09. Sociology

Northeastern State University
Abstracts from the 2016 Oklahoma Research Day
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04. Liberal Arts

09. Sociology

04.09.01 Life in Oklahoma as an Exchange Student

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This research concerns the experiences of university students from South Korea as exchange students at SWOSU for a year. After spending some time as exchange students in Oklahoma, these students realized some important differences between life in Weatherford, Oklahoma and life in Busan, Korea. The research team decided to analyze and share their observations regarding everyday details that affect the exchange-student experience. Using qualitative research methodology with data collected in journals and photos, this study focuses upon what these students have discovered during one year as foreign national college students, particularly in three categories: school life, cultural challenges, and language challenges. Although this research is based on the experiences of exchange students from Korea in Oklahoma, its generalizable knowledge can be useful for students, faculty, administrators, as well as members of communities that host foreign exchange students. The researchers hope that this study helps colleges and universities to expand their programs globally.
Improving Responses for Drug Endangered Children from the Mouths of Babes

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Drug endangered children (DEC) are amongst the most vulnerable victims of the drug problem. They are often overlooked in policy responses and criminological research. While there is a growing body of research documenting the impact of drug exposure and associated risks, less is known about children's perceptions of their situations and how best to respond. This study uses forensic observation data from children following removal from a drug home to understand how to improve policies and responses. Secondary medical observation data from over 150 children removed from methamphetamine homes between 2001 and 2015 were examined. Children were at risk of trauma due to criminal and drug-related activities in the home, separation from caregivers, and experiences during police encounters. There is a need to develop stronger policies and practices in the following areas: exposure to the hazards of drug manufacturing, minimize the influence of drug activity and knowledge, enhance short- and long-term health and well-being, and minimize negative police encounters. An overview of the types of policies that are warranted will be presented.

The Methodological Challenges of Studying the Global Methamphetamine Problem

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Increases in technology and communications that have accompanied globalization facilitate the abilities of criminal groups and networks at various levels to engage in illicit activities. In response to control efforts, offenders continually revisit methods of doing business and develop strategies aimed at evading detection. The difficulties inherent in tracking and monitoring ever-changing illicit activities continue to grow in the global environment. This research reviews the challenges associated with studying global crime problems by focusing on the case of methamphetamine production and trafficking. Data from numerous secondary sources were reviewed. Methamphetamine is increasingly becoming an issue in regions around the world. However, serious data limitations restrict efforts to study this problem from a multinational perspective. Through the ongoing evolution and adaption of their behaviors, offenders often managing to stay a step ahead of efforts to track and enforce their illicit activities. The implications of data limitations for monitoring such global illicit activities and the ongoing adaptations of offenders will be presented.
The effects of school bullying, and social support on stress among Asian adoptees in trans-racial families

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Although there are numerous research studies on post adoption services to improve the wellbeing of adopted children and their adoptive families, there is scarce research on school adjustment of adopted children. To address this gap, the current study examined the link between the experience of school bullying and psychological stress among Asian children adopted into U.S. adoptive families. In addition, it examined the role of social support in moderation of the association between the experience of being bullied and stress. One hundred sixty one questionnaire packets were mailed and 31 (19%) were completed. Participants were male (n=10) and female (n=21) students ranging from 9-16 years old (M=13, SD=1.61). Data analysis utilizing the independent t-test and ANOVA indicated that peer intervention [t(29) = 4.52, p < .001] and adult or teacher intervention [F(2,28) = 8.795, p < .001] could be a moderating factor to lower stress levels among Asian adoptees. The findings indicate that there is a positive relationship between teacher or peer support of intervening in a bullying situation by reducing the stress level within the Asian adoptee being bullied. The findings provide further validation of the need of intervention programs and/or training to educate teachers and students to prevent bullying issues among Asian adoptees in trans-racial families.