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SPEAKERS

Jenn Tostlebe, Jose Sanchez



Jose Sanchez 00:00

Hey friends and colleagues! Welcome to the criminology Academy podcast, where we are criminally academic. My name is Jose Sanchez.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:07

And I'm Jenn Tostlebe.



Jose Sanchez 00:09

And we are honored to be your co hosts for this podcast.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:14

Today's episode is a combination episode where we are reintroducing ourselves as well as the podcast. Secondly reflecting on our first semester of episodes, which is our fall 2020 lineup. And last but not least, looking forward to spring 2021, which will air in in a few days on January 4, 2021.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:36

So grab some coffee or a cold beer, sit back, and we hope you enjoy the conversation.



Jose Sanchez 00:42

I'll keep my introduction pretty brief. My name is Jose, that was not a lie. I got my bachelor's and my master's in criminal justice from the California State University Los Angeles, Cal State LA. My primary research interests are in gangs. And within that is international gang research, policy and program evaluation, and governmental responses to gangs. Other research interests are criminological theory and juvenile justice. And outside of academia, I used to like going out for walks or drives and watching TV. But for the last couple months, I've had to raise a little child. That's been quite the challenge.



Jenn Tostlebe 01:49

My name is Jenn. I have a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies in criminology and criminal justice and a master's in sociology. Both of those are from Iowa State University. I'm currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder. And my primary research interests lie within areas in incarceration and reentry, primarily within solitary confinement, mental health, and social support. And I also do work on gangs and gang membership. Outside of academia, I enjoy traveling, which has not been happening lately because of the pandemic, as well as cooking, and really just kind of hanging out and being outside and doing yoga and other exercise.



Jose Sanchez 02:44

I will say I do like cooking, too. I've actually gotten quite good at it. And I got a stand mixer for Christmas, which has made me super excited.



Jenn Tostlebe 02:55

Have to put it to use.



Jose Sanchez 02:57

Ya I know. So to introduce the podcast, again, The Criminology Academy. We started this podcast with the goal to present evidence based information. Research done by experts in the field, and also graduate students. Given that so much of the information that we know, tends to be more myth than fact, at least when it comes to the criminal justice system and how it works. Another thing that we wanted to do with this podcast was

provide insights into what it's like to be a graduate student. And so that's why we have our grad life episodes, talking about what it's like to try and get a PhD. And some of the challenges that come with that.



Jenn Tostlebe 03:50

Yeah, so to go off of that, we have a variety of episode series to kind of try and peek a little bit of everyone's interests. So our primary and most common types of episodes are our research series episodes, which as Jose mentioned earlier, these are episodes with faculty and experts in the field of criminology and criminal justice, as well as some graduate student research episodes to start to kind of gear people toward the fascinating research that PhD students are currently doing, not only faculty. We also have our graduate school episodes, which Jose just talked about, kind of give an insight into PhD life. And then last but not least, which will be new to spring 2021. We're starting on or we're starting a reflection series, which is kind of an overview of someone's career and their successes and failures, what they're most proud of. And yeah, so that should be neat to start putting out there.



Jose Sanchez 04:56

Yeah, to look back on the Fall semester, or season one, if you will. So we put up eight episodes, mostly spaced out every two weeks, except up for the holidays, we decided to bring the merry with our episodes. And I have to say we've done a lot better than I really thought we were. We have over 2100 lessons at this point. And like just seeing the numbers and I mean how many people are listening and some of the feedback that we've gotten, we really can't thank our listeners enough for their support.



Jenn Tostlebe 05:44

Yeah, so across those eight episodes, we've had guests representing a variety of programs or universities, including our own University of Colorado Boulder, as well as schools like the University of Maryland, Pennsylvania State University x2, Rutgers University times two as well, Michigan State University, the University of Missouri St. Louis, University of Texas at Austin, and last but not least, Georgia State University.



Jose Sanchez 06:15

Yes. And so that's one of the things that we wanted to do is spread the love around, and you can really find experts just about anywhere in the country, people that are doing good

work.



Jose Sanchez 06:33

So looking back again, to our first season, our fall semester, which, so we're going to break our seasons into semesters. But we're not actually really planning on taking breaks in between semesters, we just thought that this would be a nice way to sort of package our episodes. And you'll know when a semester ends, because we will be releasing a teaser/review episode for those.



Jose Sanchez 07:07

But I would like to talk about some of the episodes that we recorded. So our very first one was on immigration and crime reporting with Eric Baumer and Min Xie. Eric, of course, was at Penn State and Min was at Maryland, or actually they both still are at their respective schools. And so we released this episode first. But it was actually one of the episodes that we recorded towards the end. And we just thought that this would be a good episode to open up with. It's sort of a hot topic, immigration work. Then we had Lee Slocum and Andres Rengifo also talking about another hot topic with their work on on policing and the police in the community. And that was, that was our first doubles episode. And so it's it's funny because the only episode that was a double's episode that was purposely done that way was actually Ashley and Kaelyn's on applying and choosing a PhD program. The other doubles episodes, we had reached out to one of them and they wanted to bring on a collaborator or a colleague. And of course, we thought the more the merrier and those episodes turned out great. The one episode that I kind of want to highlight a little bit is the one that we had with Kyle Thomas. Episode Number two, on criminological theory. When we released that episode, it's done really well, but somehow I get the feeling that maybe people might be a little intimidated by crim theory, you know, people may not be terribly interested when they hear the word theory. They might think it's a bunch of philosophizing. That's not a word, I don't think.



Jenn Tostlebe 09:01

It is now.



Jose Sanchez 09:03

But I think Kyle does a great job in packaging it in a way that is easy to understand, and it can really give people even just the general public, not just academics, an idea of what we

do and what we can do to organize our thoughts and our ideas and why this is important. And really, when you think about it, most of the work that people do even outside of criminology, you always have some theoretical framework behind it. Right, like you do something because there's like some thought that's been put into why what you're about to do should work. So I think that if people haven't listened to it because theory might be kind of a snooze for them or they don't think they'll truly get it, Kyle is one of the best theorists that we have right now. Sorry, Kyle, you are. I don't care how many times that you say that you're not. So I think that's a great episode. What are your thoughts on some of these episodes?



Jenn Tostlebe 10:06

I mean, I think you've hit really, so far going through the current ones, you've hit some of the most important things, I think, to talk about. I mean, I agree with the theory episode, that that's not necessarily general public friendly. And that's one of our goals for this episode. But again, like Jose mentioned, you know, don't be scared of the topic, it is really interesting to listen to. And, again, most people, as you walk through your daily lives, you have some kind of idea or motivation for what you do. And so that just kind of gets that how criminology uses those previous ideas. Let's see, as far as the applying to and choosing a Ph. D. program episode, which you've mentioned, Jose, that one is a fantastic episode for anyone who's even considering graduate school. We go through the entire process from kind of start to finish, from even thinking about applying to a Ph D program, all the way through applying, to being admitted to PhD programs, and choosing between, I don't know what Jose, were they accepted to like seven, eight programs, each, something like that.



Jose Sanchez 11:21

Yeah, it was something like that.



Jenn Tostlebe 11:23

And then, you know, the actual open house part where you go and visit the schools. Our other graduate students episode is one with Hannah Lyden, who is a year below Jose and our program, but it's on kind of the first year experience. So from her perspective, how the first year went and it touches on topics that a lot of people don't necessarily talk about in a public forum, like actually thinking about dropping out of the program or switching schools, I guess, is probably more what she was talking about.



Jose Sanchez 11:56

Yeah, she was more of a transfer. And also want to add that the grad student episodes, they shouldn't just be seen for grad students. I think if you, if people want to sort of get an insight as to what it's like to be PhD students, these are great. Or if they know someone that's thinking about going to grad school, these can be a good resource. And that's ultimately what we want them to be, right, a resource for people. And then for Ashley and Kaelyn's episode, that was basically a solo episode for Jenn. I showed up towards the end. And to be honest, I kind of secretly wished that I hadn't actually hopped on when I did.



Jenn Tostlebe 12:44

That episode was like terrifying to do, because it wasn't until, like 20 minutes before we were supposed to start that you were officially like, Okay, I'm definitely not going to make it. Like that's not going to happen. And for those of you haven't listened to the episode, that's because Jose was actually on his way home from the hospital with his newborn son. And so I ended up taking the reins for that and, it's a little bit intimidating, doing something by yourself when you're used to having someone along with you for the ride.



Jose Sanchez 13:20

Yeah, so we were really touch and go with the episode for like, 48 hours, I think we were texting back and forth. And we, so my kid ended up being three weeks early. So the plan was for me to be here, or to be there for the entire episode. But you know, one thing that I've learned is Leo marches to the beat of his own drum. So and then, of course, we got to talk about the spider.



Jenn Tostlebe 13:52

Yes! So like, what mid or toward the end of the episode with Ashley and Kaelyn. Ashley actually had a spider fall from the ceiling, like onto her head. And so that was fun to kind of watch in the video. I'm sure it wasn't fun for you, Ashley. I would have been screaming.



Jenn Tostlebe 14:16

But yeah, then we have, three more episodes from this one. Jose, do want to talk about the last three from fall 2020.



Jose Sanchez 14:25

Yeah, so we have our, I believe he's the only student spotlight episode and that's Brad Silberzahn at UT Austin. We talked to him about some of his research experience and data collection with the Sapphire study, which I can't remember what that stands for. But it's in his episode somewhere.



Jenn Tostlebe 14:50

It's on sex workers and policing. Those are some of the letters.



Jose Sanchez 14:56

Yeah. And so that's great work that that's being done. And that's another thing that we're trying to do is spotlight the great work that students are doing. Because, you know, we can do pretty solid stuff.



Jenn Tostlebe 15:17

I hope so. We're learning.



Jose Sanchez 15:21

And then our last two episodes that were released, one was by Holly Nyugen, also at Penn State. And she talks about illegal earnings, cooffending, and criminal capital. And I think that's an interesting episode, even though it's sort of a methods paper that we talked about. The topic itself is pretty interesting. Before we talk to her, I never really bothered to think about crime as work, which is the framework that she uses. And, and some of this discussion that we had that just because you're making money illegally doesn't necessarily mean you're not gonna have a job, either. And so it could just be like your side hustle. So I think that's a really interesting episode. And then there's Callie's episode, Callie Burt at Georgia State. She is just a rock star. We cover so much ground in this episode, she sent us a book chapter that was just this behemoth of information.



Jenn Tostlebe 16:29

Jam packed. Yeah.



Jose Sanchez 16:31

And this is also an episode that's pretty theoretical, in some ways, but I think it's theoretical in a very approachable way, as well. And this is also our longest episode, and it will probably be our longest episode.



Jenn Tostlebe 16:51

No promises.



Jose Sanchez 16:53

We'll try. So we've tried to keep our episodes as close to an hour as possible. But with Callie, we just covered so much ground that I think it creeps up to close to two hours.



Jose Sanchez 17:06

So something that we're gonna do. And this was sort of inspired by Callie's episode is for episodes like hers, where we covers different areas in one episode, we're going to start including timestamps as to when we switch topics, just in case, people are more interested in one topic than another, or just so that they kind of know how they can split up the episode. And so we'll be doing that moving forward as well.



Jenn Tostlebe 17:39

So should we move forward to spring 2021?



Jose Sanchez 17:43

Let's do it.



Jenn Tostlebe 17:45

Alright, so first off, just as we thanked all of our listeners earlier on, we also want to thank everyone that we've received feedback from regarding our fall 2020 episodes. Just do kind of a shout out to our families and friends, as well as our advisor, David Pyrooz. Based on this feedback, we're making kind of a variety of tweaks, one of which is, as Jose mentioned, starting to include timestamps, as well, as you know, adding more variety of schools into the mix, doing more elaboration on what the specific wording we're using is

called but not necessarily trying to dumb down what we're talking about, just making sure the words we're using, like spuriousness, are understood by everyone. So that is some of the things. But as always, we're constantly looking for feedback. So please always let us know what you're thinking about our episodes on Twitter or our website, thecriminologyacademy.com or via commenting mechanisms on podcast players. Anyway, regardless of all of that, what do we have in store for our listeners in spring 2021, Jose?



Jose Sanchez 19:02

So Fall 2020 had 8 episodes. Spring 21 is going to bring you 11 episodes. Again, we will be releasing them once every two weeks, beginning on January 4. So like I said, the month of December and going into January, we're sort of cramming a couple episodes together, just because we thought we'd be festive and give you the gift of The Criminology Academy. But after January 4, we'll be back on a regular schedule of releasing an episode every two weeks. We're still scheduling podcast episode recordings. But we have, again a pretty good representation of universities. We have Arizona State University, Cleveland State University, the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy, of course, we have CU Boulder. That one's always going to be represented because Jenn and I are from CU Boulder. Well, it'll be represented up until we leave CU Boulder.



Jenn Tostlebe 20:12

But we also have other guests from CU Boulder coming up.



Jose Sanchez 20:16

Correct. We have the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, University of Texas at Austin, Temple University. And like Jenn mentioned, we're trying to diversify this list as much as we possibly can. And so, Jenn, why don't you hit us with some of the topics that we're going to be covering in the spring.



Jenn Tostlebe 20:42

Yeah, so some of the topics we have coming up organized crime in the Italian Mafia, which will be by Cecilia Meneghini.



Jose Sanchez 20:51

And that was actually the very first episode recorded. It might be kind of obvious when you listen to it, that it was recorded pretty early on, but it's not getting released until now. Sorry, Cecilia. But we thought that this would be a much better placing for this episode.



Jenn Tostlebe 21:13

Yes, and that is again, one of our graduate student research episodes. We have two or three graduate student research episodes coming up for spring 2021. And we will be talking with Megan Novisky on secondary violence exposure in prison. And some of our graduate student episodes will be becoming a parent in graduate school with Kendra Clark, and co advising with Tara Streng Schroeter, as well as a comprehensive examination and qualifying paper episode. And we're also going to be talking with Tara about sexual victimization and Title IX. Our first ever reflection episode will be with Scott Decker on success and failure as well as his career as a gang scholar. Jose hits him with a few difficult questions about gangs and gang memberships. So good for you for giving him some head scratchers, Jose.



Jose Sanchez 22:20

That's what we're here for.



Jenn Tostlebe 22:22

Yes. And then let's see. Gangs, gang membership, and self control theory with our advisor, David Pyrooz. And then the last one we currently have on the books is on legitimacy, opportunities, and compliance with the law with Juwan Bennett.



Jose Sanchez 22:42

So we're covering a great deal of topics. And for the becoming a parent episode, we haven't completely decided on it, but we may tack on a little extra to that one. Now, since when that episode gets released, I'll have been a parent for a few months. So I may add a little self reflection to it. We'll see how tired I am.



Jenn Tostlebe 23:12

Well, I mean, in the episode, Jose, you do talk about kind of the planning process from the male's perspective as a graduate student, because let's see, that was in a couple of

months before Leo was born, right? But not too much.



Jose Sanchez 23:29

It might have been about a month or so. And becoming a parent, there's nothing that can prepare you for that. So that'll be an interesting episode. And especially now that Yeah, I have my own kid now. Who's quite the handful. He's a stubborn little kid.



Jenn Tostlebe 23:52

Alright, so that's kind of our looking forward to the future. And again, we're so incredibly thankful to all of our listeners and supporters. We hope that we are accomplishing the goals that we're setting out to do, which is providing this evidence based look into the field of criminology and criminal justice. And doing that from more of a general public perspective, as well as providing insight for those of you who are interested in graduate school and learning more about the process, whether you're actually on the journey or perspective or you're just a family member or a friend who is curious what the person in their life is going through.



Jose Sanchez 24:34

Yeah, and so finally, as a reminder, the first episode of the spring 2021 semester comes out in three days on January 4, 2021. The Criminology Academy is available wherever you listen to podcasts, including Spotify, Apple podcasts, IHeart Radio, Google Podcasts, and Castbox, among others. Make sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @thecrimacademy. If you're on Apple podcast please rate, review, and subscribe. Alternatively, everyone else please let us know what you think of the episodes by leaving us a comment on our website thecriminologyacademy.com or one of our social media sites. And lastly share The Criminology Academy episodes with your friends and family. Thank you for listening. We wish you a Happy 2021 and before we close out I also want to thank my co-host who is the McGonagall to my Dumbledore.



Jenn Tostlebe 25:33

I love that! Yes, thank you to you too, Jose. I can't talk your your McGonagall to Dumbledore.



Jenn Tostlebe 25:43

All right, everyone.



Jose Sanchez 25:44

Cheers.