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## Media News



Dr. Giever in the classroom,  
CJ Department  
[#NMSUReady](#) [#maskup](#)  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



NMSU main campus  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



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**College of Arts and Sciences**  
Department of Criminal Justice

## Message from the Department Head

I remember writing my "Message from the Department Head" last semester as we were experiencing an early snowfall – I am happy to report that as I write my message for the Spring 2021 edition the weather outside is perfect – sunny and warm – you could not ask for a nicer day! I am also happy (actually I am ecstatic) to report that NMSU is in the process of cautiously moving back to a fully open campus. The plan is for our campus to be fully open in the fall with a majority of our offerings in a face-to-face format. Students will be back on campus and we will, once again, be able to enjoy Aggie sports and other activities. To be honest, this is such an important part of the college experience – I really miss it. I don't know about each of you, but getting back to some semblance of normal has me very excited. As an educator, there is nothing I enjoy more than having impromptu interactions with colleagues and students on campus. Having students stop by my office to meet, share their goals and aspirations, or just talk is what drew me to this field. I also enjoy being out and about in the community and running into alumni working in the field and making NMSU proud. I always carry an NMSU Criminal Justice Challenge Coin in my pocket to present to an alum during these chance encounters. Our legacy as a department is all the outstanding work that our alumni are able to accomplish in their careers. It is rewarding as an educator to have even a small impact on those who are now serving in the criminal justice field. As I said, our alumni are our legacy, of which we are very proud!

It has been a rather busy Spring semester. Our department continues to offer outstanding instruction to students, both face-to-face and online. Our faculty are doing double duty offering their classes in two formats simultaneously. In fact, many are teaching in three formats, live, live zoom, and recorded zoom. Our faculty were up to the challenge and have been working tirelessly to keep our students engaged and moving toward graduation. It has been no small task, but I am thankful to both the faculty and the students who continue to make this a rewarding experience.

There are a lot of exciting things that are happening in the department. It is so rewarding to see a new student organization form to explore and bring about much needed attention to human trafficking. This is an area that needs public awareness, and more importantly research and training to reduce the incidence of such crimes. Our students are fully engaged in this activity and our faculty are looking for ways to broaden our commitment to further bring about needed change.

In other news, I am honored to be the lead researcher on a major project with a large number of individuals from NMSU, the University of New Mexico, Prairie View A&M University, and Texas A&M University to establish NMSU as a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence for "Engineering Secure Environments from Targeted Attacks." This is a \$36.5 million-dollar project that will span 10 years if awarded. The challenge our center will face is to develop strategies to secure "soft" targets (transportation hubs, public facilities, schools, sporting events, concert venues, etc.) from attacks. This is a monumental task, but one that NMSU and its partner institutions are ideally suited to undertake. This was an outstanding team project and one which was rewarding to be a part of!! Please keep your collective fingers crossed that NMSU's proposal will be successful. The review process is underway as I write this message. The selection process will take several months, with the awarding of the funding sometime during the summer.

As you read this newsletter, please consider dropping us an email to let us know how you are doing and updates about your career. As I mentioned above, that is why we are here. Learning about the accomplishments of our alumni is one of the more rewarding aspects of our jobs and I know the faculty enjoy hearing from folks who have passed through our hallways and classroom. Please stay safe and enjoy the warmer weather!!

*Dennis Giever*  
[dgiever@nmsu.edu](mailto:dgiever@nmsu.edu)

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## Dr. David Keys



[Dr. David Keys](#)

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## Message from Dr. David Keys

The 1950s ABC crime drama "Naked City" had for its weekly intro some narration that commented, "There are a million stories in the naked city." So it goes in academe and I am one of those million stories. Mine is one of good fortune, luck if you will, in being at the right place attending the right people. After taking a bachelor's degree in economics and history and a hiatus of a few years after graduation, I had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in the 1980s to work with Eli Zaretsky on his subsequent book *Secrets of the Soul: Social and Cultural History of Psychoanalysis*. He labored painstakingly for 25 years on this manuscript and when he began the process I was his research assistant, a role I assumed by sheer chance. As I gathered materials and wrote glosses for him, I read deeply in the works of Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and an array of neo- and post-Freudians. It was life-changing and moved me to attend graduate school at the University of Missouri-Columbia which at that time had nationally-acclaimed departments in the areas of journalism, history, psychology, and counseling. I enrolled as a MA student in a joint social psychology-sociology program at Missouri, initially to study race and ethnicity and I completed an MA thesis on racial identity formation in the civil rights organization Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which Zaretsky directed. During that process an eminent criminologist on the Missouri faculty John Galliher, pulled me aside and asked me if I "intended on 'working' when I left school?" It was not a rhetorical question, as graduate programs in those days were full of people who were supported by trust funds, claimed well-to-do families, and had, by virtue of their wealth, no interest in translating education to economic livelihoods, moral activism, or social justice causes. By contrast, I was the poor son of a police officer, so my education was indeed instrumental in giving me an adequate income, or so I thought. Knowing this, Galliher asked me to attend his criminology seminar the following week and suggested, in the interim, I look at the ASA Job Bulletin, with an eye to the large proportion of "crime jobs" needing applicants. [I found roughly two-thirds of the open positions required criminology and CJ credentials.]

After that seminar meeting I realized the criminologists were doing the same things that social psychologists were doing (e.g. quantitative, qualitative, historical research) and I could make myself more employable by entering the criminology field. Although I was not aware of it at the time, John Galliher had a purposeful

agenda, explicitly to bring critical theorists into criminology, to alter the course of criminal justice education to one more sensitive to race, inequality, and more focused on the ethic of social justice. John was decades ahead of his time, if only because he anticipated the need for reforms in policing, comprehended the deficits in penological policy and practice, and understood the roles of mental health, poverty, and drug addiction in the incidences of delinquency and crime. He also was clear on the idea that governments at all levels were too powerful, too political in their administration of those powers, or mishandled the power they had, to such degrees that major changes were necessary if American institutions of justice were to remain organizationally effective and credible in the eyes of the public. [The the shootings of unarmed Black men by police, the BLM movement, and America's astonishingly high incarceration rates were no surprise to anyone listening to Galliher in the 1980s, 90s, and early 2000s.] John was also a powerful and persuasive advocate for the abolition of capital punishment, which he found morally repugnant as a devoted Catholic, but also a means of governmental abuses of powerless people, a vehicle for fiscal irresponsibility, and an expression of anti-human sentiments which he could not abide. With this in mind, John had me write a PhD dissertation on Alfred Lindesmith, the famous addiction theorist and the foremost critic of American drug policy in the 20th Century, part of which required me to duplicate Lindesmith's opiate addiction field research originally done in Chicago in the 1930s. Galliher was Lindesmith's student at Indiana University and he had possession of his mentor's personal papers, which became the basis of my PhD research. That dissertation was eventually published by State University of New York Press as *Confronting the Drug Control Establishment* (2000) and is the foundation for a series of monographs critiquing key aspects of national narcotics policy, e.g. "Confronting the Drug Education Establishment," "Confronting the Drug Enforcement Establishment," and "Confronting the Drug Treatment Establishment." I have been working on this mega-project for twenty years.

*Continued on the next page*

## Dr. David Keys



[Dr. David Keys](#)

*Courtesy Photo/NMSU*

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## Message from Dr. David Keys

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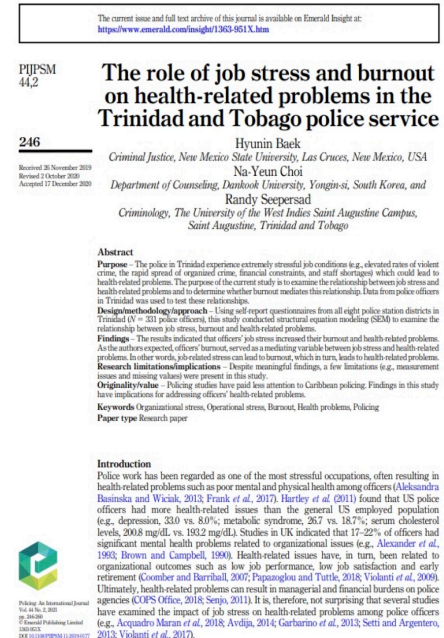
While drug policy was a major element of the research agenda I inherited from John Galliher, he also impressed upon me the vital importance of my research as a means of outreach to the community, which he defined explicitly as the abolition of capital punishment. When initially he asked about what I thought of executions, I stupidly remarked, "I think there are too few, and that they should be expedited with all haste." He winced at my vision of courtrooms with a side door leading to a yard where firing squads could carry out death sentences immediately after the verdicts were given. The only thing he said to me at that time was a seemingly harmless query, "Do you trust governments with such a power over your life?" Of course John knew the answer to every question he asked beforehand, and my response was an emphatic "no." In time, with his empathetic temperament taking hold, I applied my critically-trained eye to the process of death sentencing and the inherent inequalities it encapsulated, and was horrified at what I found. The practical result was the formation of a death penalty consulting-research group where we gathered capital sentencing data, analyzed it, and used the inferences in expert witness presentations, legislative testimony, and attorney consultations. John also introduced me to a vast network of death penalty researchers and experts who could help guide and refine my work, much of which went into legislative reports, executive white papers, and powered political activism and lobbying. In the decades after taking my PhD, I made use of those skills Galliher imparted to me to contribute to a United States Supreme Court brief in *Roper v. Simmons* (2005) that drew a *brightline* for capital punishment eligibility at age 18. I used a network of contacts to persuade the Speaker of the New York Assembly, Sheldon Silver, to guarantee no further capital punishment legislation would come to the floor of that house after the Court of Appeals determined that NY's existing execution laws were unconstitutional (2005). [The reality of it was the Speaker's son Adam Silver was my student at SUNY and he helped us get an audience.] Together with the late Ray Paternoster, we persuaded New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine to support an abolition bill in the NJ legislature, as it was in line with his stand on decreasing taxes

and implementing more intelligent state spending policies, which were campaign issues in his 2005 election. On December 17, 2007 Governor Corzine signed an abolition bill into law and executions in New Jersey were history. Subsequently, I testified on behalf of NM Representative Gail Chasey's HB 2085, which passed the legislature and was signed by Governor Richardson, ending capital punishment in New Mexico in 2009. The same was true of similar efforts in Illinois (2011), Connecticut (2012), and Maryland (2013), where governors Quinn, Malloy, and O'Malley were persuaded to join the abolition camp. All of this activity and change was a function of John Galliher's vision and dedication to a just cause. Even though John retired in 2016, after 50 years of teaching at MU, and past away in May 2019, the trend he put in place continues and other states have followed suit, ending executions by voting changes in their statutes (e.g. Washington, Virginia) or, by judicial declaration (Delaware), all essentially concluding capital punishment is unconstitutional. Right now we are coming off a legislative year (2021) where ten states have seen abolition bills come to committee votes including Arizona and Texas, and even the Federal Government will soon consider HR 97, a bill that could end death sentencing by the US Military, territories of the US (Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands), and the Federal Government at large. Toward this end, I am now organizing business leaders (e.g. Richard Branson, Arianna Huffington, Ben Cohen) in a public media campaign to demand abolition on October 10, 2021, "World Day Against the Death Penalty." Whatever I might say about this sort of work, it's clear that changing the punishment discourse in this country has outlived John Galliher and will probably outlive me as well. My only regrets center on the reality that I have not measured up to John's example as a mentor. These circumstances, however, beg the question as to the pressing need for another generation of scholars to step up and shoulder their responsibilities. It's one thing to talk about social justice, to complain about the inherent inequalities in our court system, and echo the crying need for reforms [we do it all the time]; that being said, it's quite another reality to actually put in the labor of making reforms happen. That's the challenge I am laying at the feet of NMSU's CJ students.

# Recent Research / Publications/Textbooks

**Dr. Hyunin Baek new publication in 2021;  
it is his 19<sup>th</sup> research project.**

[Baek, H., Choi, N. Y., & Seepersad, R. \(2021\). The role of job stress and burnout on health-related problems in the Trinidad and Tobago police service. \*Policing: An International Journal\*.](#)



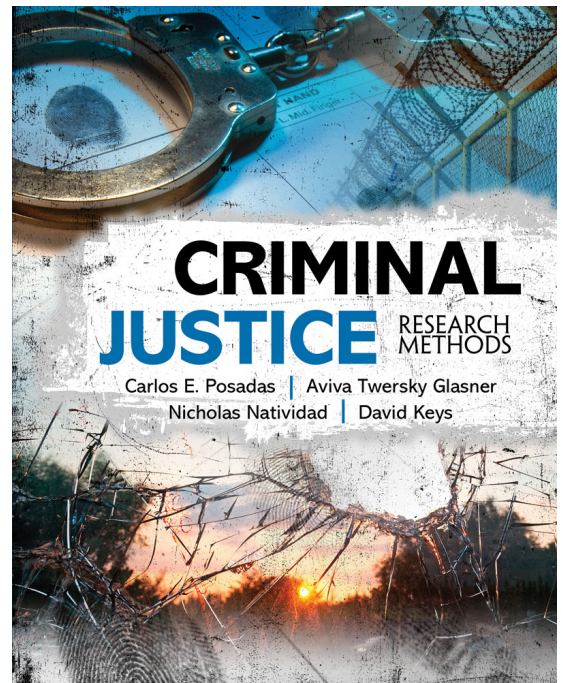
Dr. Carlos Posadas, Dr. Nicholas Natividad, Dr. David Keys  
**Criminal Justice Research Methods**

Author(s): *Carlos Posadas, Aviva Glasner, Nicholas Natividad, David Keys*

**Message from [Dr. Posadas](#) about the recently published textbook:**

I was initially hired by our Department to teach research methods and statistics. I have used many different textbooks with varying levels of success. The idea for a textbook developed after speaking with some colleagues who were also teaching research methods at their respective universities. Eventually, my three co-authors, Dr. Aviva Twersky Glasner, Dr. Nicholas Natividad, and Dr. David Keys, and I ended working on the project. It was a long road to getting this project to completion, but we are proud of this first edition of Research Methods in Criminal Justice. We planned this textbook to be student friendly in various ways and hope this turns out to be the case. The textbook also has instructor resources and online resources for students to learn more about the material. We have many more ideas that we hope to incorporate in future editions.

[Dr. Carlos Posadas](#)  
[cposadas@nmsu.edu](mailto:cposadas@nmsu.edu)



# Student Organization – Humans for Humans

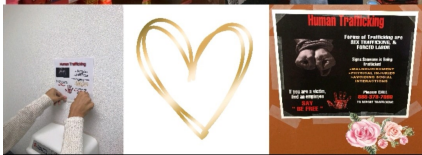


The new student organization has been chartered in fall 2020 by students in the Criminal Justice Department and is open to all NMSU students. Students completed several fund-raising projects during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters such as:

## Tabling

H4H ran four awareness tables during the spring semester. Students handed out cards that detailed the signs of trafficking in both English and Spanish. They also raised money through selling shirts, Caliche's cards, and a Google Home raffle.

Humans for Humans Student Group Logo  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



## Guest Speaker

Yubia Ayala, a guest speaker, talk about human trafficking at the outdoor stage behind Corbett. There were over 30 people in attendance. Holding an event like this during the pandemic was an amazing accomplishment. During this, group handed out more awareness materials and raised money for the group.

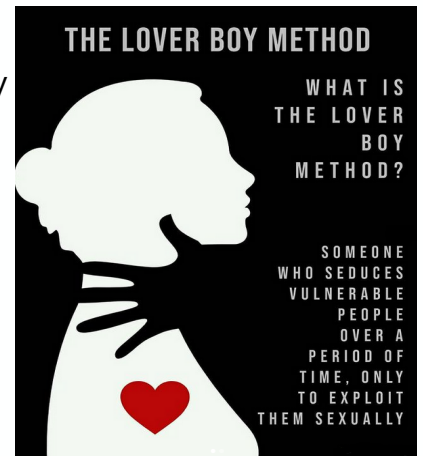


## Valentines Instagram Video

Our public relations officer, Bea, created a series of informational posts on Instagram for Valentine's Day weekend. The event ended with a video she and our secretary, Vivian, created. The video detailed a scenario of a woman being recruited for sex trafficking using the "lover boy" method. The video can still be found on our Instagram page [@humans.4.humans](https://www.instagram.com/humans.4.humans)



Humans for Humans Student Group meeting  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



# We are proud of our undergraduate students

## Media News



Student around the NMSU main campus  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



NMSU main campus hallway  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU



NMSU writing board  
Courtesy Photo/NMSU

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**Brooke White** – Brooke was born and raised in Southern California. She has learned so much about human trafficking at New Mexico State University and have become very passionate about Making a difference. Her career goals include continuing to advocate and educate individuals on human trafficking. She is currently in a club at NMSU called Humans for Humans; the group spreads awareness about human trafficking to the community and throughout the school. Brooke hopes to become an FBI agent in the near future. She loves helping others and she wants to make an impact on people's lives. In the FBI she want to focus on human trafficking and help as many victims as she can.



**Ethan Hooper** - Ethan grew up in Edgewood, New Mexico. He is the second oldest of eleven children. Growing up, he was involved with Royal Rangers Through Albuquerque Revival Church. He moved to Las Cruces in 2019 to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at NMSU. Ethan married his beautiful wife Sunny last Summer at Mount Taylor in New Mexico. He has also been involved with ministry here on campus through Cru. Ethan collaborated with several other NMSU students last fall to start a group they call "Humans 4 Humans". The goal is to raise awareness in and around the Las Cruces area in regards to human trafficking. The group has seen amazing Success and he is very proud of all the volunteers who have helped spread the group message!

He has thoroughly enjoyed his time here at NMSU and look forward to many more things to come!



## We are proud of our undergraduate students

**William Jordan** – is a Joint Fires Specialist with over 19 years of experience in the United States Army. His job consists of integrating air to ground fires from field artillery assets as well as fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. William has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq receiving such awards as the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. Additionally, while serving full time in the United States Army, William is also a full-time student at New Mexico State University. William is currently in the process of attaining Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. William is a devoted husband and a father who uses focus and experience to guide his families, home and at the workplace. In his free time, William likes to fish, hike, play video games and is an avid sneaker collector.

William and his commander presented Dr. Giever with a US flag that was flown in Afganistan and with the certificate. This shadow box will be displayed in our department hallway. Dr. Giever will give William a challenge coin.

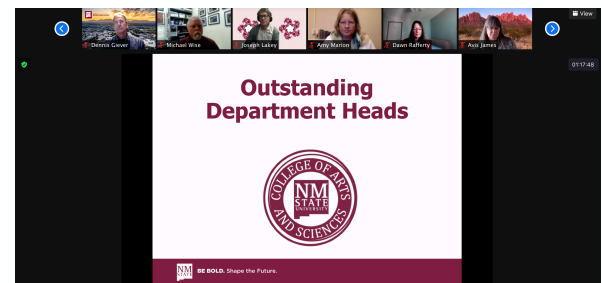


## Faculty Awards

Congratulations to [Dr. Dennis Giever](#) who is the recipient of the Arts and Sciences Outstanding Department Head Award.

He is a tireless Department Head dedicated to our Department, our College, and University. There is no harder working academic head at NMSU.

We look forward to continued growth and success with him as our academic head.





# Criminal Justice Department

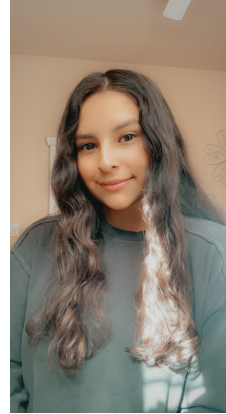


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Department of Criminal Justice

Welcome to *Alexis Renteria* - our student worker/administrative assistant



[Andreia Scarborough](#)  
(our Administrative Assistant)



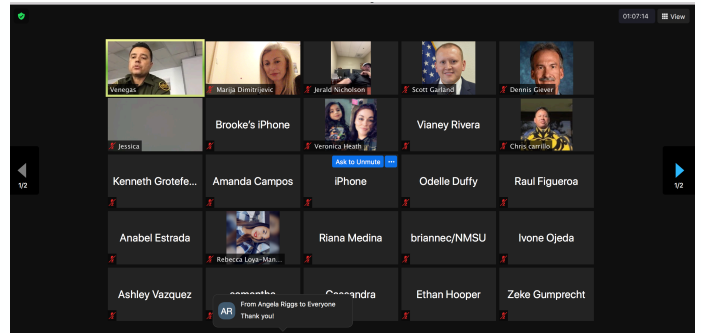
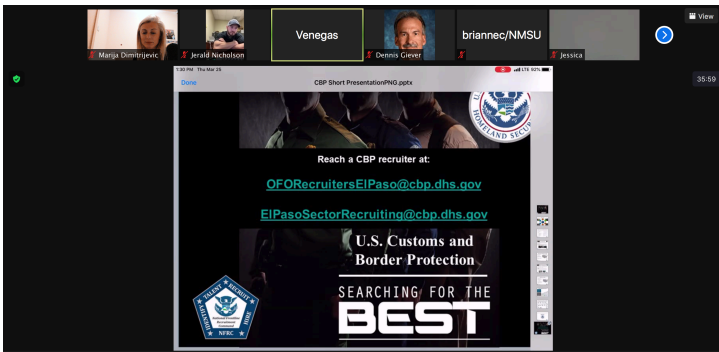
[Alexis Renteria](#)  
(student worker/administrative assistant)

Thank you Andreia and Alexis for taking care of student and faculty needs. Your personal touches and caring for each individual student is absolutely noticed.  
Thank you both!

## Virtual Recruiting Event

**Border Patrol/CBPO recruiting webinar - Thursday, March 25, 2021, 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM MDT**

The Border Patrol/CBPO discussed employment opportunities with students and explained the application process.



Please touch back to us and let us learn about your career and what you have done since you graduated. Please send a short note or email briefly describing your careers. We might include these in future Newsletters or on our website. It would be nice for our alumni to hear from others and what they have been doing since they left NMSU.

Please visit the [CJ Giving Page](#) to see how you can contribute to the future success of Criminal Justice Students.