

Curriculum Vitae

KENNETH ALEXANDER CRUZ

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EDUCATION

- PhD. 2016 University of California, Irvine
Criminology, Law and Society
Dissertation: *Slumcare and the Fail-State*
- M.S. 2009 Northern Arizona University
Applied Criminology (with distinction)
Thesis: *Surface Versus Substance: How Medicalizing the Behavioral
Problems of Abused and Neglected Youth Individualizes Maltreatment*
- J.D. 2002 University of Connecticut
Law
- B.A. 1997 Southern Connecticut State University
Psychology (magna cum laude)

ACTIVE RESEARCH AGENDA

What is Just for Indigenous Youth is an article that examines how a narrow focus on *what works* in preventing violence can lead to ontological violence caused by the state. In particular, I demonstrate how behavioral-health practitioners of an evidence-based group home provide Indigenous youth with culturally incompetent interventions that perpetuate cultural genocide. I argue there is an urgent need to move beyond what works to *what is just* for Indigenous youth. This article will be ready for submission in the **Spring of 2021**.

'Pushed Through the Cracks' is an examination of youth-care workers' experiences with troubled youth in a small southwestern city. Based on in-depth interviews with over thirty youth-care workers (including juvenile justice workers, behavioral-healthcare workers and teachers), this study of practitioners' experiences argues that a variety of structural forces and individual practices end up pushing troubled BIPOC youth through the cracks of the public services that are intended to help them, thereby setting them up for entry into the criminal justice system. The first of several papers from this project will be ready for submission by the end of the **Summer of 2021**.

Youth Gun Violence Report is a collaborative research report that examines best-practices for reducing youth gun violence. This report was solicited by the Tacoma City Council and is led by Eric Madfis. The report will be ready for submission by **Winter of 2022**.

Emerge: Examining the Effectiveness of a Community-Based Work Program for Ex-Offenders is a collaborative mix-methods, longitudinal, study of a social enterprise in New Haven Connecticut that offers ex-offenders transitional part-time construction work, educational tutoring, parenting classes, trauma-informed interventions and access to mental-health services. This study is in the data collection stage.

Out of Your Homes and Into the Streets: Lessons on Becoming an Activist-Scholar is an autoethnographic study of my deep dive into community engagement and local activism during the 2nd wave of the Black Lives Matter movement in Tacoma Washington. This study is in the data collection stage.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cruz, K. A. (2021). Filling Beds: A Cautionary Tale of Public Service Corruption and “Slumcare” Within the Expanding Juvenile Control Industry. *Social Justice* (accepted for publication on 1/5/21)

Cruz, K. A. (2019). Systemic Endangerment: A Tale of Neoliberal ‘Slumcare.’ *Critical Criminology*, 27: 627-642

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Cruz, K. (2020). Small police budget cut is token gesture at best. *The News Tribune*

Cruz, K. (2020). Absence, silence not good look for Tacoma leaders. *The News Tribune*

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Cruz, K. A. (2014). Book Review: Structural Violence: Hidden Brutality in the Lives of Women. By Joshua M. Price (State University of New York Press, 2012, 179pp.), *British Journal of Criminology*, 54 (2): 366-368. doi: 10.1093/bjc/azt076

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-Present Assistant Professor, University of Washington, Tacoma
 American Criminal Courts
 Helping Skills in Criminal Justice
 Criminological Theory

2014-2019 Lecturer, Northern Arizona University
 Criminology
 Violent Crime

Investigating Difference
Criminal Procedure
Criminal Law

2003-2004 Department Chair and Lead Instructor, Remington College
Introduction to Criminal Justice
Criminal Law
Criminal Procedure
Ethics

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2019-present Member, Campus Technology Committee, University of Washington, Tacoma

2020-present Member, Faculty Council, University of Washington, Tacoma

2020-present Member, Decrim UWT Workgroup, University of Washington, Tacoma

2020-2021 Member, Dean Search Committee, University of Washington, Tacoma

2015-2019 Pre-Law Advisor, Northern Arizona University

2017-2019 Advisor, Amnesty International, Northern Arizona University

2018-2019 Chair, Scholarships and Special Events Committee, Northern Arizona University

2018 Chair, Thematic Panel at the American Society of Criminology. *Native Americans and Violence Prevention: Issues of Sovereignty and Social Justice*

2017-2018 Member, Scholarships and Special events Committee, Northern Arizona University

2015-2016 Member, Communications Committee, Northern Arizona University

2014-2015 Chair, Assessment Committee, Northern Arizona University

2014-2015 Member, New Faculty Mentor Committee, Northern Arizona University

2014-2015 Member, Lecturer Search Committee, Northern Arizona University

2012-2013 Graduate Student Representative, University of California, Irvine

2012-2013 Member, DECADE, University of California, Irvine

2011-2013 Member, Diversity Committee, University of California, Irvine

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 *Filling Beds: A Tale of Social Service Corruption and Neoliberal Slumcare*. Roundtable presentation at the American Society of Criminology (invited)
- 2018 *What is Just in Excluded Communities?* Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology
- 2016 *Slumcare and the Fail-State*. Dissertation presented at the American Society of Criminology
- 2015 *A Theory of Service Corruption*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology
- 2014 *URM Climate Discussion*. Research presented to the department of Criminology, Law and Society
- 2013 *Filling Beds: A Tale of Slumcare*. Paper presented at the Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2012 *The Therapeutic Bubble: How Ineffective Interventions Persist*. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology
- 2009 *Surface Versus Substance: How Medicalizing the Behavioral Problems of Abused and Neglected Youth Individualizes Maltreatment*. Thesis presented at the American Society of Criminology
- 1997 *Perfected Colonialism*. Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society.

GRANTS

- 2018-2019 SBS Research Support Award
Northern Arizona University
- 2013-2014 DECADE Mentor Graduate Diversity Award
University of California, Irvine
- 2011 COR Small Grant
University of California, Irvine
- 2010 CLS Summer Research Grant
University of California, Irvine
- 2004-2005 GO-MAP Fellowship,
University of Washington

2001 PILG Grant Recipient,
University of Connecticut School of Law

HONORS AND AWARDS

2012-2013 Graduate Student Representative
University of California, Irvine

2011-2013 Diversity Representative,
University of California, Irvine

2009-2010 Social Ecology Fellowship
University of California, Irvine

2004 Hubert M. Blalock Minority Student Award,

University of Washington

2000 Edward Trauring Scholarship,
University of Connecticut School of Law

1997 Academic Excellence Award in Psychology,
Southern Connecticut State University

1997 Distinguished Alumnus Scholarship,
Southern Connecticut State University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007-2009 Residential Program Director and Behavioral Health Support Technician III
Daybreak Behavioral Health Resources, Flagstaff, AZ

Managed a behavioral health group home for boys. Responsibilities included implementation of the program and supervision/training of direct care staff. Direct care duties included leading residents through the program, supervising them and maintaining their safety.

2002-2003 Clinical Case Manager
Mental Health Corporation of Denver, Denver, CO

Managed a large caseload of individuals suffering from chronic mental illness. Responsibilities included assistance with independent living, management of crisis situations, monitoring and assessing clients' progress.

1997-2002 Intensive Case Manager and Mental Health Worker
Midstate Behavioral Health Systems, Meriden, CT

Managed a small caseload of individuals suffering from severe and chronic mental illness. Mental health worker duties included crisis hotline work and monitoring and supporting residents on a respite unit.