

A PROPOSAL TO THE BAKER FUND COMMITTEE

TITLE OF PROJECT: Veterans Court Photography Project

NAME OF APPLICANT: Ursula Castellano

STATUS: ___ Asst. Prof. Assoc. Prof. ___ Prof. ___ Full-Time Admin.

CAMPUS ADDRESS: 119 Bentley Annex

E-MAIL ADDRESS: castella@ohio.edu

RE-SUBMISSION: ___ YES (Original Submission Date _____)
 NO

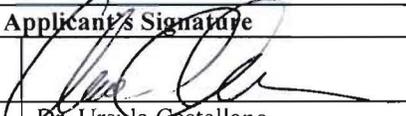
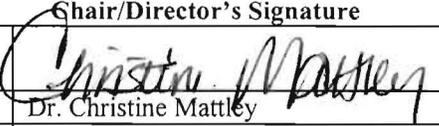
BUDGET: Total Request \$11,125.54
 (May not exceed \$12,000)

IRB AND IACUC APPROVAL:

To ensure that the University is in compliance with all federal regulations, complete the checklist below. Note: your proposal can be approved prior to IRB or IACUC approval, but funding will be withheld until notification of approval or exemption.

| Yes | No | Office of Research Compliance | Policy # |
|-----|----|---|----------|
| X | | Human Subjects in Research (including surveys, interviews, educational interventions): Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval #: 12X097 Expiration Date: 6/12/14 | |
| | | Animal Species: Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) Approval #: Expiration Date: | |

SIGNATURES

| Applicant's Signature | | Chair/Director's Signature | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| Signature |  | Signature |  |
| Name | Dr. Ursula Castellano | Name | Dr. Christine Mattley |
| Dept/School | Sociology & Anthropology | Unit | Sociology & Anthropology |
| Date | 10/8/13 | Date | 10-8-13 |
| Dean's Signature | | | |
| Name | Dr. Brian McCarthy, Assoc. Dean | Signature |  |
| College | Arts & Sciences | Date | 8-OCT-13 |

✓ **Optional:** If selected for funding, I give permission to the Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity to use my proposal as an example during training and workshop exercises. (Sign below)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicants **must** complete and sign the checklist. The checklist should be included as the second page of the application (following the cover page).

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cover page | use Baker form |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Checklist | use Baker form |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstract* | 1 double-spaced page |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Introduction (<i>For Continuations or Re-submissions Only</i>)* | 1 double-spaced page |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion | 10 double-spaced pages |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glossary/Definition of Terms* (<i>Not required</i>) | 2 double-spaced pages |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bibliography (<i>Not required</i>) | 3 pages |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biographical information (<i>Applicant(s) and key personnel</i>) | 3 pages per person |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Support (<i>Applicant(s) and key personnel</i>) | 1 page per person |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget and Justification | no limit specified |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appended Materials | 10 pages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appended Electronic Materials | No more than 10 minutes of footage |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended Reviewers | 5 required |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic copy of proposal | Single Acrobat file, containing entire proposal and required signatures |

* These sections should be written in language understandable by an informed layperson to assist the committee in its review.

Please Note: Proposals that do not conform to these format and section requirements will be returned without review by the committee.

Applicant signature:



Abstract

I am applying for a Baker Fund Award to complete a groundbreaking photography research project with Veterans Treatment Court (hereafter **VTC***) participants in Youngstown, Ohio. **VTCs** offer treatment in lieu of incarceration to military service persons. An estimated ten percent of people involved in the criminal justice system are combat and noncombat veterans yet we know little about why veterans come into contact with the justice system, how they experience court-mandated treatment and what strategies they employ for community reintegration. Using photography as my primary method of data collection, I am giving disposable cameras to **VTC** participants and conducting interviews to explore these issues through still images. This project will come to fruition through two integrally related components: 1) I am seeking support to complete photographic data collection with four additional **VTC** participants. 2) I am seeking funds to complete two photo-based videos with two veterans already enrolled in the project. This innovative research contributes to the problem solving court scholarship by examining the complexity of participants' contacts with the judicial system before, during, and after their military tour of duty. My preliminary analysis revealed significant linkages between veterans' criminal histories, combat experiences in domestic urban warfare, and **pre-service PTSD**. This research offers enormous potential to positively impact justice-involved persons in recovery nationwide. I will publish the results in diverse outlets and develop a user guide to parlay the videos into peer-based mentoring tools. Between December 2013 and April 2014, I will complete interviews with four **VTC** participants and complete production of the two videos. In May and June of 2014, I will complete focus group viewings of the videos with judges, mental health professionals, and **VTC** participants to solicit feedback. In July and August, I will make revisions to the videos based on the external reviews.

Discussion

a) Specific Aims

I am requesting \$11,125.54 to complete a photography based research project with Veterans Treatment Court (**VTC**) participants in Youngstown, Ohio. **VTCs** offer treatment in lieu of incarceration to men and women who served in the United States Armed Services. The major objectives of this research are to understand why veterans (combat and noncombat) come into contact with the criminal justice system, how they experience court-mandated treatment, and what strategies they employ for community reintegration. The specific aims of the grant activity are to complete the data collection and analysis of the project's two integrally related components. First, to reach my target sample of ten participants, I am seeking support to recruit, enroll, and complete photography-based interviews with four additional **VTC** participants. To date, I completed data collection and analysis with six veterans as well as submitted an article for publication based on the preliminary findings. Second, I am seeking support to complete the production of two short videos using data from two veterans already enrolled in the project. The purpose of the videos is to serve as peer-based teaching and learning tools for justice involved populations and other diverse audiences. At present, I collected all the data sources to produce the videos, which involved: 1) selecting 18 photographs out of 60 for each video 2) recording the audio narrations of the photos and 3) choosing the musical lyrics for each video.

During the grant period, I will analyze and, in concert, choreograph the three multi-media components to create two seven-minute inspirational and instructional videos about the lived experiences of two **VTC** participants. Post production, I will conduct focus group viewings of the videos with judges, mental health professionals, and **VTC** participants for the purpose of soliciting external reviews and making revisions.

b) Significance

This project directly relates to and builds upon my prior research on the American criminal courts system. My publications empirically investigate how the organization of problem-solving courts alters criminal case processing as well as the decision-making practices of legal and treatment professionals. Problem-solving courts look beyond sheer criminal culpability; they view offending behavior as interconnected to a broader array of potential personal troubles in the lives of offenders (Castellano and Anderson 2013). Many problem-solving courts, **VTCs** among them, are premised on a model of therapeutic jurisprudence in which actors depart from the edicts of common law to bring about positive individual change (Brummett 2013; Hora et al 1999; Winick 2003). My research documents how interdisciplinary teams of courtroom actors negotiate this new terrain by reconciling competing perspectives, devising strategies for achieving participant outcomes, and developing mechanisms for defending against perceived injustices.

This project enriches my qualitative inquiry of therapeutic approaches to law by gaining deeper insight into what problem-solving courts offer from the participant's perspective. I began this photography project with **VTC** participants in the summer 2012. Ohio has the fifth largest veterans population in the country and **VTCs** are the latest innovation in the problem-solving court movement. There are five **VTCs** in Ohio (Youngstown, Mansfield, Hamilton, Middletown and Cleveland). **VTCs** provide treatment services in lieu of traditional prosecution to combat and noncombat military service persons involved in the criminal justice system, many of whom are affected by substance addictions and psychological illnesses. The mantra of Veterans' Courts nationwide is 'serving those who served,' and program advocates contend that they are helping veterans to turn their lives around. Participants voluntarily plead guilty, attend regularly

scheduled court hearings to review their progress, and graduate from the program when the court team determines that they have achieved emotional wellness, desisted from criminal activity, and demonstrated an ability to live independently (Castellano 2011; Miller and Johnson 2009).

Empirically, however, we need to better understand how the court's use of law as a therapeutic tool to facilitate compliance and recovery resonates with the lived experiences of **VTC** participants. This study holds significant potential to fill this important knowledge gap.

The preliminary findings support the theoretical significance of this project as patterns have emerged which link participants' photos to the cultural practice of therapeutic jurisprudence in these alternative courts. Similar to Arendt's study of incarcerated youth (2011), veterans used the camera to reverse the intensive monitoring they are subjected to by the judicial system by pictorially recording the court's mechanisms of surveillance, including electronic ankle bracelets and sites for drug testing. In turn, several participants visually documented that they had never accessed their **VA** benefits until they plead into the **VTC** (see Ray 2013). Thus, veterans' cameras documented the court's intimate involvement in and infringement on their everyday lives. The participants' photographs are also generating transformative concepts related to identity formation in the larger contexts of social, racial, and economic inequalities (see Fleury-Steiner 2012). The majority of veterans I met were never deployed into battle overseas but they bore witness to and participated in active combat stateside, involving bar fights, family violence, drug wars, and gang rivalries: they claimed the identity of "veterans of the street." In turn, while the veterans in my study have the least access to social and material capital they express an overwhelming sense of patriotism. The photography project will help to unravel and enrich our understanding of this important social paradox. Furthermore, the significance of the project contributes to new methodological techniques in qualitative analysis as it exemplifies a

collaborative model between the researcher and informants to co-create new outlets for social research.

I will disseminate the findings from this project in the following ways. Upon completing data collection and analysis of the four additional participants, I will publish an article specific to what veterans' photos reveal about judicial strategies of therapeutic rehabilitation, which will make a direct contribution to the problem-solving court scholarship. I will publish a second article on photography as a research methodology drawing a particular focus to the theoretical challenges, empirical strategies, and practical dilemmas. I will also present this paper at the Law & Society Meetings in May of 2014 in Minnesota. I will disseminate the photography videos in the following ways. Post production, I will schedule viewings of the videos with judges, mental health professionals, and VTC participants for the purpose of review and revision. Beyond the period of the grant, I will create a user guide and parlay the videos into peer based mentoring tools for justice-involved persons in recovery. The videos may also be utilized as promotional tools for VTC administrators to highlight programmatic successes or as a public education outlet to communicate with general audiences about the hardships of returning soldiers. In total, this project offers a trans disciplinary approach to making sociology public, which significantly increases the potential for broad audience engagement of issues germane to veterans' affairs.

c) Preliminary Studies of the Applicant

I am well qualified to complete this research project. I completed two independently designed, sole-authored and grant-funded research projects on alternative to jail programs for chronic and high-risk offenders. My first research project on pretrial release programs culminated in my book, *Outsourcing Justice: The Role of Nonprofit Caseworkers in Pretrial Release Programs*. I conducted four years of observational fieldwork in jails and criminal

courtrooms to document how outsourcing legal decision making powers to nonprofit caseworkers fundamentally reengineers the structure and function of the justice system. I completed my second major project on mental health courts (**MHCs**) in Ohio. I spent two years conducting ethnographic data collection with four **MHCs** to empirically document how mental health clinicians in partnership with law enforcement professionals negotiate meanings of wellness and legal compliance. I produced three publications and an edited volume from this scholarship. I also have extensive experience successfully gaining access to criminal justice research sites as well as conducting research with vulnerable populations (prisoners and persons in rehabilitation). To this end, I published an article on managing fieldwork dilemmas in criminal justice settings. My expertise is further demonstrated by the core curriculum that I teach, including Sociology of the Courts, Sociology of Mental Illness and a graduate seminar in Qualitative Methods. My skills sets are also utilized as a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for Social and Behavioral Sciences and a board member of the Athens Photography Project, a nonprofit that offers photography classes to persons with severe mental illnesses to facilitate their recovery. I am also an Executive Committee member of the Center for Law, Justice & Culture.

d) Methods

I am employing the underutilized yet innovative methodological technique of **photovoice** to collect and analyze data. **Photovoice** is the process of giving cameras to study participants and inviting them to take photographs that represent significant material and symbolic aspects of their life experiences (Harper 2012). The photographs, once developed, become the focal point of discussion during the interview. Photos as visual data bring subject matter to the fore that the researcher might not otherwise see and are effective for yielding rich, meaningful responses from

participants. **Photovoice** is also particularly advantageous for including underrepresented groups in social science research. I found that the use of photographs as the principal interview instrument bypassed literacy barriers, as one VTC project participant was relieved that he did not have to write or read anything to be part of the study. I secured IRB approval for this project; the IRB rigorously vetted the protocols to protect the social and legal welfare of participants.

To employ the **photovoice** methodology, I give each participant a disposable camera and ask the person to create a photo album entitled, “My Life in the Veterans Court.” Participants took pictures of people, places, and things that reflect social and familial histories, prior arrests, how and why he or she enlisted in the military, and the dilemmas surrounding treatment compliance, accessing the **VA**, and securing housing and employment. My research assistant, Al Nelis, picks up the camera, gets the photos developed and I schedule an interview to discuss the images in relationship to the core themes of the project.

I conduct two interviews with each participant (Olfiffe and Bottorff 2007). At the beginning of the interview, I first ask open-ended questions about why the person elected to enter the **VTC**; I ask them to describe how **VTC** works from their perspective and the advantages and disadvantages of the court program. I also ask the person to talk about their military service, why they enlisted and the conditions of their discharge. Second, the participant presents each picture for discussion. I ask why the picture was taken, why it is important to them, and if there are objects or people in the photo of particular significance. I found that veterans’ responses to these questions often invoked storytelling and thus the photographs triggered memories relevant to the project’s focus. I also ask the participant to provide a title to best encapsulate the meaning of each photo. Third, following Olfiffe and Bottorff (2007), I spread out all the pictures on the table and ask the participant to pick the one that best represents their experiences in the **VTC** and why.

We continue this process until all the pictures are discussed. Fourth, I ask another set of open-ended questions, which revolves around how the person felt about taking the pictures, if they were alone or in the presence of others, and whether the photos were planned or spontaneous. Finally, I ask if there are any photos the participant wished they had taken or would like to take. If so, I invite them to take pictures with a second camera and we proceed with the same format. A second interview is beneficial for several reasons. One, it takes time to build the necessary trust and rapport with the participant. Second, there is a learning curve involved in photo-taking and participants' images improved in depth and quality. Third, on a practical level, participants need to retake pictures that did not develop properly (i.e. no flash). I need two facilitators to conduct the interviews. I act as the primary facilitator, guiding discussion about the photos. Al Nelis write notes, labels the photos, and ensures the audio recorder is functioning.

I will employ the same **photovoice** methodology for the video portion of the project, and I will add the element of musical concordance. To produce the videos, the flow and order of the photographs and audio excerpts will be choreographed with the lyrical and melodic phrases of selected songs. Music is another dialogic medium between the veteran and the viewer, and, similar to the photos, is a representational vehicle for portraying both subtle and direct meanings to the audience.

The analysis of the **photovoice** data is carried out in synergetic dialogue between the visual images and textual data. I employ traditional analytic techniques for coding qualitative data (Emerson, Fretz and Shaw 2011) in conjunction with the iconographic approach to analyzing photographs (Fleming et al 2009; Carlson et al 2006). Examining the photos and transcribed narrative, I will begin with the process of open coding to identify general patterns of social behavior and move to higher levels of abstraction. During the initial phase of analysis, I

study each photo from the material or tangible perspective (i.e. participant took a picture of the jail to show how they got involved in the **VTC**). At the mid-level construct, I study the photo by identifying the personal or cultural symbolism tied to the image (i.e. the participant describes the picture of the jail as a “saving grace”). Then, I begin the process of focused coding, which involves deleting, collapsing, and elaborating concepts developed at the earlier analytic stages (Lofand et al 2006). At the highest level of abstraction, I engage the photo and interview data conceptually. Here, as the coding process advances, concepts are grouped into generalizable categories (Strauss and Corbin 1998). I will systematically evaluate the efficacy of open codes, focused codes, and categories and assess my ability to apply them consistently.

Methods for Recruiting Four Additional Photovoice Participants

My current sample is diverse in terms of race, age, and military enlistments. I will use two specific criteria to recruit additional participants from the Youngstown **VTC**. The first criterion is recruiting individuals who have been in the program for at least six months. To further increase diversity in the sample, the second criterion is recruiting women veterans and combat veterans into the study. Under regulations of the IRB, no one on the **VTC** team except the case manager knows which participants are referred to the photography project. To recruit participants, Al Nelis and I meet with the case manager to identify possible participants. While the case manager refers veterans to the study she does not know which people elect to enroll. Al contacts the person to set up an initial meeting to explain the study; the informed consent process and subsequent interviews take place at the Amvets building in Struthers, Ohio (a town about 12 miles south of Youngstown). I have successfully used this method to complete data collection with six participants. By April 2014, I will complete the four additional **photovoice** interviews.

This is an extremely challenging population to work with and it is reasonable to expect that recruitment, enrollment, and completion of interviews will take four to five months.

Methods for Completing Production of Two Photovoice Videos

I will take a lead role in collaborating with the videographer to transform the sociological data into a multimedia format, which will enhance the professional quality of the final products. To produce the videos, I will first analyze the audio narrations and selected photos using the approach described above in light of the fact that the data will be displayed cinematically. Second, I will creatively engineer the images, excerpts, and harmonics to best translate veterans' private troubles (i.e. drug addiction) into public issues (i.e. availability of treatment resources) to diverse audiences in a crisp and compelling way (Harper 2012). This is critical as the goal of these deliverables is to inspire justice-involved populations with stories from their peers about the struggles and strategies of community reentry. I will consult with the videographer for five hours each month for five months to finalize the compilation and choreography of the data into video format. Using a rented laptop, I will schedule five monthly meetings with the two **VTC** participants to preview rough cuts of the videos. I will complete the videos by May of 2014 and then I will schedule presentations to the external reviewers.

e) Collaborations

This photography project is a collaborative endeavor with key personnel and participants. I included the letter of cooperation from each person and organization. The Honorable Judge Robert Milich presides over the Youngstown **VTC** and he extends his continued support for the photography study. Al Nelis will continue to serve as the research assistant for this project. He has over five years of experience working with the Youngstown Felony **MHC** and the Youngstown **VTC**. His responsibilities include: 1) Facilitating the recruitment and enrollment of

participants, 2) Scheduling interviews with participants, and transporting people to and from the interview site and 3) Attending all photovoice interviews, monitoring the recording equipment, and organizing and labeling the photographs. Dan Trout of Fishmonger Media Consulting is a professional videographer in Athens, Ohio. While I, as the faculty researcher, will take the lead role in analyzing the video content in accordance with the project's main objectives, Dan will assist with the technical aspects of the video production as well as provide creative counsel on how to effectively translate sociological content into visual multimedia.

Christopher Derr and Bill Smaltz are two participants in the photography project and they are collaborating with me on the **photovoice** videos. They signed IRB informed consent forms agreeing to reveal their identities. I invited these individuals to produce videos because they took compelling photographs and they spoke eloquently during the interviews about what they have learned from their diverse life experiences and what they hope to achieve in the future. Their pictures and their words will resonate with peer groups and public audiences in a powerful way.

I am also collaborating with several judicial entities and community organizations post production to solicit feedback on the videos. The following people agreed to serve as external reviewers: 1) Honorable Judge Melissa Powers and her team at the Hamilton County Veterans Court. 2) Honorable Judge Jerry Ault and his team at the Mansfield County Veterans Court. 3) Melissa Knopp, the Specialized Dockets Section Manager, of the Ohio Supreme Court. 4) The Honorable Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton. Recently retired from the high court, the Honorable Justice Stratton is a leader in the problem solving justice movement and she has been at the forefront in establishing **VTCs** in Ohio. 4) The Athens **NAMI** board of directors and the **CIT** team, which is a partnership of law enforcement and mental health specialists.

Glossary

CIT:

Crisis Intervention Training is a local alliance of law enforcement officials and mental health specialists to divert persons with mental illness from the justice system and into treatment at the point of police contact.

MHC:

Mental Health Court

NAMI:

National Alliance on Mental Illness. Athens has an active local chapter and a diverse board of directors.

Photovoice:

Photovoice is a qualitative research methodology that involves giving cameras to study participants and inviting them to take photographs that represent important aspects of their lives. The photographs, once developed, become the focal point of discussion during the interview to explore a set of empirical themes.

Preservice PTSD:

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a type of anxiety disorder and the cause is linked to direct exposure to a traumatic event or series of events, including forms of violence, abuse or natural disasters. Persons diagnosed with PTSD respond to certain objects or situations with uncontrollable worry as well as with physical signs of unease or nervousness, such as a rapid heartbeat and sweating.

Preservice PTSD refers to military recruits diagnosed with this disorder before they enlist with a branch of the U.S. Armed Services.

VA:

Veterans Administration

VTC:

Veterans Treatment Court

Bibliography

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Strauss, Anselm, and Juliet Corbin. 1998. *Basics of Qualitative Research: Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Winick, Bruce J. 2003. Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Problem Solving Courts. *Fordam Urban Law Journal* 30: 1055-1090.

Selected Biographical Information

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Education

- 2005 Ph.D. Sociology, University of California, Davis.
- 1999 M.A. Sociology, University of California, Davis.
- 1992 B.A. Mass Communications, University of California, Berkeley.

Employment

- 2011- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University.
- 2005-11 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Ohio University.

Grants Received

- 2013 Ohio University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, C. Wright Mills Award, Veterans Photography Videos, **Ursula Castellano, PI** (\$936).
- 2013 Ohio University, Vice President Office of Research, OURC Discretionary Funds, Veterans Court Photography Project, **Ursula Castellano, PI** (\$500).
- 2012 Ohio University, College of Arts and Science, Faculty Development Award. Veterans Court Photography Project. **Ursula Castellano, PI** (\$1500).
- 2010 Ohio University 1804 Fund Program. Building the Center for Law, Justice & Culture: Creating a New Intellectual Community for Promoting Student and Faculty Research. Joseph De Angelis, **Ursula Castellano** and John Gilliom, PIs (\$31,048).
- 2008 Ohio Department of Mental Health. Sentenced to Treatment: The Role of Case Managers in Mental Health Courts. **Ursula Castellano, PI**. (\$17,426).

Selected Publications

- 2011 **Castellano, Ursula.** *Outsourcing Justice: The Role of Nonprofit Caseworkers in Pretrial Release Programs*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- 2013 **Castellano, Ursula** and Leon Anderson. Mental Health Courts in America: Promises and Challenges. *American Behavioral Scientist* 57(2): 163-173.
- 2011 **Castellano, Ursula.** Problem Solving Courts: Theory and Practice. *Sociology Compass* 5(11): 957-967.

- 2011 **Castellano, Ursula.** Courting Compliance: Case Managers as Double Agents in Mental Health Courts. *Law & Social Inquiry* 36(2): 484-514.
- 2009 **Castellano, Ursula.** Beyond The Courtroom Workgroup: Caseworkers as the New Satellite of Social Control. *Law & Policy* 31(4): 429-462.
- 2008 **Castellano, Ursula,** Joseph De Angelis and Marisol Clark-Ibanez. Cultivating a Sociological Perspective Using Nontraditional Texts. *Teaching Sociology* 36(3): 240-261.

Essays

- 2010 **Castellano, Ursula.** Mental Illness and Victimization. Pp. 551-552 in *Encyclopedia of Victimology and Crime Prevention*, ed. B. Fisher and S. Lab. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Edited Volumes

- 2013 Anderson, Leon, Terry Peak and **Ursula Castellano**, editors. Special Journal Issue of the *American Behavioral Scientist* on Mental Health Courts, V. 57 (2).

Manuscripts Under Review

Castellano, Ursula. *POWs of the Street: A Photo Essay of Veterans Court Participants at Contexts Magazine.*

Conferences

Organized Panels

- 2013 Castellano, Ursula (Presider and Discussant). Regular Sociology of Law Section. Panel organized for the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August.

Selected Presentations

- 2013 **Castellano, Ursula.** Picture Me Well. A PEI Study of Veterans Court Participants. Paper Presented at the Annual Law & Society Association Meetings, Boston, MA, May.
- 2012 **Castellano, Ursula** and Leon Anderson (Presenter). Researching Problem Solving Courts. Paper presented at the 2nd Intermountain Mental Health Court Conference. Utah State University, Logan, UT, July.
- 2011 **Castellano, Ursula.** Evaluating Eligibility for Mental Health Court Referrals. Paper presented at the 1st Intermountain Mental Health Court Conference. Utah State University, Logan, UT, June.
- 2010 **Castellano, Ursula.** Judges' Use of Treatment Narratives and Motivational Strategies in Mental Health Courts. Paper presented at the Midwest Law & Society Retreat, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October.

- 2010 **Castellano, Ursula.** The Organizational Contexts for Evaluating Mental Health Referrals. Paper Presented at the Annual Law & Society Association Meetings, Chicago IL, May.
- 2010 **Castellano, Ursula.** Case Management Strategies for Facilitating Treatment Compliance in Mental Health Courts. Paper Presented at the National Center for Mental Health Services Conference, Lake Buena Vista, FL, March.

Selected Professional Service and Activity

- 2013 National Science Foundation, Law and Social Science Dissertation Advisory Panel, Invited Member.
- 2013-present Athens Photography Project, Board Member.
- 2013-present Institutional Review Board, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Committee Member
- 2009-present Center for Law, Justice & Culture, Executive Committee Member
- 2012 National Science Foundation and American Bar Association, Access to Justice: Re-envisioning and Reinvigorating Research, Invited Participant.

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Education:

- 2012-Present M.A. Candidate, History, Youngstown State University
Thesis: *Mental Health Courts: Cuddling Criminals or Helping Participants?*
- 2010 Five Year Long Term Substitute License: Integrated Social Studies grades 7-12
- 2003 B. S. Education, Youngstown State University (Concentration in Psychology, Sociology and History), Magna Cum Laude

Relevant Field Experience:

- 2012-Present Veterans Court Photograph Project, Research Assistant
- 2010-2011 Volunteer Mentor, Youngstown Veterans Treatment Court
- 2005-2009 Forensic Case Manager, Mahoning County Common Pleas Felony Mental Health Court; Youngstown Municipal Treatment Court; Turning Point Counseling, Youngstown, Ohio

Relevant Activities:

- 2008 Ohio Special Dockets Practitioner Network Conference, Ohio Supreme Court

Computer Skills:

Expert on all Microsoft Office Programs-Microsoft Project, Access, Outlook, Excel

Relevant Skills:

Leadership, Organization, Tutoring, and Mentoring; First Aid/CPR

Al Nelis, Sr.

Selected Biographical Information

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Education

| | |
|------|--|
| 2009 | M.A. Media Arts, Studies Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University |
| 2001 | B.S. Organizational Communication, Ohio University, Southern Campus |
| 1997 | A.A. Applied Science and Electronic Media, Ohio University Southern Campus |

Experience

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 2010-Present | Owner/Operator Fishmonger Media Consulting. Specializing in providing high-quality, affordable media services to small businesses and non-profit organizations in Southeast Ohio |
| 2002-2009 | Instructor/Director of Electronic Media Ohio University Lancaster Campus Coordinated, advised and taught students in the field of Electronic Media Technology, including audiovisual production/post production, multimedia authoring, web design and interactivity. |
| 1998-2007 | Owner/Proprietor, Fishmonger Films & Multimedia, Ironton and Athens, OH Founded freelance video production company. Performed all areas of production: 2D & 3D design, web development, video and audio production, writing, developing, consulting and sales. |
| 1995-2010 | Freelance media producer and consultant. Subcontract/temporary employment with several media companies, including Maverick Media, Huntington WV; MotionMasters, Charleston, WV; Phoenix AV Productions, Ashland/Louisville, KY; Crazyquilt Arts, Athens, OH; GLD Enterprises and Productions, Jamestown, OH. |

Technical Skills and Qualifications

- Freelance, broadcast, and corporate multimedia producer for broadcast, cinema, print and web distribution since 1995

- Highly skilled in taking project from concept to screen
- Highly effective in visualizing clients abstract concepts and creatively executing a finished product to their specifications

Familiar with Windows and Apple compatible hardware and software including:

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Entourage)
- Adobe Media Production Software (PhotoShop, Illustrator, Premiere, After Effects, Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks)
- Apple Final Cut Studio, (Final Cut HD, Motion, Soundtrack Pro, Color, DVD Studio HD)
- AVID ProTools, Bias Peak DV, MOTU Digital Performer, NewTek LightWave 3D, Blender 3D, GIMP, CeltX

Selected Projects

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Present | Present Co-Producer/Director of Feature Documentary “Hand to Mouth: The Athens Food Revolution” (currently in post-production) |
| 2012 | Radio/Television advertising campaign for The Senior Citizens Renewal Levy for Pike County Community Action (the levy was passed) |
| 2010-2013 | A/V media support for the annual conference of the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development, as well as graphic design, and informational design/layout for annual conference program |
| 2010 | Produced 10-minute video documentary covering block-by- block weatherization process of Murray City, Ohio by partnerships and affiliate agencies of the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development |
| 2009 | Video content producer for nationally recognized food blog “Tigers and Strawberries.” |

Other Support

Previous University Funding

In 2010, I, in collaboration with my co-authors Joseph De Angelis and John Gilliom, received an 1804 grant from Ohio University entitled: “Building the Center for Law, Justice & Culture: Creating a New Intellectual Community for Promoting Student and Faculty Research” (\$31,048). This grant supported the infrastructural development of the Center for Law, Justice & Culture. We created a new undergraduate certificate program and, in 2013, admitted our first cohort of 14 students. The Law Center now has a full time director, acquired office space in Bentley Hall and we are hiring a law adviser to support students’ occupational aspirations.

In 2007, I received an OURC grant for a project entitled: “Sentenced to Treatment: The Role of Clinicians in Mental Health Courts” (\$7,592.00). I conducted ethnographic fieldwork on two mental health courts in Ohio to explore how clinicians in partnership with criminal justice actors negotiate meanings of wellness and legal compliance in these alternative court programs. I published three articles on mental health courts from these data, presented the findings at eight professional venues and co-edited a special volume of **MHCs** for *American Behavioral Scientist*. In 2008, I expanded this study with an external grant from Ohio Department of Mental Health.

In 2012, I was awarded a \$1500 Faculty Development Grant from the College of Arts & Sciences to fund a pilot photography project on **VTCs**. I also received \$500 from the OURC discretionary funds to assist with participant recruitment and interviews. In the spring of 2013, I was granted the C. Wright Mills Award by the Department of Sociology & Anthropology to fund the production of two videos. In the fall of 2013, I also received \$1000 from my home department to support the video production costs. I submitted an article, entitled *POWs of the Street: A Photo Essay of Veterans Court Participants*, which is under review at *Contexts*, and I also presented the project at the Law & Society conference in Boston this past May (2013).

External Funding

The results of the study will be used to develop a larger **photovoice** project on felony-level treatment courts. I, along with my collaborator, applied for an NSF grant in August 2011 and the project contained a **photovoice** component. While we did not receive the grant, the reviews were encouraging. According to Reviewer #1: “The project is interesting and could provide important information. I would have liked to have seen some pilot data in order to see how this project might play out. The use of photographs by clients is interesting. I would like to see some pilot data before funding a project of this magnitude.” When I reapply, it will greatly enhance the viability of my NSF proposal to present research findings from this study.

Sustainability

After the videos are complete, I will develop a user guide for the videos, which will be distributed for use in correctional and rehabilitative settings. I think there is great potential to secure external larger grants to achieve these long-term goals. In particular, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is a promising funder. This videos fit RWJF’s description of an innovative project that offers a creative approach to positively impacting health outcomes.

Budget and Justification

TRAVEL

Ursula Castellano, Principle Investigator

a) Mileage Between Athens and Youngstown for Photovoice Interviews

I will travel roundtrip from Athens, Ohio and Youngstown, Ohio to complete data collection with four additional Veterans Court participants. The one-way driving distance between Athens and Youngstown is 226 miles (2 x 226= 452 miles). According to the Ohio University website, the current rate for mileage reimbursement is .565 cents per mile (.565 x 452 miles = \$255.38 per trip). I need to make twelve trips to Youngstown (\$255.38 x 12 =\$3064.56). I will need to make three trips to complete the interviews with each research participant: During the first trip I will recruit and enroll the person, at the second trip, I will conduct the first photovoice interview and during the third trip, I will conduct the second photovoice interview. I am reducing my request travel costs by one-third because it is likely that I can conduct more than one interview in a single trip (\$3064.56 - \$1011.30 = \$2053.26).

Subtotal: \$2053.26

b) Mileage to Attend Presentation of Videos to External Reviewers

Travel to Columbus, Ohio for scheduled video viewings with former Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton and Melissa Knopps of the Ohio Supreme Court, Specialized Dockets
Athens, OH to Columbus, OH 73.9 x .565 x 2 = \$83.50

Travel to Hamilton, Ohio for scheduled video viewings with Judge Melissa Powers of the Hamilton Veterans Court and a focus group of Veterans Courts participants.
Athens, OH to Hamilton, OH 156 x .565 x 2 = \$176.28

Travel to Mansfield, Ohio for scheduled video viewings with Judge Jerry Ault of the Mansfield VTC and a focus group of VTC participants.
Athens, OH to Mansfield, OH 140.2 x .565 x 2 = \$158.42

Note: I am not requesting per diems for any travel completed by Ursula Castellano.

Subtotal: \$418.20

Dan Trout, Videographer

a) Mileage from Athens to Youngstown to View Rough Cuts with Video Participants

Dan will travel from Athens, OH to Youngstown, OH to meet with Al Nelis, the two video participants and me. We will view rough cuts of the videos to get feedback and make revisions. Travel from Athens, OH to Youngstown, OH (452 miles x .565 = \$255.38).

Subtotal: \$255.38

b) Mileage to Attend Presentation of Videos to External Reviewers

Dan will accompany me to the scheduled viewings of the videos to judicial audiences at the VTCs in Columbus and Hamilton. It is useful, nay, necessary for Dan to be present when the external reviewers provide substantive feedback for the purpose of making revisions.

Travel to Columbus, Ohio for scheduled video viewings with former Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton and Melissa Knopps of the Ohio Supreme Court, Specialized Dockets Athens, OH to Columbus, OH (73.9 miles x .565 x 2 = \$83.50).

Travel to Hamilton, Ohio for scheduled video viewings with Judge Melissa Powers of the Hamilton VTC. Athens, OH to Hamilton, OH (156 miles x .565 x 2 = \$176.28).

Subtotal: \$259.78

c) Per Diems for Columbus and Hamilton to Attend External Reviews of Videos

Based on Ohio University's 2013 per diems rates, I am requesting \$56 for meals and incidentals for travel to Columbus, Ohio. I am requesting \$51 per diem for meals and incidentals for travel to Hamilton, Ohio (\$56 + \$51 = \$107).

Subtotal: \$107.00

Al Nelis, Research Assistant

a) Mileage to Complete Data Collection with Four Additional VTC Participants

In his official capacity as the project's research assistant, I estimate that Al will drive 10 miles each way to pick up and drop off research participants from their home to the interview site (10 x 2 = 20 miles round trip per participant). To complete data collection with the each of the additional VTC participants, Al will make three round trips (20 x 3 = 60 miles) and (60 miles x 4 participants = 240 miles) and (240 miles x .565 = \$135.60).

Subtotal: \$135.60

b) Mileage to Complete the Production of the Photovoice Videos

I estimate that Al will drive 10 miles each way to pick up and drop off video participants from their home to the meeting site ($10 \times 2 = 20$ miles round trip per participant). We will meet with participants once a month for five months ($20 \times 5 \times 2 \times .565 = \113.00)

Subtotal: \$113.00

c) Mileage to Attend Presentation of Videos to External Reviewers

Al Nelis has been involved in the photography project since its inception. He has provided invaluable insights. It is important for him to attend a select number of scheduled viewing with external reviewers and Columbus and Mansfield are within a reasonable driving distance from his home in Youngstown, Ohio. I am requesting funds to pay for Al Nelis to travel from Youngstown to Columbus, Ohio to accompany the PI to scheduled video viewings with former Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton and Melissa Knopps of the Ohio Supreme Court, Specialized Dockets. Youngstown, OH to Columbus, OH ($172.3 \text{ miles} \times .565 \times 2 = \194.99).

Subtotal: \$194.99

I am requesting funds to pay for Al Nelis to travel from Youngstown Mansfield, Ohio to accompany myself and Dan Trout to scheduled video viewings at the Mansfield Veterans Court. Youngstown, OH to Mansfield, OH $100.3 \times .565 \times 2 = \113.33

Subtotal: \$113.33

d) Per Diems for Columbus and Mansfield to Attend External Reviews of Videos

Based on Ohio University's 2013 per diems rates, I am requesting \$56 for meals and incidentals for travel to Columbus, Ohio. I am requesting \$46 per diem for meals and incidentals for travel to Mansfield, Ohio ($\$56 + \$46 = \$102$).

Subtotal: \$102.00

TOTAL FOR TRAVEL: \$3772.54

PERSONNEL

Dan Trout, Videographer

a) Monthly Video Consultations with Ursula Castellano

I am requesting funds to pay for the professional services of a videographer, Dan Trout of Fishmonger Media Consulting. I paid Dan \$790.00, which is fifty percent of the projected costs to produce the videos. I am requesting the remainder of production costs in the amount of \$790.00 to assist with the compilation and editing of the video content. I am also requesting funds to pay for bi-monthly 3 hours consultation meetings with the lead PI, Ursula Castellano for five months ($\$40 \text{ per hour} \times 5 \text{ hours per month} \times 5 \text{ months} = \1000.00) ($\$790 + \$1000 = \$1,790$).

Subtotal: \$1,790.00

b) Consultation with Ursula Castellano, Al Nelis and Video Participants

Dan will travel to Youngstown, Ohio with Ursula Castellano to show the videos to the two participants. I am requesting funds to pay for Dan to return to Youngstown to critically review the videos with the veterans as we reach the final stages of production. Dan, along with myself, will conduct intensive frame-by-frame review of the video content. He charges a flat rate fee of \$300.

Subtotal: \$300.00

c) Revisions to Videos Post Production

After I show the videos to key stakeholders and focus groups of veterans court participants, I estimate that Dan will spend an additional 10 hours of editing under that direction of Ursula Castellano ($10 \text{ hours} \times 2 \times \$50 = \$1000$). Dan charges a higher hourly rate for postproduction revisions because the technical work is more nuanced.

Subtotal: \$1000.00

Al Nelis, Research Assistant

a) Complete Data Collection with Four VTC Participants

I am requesting personnel funds to pay my research assistant (RA), Al Nelis. I will not be able to complete this study without Al's assistance, particularly since the fieldsite is 226 miles from Athens. He is currently paid at the rate of \$20 per hour for the following reasons: 1) The assistant will help to schedule interviews in the Youngstown area and will help to transport clients to and from the interview site. 2) The assistant will attend all PEI interviews and debrief with me after the interviews. 3) The assistant is a trained professional in the area of criminal justice and mental health. For these reasons, the assistant should be compensated at a higher rate of pay than the federal minimum wage. Al Nelis will assist the PI, Ursula Castellano, with the initial meeting to

recruit and enroll each VTC participant and complete two photovoice interviews with each participant. To complete each phase of the data collection for four VTC participants, I estimate that Al Nelis will work 8 hours (4 participants x 8 hours = 48 hours). The 8-hour estimation includes time allocated for the recruitment, enrollment, transportation to the interview site and picking up and dropping off cameras) as well as attending two photovoice interviews for each participant (\$20 x 48 hours = \$960).

Subtotal: \$960.00

b) Complete Video Production with Two VTC Participants

Al Nelis will assist the PI, Ursula Castellano with the completion of the videos. We will meet with the two current participants once a month for five months for three hours each to review the videos and solicit feedback (\$20 x 5 x 3 hours x 2 participants = \$600).

Subtotal: \$600.00

c) Personnel to Attend Scheduled Viewings of Videos

I am requesting funds to pay Al Nelis an hourly salary to attend the scheduled viewings of the videos in Columbus, Ohio. The one-way travel from Youngstown, Ohio to Columbus, Ohio is 2.45 minutes (5.5 hours round-trip x \$20 = \$110). I estimate that Al will work for four hours in Columbus (4 hours x \$20 = \$80). The personnel costs are: (\$80 + \$110 = \$190)

Subtotal: \$190.00

I am requesting funds to pay Al Nelis' hourly salary to attend the scheduled viewings of the videos in Mansfield, Ohio. The one-way travel from Youngstown, Ohio to Mansfield, Ohio is 1.45 minutes (3.5 hours round-trip x \$20 = \$70). I estimate that Al will work for four hours in Mansfield (4 x \$20 = \$80).

Subtotal: \$150.00

TOTAL FOR PERSONNEL: \$4990.00

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTIONS

Transcriptionist

I am requesting funds to pay for the professional transcription of the audio recordings (eight interviews). I will conduct a total of eight interviews with four veterans (two interviews per person). The estimates costs for a professional transcriber are \$25 per hour, 8 hours per audio file. Lynn has transcribed all of my interviews for this project and my **MHC** project. Her attention to detail and level of accuracy are exceptional. The \$25 rate is very reasonable for professional transcription of audio recordings (\$25 x 8 interviews x 8 hours = \$1600).

Subtotal: \$1600.00

Total for Interview Transcriptions: \$1600.00

EQUIPMENT

Photo Development and Digital CDs

I am requesting funds to purchase disposable cameras, develop the pictures, and purchase digital CDs of the photographs. I will need 2 cameras for each of the 4 participants for a total of 8 cameras. Since I have three cameras purchased with prior funding, I only need 5 cameras. Two-pack camera sets are available for \$13. The estimated cost for 3 camera sets is \$39 (\$13 x 3). The cost for development of double prints and purchase of a CD is estimated at \$18 per camera for a subtotal cost of \$144 (\$18 x 8).

Cameras: \$39.00

Development: \$144.00

Subtotal: \$183.00

Laptop Computer

I am requesting funds to rent a laptop computer from Ohio University Tech Depot. Once a month, I will take the laptop to Youngstown to view rough cuts of the videos with the two participants. I will need the laptop for two days (\$10 per day) each month for five months (\$10 x 5 months x 2 days = \$110).

Subtotal: \$100.00

Total for Equipment: \$283.00

RESEARCH INCENTIVES

a) Incentives for VTC Participants

I am requesting funds to pay for incentives to the four additional **photovoice** participants. For a variety of reasons, it has been difficult to recruit and retain participants in this study. I will offer photo participants a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card if they take pictures and complete the first interview. I would also like to offer each participant another \$25 gift card if they complete a second interview. Participants should be compensated for the time, effort and forethought involved in photography study. In addition, many of the participants are poor and living in marginalized communities and I think appreciate gift cards. I currently incentives to new recruits and they have improved the response rate. Please note that **photovoice** participants also receive copies of their photographs (\$25 x 2 interviews x 4 participants = \$200).

Subtotal: \$200.00

b) Incentives for Video Participants

I am requesting funds to provide video participants with \$100 Wal-Mart gift cards upon completion of the video (\$50 x 2 = 100). They too have committed their time, effort and dedication to working on the project. The participants will also receive copies of the videos.

Subtotal: \$200.00

TOTAL FOR RESEARCH INCENTIVES: \$400.00

MATERIALS

I am requesting funds to pay for 10 copies of each completed videos which will be distributed to the video participants, myself, Dan Trout, Al Nelis and the Department of Sociology & Anthropology. Ohio University's Media Services charges \$4 to duplicate a DVD (\$4 x 10 discs x 2 videos = \$80)

Subtotal: \$80

| Cost Breakdown | | Amount |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Travel | | |
| | Mileage | \$3563.54 |
| | Per Diems | \$ 209.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$3772.54 |
| Personnel | | |
| | Videographer | \$3090.00 |
| | Research Assistant | \$1900.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$4990.00 |
| Transcription | | |
| | Interviews | \$1600.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$1600.00 |
| Equipment | | |
| | Cameras | \$ 39.00 |
| | Development | \$144.00 |
| | Laptop Rental | \$100.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$283.00 |
| Research Incentives | | |
| | Photovoice Interviews | \$200.00 |
| | Video Participants | \$200.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$400.00 |
| Materials | | |
| | Duplicate DVDs | \$80.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$80.00 |
| Total Budgetary Costs | | \$11,125.54 |

RE: Baker: Request to Submit More Than 10 Pages of Append...

Subject: RE: Baker: Request to Submit More Than 10 Pages of Appended Materials
From: "Male'-Brune, Roxanne" <male-bru@ohio.edu>
Date: 10/7/13 8:03 AM
To: castella-forward <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

Your request to submit additional pagers (up to 5) is approved.
Please append this to your application.
Roxanne

-----Original Message-----

From: ursula castellano [<mailto:ursulacastella@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 6:22 AM
To: Male'-Brune, Roxanne
Subject: Baker: Request to Submit More Than 10 Pages of Appended Materials

Hi Roxanne,

I may need to submit more than 10 pages of appended materials in my Baker grant. I'll do my best of fit letters/emails onto single pages but just in case, I'm submitting this request.

Thank you,
Ursula Castellano

Ursula Castellano, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology Center for Law, Justice & Culture Ohio University

Appended Materials

Below are photos, titles and interview excerpts from the **VTC** Photography Project. Each veteran took the photo and assigned the title. Several images will also appear in the **Photovoice** Videos.

All Roots Gone



Where are my roots? They're gone. I don't even have anywhere to go back to and say, 'This is where I grew up.' It's sad. This is all over [this area]. People abandoned [homes] or couldn't pay the mortgage. This is just one of many stories in my life before I ever went to the military. There's a cop car at the top of the picture, responding to one of the only houses that's still on the street.

My Finest Moment



This is the bar where a woman was getting stabbed to death in front of me, and I stepped in front of the blade, and took the guy out. If I wouldn't have been the street fighter or the wrestler I was, the boxer I was, the tactics I learned in the military, I may not have survived and she may not have survived. I've [had] to survive my whole life, [which] ultimately gave me the skills to save somebody.

Fifth Avenue Motel



It reminds me of where I never want to be again: dressed in orange, with slippers, in a cell. This is where the insanity stopped. If it wasn't for jail and finding out about Veterans Court, I wouldn't be here having a chance.

The Ankle Bracelet



I sit back and make sure this is charged. The house phone is there in case something's wrong. They did call me [once] and said the thing wasn't charged up. If I hadn't [answered], I'd have been in trouble. Even when I go outside, I have the telephone with me.

A New Beginning



[The] judge said, ‘Either do what I tell you or go to jail.’ The judge isn’t going to wait. Part of being trained by the military is to think ahead; if you’re in trouble, work it out. [The single room occupancy hotel] is a new chapter; it’s time to let the old stuff go because it ain’t working.

Letters of Cooperation and Evidence of Fieldsite Access:

1. Dan Trout (Videographer)
2. Al Nelis (Research Assistant)
3. Bill Smaltz and Chris Derr (Video Participants)
4. Honorable Judge Robert Milich (Presiding Judge of the Youngstown **VTC**)
5. Professor Emeritus Tom Walker (Ohio University, Department of Political Science)
6. The Honorable Justice Evelyn Stratton (Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice)
7. Melissa Knopp (Ohio Supreme Court, Specialty Dockets Division Manager)
8. The Honorable Judge Melissa Powers (Presiding Judge of the Hamilton **VTC**)
9. The Honorable Judge Jerry Ault (Presiding Judge of the Mansfield **VTC**)

Ursula Castellano, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology and Antropology
Center for Law, Justice, & Culture
Ohio University

Date 9/30/13

Fishmonger Media Consulting
4 Lamar Dive
Athens, OH 45701
740 - 646 -9735
danielgtrout@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Daniel Trout, and I am a media producer/documentary filmmaker in Southeast Ohio, specializing in visual storytelling. I am writing this letter as statement of commitment to and my role in a project spearheaded by Dr. Ursula Castellano.

The scope of the project is to produce two brief, (approximately 7 minute,) audiovisual presentations focusing on the role of the Veterans Treatment Court System on the lives of two military veterans from Youngstown, Ohio. These two projects will consist of still images taken by the two veterans, along with voice-over narration by each veteran, as well as music selected or performed by the veteran on which the presentation focuses. These different elements will be edited together to express each veteran's personal life experiences that led them to Veterans Treatment Court, and the court's effect on their lives currently.

The goal is to develop these two videos as component tools in a peer-based mentoring program for veterans and professionals in the criminal justice system. As of the date of this letter, Dr. Castellano and I have met on at least three occasions to further develop the content and scope of these presentations. To date, I have received the photos and music from which the presentation will be constructed, and have travelled to Youngstown to meet with the two veterans involved, and record their narration.

My role in this is to facilitate the needs of the project, as defined by Dr. Castellano, the faculty researcher. While I will certainly supply input and feedback, based upon my professional experience along the way, all final decisions of professional scope and technical/creative content will be made by Dr. Castellano. Additionally, I will make "re-edit" adjustments and changes to each presentation based upon feedback Dr. Castellano receives through planned focus groups and consultation with veterans, criminal justice professionals, and academic fellows.

I feel that this project will be a valuable tool to not only veterans and professionals involved in the Veterans Treatment Court system, but also as a therapeutic tool to the two veterans we have the pleasure of working with on this. I look forward to my continuing involvement developing this very important project with Dr. Castellano and our associates.

Thank you for your time in reviewing these materials, and if you have any questions or comments for me concerning my involvement in this project, please feel free to contact me via any of the information provided.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel G. Trout

Fishmonger Media Consulting
4 Lamar Drive
Athens, OH 45701
740 - 646 -9735
danielgtrout@gmail.com

Subject: Veterans Photography Project
From: "Al Nelis" <alnelis@comcast.net>
Date: 9/9/13 12:01 PM
To: "ursula castellano" <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

September 9, 2013

Dr. Castellano,

I have read your tentative proposal for the continuation and expansion of the Photography Project for Veterans Court. Being a U.S. Air Force veteran, I know how important it is to help veterans in trouble with the law. I worked for over five years as a forensic case manager in the Common Pleas Court and Municipal Courts as well as a mentor for the Youngstown Veterans Court. This project will definitely "spread the word" about the benefits of Veterans courts to returning vets.

The returning veterans are a special population and have unique problems. Many suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and other mental health issues. They often have trouble finding employment and affordable housing. We strive to recruit participants who can understand the scope of the study, have the time and willingness to take part in the study and who meet and agree to the criteria set forth in the grant.

Working on this project since the middle of June, 2012, has given me a perspective of the problems facing the vet. I am committed to helping them and educating other non-participants of the benefits of Veterans Court. The public and private sectors also need to step forward in helping these veterans. I feel the Photography Project is a way to educate veterans and others to the benefits of these courts.

I am proud to have been part of this effort to help veterans and hope to continue being part of this worthwhile project.

Alan J. Nelis, Sr. BSEd

Subject: video and picture project grant letter
From: Bill smaltz <hawaiianshotgun58@gmail.com>
Date: 9/21/13 1:53 PM
To: Ursula <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

dear ohio university staff,

My name is Bill Smaltz and I am an U.S. Army veteran here in Youngstown, OH. I am currently in veteran's court up here and will be moving to phase 2 on Oct. 9th. I have a mentor and a sponsor in A.A. and I've been clean for over a year now thanks to this wonderful program called veteran's court. When Ursula and Al Nelis approached me and asked if I would volunteer for a project for veteran's court I was excited immediately. I feel the project I've been working on with Ursula is a very significant piece of work. Because it tells a great story of veteran's and their abilities to overcome problems in their lives using resources the court has and going to a.a. meetings through pictures. Not only words but pictures I took tell a story of hope and courage. From addiction to conviction is something I feel this project shows. And there is a lot of veterans' still out there strung out on alcohol and drugs because they don't have a program of recovery in their life and sadly some don't even know there is hope. I believe that Ursula's project through your school is amazing. Mainly because she is so dedicated to getting the story behind the pictures out there and hired a great videographer to help her because some things are better left to professionals.

I am not only a veteran but I am a retired professional boxer and a graduate of Youngstown State University in Criminal Justice. I just had a lot of problems that I never dealt with, some stemming from the military and some from birth and growing up. I self-medicated and tried to just numb the problems away. I also write music and have done many videos and released over 4 CDs myself. I just wanted to list some of my credentials so you as a whole can understand that funding Ursula's project is such a great thing not only for me but for all the veteran's and drug courts across the nation that can see this short documentary of hope and passion. I believe Ursula Castello is brilliant in her decision-making skills and very organized when it comes to this project. So please find it in your budget or more importantly find it in your hearts to give her another grant to keep this veteran's court project going so we can complete what we started over a year ago and show the veteran's and court system across the nation that you're not alone, and people can give you hope through pictures and words. See you have to pass on the wisdom of sobriety to keep it yourself. I believe this veteran's court project shows how grateful people like Ursula and AL are to these young veteran's coming home from war with no hope and no guidance. If a 5 min video can change the life of one veteran then your grant money never went to waste. Because believe or not I just need someone to show me the way and crack the door of hope and someone telling me hey there's more out here like you and there is a solution. Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

--Bill Smaltz.

To Whom It May Concern: REFERENCE - VETERANS PHOTO/VIDEO PROJECT

My Name Is CHRISTOPHER DERR, U.S. ARMY VETERAN, VETERANS COURT PARTICIPANT and P.T.S.D. SUFFERER. I HAVE BEEN PART OF THE PHOTO/VIDEO PROJECT WITH URSULA CASTELLANO FOR ABOUT A YEAR. THE PROJECT HAS TURNED INTO A TYPE OF THERAPY FOR ME. COUNSELING AT THE V.A. FOR P.T.S.D. HAS CERTAINLY HELPED ME, ALONG WITH MEDICATION; THAT BEING SAID - TAKING PHOTOS THAT BRING UP HARSH MEMORIES, AND FINDING A WAY TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED THROUGH PAIN - AND SOMETIMES TEARS - STRENGTHENED MY RESOLVE. THE PHOTO/VIDEO PROJECT HELPED ME BATTLE MY DEMONS IN A WAY THAT COUNSELING NEVER COULD. MY HOPE IS THAT MY STORY CAN HELP OTHER VETERANS FIND A PATH TO INNER PEACE, EVEN IF ONLY ONE.

WITH DEEP SINCERITY,
Christopher D. Derr

MUNICIPAL COURT OF YOUNGSTOWN



ROBERT P. MILICH
JUDGE

26 S. PHELPS
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO 44503-1373

TELEPHONE 330/742-8855
FAX 330/742-8716

September 24, 2013

Ms. Ursula Castellano
Associate Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
119 Bentley Annex
Ohio University
Athens, OH 45701

Dear Professor Castellano:

I am writing this letter in continued support of your research project entitled "Veterans Court Photography Project".

With the assistance of Bette Patterson, Treatment Program Coordinator, I understand that you intend to identify and recruit four additional participants into this ongoing study. If they elect to enroll in the project, the participants will take pictures of how they became involved in the criminal justice system and how they experience court-mandated treatment. You will then contact the participant to set up an interview and discuss their photographs.

I agree to the parameters of the study and look forward to learning the results of your research.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Milich, Judge
Youngstown Municipal Court

RPM:amf

Subject: Interest in Viewing Videos

From: "Walker, Thomas" <walker@ohio.edu>

Date: 9/16/13 3:41 PM

To: castella-forward <ursulacastella@gmail.com>, castella-forward <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

Dear Ursula:

As you know, I am very interested in special docket courts which work to keep mentally ill offenders out of the penal system. Among such courts I have a particular interest in Veteran's Courts which help veterans - many of whom suffer from war-inflicted disorder such as PTSD - recover and return to a normal life. Accordingly, and with your help, I interviewed both Youngstown Judge Robert Milich and one of his graduates Curtis Minnifield last year for mental health segments I do on WOUB's "Conversations from Studio B." In the process I learned of the beautiful work you do with your photographic project for veterans in Judge Milich's Veteran's Court.

I am very happy that you are making two short videos in connection with your work. I would love to be included in their screenings. In addition, David Malawista and others in our CIT Committee which trains regional police to deal humanely with persons in mental crises - to take them to safety rather than jail - have expressed interest in attending such a screening. And I am sure my fellow members of the Board of Directors of the Athens chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will want to attend such a screening. Please let us know when and where. Thanks.

Best regards, Tom

Thomas W. Walker

Professor Emeritus, Political Science

Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701

Member, National Alliance on Mental Illness

740-593-1339 (office) and 740-593-3757 (home)

RE: Veterans Court Video Project

Subject: RE: Veterans Court Video Project
From: "Stratton, Evelyn Lundberg" <elstratton@vorys.com>
Date: 9/13/13 12:28 PM
To: 'ursula castellano' <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

Dear Dr. Castellano,

I would be willing to serve as a reviewer for your Veterans Court Video project. I believe this could be a valuable tool in assisting with peer mentoring in our veterans courts.

Sincerely,

Evelyn L. Stratton

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

RE: Veterans Court Video Project

Subject: RE: Veterans Court Video Project
From: "Knopp, Melissa" <Melissa.Knopp@sc.ohio.gov>
Date: 9/12/13 5:59 PM
To: ursula castellano <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

I am happy to serve as a viewer for your video project. We are actually working on developing some tools for peer mentor programs in Veterans Court. Please let me know if this is sufficient or if you need anything else from me. Thanks!



Melissa A. Knopp, Esq. | Manager, Specialized Dockets Section | Supreme Court of Ohio
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From: ursula castellano [mailto:ursulacastella@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 2:38 PM
To: Knopp, Melissa
Subject: Veterans Court Video Project

Dear Melissa:

My name is Ursula Castellano and I am an associate professor of Sociology at Ohio University. For the past year, I have been working on a photography project with Veterans Court participants to understand how they become involved in the criminal justice system and how they experience court mandated treatment. I am writing a grant proposal to complete two short documentary videos that I am working on collaboratively with two participants in the Youngstown Veterans Court. These are approximately seven-minute inspirational videos with veterans' photographs, audio narrations and music. My hope is that the videos might be developed into peer-based mentoring tools for justice-involved populations and other persons in recovery.

An important component of this grant activity is scheduling viewings of the videos with key stakeholders in the criminal justice system and veterans administration for the purpose of soliciting feedback and making revisions. Given your expertise and commitment to problem solving courts, I am requesting your participation in this process. I plan to schedule the viewings in the early spring of 2014. I will contact you as the date nears to finalize the logistics.

If you would be willing to view the videos and provide feedback, would you please send me an email or letter stating your willingness to serve as an external reviewer by October 1st? I am happy to provide any additional details to help inform your decision.

I appreciate your consideration.

Best regards,
Ursula Castellano

Evidence of Access to the Hamilton County Veterans Court

I spoke with the Honorable Judge Powers and she agreed to serve as an external reviewer for the **photovoice** videos.

Transcribed Phone Message:

From: Judge Melissa Powers
513/946-9999
To: Ursula Castellano
740/591-6570
Date: September 24, 2013 @ 11:18am

“Hi Ursula. This is Judge Powers from the Hamilton County Municipal Court. I’ve been given a copy of your email so I’m very excited about what you are doing with the Veterans Court and your documentaries. I would love to be a part of your process and, hum, put together focus group. The focus group could actually be, hum, our treatment team. We could view your videos and possibly, it looks like you may want some of actual veterans themselves, that I’m unclear, but definitely the treatment team. There are a number of members as part of the team from the prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officers, the veterans administration, people that are in services. There are a number of organizations and resources that are also part of the team. We meet each week before our court and review each vet that comes before us. So, it probably set up very similarly to what you are doing with the Youngstown Veterans Court. So, that’s to give you an idea. As far as you needing a letter stating my interest...so let me get working on that and I’ll get that email off to you as soon as possible. We are overwhelmed and overworked so I’m figuring out and trying to get the time to do that, to set aside, but I will make the effort this week to make sure that I meet your deadline of October 1st. If you need any additional information or would like to call me back to discuss this matter further, my direct line is 946-5920, area code 513, my direct email is judgepowers@hotmail.com. Thank you.”

Email Messages between Judge Melissa Powers and Ursula Castellano:

Subject: RE: Veterans Court Video Project
From: Melissa Powers <judgepowers@hotmail.com>
Date: 10/2/13 10:31 AM
To: ursula castellano <ursulacastella@gmail.com>

Dear Ursula:

I believe I sent one through email. However, I will resend or prepare another one for your grant proposal. I am on the bench now with a brief break. I will get to this asap.

Sincerely,
Judge Powers

> Date: Wed, 2 Oct 2013 08:26:38 -0400
> From: ursulacastella@gmail.com
> To: judgepowers@hotmail.com
> Subject: Veterans Court Video Project
>
> Dear Honorable Judge Powers:
>
> I very much look forward to the opportunity to work with you on the
> Veterans Court Video Project.
>
> There is still time for me to include your letter of support in my grant
> proposal. If it's more convenient, you can reply to this email stating
> that you and your team are willing to serve as external reviewers. Your
> letter will go a long way in helping to secure the funds. Thank you again.
>
> With appreciation,
> Ursula Castellano
>
> --
> Ursula Castellano, Ph.D.
> Associate Professor of Sociology
> Department of Sociology and Anthropology
> Center for Law, Justice & Culture
> Ohio University
>

MANSFIELD MUNICIPAL COURT

30 NORTH DIAMOND STREET
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902

Hon. FRANK ARDIS, JR.
Judge
(419) 755-9615

Hon. JERRY AULT
Judge
(419) 755-9622

COURT ADMINISTRATOR
Jamie Wood
(419) 755-9496

October 8, 2013

Mrs. Castellano,

Thank you for allowing this Court to participate in your project.

Be advised that I and my staff are honored that you have asked us to be external reviewers for Jason.

Sincerely,

Judge Jerry E. Ault

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

30 N. DIAMOND STREET

Evidence of Access to the Mansfield County Veterans Court

I spoke with the Honorable Judge Jerry Ault and he agreed to serve as an external reviewer for the **photovoice** videos. He returned all of my calls in a timely manner and expressed interest and enthusiasm for the project.

I emailed a letter of invitation to Judge Ault on September 16th. He was on vacation for two weeks. I followed up with a phone call on October 1st @ 10:47am and left a message with the court clerk. The judge called me back at 11:45am. He did not receive the email but after I explained the project, he agreed to serve as external reviewer. He also agreed to arrange for a group of **VTC** participants to view and provide feedback on the **photovoice** videos. I then forwarded the original email and requested that he send me an email of written consent (Please see the email exchange that follows). On October 7th @ 11:56pm, I called Judge Ault again to see if a letter was forthcoming. He called me back at 1:05pm and said he would do his best to fax something to me before the deadline. I gave him the department fax number: 740/593-1365. **b**

Recommended Reviewers

Dr. Benjamin Fleury-Steiner
Department of Sociology
University of Delaware
336 Smith Hall
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bfs@udel.edu

Dr. Kathi R. Trawver
School of Social Work □
University of Alaska at Anchorage
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ktrawver@uaa.alaska.edu

Dr. Leslie Paik
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City University of New York
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New York, NY 10031
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Lpaik@ccny.cuny.edu

Dr. Jonathan Simon
Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program
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592 Simon Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
(510) 643-5169
jsimon@law.berkeley.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Chiarello
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
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St. Louis, MO 63103
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