

**Assignment #1**

*Due to be e-mailed and Posted on Canvas Course Discussion Board by 5:00pm on Friday, January 18, 2019*

The ADS 840 “**Doctoral Seminar**” course is taken in the final semester of a PhD student’s cohort required course program. This Spring 2019 course is scheduled to meet on the following Saturdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm: **January 26; March 2; March 9; March 30; April 27.**

The purpose of this seminar is to assist students in constructing their dissertation including proposed topic selection and developing Chapter 1 (The Introduction), commencing the organization of Chapter 2 (Related Research and Literature), and designing the research to be conducted as part of the dissertation, Chapter 3 (Research Design and Methodology).

In order to begin assisting you throughout the ADS 840, “Doctoral Seminar”, I need some information about your thoughts regarding your dissertation at this stage as you are “winding down” your cohort course work.

Please complete the attached form and POST it on our Canvas Course Discussion Board Site designated for this assignment on or before 5:00pm on Friday, January 18, 2019. This first assignment will help me formulate appropriate strategies to help you complete your pre-dissertation program and will help you to organize your thoughts about your proposed topic and related research. I will evaluate the submissions based on the comprehensiveness of completing the various required questions and the clarity of your proposed study responses.

**Proposed Dissertation Form for ADS 840 Spring 2019**

**Name** Kanasha Blue **Date** January 18, 2019.

**Proposed Dissertation Topic Area:**

The impact of ex-offenders to have their criminal records sealed. A systematic review of the correlation and dynamics between criminal recording clearing and access to employment.

**Proposed Dissertation Title:**

A Mixed-Method Examination of the Impact of New York State Criminal Sealing Law on Ex-offenders.

**Why is this Proposed Dissertation Topic and Title of Interest to YOU?**

As a member of both the criminal justice and workforce development community, this writer would like to contribute to improving the lives of the underserved and under representative people impacted by the criminal justice system.

**Why Do YOU Believe You are One of the Best People in the World to Research This Topic at This Time?**

This writer's technical education is in the fields of criminal justice and public administration. This writer also has 8 years of hand on experience in the juvenile justice, criminal justice, mental health and workforce development sectors which will provide essential insight on the topic at hand.

**What Do YOU Hope to Accomplish by Researching This Topic at This Time?**

This research study has the potential to engage local, state and federal practitioners and stakeholders in creating strategies to address barriers to employment and recidivism in the criminal justice system.

**What is the Benefit to YOUR Professional Field/Community of This Proposed Dissertation?**

This research has the potential to influence policy and laws in New York State regarding the criminal record sealing. This law is less than two years old in New York State and has not yet been evaluated.

**Who are the Intended or Ultimate Users of the Findings of Your Study and SO WHAT?**

The intended audience of this study are professional with in the criminal justice and workforce development community, students, policy makers and legislators. As this law is relatively new, this research has the potential to influence the future director of criminal record in New York State.

**What is the major “overarching” question that is driving you to study this topic?**

What is the relationship between record clearing efforts such as criminal record expungement/ sealing and socioeconomic demographics express through employment income?

**Identify at Least Three Specific Research Questions, But No More Than Five, That You Hope to Answer as a Result of This Study?**

1. Record clearing intervention such as criminal record expungement/ sealing reduces social and economic hardship for ex-offenders?
2. What is the relationship between record clearing efforts such as criminal record expungement/ sealing and socioeconomic demographics express through employment income?
3. How does the lived experience of ex-offender having their criminal record sealed influences ex-offenders’ transition to the labor market?
4. What visual story are the attributes of socioeconomic status, arrest rate, employment stats and record sealing rate telling regarding the access to record clearing interventions in different geographic areas of New York State?

**What is the Research Design and Methodology That You Intend To Use For Data Collection For Your Study?**

According to Stephen Gorard, “A good intervention study...should use a variety of data collection techniques to understand whether something works, how to improve it, or why it does not work” (p.6). This is essentially a longitudinal research design utilizing the active design of interrupted time series. This type of design will use several waves of observation before and after the introduction of the criminal record sealing to New York State ex-offender population.

O1 O2 X O3 O4

Once the data is collected it will drive the research methodology of quantitative, qualitative or mixed method.

### **How Do You Intend to Collect the Requisite Data for This Study?**

Following the exploratory sequential approach of collecting qualitative data first from open-ended interview questions, followed by a quantitative phase to supplement and aid in better measurement, interpret and generalizability.

### **How Do You Plan to Analyze the Collected Data Related to This Study?**

**Themes, codes and yield quotes are gathered from the qualitative data, then those groups are used to develop the instrument used in the quantitative section of the analysis. The quantitative phase will be analyze using computerized analytical software such as SPSS.**

### **What is Your Conceptual Framework for This Dissertation Study?**

The conceptual framework of this dissertation will be advocacy / participatory as the issue at hand is sociopolitical but geared toward the empowerment of marginalized participants. Advocacy/ Participatory frameworks are fitting as the research is change-oriented to advance a live improvement or life changing agenda. The underlying philosophical assumption that can be paired with the theoretical perspective is disability inquiry.

**Please Attach a *Reference Matrix* identifying at least 9 but no more than 12 Key Related Research and Literature Studies That You Plan to Use in Your Dissertation. Include the Following as Columns: A. Author(s) Name, Date; B. Titles, Publisher; C. Research Design/Methodology; D. Findings; E. Significance to YOUR Study; F. Other?**

### **What are the Limitations of Your Proposed Dissertation Study?**

The newness of the law being evaluated and the researcher inexperience.

### **What are the Delimitations of Your Proposed Dissertation Study?**

A delimitation of the proposed study that the researcher can control includes with New York State County the selected population is from based on the gatekeeping organization that is selected.

**Identify at Least Three “Specific Good Ideas” or “Helpful Suggestions” That You Gained From the December 8, 2018 PhD Research Symposium (cite: presenter, topic, key research concepts) that are Influencing your “Dissertation Thinking” at This Time and State WHY?**

1. Dr. Veres - The framework of hermeneutic phenomenology will be the approach used in the book Dr. Veres is writing. Hermeneutic phenomenology focuses on the interpretation of the lived experience of the participants. This writer will also be using the lived experience of the participant in the proposed research study. Dr. Veres discussed semi-structured interview questions that are also descriptive and opinion based. These are great concepts for this writer to consider during the planning phase of the dissertation process.
2. Dr. Marwaha – The biggest take away from Dr. Marwaha's presentation was the creation of the instrument. It was exciting to see and hear the evolution of the instrument which our cohort provided feedback for. The grouping of the questions was the biggest take away for this writer as there were questions evaluating personal attitude, personal experience and reflection. These three categories may be beneficial during this writer's instrument development.
3. Dr. Riegel's presentation was powerful as it was a complete look at what the dissertation presentation should look like. The biggest take away from Dr. Riegel's presentation was the “so what.” Informing the readers of why this research is important. Dr. Riegel said the conclusion is the most important part of the study as it reinforces the so what. Not only was the presentation powerful but her reassurance and encouragement to not give up, get discouraged or let the hurdles of life stop us.

**USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE RESPONSES.**

Author/Date	Title/Publisher	Research Design/Methodology	Findings	Significance
Bushway, S. (2004)	Labor Market Effects of Permitting employer access to criminal history records. / <i>Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice</i> ,	Literature review	Evidence that employers do not want to hire ex-offenders	Impact of statistical discrimination on the labor market
<a href="#">Joyce A. Arditti</a> & <a href="#">Tiffany Parkman</a> 09 March 2011	Young Men's Reentry After Incarceration: A Developmental Paradox/ <i>Family Relations</i>	Phenomenological analysis	9 in-depth, semi-structured interviews with formerly incarcerated men between the age of 18 and 24.	Employment was essential for young men's ability to become independent, it was out of reach for most of the study participants due to their criminal justice involvement
Collins, R. D., & Shapiro, J. (n.d)	Report and recommendations of the criminal justice section sealing/expungement committee regarding sealing of certain crimes in New York state./ <i>New York State Bar Association</i>	Literature review	Background and history of "Expungement of record" vs "sealing of record. Recommendation for the proposed New York State record sealing law. Comparison between New Jersey and recommended NYS law	Definition of legal terms, different between expungement and sealing of a record in New York State. Analysis of the Bills
Dimiter M. Dimitrov and Phillip D. Rumrill, Jr. 2003	Pretest-posttest designs and measurement of Change. / <i>Work</i>	Quantitative	Examines issues involved in comparing groups and measuring change with pretest and post-test data. Different pretest-post-test designs are presented in a manner that can help rehabilitation professionals to better understand and determine effects resulting from selected interventions	Example of active design of interrupted time series for rehabilitation professionals data

American Psychological Association October 2014	Incarceration nation/ <i>American Psychological Association</i>	Literature review	The United States leads the world in incarceration. A new report explores why — and offers recommendations for fixing the system. 5 percent of the world's population, it has nearly 25 percent of its prisoners — about 2.2 million people	The impact of incarceration in American. Impact of prison on education, employment, and socioeconomic status.
Ispa-Landa, S., & Loeffler, C. 2016	Indefinite punishment and the criminal record: Stigma reports among expungement-seekers in Illinois <i>American Society of Criminology</i>	Qualitative	interview data from a comparative study of expungement-seekers (N=53) who have petitioned the courts to remove their criminal records from public view. Subjects but failed, to persuade potential employers and landlords to overlook the criminal record. Groups expressed distress that criminal justice contact could follow them throughout their lives, subjecting them to ongoing stigma.	Discussion of implications for reintegration theory and policy and the labeling and stigma associated with a criminal record.
Shadd Maruna 2011	Judicial Rehabilitation and the 'Clean Bill of Health' in Criminal Justice/ <i>European Journal of Probation</i>	Literature review/ Case Study	The focus of rehabilitation is to remove and relieve ex-prisoner stigma as on treatment and reform efforts. Decade or more of 'crime-free' behaviour before forgiving an individual for his or her crimes are just and fair	Impact of the sigma of a criminal record, important of why a record should be seal. Is 10 years too long before a record can be sealed?
Helene Starks Susan Brown Trinidad December 1, 2007	Choose Your Method: A Comparison of Phenomenology, Discourse Analysis, and Grounded Theory/ <i>Qualitative Health Research</i>	Qualitative	Compare three qualitative approaches that can be used in social science research: phenomenology, discourse analysis, and grounded theory	Example of phenological research and the importance of understanding the lived experience of the subjects.
Raphael, Steven. 2006	Should criminal history records be universally available. <i>Criminology and Public Policy</i>	Case Study	Employers are strongly averse to hiring ex-offenders. criminal history records represent an increasingly important barrier to employment for young, less-skilled men. Moreover, given racial disparities in incarceration	Impact of criminal history/record on labor market outcome and employment earnings.

			rates, the increasing salience of this characteristic is likely to exacerbate racial inequality in employment and earnings	
Michael A. Stoll 2009	Ex-offenders, criminal background checks, and racial consequences in the labor market./ <i>University of Chicago Legal Forum</i>	Quantitative	policy aims to enhance employability of ex-offenders, to lessen recidivism, and increase successful integration, should limiting the use of criminal background checks during the employment process.	Level of harm cause by the background check during the hiring process, impact on labor market relations. Statistically Discrimination is background checks are no available.
Visher, C. A.; Debus-Sherrill, S. A.; Yahner, J. (2011)	Employment after prison: longitudinal study of former prisoners./ <i>Justice Quarterly</i>	Qualitative longitudinal study	Finding sustained employment is an important component of the transition from prison to the community for exiting prisoners.	Reports from former prisoners indicate that most individuals experience great difficulties finding jobs after their release. Reinforce gap in research



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Keywords: Treatment effects, pretest-posttest designs, measurement of change

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