

Watts Happening?

The latest media coverage of Watts College

July 2020



To eliminate systemic racism in police departments and institutionalized racism in communities, “We’ve got to re-imagine systems across the board, in housing, in education, you name it,” said former Detroit police chief and **School of Public Affairs** (SPA) Professor of Practice **Jerry Oliver**, responding to questions by Arizona Republic columnist Greg Moore. “It’s important that we deal with the institutionalized racism,” Oliver said. “These systems aren’t broken; they’re doing exactly what they’re designed to do, and that is to keep certain people under control or to neglect them or to make sure that they don’t have the same equality that other people in this country have.”

- July 8, 2020: [“What to Say When They Try to Justify Police Brutality by Asking, ‘What About Chicago?’”](#) by Greg Moore, Arizona Republic

Traci Morris, director of the **American Indian Policy Institute**, spoke to Cisco’s Techbeat podcast about the digital divide that keeps Native people on tribal lands unable to gain access to an education, public services and private opportunities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these tribal members suffered from this lack of connectivity even more.



- July 27, 2020: [“An Epicenter of the Digital Divide: Native Reservations.”](#) by Kevin Delaney, Cisco Techbeat podcast
- July 27, 2020: [“Coronavirus Crisis Threatens Opportunity for Native Americans.”](#) by Avi-Asher Schapiro, Reuters



Michael White, a professor in the **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice** (SCCJ), told the PBS NewsHour that “evidence indicates that for (a law enforcement agency’s) administrative policies to change officer behavior, the policy must clearly dictate what officers can and cannot do, must be widely communicated, and must be enforced.”

- July 23, 2020: [“Can Use of Force Restrictions Change Police Behavior? Here’s What We Know.”](#) by Candice Norwood, PBS NewsHour



Ojmarrh "OJ" Mitchell, associate professor in the **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)**, said he found it "ridiculous" that a Michigan judge would put a 15-year-old African American teen in a juvenile facility during the COVID-19 pandemic, "where we know the rate of transmission is through the roof" for failure to finish a homework assignment or for not participating in class. Mitchell and a Penn State University professor spoke during a video interview with Yahoo! News.

- July 22, 2020: ["Teen Incarcerated Over Schoolwork Shows the 'Devaluation of Black Lives': University Professor."](#) by Yahoo! News
-

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) Professor Michael Scott was quoted in a Bloomberg story finding that government officials in at least six states are considering easing the process for firing and banning abusive police officers from further law enforcement service. "I find it incomprehensible that some stats don't have a vigorous system for certifying and decertifying," Scott said. "To be effective, a licensing regime must 'have a degree of independence, a degree of pro-activity and a degree of standards that will in fact be enforced.'"



- July 7, 2020: ["To Keep Bad Cops Off Streets, Cities Consider Police Licensing."](#) by Alex Ebert, Bloomberg
-



Commenting on how law enforcement has handled recent public unrest in Portland, Ore., Professor **Edward Maguire** of the **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)**, told the Portland Tribune that police departments like Portland's need to consider looking past the immediate situation, rather than concentrate on large shows of force that can heighten emotional responses. "We need to rethink our strategies," Maguire told the newspaper, "and that's not happening." Maguire told the

Christian Science Monitor that confusion results when officers lack identifying details, saying to correspondent Martin Kuz, "If people don't know who you are, you're defeating their ability to hold agents and agencies accountable."

- July 22, 2020: ["Local Leaders Used Same Playbook As Protests Continued,"](#) by Nick Budnick, Portland Tribune
 - July 23, 2020: ["Trump's Deployment of Federal Agents in Portland Is Exactly How Not to Police Protests,"](#) by Alex Ward, Vox
 - July 24, 2020: ["The Feds Take Their Portland Approach on the Road – Three Questions,"](#) by Martin Kuz, Christian Science Monitor
-



Researchers from **ASU's Morrison Institute for Public Policy (Andrea Whitsett, director, at left)** say in [a new report](#) titled "One Crisis Away" that amid closures of businesses and slow-to-arrive public assistance, more and more Arizonans – even those above the poverty line – “are one crisis away from homelessness,” ABC15 reports. According to an Arizona Republic/Morrison Institute poll, households earning \$25,000 or less annually were stricken the hardest by furloughs and job losses.

- July 30, 2020: [“Eviction Crisis Looming in Arizona Once Moratorium on Evictions Ends.”](#) by Courtney Holmes, ABC-15 (KXNV-TV, Phoenix)

Young peoples’ perceptions of law enforcement officers have declined dramatically over the past few years, according to a 2019 study by Assistant Professor **Adam Fine** of the **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)**, ASU Now reported. “Fine’s research also found that across the last decade, youth of color – and Black youths in particular – have consistently reported worse perceptions of legal authority than white youths. ... (Fine) explores how those attitudes diverge by race at a young age, and how a specific community-service partnership program called Team Kids can change youths' views toward police officers. His paper was published recently in the Journal of Experimental Criminology,” ASU Now said.



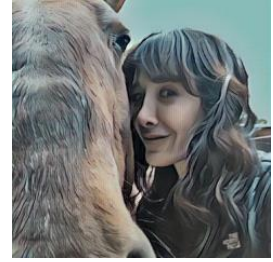
- July 16, 2020: [“Community-Service Partnership Improves Youths’ Perception of Police, ASU Research Shows.”](#) by Mary Beth Faller, ASU Now
- July 28, 2020: [Adam Fine Interview: Youths’ Perception of Police](#), KTAR-FM

Andrew Hanus, at right, a 2015 graduate of the **School of Public Affairs**, is one of 18 men and 18 women participating in “The Titan Games,” a series of contests of strength, athleticism and skill broadcast on NBC this summer. Hanus, 32, was chosen for the competition from more than 10,000 original applicants. A grants manager for a Philadelphia-area community college, Hanus is working today with his college mentor, SPA Associate Professor **Christopher Hayter**, at left, on a project that examines the origins of autonomous vehicles, funded by a National Science Foundation grant.



- July 16, 2020: [“ASU Alum to Compete on TV’s ‘The Titan Games.’”](#) by Mark J. Scarp, ASU Now (Photo courtesy NBCUniversal)

Joanne Cacciatore, an associate professor in the **School of Social Work** (SSW), just completed important new research published in the Child Youth Services Review that sheds light on the victims' families' experiences after the Sandy Hook mass shootings. Twenty-six people, including 20 kindergartners, were murdered in December 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Mass. The article featuring the research of Cacciatore and co-author Sarah F. Kurker appears in the Review's September 2020 issue.



- July 6, 2020: [“Charlotte Helen Bacon Foundation Announces Research Study.”](#) The Newtown (Mass.) Bee
 - September 2020: [“Primary Victims of the Sandy Hook Murders: ‘I Usually Cry When I Say 26.’](#) by Joanne Cacciatore and Sarah F. Kurker, Children and Youth Services Review (from [EIN Presswire](#))
-
-

#