

Building a criminal justice pedagogy in public health

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Overview

- Need
- Opportunity
- Content
- Approach

Need: Criminal justice has a conundrum

- **“We can’t arrest our way out of this...”**
 - **Social determinants context**
 - eg, housing, employment, education
 - **Inequalities and inequities**
 - Race
 - Class

Need: Criminal justice has a conundrum

- **Peculiar context of the United States**
 - **Mass incarceration**
 - National incarceration rate
 - Jails over capacity
 - **Overdose and mental illness**
 - These are health problems
 - Tools...
 - **Inequalities and inequities**
 - Race
 - Class

Need: Criminal justice has a conundrum

- **Paucity of public health scholarship**
 - **Critical perspectives predominantly based in human / civil rights**
 - Public health offers practical interventions
 - Public health is grounded in science, rationality
 - **Inequalities and inequities**
 - Race
 - Class

Opportunity: Public health has tools and perspective

- **Framework**

- **Population level**

- Groups vs individuals

- **Upstream focus**

- **Prevention**

- Precedes the problem of exposure / illness / death

- **Epidemiology and analytics**

- **Problem distribution and relationships**

- Risk, odds
 - Predictive

Opportunity: Public health is a trans-sectoral discipline

- **Not limited to any sector or practice silo, eg,**
 - Health and healthcare
 - Social
 - Occupational
 - Environmental
- **MPH core competencies reflect broad applications, are sector-agnostic, eg,**
 - Apply epidemiological methods to the breadth of settings and situations in public health practice
 - Compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across national and international settings
 - Discuss the means by which structural bias, social inequities and racism undermine health and create challenges to achieving health equity at organizational, community and societal levels
 - Propose strategies to identify stakeholders and build coalitions and partnerships for influencing public health outcomes
 - Advocate for political, social or economic policies and programs that will improve health in diverse populations

Opportunity: Public health allies itself with social movements

Including -

- Mass incarceration inequity
- Place-based inequity
- Racial inequity
- Police violence

So, why not -

- Criminal justice reform / redesign / transformation / collaboration

Content: What is a criminal justice pedagogy in public health?

- Criminology theories underpinning historical development of cj
- Race and class
- Mental health and the asylum
- Drug use and drugs policy
- Public health interventions in the cj system
- Special populations, ie, women, youth, LGBT, immigrants
- Critical criminal justice, eg, restorative justice, decriminalization, abolition

Content: What is a criminal justice pedagogy in public health?

SEMESTER	CLASS 1	CLASS 2
First	History and theoretical development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early 19th c → Early 21st c• Compare and contrast	Drug use, mental health, and the criminal justice system <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race and class• Asylum• Drug use criminalization
Second	Health at the criminal justice intercepts Arrest / Courts / Detention / Re-entry / Community corrections	Special populations in criminal justice <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women• Youth• LGBT• Immigrants
Third	Critical perspectives on criminal justice, eg, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restorative justice• Decriminalization• Abolition	Practicum

Approach: Next steps to offer the specialization – cj in ph

- **Fall 2020**
 - Launch 4-course certificate – post-graduate, non-matriculated
- **Fall 2021**
 - Launch 6-course specialization – post-graduate, matriculated and non-matriculated
- **Future... ?**
 - Undergraduate specialization

THANK YOU

Questions, comments, ideas, feedback...

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