

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **CHRIS UGGEN'S 1995 WISCONSIN SOCIOLOGY DISSERTATION**

Faculty, friends, and family members have helped me to complete this dissertation. I would like to express my gratitude to these individuals for their support and assistance. It is customary for dissertators to reserve their purplest prose and most overblown sentimentality for their acknowledgements. Given my fondness for hyperbole and weepy, wordy, emotionalism -- and the great difficulty I have in purging this style from my scientific work -- I present these gratuitous expressions of gratitude unedited and uncensored. If readers cringe at this section, but accept the balance of the dissertation as good science, I will be delighted.

The faculty of this department have provided me with a tremendous graduate education: they have taught me how to think about social problems; they have provided me with scientific opportunities and economic support; and they have shown me how to approach my work as a social scientist. Several individuals deserve special mention for their contributions to this dissertation.

Ross Matsueda has been a strong and supportive advisor to me throughout my graduate school career, but he has always given me great freedom to pursue independent work. Before meeting with Ross on June 26, for example, I doubted my ability to finish the dissertation on time. Ross helped me outline an ambitious timetable for finishing that carried me through the summer. More importantly, he demonstrated his faith in my ability to rise to the occasion and do the necessary work. In reviewing my writings, he offers painstaking comments, but always respects my voice. I read his comments on my work with a strange mixture of gratitude (for their detailed attention to my arguments), exhilaration (because he always sees ways to dramatically improve it), and jealousy ("why didn't I think of that?"). His own work is a constant reminder that criminology can make for the very best sociology. Ross has also helped me immeasurably in my professional socialization. He has always taken time to introduce me to people within the discipline; has always shown faith in my work; has always been a strong advocate for me.

As I weaved my way through the crowded bookcases of Jack Ladinsky's office at the age of eighteen, I had no idea that I would continue to return there for more than a decade. Jack gave me an early push as an undergraduate that continues to propel me forward. He provided access to a computer terminal in his office when I began analyzing data for my senior thesis. When I received my Bachelor's degree at 21, I got my foot in the door at a local job training agency largely on the strength of Jack's recommendation. During my time at the Private Industry Council, I began to think about the scientific and policy questions that I raise in this paper. I want to thank Jack for his unflagging encouragement and for introducing me to the sociological study of crime and the law. Among my favorite graduate school memories: Jack presenting me with an award at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings.

I didn't meet Irv Piliavin until my first semester of graduate school, but I soon realized that we thought the same way about work, crime, and desistance. I believe, as Irv believes, that desistance studies of adult offenders will yield important sociological insights and policy guidance. He has been a tremendous resource in discussions about these issues and has always encouraged my work and kept me focused on the important issues. Most conspicuously, Irv provided the data that I analyze in this dissertation. Irv has also been generous with his time and his insights: he rattles off brilliant ideas with alarming frequency. To the extent that I've stolen from others, I've probably stolen more ideas from Irv than from anyone else. As I leave Wisconsin, I only wish I had committed more of them to paper.

Though she is not a member of my dissertation committee, Laurie Edelman helped prepare me to do the independent work required in a doctoral thesis. She has boosted my confidence by providing me with opportunities and giving me an equal voice in our work together. Writing with Laurie, together at a computer terminal, has been one of the great learning experiences and most enjoyable work experiences of my graduate career.

In the short time that I have known Larry Wu, he has had an enormous impact on the present project and a lasting effect on the way that I think about social research. Larry's efforts to improve the quality of this dissertation and his willingness to follow his comments with hard work and concrete assistance show a strong dedication to graduate education.

Chuck Halaby, quite simply, taught me how to think about sociological problems. He always devises appropriate tests of important ideas, he knows how to present scientific evidence, and he knows how to communicate these skills to students. Rob Mare's approach to social research has strongly influenced this dissertation as well. I would characterize many of his papers as strong efforts to nail down some of the fundamental relationships of social life. This logic has guided my more modest attempts to clarify the basic relationship between work and crime.

Although I have participated in just one of his economics seminars, Lee Hansen has taught me a lot about stimulating creativity in my own work and in the work of my students. During this seminar, Lee provided practical advice about conceptualization and writing. His sensible application of economic principles -- investment, capital, productivity, opportunity costs -- to everyday life influenced my reading of sociological rational choice theorists. Ironically, since he serves as the "external" member of this committee, Lee has been the only Professor during my time at Wisconsin to invoke C. Wright Mills in class (referring students to *The Sociological Imagination*).

I thank Howie Erlanger for his patience, for his warmth and understanding, and for helping me with the tone and discipline of my writing. Jane Piliavin sets a wonderful example of grace and good humor and I thank her for her counsel and for welcoming me into her home on many occasions. I thank Mark Suchman for remembering what it was like to be a graduate student and for helping me to see the subtext as I make the transition from graduate student to Professor.

I've been especially fortunate to know Jerry Marwell. His concern for graduate training and the future of the discipline, his strong opinions and his willingness to share them, have been great assets to me and to many others at Wisconsin. Jerry has always been willing to *engage* ideas and to invest his time (which is scarce) and his energy (which is abundant) in improving others' work.

One of Jerry Marwell's provocative insights is that graduate students (and professors, I presume) have as much difficulty managing their emotions as they do managing their time. To the extent that Jerry is correct, my fellow graduate students have been an enormous asset. Moreover, I have learned technical skills from these students (or these professors in their graduate student days) that I apply in this and other work.

Brad Wright has been a true friend. He faxed me a copy of my paper when it was purloined at a professional meeting; he has always listened when I needed to talk; and the care, discipline, and organization that he brings to his work have had a beneficial effect on my work. Moreover, he is the only graduate student I have known who never ever whines. This has not stopped me from whining in his presence, but it may have slowed me down a bit. I have also shared an office and many great conversations with Dawn Jeglum-Bartusch. Dawn always

provides an intelligent, clear-headed perspective on sociological, criminological, and personal issues.

Karen Heimer and Mike Polakowski were still students when I first enrolled in the graduate program at Wisconsin and both have been great friends and advisors to me. Karen has been a wonderful source of advice and encouragement for me at crucial decision-points in my career. I can always count on her for a well-reasoned opinion. I shared an office with Mike Polakowski when he was finishing his dissertation. He always took time from his busy (I had no idea how busy) schedule to help me out. More importantly, perhaps, he served as a model to me by surviving graduate school with his truly wicked sense of humor intact.

J. Dixon and Brian Martinson have each played a significant role in helping me to complete this dissertation. J. played an integral part in decoding the dissertation data and getting these data up and running. Brian sent detailed email responses to several technical questions and sent along helpful suggestions and support as well.

My conversations with Rod Engen, Melinda Pitts, Virginia Gill, Kim Korinek, Lee Seong-Sik, Josh Rossol, and Mia Cahill have helped me to overcome the inevitable problems one encounters in writing a dissertation. I thank Scott (Swede) Risberg for always having a good word and a friendly greeting. Sandy Ramer has saved me more than once from getting caught in the machinery of the University and her work in this regard has been truly heroic in the past weeks.

I also gratefully acknowledge the institutional support that I have received while working on this project. In particular, I thank the National Science Foundation and the University of Wisconsin for supporting me with generous fellowships. On the subject of "institutions," I thank the great writers and researchers who awakened me to the study of social life: Robert Merton and James Coleman for vision; Travis Hirschi for writing well and thinking clearly; Gore Vidal for erudite discussions of inequality and vicious broadsides at the "scholar-squirrels" of academe; and, Bob Mould and Paul Westerberg for their equally powerful creative statements.

I want to thank the good friends that I have made in Madison for their support throughout my time in graduate school. Gray Williams, Tim Lehmann, Juan Morales, Randall Schramm, Rich Hands, Rich Bolton, Jon Gramling, Curt, Dan Maglie, and Dan Egan have all taken an active interest in my work and education. More importantly, they have given me an arena where I can let off steam.

I thank George, Larry, and Flaherty, the police officers who helped me out many years ago, for their judicious and humane discretion.

I owe a special debt to Gray Williams, Luba Konowalskyj, and Kelly Williams for hosting me as I wrote this dissertation far from home.

I also thank Kathryn Uggen. In the beginning stages of this dissertation, Kathy helped me to accept the sudden loss of our mother and the circumstances of her death. In the midst of writing this dissertation, she helped me to push through the pain of our father's long illness. Without Kathy's care and support -- and her utterly black humor -- I may never have finished this dissertation.

I most want to thank my wife Rhonda Breakfield-Uggen for her love, sacrifice, and kind indulgence. I also credit our children, Tor and Hope, for inspiring and amazing me every day. My book is finished now and I'm coming home.

When recounting a series of adventures, Satchel Paige was known to say, "Them were tall times." This phrase aptly expresses the sheer scale of the excitement, frustration, and rich rewards this project has brought me. Tall times, indeed.