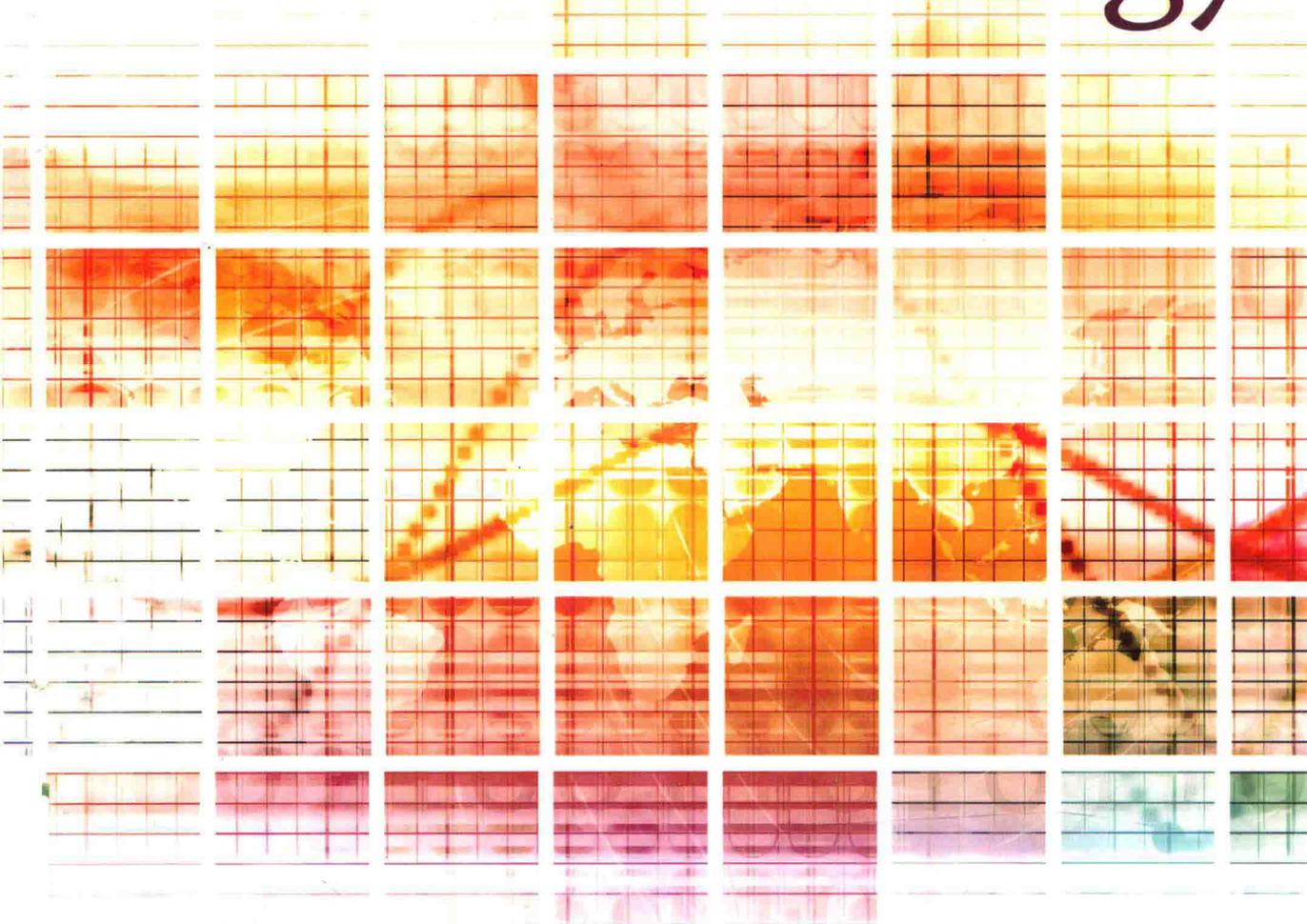


*Ninth Edition*

# Research Methods *in* Criminal Justice *and* Criminology



*Frank E. Hagan*

*Ninth Edition*

# RESEARCH METHODS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY

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# PREFACE

The first edition of *Research Methods in Criminal Justice and Criminology* was prepared in the early 1980s, when no comprehensive research text existed that directly addressed the areas of criminal justice and criminology.

The text remains a comprehensive one, emphasizing sources and resources of classic and contemporary research in the field. There continues to be an acceleration of publications in the field, employing increasingly sophisticated and esoteric research designs and statistical analysis. The intent of the ninth edition remains the same as the first eight: to reduce the gap that exists between the types of materials appearing in professional journals and publications in the field and the ability of students and professionals to understand them. The approach is to use criminological and criminal justice studies to illustrate research methods, because it is as important to become familiar with examples of research in the field as it is to learn fundamental research skills.

This edition features revisions throughout, while retaining a vital core of material from the first eight editions. The organization of the work will carry the student through the sequence of the research process. Instructors may wish to shuffle the order of the chapters, however, to suit their syllabus or research style.

The first chapter introduces the reader to the area of criminological and criminal justice research while attacking commonsense approaches to research. Chapter 1 also outlines the steps in research elaborated on in Chapters 3 through 11. Following the issue of problem formulation in the first chapter, Chapter 2 examines the important issue of research ethics. Research designs and the experimental model, the latter being a benchmark with which to compare all other research in criminal justice, are detailed in Chapter 3.

In Chapter 4, the Uniform Crime Reports and its major revisions are examined, as are the various sampling strategies used in research. Chapter 5 looks at survey research, particularly mail questionnaires and self-report studies. Chapter 6 concentrates on interviews and telephone surveys, particularly recent developments in victim surveys. Also featured are Internet surveys. Participant observation and case studies are the subject of Chapter 7. Such field studies represent some of the most fascinating literature in the field.

Chapter 8 explores the interesting world of nonreactive or unobtrusive techniques, which include criminal justice and criminological applications, involving secondary and content analysis, physical trace analysis, the use of official data, and observational strategies—all of which are useful, cost-effective means of gathering data. Alternative means of data gathering such as surveys, field studies, and unobtrusive methods often contain strengths missing in experimental research. The important issues of validity and reliability are detailed in Chapter 9; the triangulated strategies are proposed as the single most logical path by which to resolve these questions. In all of these chapters, examples of both classic and contemporary research in criminal justice and criminology are used as illustrations. In addition to providing an overview of research methods, this text also presents a review and analysis of research literature.

Chapter 10 discusses scaling and index construction and features new and expanded coverage of crime severity scales, salient factor scores, and prediction scales.

Chapter 11 discusses evaluation research and policy analysis that reflects the growing interest of the social sciences in these subjects in the past few years.

Data analysis is the subject of Chapters 12 and 13, with Chapter 12 examining data management activities such as coding, keyboard entry, and table reading and Chapter 13 providing a user's guide to statistics. The latter is intended as a quick reference guide to many of the major statistical techniques presented in the literature. It is hoped that the style of presentation will convert many readers who may begin the course with apprehension into relatively fluent users of "researchese," a valuable and useful international language.

In addition to updating tables, figures, references, and examples, some principle changes have been made in this edition in response to reviewer and user suggestions. Useful Web sites have been provided in all chapters. New to this edition is discussion of Zimbardo's "Lucifer effect," controversies related to the Human Terrain System and Minerva Consortium, advice on interviewing active offenders and gaining entry to correctional facilities, Steffensmeier and Ulmer's *Confessions of a Dying Thief*, and discussion of the violent and property crime indexes. Also featured are Sherman's Scientific Methods Scale, visual criminology, the Scarlet M in corrections research, resolution of the Iowa "Monster study," the current status of shield laws, and telephone focus groups.

## NEW TO THIS EDITION

- Discussion of the "Guatemalan Syphilis Study" in which the U.S. Public Health Service infected uninformed subjects with syphilis.
- "Belfast Project" in which the U.S. federal government pressured Boston College to release confidential information on IRA interviewees who had been assured confidentiality. The request was made on behalf of the British government.
- CrimeSolutions.gov presents the latest attempt to catalog what works in criminal justice programs.
- The "crime dip" is reexamined in light of charges of data manipulation on the part of the NYPD.
- A thorough update of all references, tables, and figures.

I would like to thank the many people who assisted me in various ways in writing the editions of this text. I would like to express my appreciation to those at Pearson Prentice Hall for their encouragement and assistance on this project. Gary Bauer, Executive Editor; Jessica Sykes; and Sneha Pant at Premedia Global, Project Manager; Tiffany Bitzel, Assistant Editor; Elisa Rogers, Development Editor, were all instrumental in getting this project done. I would also like to thank past reviewers, Howard Abadinsky, John Hudzik, and John Smykla for their helpful reviews of the first edition, as well as James A. Adamitis, the University of Dayton; Rosy A. Ekpenyong, Michigan State University; Randy Martin, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Robert J. Mutchnick, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Shirley R. Salem, Southern University at New Orleans; and Frank Schmallerger, Ph.D., Editor of *The Justice Professional*, for their many fine suggestions for the second edition. For their reviews of, suggestions for, and comments concerning the third edition, I would like to thank Pamela Tontodonato, Kent State University; Laure Weber Brooks, University of Maryland; James A. Adamitis, the University of Dayton; William E. Thornton, Loyola University; and Malcolm D. Holmes,

University of Texas at El Paso. Mike Blankenship, Sean Gabiddon, Peter Benekos, and my colleagues in the Criminal Justice Department are acknowledged, as are reviewers for the fifth edition: Wanda Foglia, Rowan University of New Jersey; William E. Thornton, Loyola University; Obie Clayton, Morehouse Research Institute; Shirley Williams, Jersey City State College; and Art Jipsom, Miami University. Reviewers for the sixth edition included Shaun Gabbidon, Penn State-Harrisburg; Ray Newman, Polk Community College; John E. Eck, University of Cincinnati; Angela West, University of Louisville; and Robert Costello, Nassau Community College. The seventh edition benefited from the reviews of Allan Y. Jiao, Rowan University; Stephen D. Kaftan, Hawkeye Community College; Sudipto Roy, Indiana State University; Shaun Gabbidon, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg; Lisa L. Sample, University of Nebraska, Omaha; Minerva Sanchez, Sam Houston State University; Amir B. Marvasti, Pennsylvania State University; Altoona, Debra E. Ross, Grand Valley State University; and Elizabeth L. Grossi, University of Louisville. Appreciation is extended to the reviewers of this edition: Desire Anastasia, San Diego State University; Jason Crow, California State University, Fresno; Carlos E. Posadas, New Mexico State University; Chad Trulson, University of North Texas; Jeffrey A. Walsh, Illinois State University; Sharon Barton-Bellessa, Indiana State University; Mark Leymon, Illinois State University; Mary Ann Zager, Florida Gulf Coast University; Nathan Moran, Midwestern State University; Richard Inscore, Charleston Southern University; Brent Shea, Sweet Briar College. Thanks is also extended to Vidisha Barua, Pennsylvania State University, Altoona; Dan Phillips, Lindsey Wilson College; Thorvald Dahle, North Dakota State University; and Robin Lorentzen, College of Idaho. I also once again express my gratitude to Marie Haug and Marvin Sussman for providing my early training in research. Although much of what is good about this book is due to the many fine suggestions of the reviewers, the author is solely responsible for any shortcomings.

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, MaryAnn, whose continuing support, editing, data entry, and encouragement made completion of this new edition possible. I would like to dedicate this edition to MaryAnn. I would like to encourage students as well as faculty to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions via e-mail: [fhagan@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:fhagan@mercyhurst.edu).

F.E.H.

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