Call for Papers—Special Issue on Problem Solving Courts

Guest Editors: John Roman, NORC at the University of Chicago, and Allison Redlich, George Mason University

The Journal of Experimental Criminology invites submissions for a forthcoming special issue on Problem Solving Courts, with publication anticipated March 2019. The deadline for submission is July 31, 2018.

The traditional justice system is a complicated machine that often takes a one-size-fits-all approach in dealing with defendants. Problem solving courts (PSCs) were developed in the late 1980s to address criminogenic risks and behaviors associated with law breaking, and now exist in the criminal, civil, and family court systems in many nations. PSCs include but are not limited to Drug Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Community Courts, Veteran Courts, DUI Courts, and Domestic Violence Courts. A 2012 census counted more than 3,000 problem-solving courts in the United States.

This special issue will assemble rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental research to deepen our understanding of problem solving courts’ mechanisms and outcomes after almost thirty years of study. We invite empirical and theoretical articles, and systematic reviews of specialty courts as both systems reforms and discrete interventions. Preference will be given to empirical articles with data. Questions of interest include, but are not limited to, studies of mechanisms, interventions and outcomes; subgroup analysis; and population effects:

- What is the hypothesized causal mechanism of specialized courts (deterrence, procedural justice, treatment, etc.)? Is treatment heterogeneity part of the causal process?
- What contextual attributes of courts, geographical setting and policies are associated with client outcomes?
- For whom are PSCs more or less effective (age, gender, drug of choice, SES, etc.)?
- Do drug court effects increase or attenuate over time?
- What attributes of court-mandated substance abuse treatment are associated with client outcomes?
- What ancillary services/requirements are effective/iatrogenic?
- What are the population effects? Are PSCs diverting individuals into evidence-based treatments? Do PSCs reduce new system entrants?
- Do ex ante PSC eligibility and acceptance decisions predict ex post outcomes? Do PSCs serve a sufficient proportion of the clinically eligible population?
- What are the cost-savings at state, local, and federal levels of problem-solving courts?

The Journal of Experimental Criminology is a highly regarded journal that focuses on experimental and quasi-experimental research. It is currently ranked among the top 20 criminology & penology journals, with an impact factor of 2.170 and a 5-year impact factor of 2.899 (Journal Citation Reports®). All submissions will be subjected to the standard peer-review process, and should be prepared in accordance with Journal of Experimental Criminology policies (http://www.springer.com/criminology/journal/11292). Cover letters can be addressed to the guest editors. Further information on the issue can be obtained by contacting Dr John Roman (Roman-John@norc.org) or Dr Allison Redlich (aredlich@gmu.edu).