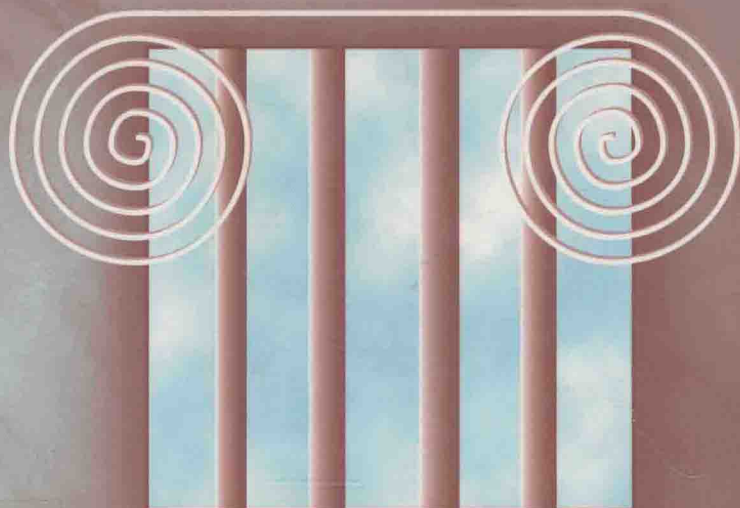


RESEARCH  
METHODS  
In  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE  
And  
CRIMINOLOGY



FOURTH EDITION

FRANK E. HAGAN

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

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**Fourth Edition**

**Frank E. Hagan**

*Mercyhurst College*

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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 more sophisticated and esoteric research designs and statistical analysis. The intent of the fourth edition remains the same as the first three: 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 major revisions throughout, while retaining a vital core of material from the first three 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, is detailed in Chapter 3. The third chapter includes an expanded treatment of time-series designs, a subject of major importance in recent research.

In Chapter 4, alternative data-gathering strategies are introduced, and the *Uniform Crime Reports* and its recent major revision are examined. Chapter 5 looks at sampling strategies as well as survey research, particularly mail questionnaires and self-report studies. Chapter 6 concentrates on interviews and telephone surveys, particularly recent developments in victim 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.

Data analysis is the subject of Chapters 11 and 12, with Chapter 11 examining data management activities such as coding, keyboard entry, and table reading and Chapter 12 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. Although the primary goal of this chapter is to provide the reader with the ability to recognize and interpret the meaning of statistics, "pop quizzes" and additional appendixes have been added to assist in improved comprehension. Chapter 13 discusses evaluation research and proposal writing and features a section on policy analysis that reflects the growing interest of the social sciences in this subject in the past few years.

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. A number of exhibits have been added to illustrate or provide more detail on research issues. These include: Merton's "Matthew Effect" in Science, feminist research methods, PAVNET online, the Kansas City Gun Experiment, Child Abuse Victims and Violence, the Project on Human Development, Shock Incarceration, the National Incident-Based Recording System, Flaws in Public Opinion Polls, the Redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey, American Skinheads, Studies of Gangs, the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, and The Drug Use Forecasting Program update. In addition, updates on the Revised Uniform Crime Reports, Computers and Software in Research, and CART (Continuous Audience Response Technology) in Focus Groups have been included. Also featured is an all-new SPSS-PC Appendix, which was revised by Laure Weber Brooks (University of Maryland).

I would like to thank the many people who assisted me in various ways in writing the editions of this text. Senior Editor Karen Hanson was very helpful and encouraging in getting this fourth edition underway. I would also like to thank editorial assistant, Jennifer Jacobsen for her help as well

as Kelly Bechen and Lora Kalb at Shepherd, Inc. for their patient copyediting. To Tim Jacoby and Jack Mayleben who encouraged me to undertake the first edition, I remain indebted. To Chris Cardone, I particularly owe a debt for her encouragement and counsel throughout the second and third editions. I would also like to thank 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 Schmalleger, 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, William McDonald, Gary Sykes, and William Wilbanks are acknowledged for their encouragement and/or for providing materials, as are Peter Benekos, Shirley Williams, and my colleagues in the Criminal Justice Department. 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, typing, and encouragement made completion of this new edition possible. It is to MaryAnn and our daughter Shannon that I dedicate this work.

I would like to encourage students as well as faculty to contact me with any questions, comments, or suggestions via e-mail: [hagan@paradise.mercy.edu](mailto:hagan@paradise.mercy.edu).

F.E.H.

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