CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue of Criminal Justice and Behavior on
“Risk Assessment in Judicial Decision Making”

Guest Edited by Dr. Jody Sundt (Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis)

Given the recent controversies in the media surrounding the use of risk/needs assessment with sentencing decisions at the pre-trial/pre-sentencing stages (e.g., see recent New York Times articles "Sent to Prison by a Software Program’s Secret Algorithms" and "When a Computer Program Keeps You in Jail"), this special issue of Criminal Justice and Behavior aims to provide a forum for informing the debate.

We are compiling a special issue focused on the central arguments that are likely to be critical to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

(1) Equality vs. equity
(2) Race/gender/economic position in risk assessment
(3) Proprietary algorithms/formulae
(4) Retributive vs. utilitarian sentencing
(5) Defining "evidence-based" sentencing

Scholars outside the criminology and psychology disciplines are strongly encouraged to submit manuscripts (e.g., law, sociology, race and/or gender studies, business, political science, ethics, economics, etc.). Our goal is to create a multi-disciplinary issue on the arguments.

Submissions may be commentary pieces, but must provide strong research analysis in support of a position on at least one of the areas noted above.

The initial submission deadline is December 31, 2017. Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to either the guest editor (jsundt@iupui.edu) or editor-in-chief (emily.salisbury@unlv.edu). Authors should follow all formatting guidelines (APA Publication Manual, 6th edition) for regular manuscript submission to the journal, and should pay particular attention to ensuring statistical explanations are understandable to diverse audiences. Although it may vary by topic, we anticipate that ideal manuscripts will be 35 pages or less, including references, tables, figures, and appendices. Questions about the appropriateness of topics should be directed to Dr. Jody Sundt at jsundt@iupui.edu.