PRESENTER BIOSKETCHES

Roxie Alcaraz, M.A.
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Roxie's academic background is in experimental psychology. Prior to her work at the University of California, Riverside, she worked at California State University San Bernardino (CSUSB) coordinating research projects related to minors' access to tobacco and the relationship between gender and ethnicity and health risk behaviors and the effects of such behaviors on mental health. She has a number of publications as a result of her research work at CSUSB. Roxie has been the Project Manager for the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention (ACE-UCR) for 8 years. She coordinates and/or monitors all activities of the project. She was a member of the City of Riverside Red Team on Youth Violence Prevention and is currently participates on the Mayor's Riverside's Youth Violence Prevention Policy Board. She is also a member of the Arlanza Neighborhood Collaborative, the Alvord Unified School District's Alvord Collaborative, the Perris Red Team, and Perris U.N.I.T.Y. (United Neighbors Interested in Today's Youth). Roxie is also a part-time instructor at Riverside Community College where she teaches Introduction to Psychology and Developmental Psychology.

Thomas E. Backer, Ph.D.
President, Human Interaction Research Institute
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Thomas E. Backer is a psychologist whose life work is devoted to helping people, organizations, and communities meet the challenges of innovation and change. He concentrates on improving health and human services for vulnerable populations, enhancing nonprofit arts and culture programs, and helping highly creative people deal with the challenges of creative work. He conducts research, writes, teaches and consults in all three areas. Dr. Backer is President of the nonprofit Human Interaction Research Institute. Founded in 1961, the Institute uses behavioral sciences strategies to help nonprofits handle innovation and change. He also is Associate Clinical Professor of Medical Psychology at the UCLA School of Medicine, and was Senior Fellow of UCLA’s School of Public Affairs for the 2003-2004 academic year. He is the author of more than 500 books, articles and research reports. His two most recent books are Evaluating Community Collaborations (the first major work on this topic), and (with Jane Ellen Bleeg and Kathryn Groves), The Expanding Universe: New Directions in Nonprofit Capacity Building. Dr. Backer has received numerous awards including the 1989 Mrs. Swanson Award of the Knowledge Utilization Society; and the Consulting Psychology Research Award in 1987 and the RHR International Award for Excellence in Consulting in 2001 from the Division of Consulting Psychology of the American Psychological Association. He is a licensed psychologist in California, a fellow of the American Psychological Association, and a member of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. He has been President both of APA's Division of Consulting Psychology and of the Knowledge Utilization Society.
Meda Chesney-Lind, Ph.D
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Meda Chesney-Lind is Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She has served as Vice President of the American Society of Criminology and president of the Western Society of Criminology. Nationally recognized for her work on women and crime, her books include *Girls, Delinquency and Juvenile Justice* which was awarded the American Society of Criminology's Michael J. Hindelang Award for the "outstanding contribution to criminology, 1992" and *The Female Offender: Girls, Women and Crime* published in 1997 by Sage. Her most recent book, is an edited collection entitled *Female Gangs in America* has just been published by Lakeview press. In 2001, she received the Bruce Smith, Sr. Award "for outstanding contributions to Criminal Justice" by the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and she was named a fellow of the American Society of Criminology in 1996. Dr. Chesney-Lind has also received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Women and Crime Division of the American Society of Criminology, the Major Achievement Award from the Division of Critical Criminology, and the Herbert Block Award for service to the society and the profession from the American Society of Criminology. Finally, she has received the Donald Cressey Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency in 1997 for "her outstanding academic contribution to the field of criminology." Locally, she has been awarded the University of Hawaii Board of Regent's Medal for "Excellence in Research." Dr. Chesney-Lind is an outspoken advocate for girls and women, particularly those who find their way into the criminal justice system. Her work on the problem of sexism in the treatment of girls in the juvenile justice system was partially responsible for the recent national attention devoted to services to girls in that system. More recently, she has worked hard to call attention to the soaring rate of women's imprisonment and the need to vigorously seek alternatives to women's incarceration.

Elena Grigorenko, Ph.D.
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Elena L. Grigorenko received her Ph.D. in general psychology from Moscow State University, Russia, in 1990, and her Ph.D. in developmental psychology and genetics from Yale University in 1996. Currently, Dr. Grigorenko is Associate Professor of Child Studies, Psychology, and Epidemiology and Public Health at Yale and Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Columbia University and Moscow State University (Russia). Dr. Grigorenko has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and books. She has received awards for her work from five different divisions of the American Psychological Association (Divisions 1, 7, 10, 15, and 24). In 2004, she won the APA Distinguished Award for Early Career Contribution to Developmental Psychology. Dr. Grigorenko has worked with children and their families in the U.S. as well as in Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, the Gambia, and Zambia), India, and Russia. Her research has been funded by the NIH, NSF, DOE, Cure Autism Now, the Foundation for Child Development, the American Psychological Foundation, and other federal and private sponsoring organizations. Dr. Grigorenko's current research includes studies of: (1) the cognitive and linguistic adaptation of international adoptees in the US; (2) learning disabilities in harsh developmental environments and their relation to infection, intoxication, and poverty in Africa; (3) the genes involved in language disorders in a genetically isolated population; (4) the genes involved in learning disabilities and cognitive processing, with a special emphasis on studying minority samples in the US; and (5) interactions between genetic and environmental risk factors for conduct problems and the role of these factors in response to interventions in juvenile detainees.
Nancy Guerra, Ed.D.
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Nancy Guerra is a professor of psychology at University of California Riverside. She received her doctorate from Harvard University. Her professional research interests and practice experience have focused on youth development and violence prevention. She is particularly interested in social-cognitive predictors of children's aggression, violence, and delinquency, including information processing skills and normative beliefs. Her research has involved longitudinal studies of risk for aggression and violence as well as preventive intervention studies designed to change children's cognitions and behavior. She was the principal investigator for the Metropolitan Area Child Study, an 8-year development and prevention study funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. This study evaluated the impact of a comprehensive social-cognitive intervention involving children, teachers, and families on the prevention of aggression and violence in inner city and urban communities. Dr. Guerra is currently the principal investigator and director of the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention at UC Riverside (ACE-UCR), one of 10 similar centers across the United States funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Current research projects at ACE-UCR include a statewide bullying prevention, prediction, and evaluation study in grades K-12; Families and Schools Together (FAST) with Latino families and children; and Positive Life Choices (PLC) social-cognitive decision-making intervention for adolescents. New research projects include a qualitative study of bullying and victimization among middle and high school girls and boys; Child Development Parent Training (CDPT) home visitation program for Latino parents of elementary school children; evaluation of Positive Life Choices in detention and correctional settings including biological markers of responsivity; and Cross-site Aggression and Victimization scale ages 6-11. In addition to her research, Dr. Guerra has served on a number of national expert panels and study groups, such as the President's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office of Education’s National Standards Project, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's study group on serious and violent juvenile offenders.

Tamara Haegerich, Ph.D.
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Tamara Haegerich earned her Ph.D. in Social Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. During her training she collaborated on a variety of violence-related studies. These studies included school-based violence prevention program evaluations and evaluations of services provided to youth and their families in the Juvenile Justice Division at the Cook County Juvenile Court (Chicago, IL). After receiving her degree in 2002, she was awarded a Society for Research in Child Development Executive Branch Policy Fellowship in the Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (IES). As a Research Scientist at IES, she developed and directed a large-scale, multi-site, multi-program evaluation of elementary school-based violence prevention programs. In 2008, Dr. Haegerich began her CDC career as a Behavioral Scientist in CDC's Prevention Development and Evaluation Branch (PDEB) of the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP), in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC). She served as a Science Officer on the National Academic Centers of Excellence (ACEs) in Youth Violence Prevention program. As the Science Officer for several of the ACEs, she provided technical assistance on the design, implementation, and evaluation of school, community, and family-based programs and surveillance systems that focus on youth violence. Dr. Haegerich now serves as the Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Science (ADS) in DVP. In this role, she assists the ADS through providing leadership, planning, and guidance to DVP management and staff on scientific policy, research methodology, and research priorities. She identifies and implements strategies for enhancing the rigor and timeliness of the science produced by the Division, and coordinates scientific training and opportunities for Division staff. She has co-authored several publications and book chapters, including chapters on scientific careers in public service and innovative approaches to the prevention of
delinquency and antisocial behavior. She has represented her own work, and the work of federal agencies, at several national scientific conferences, including meetings of the Society for Prevention Research, the Society for Research in Child Development, the Society for Research on Adolescence, the American Criminology Society, and the American Psychological Association.

**Samantha Hurst, Ph.D.**  
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Samantha Hurst earned her Ph.D. in Biological Anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and did her Post-Doctoral Fellowship training in Medical Anthropology at the Alcohol Research Center at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla. Dr. Hurst is currently working as a Research Health Science Specialist at the San Diego VA Medical Research Facility and with the UCSD Department of Psychiatry. Her research interests focus on the study of culture and psychiatric diagnosis and cross-cultural assessment of trauma and PTSD in military veterans, refugee and Native American communities. Dr. Hurst also lectures in biological and medical anthropology at the University of California San Diego and San Diego Mesa Community College.

**Frances E. Jemmott**  
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Frances E. Jemmott attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. and the Anderson School of Management at University of California, Los Angeles. She has over thirty years of experience in policy and program development in the non-profit sector including grassroots community-based organizations; university-based research and policy centers; and philanthropy and large associations. Overall her work has been concentrated in public health, mental health, and community development. She is owner of Jemmott Rollins Group, Inc, a woman/minority owned consulting practice specializing in design and implementation of large-scale training designs to foster progressive social change; technical assistance and customized training materials; staff development and group facilitation planning and implementation. Fran is currently on the board of directors of Liberty Hill Foundation and is chair of the board of directors for the California Center for Public Health Advocacy. She is the founder of the California Black Women's Health Project and served on its board of directors from 1996 to 2002.

**Nikki Jones, Ph.D.**  
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Nikki Jones earned her Ph.D. in Sociology and Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004. She is now an advanced assistant professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her areas of interest and expertise include urban ethnography, urban sociology, race and ethnic relations, criminology and criminal justice, and feminist thought, with a special emphasis on the intersection of race, gender, and justice. Her book, Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner City Violence is forthcoming with Rutgers University Press. Professor Jones was recently selected as a William T. Grant Scholar (2007-2012). This award for early-career scholars supports her current research project, Pathways to Freedom, which examines how formerly incarcerated young people (aged 18 to 25) successfully manage their post-incarceration lives in a historically Black San Francisco neighborhood.
Lyndee Knox, Ph.D.
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Lyndee Knox is a co-PI of the UCR-ACE. Her research and professional expertise is in psychological resilience in high-risk minority adolescents, development of sustainable prevention programs for high-risk inner-city youth, and training health professionals. From 2000 to 2005 she was the coordinator of the UCR-ACE training and outreach activities. Her main accomplishment during that time was the development of core curriculum for medical students and training physicians and other health care providers in the area of youth violence prevention. In cooperation with the American Medical Association, Dr. Knox authored *Connecting the Dots to Prevent Youth Violence: A Training and Outreach Guide for Physicians and Other Health Professionals* (AMA Publications). For the past 3 years she has been the lead investigator on the Center's major research/intervention project, FAST (Families and schools Together). FAST is a family intervention being conducted in partnership with Latino Health Access in Santa Ana, CA.

Barry Krisberg, Ph.D.
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Barry A. Krisberg has been the president of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) since 1983 and is a faculty affiliate of the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention. Dr. Krisberg received his master's degree in criminology and a doctorate in sociology, both from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Krisberg was a faculty member in the School of Criminology at UC Berkeley and is currently a lecturer in the Law School and the Legal Studies Department of UC Berkeley. Dr. Krisberg was appointed by the legislature to serve on the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Inmate Population Management. He is past president and fellow of the Western Society of Criminology and is the Chair of the California Attorney General's Research Advisory Committee. In 1993 he was the recipient of the August Vollmer Award, the American Society of Criminology's most prestigious award. The Jessie Ball duPont Fund named him the 1999 Grantee of the Year for his outstanding commitment and expertise in the area of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. Dr. Krisberg was appointed to chair an Expert Panel to investigate the conditions in the California Youth Authority. He has recently been named in a consent decree to help develop remedial plans and to monitor many of the mandated reforms in the Youth Authority. Dr. Krisberg has several books and articles to his credit including *Crime and Privilege: Juvenile Justice: Redeeming Our Children*, and *A Sourcebook: Serious, Violent, & Chronic Juvenile Offenders* with James C. Howell, Ph.D., J. David Hawkins, Ph.D., and John J. Wilson, Esq.

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Thao N. Le is currently Assistant Professor in the Human Development and Family Studies at Colorado State University and Senior Fellow at the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. She is also the lead investigator on the evaluation of the Roosevelt Village Center, a multicultural youth violence intervention program and major research project of the Center for Immigration, Culture, and Youth Violence Prevention. Her research interests include immigrant youth development, delinquency, community-participatory research, and cultural factors related to optimal human development.
Deborah Freedman Lustig, Ph.D.
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Deborah Freedman Lustig is a cultural anthropologist whose research has focused on equity and education in the U.S. and Kenya. She is a research associate and Graduate Training Coordinator at the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention (CCIVYP). She is a co-investigator on CCIYVP's Youth Experiences of Neighborhood Change project.

Cheryl Maxson, Ph.D.
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Cheryl Maxson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California's Irvine campus. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from USC. Dr. Maxson is co-author of Street Gang Patterns and Policies (Oxford University Press, 2006) and Responding to Troubled Youth (Oxford University Press, 1997); and co-editor of The Eurogang Paradox: Gangs and Youth Groups in the U.S. and Europe (Kluwer/Plenum, 2001) and The Modern Gang Reader (Roxbury Publishing, 1st ed., 1995; 2nd ed., 2001; 3rd ed., 2005). Her articles, chapters, and policy reports concern street gangs, status offenders, youth violence, juvenile justice legislation, drug sales, community policing and community treatment of juvenile offenders. She has served as President of the Western Society of Criminology, where she is honored as a Fellow, and as Executive Counselor of the American Society of Criminology and associate editor of its journal, Criminology.

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Robert Nash Parker is a professor of sociology and Co-Director of the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies at University of California, Riverside. He is currently a co-PI of the UCR-ACE and was a co-PI of "Health People, Healthy Places", a SAMHSA funded project to reduce the risk of school violence in the Riverside Unified School District. Prior to his arrival at UC Riverside, Dr. Parker taught in sociology departments at the University of Akron, Rutgers University, and the University of Iowa; held an appointment as an NIAAA Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley; and was a Senior Research Scientist and Study Director at the Prevention Research Center, Berkeley, CA, a non profit National Center funded by NIAAA and devoted to the study and prevention of alcohol related social problems. In addition, he has published widely in sociology and criminology on the causes of violence in general and homicide in particular, including a 1995 book published by State University of New York Press, Alcohol and Homicide: A Deadly Combination of Two American Traditions. Overall, Dr. Parker's research interests include criminal justice policy analysis and evaluation; the relationship between alcohol and violence, both offending and victimization, the relationship between alcohol policy and crime prevention; and the development and application of geospatial statistical models to the study of violence, alcohol, and other social problems.
Pedro Payne, Ph.D.
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Pedro R. Payne is a Post Doctoral Fellow at the Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies at the University of California, Riverside. He is also the founder and director of the Payne Family Foundation in Moreno Valley, CA. His research focuses on youth violence prevention, race relations, and criminological theory. Dr. Payne was the project manager for the Arlanza Neighborhood Initiative in 2002 for the City of Riverside. He went on to serve for 2 years as the executive director for the Human Relations Commission and another 2 years as the executive director for the Community Police Review Commission in the City of Riverside, CA. His publications include an article on the racial relations between Dominican Americans and other ethnic minorities in New York City in *Racial and Ethnic Relations in America* by Salem Press. In 2002 he co-authored an article on the political participation of African-Americans in *Research in Political Sociology*. He has also published a book on preventing youth crime through asset-based community development by LFB Scholarly Publishing. He recently collaborated with Dr. Kirk Williams on an article addressing community mobilization which appears in the March 2008 supplement of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*.

Howard Pinderhughes, Ph.D.
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Howard L. Pinderhughes is Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, UC San Francisco School of Nursing. He has conducted research and assisted in program development in the areas of race relations among youth and adolescent violence prevention and intervention. His research combines aspects of grounded theory, qualitative methods, survey research and participatory action research to examine problems related to the impacts of structural inequality, racial, class and gender dynamics on adolescent health and relations. Pinderhughes is director of the education and outreach core of the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention (CCIYVP) and co-investigator on CCIYVP's Youth Experiences of Neighborhood Change project. His past research includes a study of racial attitudes among youth and racial violence in New York City; the subject of his book, *Race in the Hood: Conflict and Violence among Urban Youth*. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from UC Berkeley.

Victor Rios, Ph.D.
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Victor Rios is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara where he teaches Juvenile Justice, Youth Culture, and Urban Ethnography. He is currently working on a book titled, *Punishing Race: The Criminalization of Black and Latino Youth*. The book analyzes experiences that youth have with institutions of social control. Rios has written articles on urban youth social movements and the criminalization of youth. He is a faculty affiliate of the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention, where is a co-investigator on CCIYVP's Youth Experiences of Neighborhood Change project. He is a native of Oakland, California. Rios is a former gang member and juvenile detainee, conducting his research with these experiences in perspective.
David Schwartz, Ph.D.
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Dr. Schwartz joined the USC psychology faculty in 1997. Before coming to USC, he served as Program Coordinator of a UN-funded psychosocial intervention program in Mostar, Bosnia. This program was designed to provide mental health services to children affected by the civil war in the former Yugoslavia. Dr. Schwartz's current research interests focus on children's peer relationships and on the link between early social maladjustment and later disorder. His initial investigations were concerned primarily with bully/victim problems in school peer groups, and he has published a number of articles focusing on chronically bullied children. Dr. Schwartz has also been involved in research on social rejection, popularity, friendship, and cultural influences on children's interactions with peers.

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Rosa Toro is a fourth year doctoral student in the Psychology department at the University of California, Riverside. She has prior experience working with families in the Los Angeles inner city area. She is particularly interested in the development of resources and successful coping strategies as key aspects to helping Latino families support their children's early development and educational success. More specifically, Rosa's research interests are the effects of parental social support on children's early development and factors which contribute to a differential outcome in minority families that are within the same general area, and experience similar stressors. Rosa has been conducting research at ACE-UCR for the past three years and is currently working with Dr. Lyndee Knox and ACE-UCR post-doctoral researchers on analyses of FAST (Families and Schools Together) data.

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Kirk Williams is a professor of sociology and Associate Director of the Robert Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies at the University of California, Riverside. He is also a co-principal investigator of the UCR-ACE. Dr. Williams received his doctoral degree from the University of Arizona and was a post-doctoral Fellow at Yale University. Before coming to UCR in 1998, he served as the founding Associate Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder. There, he directed research and technical assistance efforts on human development and violence prevention, particularly violence involving youth and intimate partners. Dr. Williams has published widely on the causes and prevention of violence, particularly involving youth or adult intimate partners, with the most recent publications addressing the implementation of wellness centers to prevent youth violence, the ecological context of youth development, and domestic violence risk assessment. He has received numerous grants from federal and state funding sources, in addition to private foundations to support his research. He also has worked extensively with community-based groups, schools, and agencies in violence prevention planning, implementation, and evaluation.
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Franklin Zimring is the William G. Simon Professor of Law and Wolfen Distinguished Scholar at Boalt School of Law, UC Berkeley. Professor Zimring's major fields of interest are criminal justice and family law, with special emphasis on the use of empirical research to inform legal policy. He is best known for his studies of the determinants of the death rate from violent attacks; the impact of pretrial diversion from the criminal justice system; and criminal sanctions. He is a fellow of the American Society of Criminology and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since 1998, he has been an expert panel member for the U.S. Department of Education Panel on Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools and an advisory member for the National Research Council Panel on Juvenile Crime: Prevention, Intervention and Control. He is the principal investigator for the Center on Culture, Immigration and Youth Violence Prevention.