her Ethics in Criminal Justice course, students use pour painting to work through ethical dilemmas involving police, courts, and corrections. Working in groups, students create their own dilemmas, develop resolutions grounded in the ethical systems studied in class, assign a color key to each decision, and then pour paint onto canvas to visually represent their reasoning—finishing with a written meta-reflection on their learning.



What makes the project especially impactful is its reach beyond the classroom. In one iteration, Katelyn's students partnered with local high school students through UTC's University High program, gaining teaching experience as they led the younger students through ethical reasoning and pour painting. Each year, students are invited to donate their finished paintings to a gallery, where campus and community members contribute donations that go directly to a local victim services organization. Across four semesters, the project has raised hundreds of dollars for organizations serving survivors of violence, including the *Partnership for Families, Children and Adults*, the *Family Justice Center*, and a *local Children's Advocacy Center*. The work has also drawn interest from a women's reentry program and a youth violence-support program, both hoping to bring pour painting to their own communities.

Through "Pouring for Purpose," Katelyn has connected experiential learning, student engagement, and tangible community support—all while making a difficult subject genuinely joyful for her students.

- Teaching & Learning Center video of the activity:
<https://youtu.be/kd7lidwnRjg?si=GntNDFpZCs-yTVhe>
- UTC feature, "Criminal Justice Students Collaborate with University High to Pour for a Purpose":
<https://blog.utc.edu/news/2023/11/criminal-justice-students-collaborate-with-university-high-to-pour-for-a-purpose/>

Thank you, Katelyn, for all of your important work in your school, local, state, and national communities! You are amazing!

Mentoring

Dr. Leah E. Daigle

**Senior Associate Dean & Distinguished University Professor
Georgia State University**



Tell us about yourself (your current position, research/teaching areas, what you do for fun/relaxation/rejuvenation):

I currently serve as the Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies and Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Georgia State University. My research focuses on the correlates and consequences of victimization, with a particular focus on revictimization and the victimization of diverse groups. Outside of work, I prioritize travel with my husband, time spent with friends, and exercise – activities that help me recharge and maintain balance.

What is your experience with mentorship (e.g., how many students advised, notable outcomes, etc.)?

I have served as formal dissertation advisor for about 10 students and an informal advisor for countless others. Watching mentees achieve their goals has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career. Many of my doctoral students have gone on to have very successful academic careers at institutions that align with their interests and strengths, whether those emphasize research, teaching, or both. I also lead a faculty mentoring program in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at GSU where we pair primarily early career faculty with experienced mentors to support their professional development.

What is effective mentorship (i.e., what can the mentor do proactively to support their mentees, what outcomes demonstrate effective mentorship, things to consider for different levels, like undergrad, grad, TT faculty)?

Effective mentorship begins with building a relationship grounded in trust, honesty, and mutual respect. Mentors should create an environment where they can provide constructive feedback and where mentees feel comfortable being candid about their challenges and goals. I also believe effective mentors take the time to understand how each mentee communicates, works, and learns, and adapt their mentoring style whenever possible. Finally, setting clear expectations at the outset of the relationship—regarding communication, responsibilities, and goals—helps create a strong foundation for success.

What advice do you have for faculty serving as chairs on theses/dissertations to ensure their mentees' successful completion?

Engage, engage, engage. The thesis and dissertation stage can be an isolating experience, and while these are independent scholarly projects, students benefit tremendously from regular communication, encouragement, and feedback. Every student is different. Some need frequent feedback on small sections to maintain momentum, while others thrive with greater independence. I have found that reviewing work early and often helps students stay engaged, identify challenges before they become major obstacles, and ultimately make steady progress toward completion.

How can mentors support mentees entering the job market across various career goals (e.g., academic and non-academic jobs, teaching-focused and research-focused positions)?

One of the most important things mentors can do is recognize the limits of their own experience. Many academics have little firsthand knowledge of careers outside academia, and that's okay. When I cannot provide the best guidance, I connect students with colleagues or professionals who can. I also believe mentorship should be tailored to a mentee's career goals. A student pursuing a research-intensive faculty position will need different experiences and preparation than someone seeking a teaching-focused or non-academic career. Effective mentors help mentees build the skills and experiences that align with the future they want.

What advice do you have for someone seeking mentorship? (i.e., how can they assist in the process)?

Mentorship is an active process that requires mutual engagement, not a passive experience. Think about what you hope to gain from a mentoring relationship and be able to articulate those goals. Equally important, recognize that no single mentor can provide everything you need. Build a network of mentors with different strengths. One mentor may help you develop your research agenda, another may offer guidance on teaching or leadership, and another may simply provide perspective during difficult career decisions. A strong mentoring network is often more valuable than relying on a single mentor.

Division of Victimology

Call for 2026 Award Nominations

Bonnie S. Fisher Victimology Career Award – This award will be given to a scholar who has made a significant contribution in the area of victimology over the course of their lifetime. This may be in terms of scholarship or teaching. Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages) and (2) an up-to-date CV for the nominee. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation and evidence for why the nominee's lifetime achievements are significant contributions to the discipline of victimology.

Robert Jerin Book of the Year Award – This award will be given to the author(s) of a book published in the previous five years (i.e., 2021-2026) that has had a major impact on the field of victimology and/or serves to highlight a key issue in the field. Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages) and (2) a description of the book and its relevance to the field of victimology. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation of why the book should be considered as a key text in the discipline of victimology.

Faculty Researcher of the Year Award – This award will be given to a scholar who has made a significant contribution in the area of victimology in the past two years (e.g., peer-reviewed publications or books published in 2024-2026). Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages) and (2) an up-to-date CV for the nominee. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's research has made significant contributions to the discipline of victimology.

Faculty Teacher of the Year Award – This award will be given to a teacher who shows excellence in teaching victimology and/or victimology-related courses taught during the past two academic years (i.e., 2024-2025, 2025-2026). Nominations must include (1) one letter of support (1 to 3 pages) and (2) evidence of teaching excellence. In the letter, the nominator must provide explanation and evidence for why the nominee's teaching is excellent. Evidence of teaching excellence should include (but is not limited to) letters from students or examples of assignments.

Practitioner/Activist of the Year Award – This award will be given to a practitioner or activist who has made a significant impact on the lives of victims or those who work with victims. Nominations must include (1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages) and (2) examples of impact on the lives of victims or those who work with victims. In the letter, the nominator must provide an explanation as to how this practitioner has made a difference in the lives of victims. Examples of impact can include (but are not limited to) papers/publications, reports, expert testimony, organizational leadership, statements from victims, etc.

Graduate Student Papers of the Year Award – Two awards will be given to graduate students for an exceptional, published or unpublished, paper on a victimology-related topic that was written or published during 2025-2026. Nominees must be current graduate students during the Fall 2026 semester. Faculty co-authors are allowed; however, the graduate student *must* be lead/first author and any faculty co-authors must be in an advisory role *only*. Graduate student award recipients will receive \$300 each (if there are multiple student co-authors on a selected paper, the \$300 will be split evenly among them). Nominations must include: (1) one letter of support (1 to 2 pages) and (2) a PDF of the paper. In the letter, the nominator must provide a statement explaining why he/she believes the paper makes a contribution to the discipline of victimology.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

- Please upload your award nomination here: <https://form.jotform.com/261398526887173>
- Please consolidate your award nomination documents into one PDF, when possible.

Additional Notes:

- Please contact Dr. Brendan Lantz (blantz@fsu.edu) and Mackenzie Kile (mik047@shsu.edu) with any questions or submission issues.
- Recipients of each award will be made aware that they have won the award by October 2nd.
- Winners will be honored at the annual DOV meeting and receive a plaque.
- With the exception of the Practitioner/Activist of the Year award, all award recipients must be members of the DOV.
- Previous award winners are ineligible to be considered for the same award.
- We hope you will self-nominate or nominate someone you know who you think is worthy of these awards. We are especially hopeful that you will pinpoint student papers that may be suitable for nominations for the graduate student paper awards

Division of Victimology

2026 Graduate Student Travel Awards

The DOV is pleased to announce two Student Travel Awards (\$500 each) to help graduate students with ASC travel to Chicago, Illinois. Applications will be reviewed by the DOV Awards Committee.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be current graduate students at institutions of higher education within the United States.
- The graduate student's research focus must be on victimology.
- Applicants must submit evidence of conference participation (e.g., abstract acceptance, award, roundtable).
- Applicants must be current members of the DOV.
- Applicants are expected to attend the DOV award ceremony.

Submission Deadline: September 1, 2026

Application Materials:

Applications must be submitted to <https://form.jotform.com/261405425932151> and include the following:

1. Evidence of ASC 2026 conference participation (e.g., abstract acceptance, award, roundtable)
2. A 500-word personal statement about the importance of the award and how it will support the student's career path, especially in the field of victimology
3. Current CV/resume

Selection Criteria:

Applications containing all materials referenced above will be assessed based on merit and need as described in the personal statement.

Award:

The awards will be given during the award ceremony at ASC in November.

Contact:

Please contact Dr. Brendan Lantz (blantz@fsu.edu) and Mackenzie Kile (mjk047@shsu.edu) with any questions or submission issues.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY DIVISION OF VICTIMOLOGY



Onward and Upward!

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*New research?
Interesting
pedagogical
approach to teaching
about victimization?
Other cool and
relevant topics?
Don't forget to tag us
with @ASCDOV or
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