Editor's Final Introduction

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This is my final Introduction as Editor-in-Chief of *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*. In January 2021, I was informed that the Executive Board of the Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice (DCCSJ) of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) would issue a call for my replacement, as my three-year term, which began on January 1, 2019, would come to an end on December 31, 2021.

I began my first Introduction as Editor-in-Chief of *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* with an observation, a confession and an expression of hope (Brisman 2019). My final Introduction consists of two notes and a confession.

A Note

First, a note about what I had hoped to achieve on the grand scheme of things. I wanted to build on the excellent work of my predecessor, David Kauzlarich, especially with respect to providing support for the queer criminological project. In March 2014, David published “Queer/ing Criminology: New Directions and Frameworks” (Volume 22, Issue #1), a special issue organized by Matthew Ball, Carrie L. Buist and Jordan Blair Woods, which signaled that *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* would be a welcome home for articles highlighting the criminalization, rejection and stigmatization of the LGBTQ+ population. I would like to think that we, the journal, have continued this important endeavor, such as with the articles in Rita Shah’s special issue, “Centering the Margins: Addressing the Implementation Gap of Critical Criminology” (Volume 29, Issue #1, March 2021) (i.e., DeJong et al. 2021; Troshynski and Bejinariu 2021; Walker et al. 2021), as well as with the first three articles in the current issue: “Building an Intersectional and Trans-Inclusive Criminology: Responding to the Emergence of ‘Gender Critical’ Perspectives in Feminist Criminology” (2021) by Jace Valcore, Henry F. Fradella, Xavier Guadalupe-Diaz, Matthew J. Ball, Angela Dwyer, Christina DeJong, Allyn Walker, Aimee Wodda, and Meredith G.F.

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Worthen; “Prohibiting the Queer Body: Gender Affirmation, Female Genital Cutting, and the Promise of Gender Intelligibility” (2021) by Matthew Mitchell and Juliet Rogers; and “Anatomy of Moral Panic: The ‘List of 88’ and Runaway Constructionism” (2021) by Willem de Lint and Derek Dalton.

My goal was also to extend the international appeal, reach and scope of the journal. I would like to think that we, as a journal, have furthered this pursuit, not only with Claire Hamilton and Randy K. Lippert’s special issue, “Governmental Criminology and Human Rights” (Volume 28, Issue #1, March 2020), Sarah Turnbull, Monish Bhatia, and Gemma Lousley’s special issue, “Critical Engagements with Borders, Racisms and State Violence” (Volume 28, Issue #2, June 2020), and David Rodríguez Goyes, Nigel South, Ragnhild Solund, and Salo Carvalho’s special issue, “Southern Criminologies: Methods, Theories and Indigenous Issues” (Volume 29, Issue #3, September 2021), but with the individual articles that appear in the present issue about problems and topics in Australia (Staines et al. 2021), Israel (Einat and Toys 2021), Italy (Natali et al. 2021), Romania (Mireanu 2021), and Spain (Aguerri and Jiménez-Franco 2021; Lundsteen and Fernández González 2021), as well as in the United States (US) (Evans et al. 2021; Jashnani et al. 2021; Perdue 2021; Revier 2021). The growing international flavor of *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* is also on display in the discussion about *Ecocide: Kill the Corporation Before It Kills Us* (2020) between David Whyte, the author, and five reviewers of his book from around the world—Brisman (2021) (US); Budó (2021) (Brazil); Fajardo (2021) (Spain); Samuels-Jones (2021) (Canada); and White (2021) (Australia).

In addition, I hoped to expand and improve the journal’s visibility and to broaden and deepen its influence. I believe the journal has made steps in this direction, such as with the awards won by individuals from groups other than the DCCSJ for their scholarship in *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* (e.g., Steven E. Barkan and Michael Roque’s receipt of the Outstanding Contribution Award from the Division of Biopsychosocial Criminology of the ASC for their article, “Socioeconomic Status and Racism as Fundamental Causes of Street Criminality” (2018); Monish Bhatia’s receipt of the British Society of Criminology (BSC) Hate Crime Network Article Prize (sponsored by Palgrave Macmillan) for his article, “The Permission to be Cruel: Street-Level Bureaucrats and Harms Against People Seeking Asylum” (2020)), and by mainstream media attention to some of our articles, such as Tom Taylor’s “Independent School Rhetoric and its Role in the Neoliberal Construction of Whiteness” (2021) in *The New York Times* (Powell 2021).

Another Note

Second, a note about what I had hoped to accomplish on the micro level. Here, my intention was to improve the review process and to ensure more polished published articles. Early in my tenure as Editor-in-Chief, I realized that the journal was receiving quite a few submissions on a regular basis from individuals who clearly had no knowledge of or real interest in critical criminology. A closer examination of these submissions revealed that they were often coming from people who tended to disregard our requirement that submissions not be under consideration for publication anywhere else. To address this, Christina Tuballes, our wonderful Publishing Editor at Springer Nature Group (“Springer”), and I initiated a new component in the submission process by requiring authors to submit the names, contact information, institutional affiliations, and titles of potential reviewers. This step has lowered the number of submissions of articles on topics falling outside of critical

criminology (even broadly conceived). It has also improved the likelihood of securing reviewers—no small task in a pandemic¹—while enabling authors to suggest reviewers outside of academia. Moreover, this measure has become increasingly important in reducing the journal's European- and US-centrism by enabling non-native English-speaking scholars to recommend reviewers who might be more familiar with particular concepts, ideas, language and terms from underrepresented regions of the world.

Early in my term as Editor-in-Chief, I also discovered that the journal was receiving and publishing articles using different styles of English—sometimes within the same article, if it was written by multiple authors from different parts of the world. Although I am based in the US, I am comfortable with all styles, having coauthored articles, books, and chapters with collaborators/colleagues in Australia, England and elsewhere. Nevertheless, as a journal editor, I found it quite disquieting and stressful to have switch between styles. I also found the differences to be aesthetically jarring. Thus, in consultation with Springer, I made the executive decision to demand uniform English punctuation, spelling and style (American rather than Australian, British, or Canadian).

In her defense of dictionaries in the age of Google and Wikipedia, Rachel del Valle notes that Noah Webster “saw lexicography as an act of patriotism.” Webster, according to del Valle, “believed that establishing American standards of spelling and definition was necessary to solidify the young nation’s cultural identity as separate from that of England.” My insistence on American English had nothing to do with nationalism or patriotism. Far from it. I simply wanted to ensure consistency between articles in the same issue and across volumes so that we would not have, for example, “civilising” and “criminalising” in one article and then “civilizing” and “criminalizing” in another article a few pages later. Doing so, I thought, would increase the likelihood that articles in our journal would be located, read and cited, thereby enhancing our prominence and impact factor. I also thought it would make matters less demanding for our hardworking production staff at Springer—Palani Athimoolam (Group Head, Author Correction, Journals Production), Ramya Lakshmanan (JEO Assistant, Journals Editorial Office (JEO)), and Suganya Manoharan (Production Editor)—who would be relieved of the duties of switching between styles while undertaking copy editing and preparing our articles for publication.

Consistency was also the driving force behind other changes that we implemented. One involved a shift from publishing “as is,” to use the industry vernacular, whereby authors were free to use whichever citation style they selected. In the past, this meant that some authors might employ APA style (American Psychological Association), while others might follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*. I found this dissonance unsettling and so the journal has attempted to stress to authors the need to follow the submission guidelines on the journal’s website (<https://www.springer.com/journal/10612/submission-guidelines>). While I suppose some might consider such punctiliousness to be unnecessary pedantry, I prefer to view consistency with respect to citation format as a sign of a journal’s commitment to coherence. I also thought that insisting on consistency would make it easier for Palani, Ramya and Suganya to produce our articles and for readers to locate sources alluded to or quoted by our authors. To this end, *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* has now instituted a new step in the publication process, allowing the Editor-in-Chief to review the revised proofs of articles one last time prior to publication, thereby helping to guarantee more elegant final pieces with the most up-to-date information.

¹ For reflections on editing a journal during a pandemic, see Greenberg and Winegar (2021).

A Confession

Third, a confession: there was more that I wished to accomplish. Three things, in particular: (1) to develop more of the types of reviews and exchanges (alluded to above) that appear at the end of this issue between David Whyte (2020, 2021) and five reviewers (Brisman 2021; Budó 2021; Fajardo 2021; Samuels-Jones 2021; White 2021); (2) to ensure that authors could employ gender-neutral language, identify their pronouns, and use them as they desired in their articles; and (3) to encourage and facilitate a conscious—and conscientious—dialogue regarding the capitalization of colors used to describe race.

The first of these is fairly straightforward. With the cancelation of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the ASC, which was to take place in November in Washington, D.C., we were left without, *inter alia*, the opportunity to convene, discuss and critique recently published books. Thus, in an effort to simulate an “Author Meets Critics” session, I asked four reviewers to join me in commenting on David Whyte’s *Ecocide: Kill the Corporation Before It Kills Us* (2020) and then invited David to respond. Such a conversation has proven stimulating—transforming the somewhat staid and unidirectional book review into more of a sustained interaction. I would have liked to have created more of these opportunities and hope that the format can continue even after the return to in-person conferences. The other two matters—pronouns and capitalization—require a bit more explanation.

Pronouns and Gender-Neutral Language

According to Section 5.48 of the Seventeenth Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2017: 241), “[n]ormally, a singular antecedent requires a singular pronoun.” “But because *he* is no longer universally accepted as a generic pronoun referring to a person of unspecified gender,” *The Chicago Manual of Style* continues, “people commonly (in speech and in informal writing) substitute the third-person-plural pronouns *they*, *them*, *their*, and *themselves* (or the nonstandard singular *themselves*)” (emphasis in original).

It was not always this way. The Fifteenth Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2003), which I received from my parents as a present for graduating from law school (after my time serving on the *Connecticut Law Review*), made no such provisions. But in the preface to the Seventeenth Edition, Russell David Harper (2017: xii) explained, “[d]ozens of changes throughout every chapter stem from the many ideas our readers have generously contributed through social media and our Q&A [online].... [T]he recognition in chapter 5 of the rising use of *they* as a gender-neutral singular pronoun referring to a specific person stems in part from discussions with our readers....” (emphasis in original).

While the Seventeenth Edition has acknowledged *they* as a singular pronoun, its support is tepid, at best. Section 5.48 of *The Chicago Manual of Style* provides that while using third-person-plural pronouns is accepted in speech and informal writing, “it is only lately showing signs of gaining acceptance in formal writing..., where Chicago recommends avoiding its use....” (2017: 241). Later in the same chapter, under Section 5.256, *The Chicago Manual Style* (2017: 360–61) advises: “Many people substitute the plural *they* and *their* for the singular *he* or *she*. *They* and *their* have become common in informal usage, but neither is considered fully acceptable in formal writing, though they are steadily gaining ground. For now... be wary of using these forms in a singular sense” (emphasis in original). Hardly a ringing endorsement.

As Editor-in-Chief of *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*, I often encountered *they* as a substitute for the so-called generic *he*. While the fussy grammarian in me bristled when I saw *they* in reference to a singular antecedent (I am the product of two English professors)—and while I did not want readers to think that we, the journal, did not understand the need for agreement in number between the antecedent and the referent—I was also sympathetic to the desire for gender neutrality. This created quite a conundrum. How could the journal demonstrate high-quality scholarship and a commitment to prescribed writing styles, but also—as a journal focused on “issues of social harm and social justice” and interested in “strategies for the construction of a more inclusive society” (<https://www.springer.com/journal/10612>)—reflect shifting mores and make adjustments as language and society change? Did a journal devoted to radical, cutting-edge ideas also need to be at the vanguard of language? Would the journal’s content—its articles’ arguments, positions—be *undercut* by fastidiousness to prevailing styles? Or would the reverse transpire? Would the findings and messages of the journal’s articles be dismissed due to a seeming disregard for common usage?

My solution—at least as it pertained to pronouns—was multifaceted. The Seventeenth Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2017: 359–60) suggests a number of techniques for achieving gender neutrality and, where possible (and depending on the context), I attempted to: omit the pronoun; repeat the noun; use a plural antecedent; use an article instead of a pronoun; use the neutral singular pronoun *one*; use the relative pronoun *who*; use the imperative mood; or revise the sentence. In moderation, I offered “he/she/they” or “himself/herself/themselves” (see, e.g., Brown 2021; Shore 2021) which, admittedly, are somewhat “clumsy artifices” (*The Chicago Manual of Style* 2017: 360 §5.256). If an author rejected a formulation involving the virgule and preferred the singular “they,” I simply asked the author to make it clear that the choice was intentional. Thus, for example, Craig Webber, in his article, “Rediscovering the Relative Deprivation and Crime Debate: Tracking its Fortunes from Left Realism to the Precariat” (2021), provided the brief note, “[i]n the interests of gender neutrality, I have elected to use ‘they,’ ‘their,’ and ‘themselves’ rather than ‘he’ or ‘she’ (or ‘he/she’), ‘his’ or ‘her’ (or ‘his/her’), and ‘himself’ or ‘herself’ (or ‘himself/herself’) in this article.” Such an ad hoc approach might seem as if it would frustrate the pursuit of clarity and consistency (which I stressed above), but it is actually harmonious with *The Chicago Manual of Style*’s (2017:241) final sentence of Section 5.48: “a person’s stated preference for a specific pronoun should be respected.”

While I liked the one-on-one discussion with authors about the singular “they” and how to achieve gender-neutral language, I am not sure the approach is sustainable—in part, because it requires that the Editor-in-Chief keep a finger on the pulse of broader language change. Moreover, the approach was very much *mine* (with the assent of Springer). I would have preferred to have had an open and intentional discussion with the Editorial Board of the journal as to how to proceed, but this was thwarted by the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting of the ASC, noted above. In addition, I am not sure that an eighty-minute meeting at a conference would have been ideal. As the philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah (2020) reminds us, “the process of language reform is complicated. It’s not exactly grassroots democracy; some voices count more than others....” I worried that a discussion in a stuffy hotel room might lead to a result based on the “tyranny of the loud.” Going forward, *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* will need to decide not only how it wishes to address pronouns, to treat the singular “they” and to enable the use of gender-neutral language, but also the *process* for making these decisions.

Before turning to capitalization, I would be remiss if I did not mention another unfinished endeavor regarding pronouns. In the course of putting together her special issue,

“Centering the Margins: Addressing the Implementation Gap of Critical Criminology” (Volume 29, Issue #1, March 2021), Rita Shah inquired whether she could share her pronouns at the bottom of her introduction to the special issue (2021)—in the space where an author’s email address, affiliation and contact information appears. I, in turn, asked Christina Tuballes (our Publishing Editor, mentioned above), who was able to secure permission for Rita to do so. Rita’s pronouns appear at the bottom of the first page of her introduction (2021:3), as well as on the cover of her special issue (<https://link.springer.com/journal/10612/volumes-and-issues/29-1>). To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* has published an author’s pronouns in this way,² and I am grateful to both Rita and Christina for their attention to inclusivity and their efforts to create a more welcoming space for people of all genders. That said, there is more work to be done. Providing authors with the opportunity to share their pronouns as part of their bylines is not yet standard practice for the journal. In addition, while the journal has explored the possibility of listing pronouns next to Editorial Board members’ names in the frontmatter of printed issues and on the webpage (<https://www.springer.com/journal/10612/editors>)—again, an initiative that began with Rita and which has received Christina’s support—we have yet to be able to provide this opportunity.³ The journal could take an important step towards dismantling cisnormativity by allowing more occasions for individuals to share their pronouns.⁴

Capitalization

During the summer of 2020—shortly after the murder of George Floyd by Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis Police Department officer, and with mass protests against police brutality taking place in the USA and elsewhere—hundreds of newsrooms began capitalizing the “B” in “Black” when referring to a racial, ethnic or cultural group, identity and people (Izadi 2020; Scire 2020). To be fair, some outlets, such as *Essence* (a monthly lifestyle magazine for African-American women) and *The Chicago Defender* (a newspaper that covers the interests of urban African Americans), had capitalized “Black” for years (see Scire 2020); others, such as *The Seattle Times* (Seattle Times staff 2019) and *The Boston Globe* (Kennedy 2020) had made the change a few months before Floyd’s death.

This was not the first time that the capitalization of a word used to describe people of African ancestry become an issue and subject of debate: in the first footnote on the first page of *The Philadelphia Negro* (1899[1996]: 1 n.1), W.E.B. Du Bois had stated, “I shall throughout this study use the term ‘Negro,’ to designate all persons of Negro descent, although the appellation is to some extent illogical. I shall, moreover, *capitalize* the word, because I feel that eight million Americans are entitled to a capital letter” (emphasis

² Authors have, however, included their pronouns in the body of their articles (see, e.g., Walker et al. 2021).

³ On November 17, 2021, Christina emailed me with the following update:

... a million thanks to ... Rita for raising this issue. I worked with the DEI [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion] ... group team to see this initiative come to fruition. Springer Nature strongly supports the use of inclusive language, so when technically possible, will enable the display of pronouns, when supplied, next to the author/reviewer/editor/board members name. Communication is scheduled to be communicated in the February 2022 Editorial Policy Newsletter, and further publish-facing changes are forthcoming (updating the Information for Authors and Book Authors’ Code of Conduct on the website).

⁴ Readers interested in learning more about pronouns can find information and resources at <https://www.glsen.org/> and <https://www.mypronouns.org/>, as well as in the delightful book, *What Are Your Words? A Book About Pronouns* (Locke 2021).

added). (It would take several decades of campaigning by Du Bois, however, before newspaper publications would follow suit (see Appiah 2020; Coleman 2020).)

The alacrity with which The Associated Press (<https://www.ap.org/ap-in-the-news/2020/ap-changes-writing-style-to-capitalize-b-in-black>; Bauder 2020; see also Scire 2020), *The New York Times* (Coleman 2020), and other media entities and journalist associations made the change was remarkable (especially in comparison to the glacial pace of acceptance of the singular “they”)—and it did not go unnoticed. As the American historian, Nell Irvin Painter (2020), observed: “Restructuring policing in ways that matter will take years, and many more Confederate monuments remain standing than have come down. But in these past few earth-shaking months, one change has advanced with startling speed: All this social upheaval has suddenly and widely restored a capital B to the word ‘Black.’”

The reasons and rationales put forth for the change were varied, but compelling—and remain so. For example:

- “A good reason to capitalize the racial designation ‘black’... is precisely that black, in this sense, is not a natural category but a social one—a collective identity—with a particular history.... Conventions of capitalization can help signal that races aren’t natural categories, to be discovered in the world, but products of social forces. Giving *black* a big *B* could signal that it’s not a generic term for some feature of humanity but a name for a particular human-made entity” (Appiah 2020 (emphasis in original));
- “[A] growing agreement in the country to capitalize” (Coleman 2020 (quoting Marc Lacey, National Editor of *The New York Times*));
- “To capitalize *Black*... is to acknowledge that slavery ‘deliberately stripped’ people forcibly shipped overseas ‘of all other ethnic/national ties’” (Laws 2020 (quoting Alexandria Neason, then a staff writer at the *Columbia Journalism Review*) (emphasis in original));
- “If capping the *B* strikes you as ... part of a project of reclamation, well, it is” (Laws 2020 (emphasis in original)); and
- “The most common motive can be summed up as *respect*” (Painter 2020 (emphasis in original)).

Whether to also capitalize the “W” in “White,” however, (has) turned out to be far “more ticklish” (Bauder 2020). In explaining that The Associated Press would *not* capitalize “white,” Bauder (2020) reported that “white people in general have much less shared history and culture, and don’t have the experience of being discriminated against because of skin color.” Similarly, Coleman (2020) explained that *The New York Times* would capitalize *neither* “brown” *nor* “white” because the former “has generally been used to describe a range of cultures.... As a result, its meaning can be unclear to readers; white doesn’t represent a shared culture and history in the way Black does....”

Zorn (2020), the former columnist at the *Chicago Tribune*, acknowledged that “[t]he point about the lack of a shared, unifying identity among the vast range of people thought of as white is a good one.” But, he added, “there is an important cultural experience shared by most of us of lighter hue: The ability to move through life oblivious to our race and to the safety and status it generally confers.” Not capitalizing “white,” Zorn (2020) continued, is an “anti-Black act”—one that treats “whiteness” as both a neutral category and the standard.

Likewise, Painter (2020), the author of *The History of White People* (2010), argued that “until quite recently white Americans rarely saw themselves as raced—as white.... in terms of racial identity, white Americans have had the choice of being something vague,

something unraced and separate from race. A capitalized ‘White’ challenges that freedom, by unmasking ‘Whiteness’ as an American racial identity as historically important as ‘Blackness’—which it certainly is.” Moreover, as Painter (2020) reasoned, “[n]o longer should white people be allowed the comfort of this racial invisibility; they should have to see themselves as raced. Being racialized makes white people squirm, so let’s racialize them with that capital W.” Painter (2020) also noted the June 2020 statement by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) that “recommends that whenever a color is used to appropriately describe race then it should be capitalized, including White and Brown” (<https://www.nabj.org/news/news.asp?id=512370>)—a point echoed by Zorn (2020), the former columnist at the *Chicago Tribune*.

In calling for both the capitalization of “Black” and “White,” Appiah (2020) acknowledged that while some might regard a capital letter as a “conferral of dignity,” as a rule, “capitalizing a word doesn’t convey elevation.” In English, he explained, “the long-standing convention is to capitalize proper nouns and proper names.... On the other hand, we tend *not* to capitalize ‘natural kinds’—that is categories that track with inherent features of the world, independent of our interests or doings.” Thus, Appiah (2020) offered, “Einstein, the physicist, is capitalized; einsteinium, the element, is not.” By capitalizing “Black,” but not “white,” Appiah (2020) maintained, we ignore the “dialectical relation” between the labels—“we treat a bloodstained product of history as a neutral, objective fact about the world.” By capitalizing “Black” and “White,” Appiah (2020) contended, we accentuate the artificiality of race—in “contrast to the seeming naturalness of color.... Racial identities were not discovered but created... and we must all take responsibility for them. Don’t let them disguise themselves as common nouns and adjectives. Call them out by their names.”

When I looked into the question of capitalization for *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*, I found that the journal had already been capitalizing “Black,” as well as “Indigenous” and other identifiers of race (such as “African American”). How this had come to be, I do not know. Section 8.38 of the Seventeenth Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2017: 476) provides that “terms such as *black* and *white*, when referring to ethnicity, are usually lowercased unless a particular author or publisher prefers otherwise.” So, it was clear that the journal had not been following *The Chicago Manual of Style* in this instance. My guess is that a pattern had emerged, which later became a practice. “White” appeared to be capitalized more often than not, although not with the same regularity as “Black.” What to do?

In consultation with Springer, it was decided that both “Black” and “White” would be capitalized (along with other identifiers of race)—although my sense is that this choice was made more in the interests of orthographical consistency than because of the persuasive arguments of Appiah (2020), Painter (2020) or Zorn (2020). But because we were aware that racist groups and websites often capitalized the “w” in “white” and because we wanted to make clear that we did not wish to grant legitimacy to such beliefs, we agreed not to capitalize “white” when referring to “white nationalists,” “white privilege” or “white supremacy”—the position of CBS News. In addition—and in the spirit of both Section 8.38 of the Seventeenth Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (2017) and our approach to the singular “they”—we resolved to let authors who wished to adopt a different style to do so and to explain their choice thereof. Thus, for example, Lenning and colleagues (2021:151 n.1), declared: “The authors have chosen to capitalize ‘Black’ but not ‘white’ when referring to race, reflecting evolving norms in journalism (see Bauder 2020; Laws 2020).” Walker and colleagues (2021: 41 n.6) clarified: “Throughout this article, we capitalize ‘Black,’ but not ‘white,’ following the example of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous

and people of color) communities. This choice is, in part, to recognize a shared history of discrimination experienced by Black individuals, which is not shared by white people.” Shah (2021: 3n.1) reasoned:

While there are many explanations for why one would capitalize Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other racial identifiers but not white, my reasoning is best explained by Geneva Sarcedo (<https://twitter.com/evergeneva/status/1278762885322174464>). In her Twitter thread, Sarcedo cites Harris and Patton (2019) and Kapitan (2016) to argue that capitalizing Color is an empowering move that also questions the “‘hegemonic grammatical norms’ of whiteness” <https://twitter.com/evergeneva/status/1278762887872315392?s=20> and highlights the inherent inequalities between groups. Thus, until we are all treated equally, and until those who capitalize white but not Color are also asked to justify their decision, I will continue to capitalize Color and not white (see also Laws 2020).

León (2021: 12 n.3), in turn, stated:

There are both stylistic and political arguments in favor of and in opposition to capitalizing the “w” in “white” (see Coleman 2020; Laws 2020). Both *The New York Times* and the Associated Press, for example, recently updated their style guidelines to capitalize “Black” but not “white,” with both entities reasoning that white supremacist groups capitalize the “w” and thus the practice should not be replicated (see Bauder 2020). My own political and stylistic preference is to identify this as a self-serving way of artificially cordoning off where white supremacy exists and where it does not. With the exception of “white supremacy,” I capitalize the “W” so as to continue prompting the reflection that Whiteness is not “a common noun or adjective” but a socially configured and contingent thing that does not disappear by virtue of merely capitalizing the “b” in “Black” or implying that white supremacist values only exist in the most explicitly racist organizations (Appiah 2020). An implicit point of this article, after all, is to point out that many of us have been indoctrinated into a white (supremacist) criminology (see Ladner 1973 for a related critique of sociology). Retaining the capitalized “W” makes clear that white supremacy is the toxic default setting in major segments of criminological and academic thought. For me, personally, it would be a form of fetishistic disavowal and self-serving distancing to pretend that using a lowercase “w” is a substantive correction, and there is much to gain from formally naming and interrogating configurations of Whiteness.

And Taylor (2021: 2) provided:

In this article, I have chosen to capitalize words that indicate racialized identities like Black, White, and Brown. This is in keeping with the work of Nell I. Painter (2020) and others who indicate that capitalizing “White,” in particular, is an important step toward recognizing Whiteness as a racialized identity. Two exceptions: (1) in direct quotations, the original capitalization has been preserved; (2) with the term, “white supremacy,” this article follows *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*’s decision to use lowercase for the word “white” so as to distance itself from the typographical convention adopted long ago by racist hate groups.

As with pronouns, the singular “they,” and gender-neutral language, I would have liked to have had a more organized (and perhaps publicized) conversation about capitalization. For now, I think the approach to both issues balances the need for consistency and predictability with authorial autonomy and with the spirit of the journal to use language that

stresses the humanity of individuals, rather than their characteristics or diagnoses (what is known as “people-first language” (see Zorn 2019), although the journal has not explicitly expressed a commitment to this linguistic prescription). *Whatever* guides and rules *Critical Criminology: An International Journal* ultimately adopts in the changing lexemic and philological landscape—and *however* it goes about doing so (consensus, democracy, editorial fiat)—we would be wise to heed Appiah’s (2020) advice that “black and white are both historically created racial identities—and [that we should] avoid conventions that encourage us to forget this.” Or, as Painter (2020) puts it, “[o]ne way of remaking race is through spelling—using or not using capital letters. A more potent way, of course, is through behavior.” We—as authors, editors, reviewers and contributors to *Critical Criminology: An International Journal*—should ensure that our actions reflect our rhetoric—and our capitalization, grammar and word choice(s).

A Conclusion

In conclusion, while I am pleased with the present state of the journal and rueful about what I did not accomplish, I am excited about what is to come. David C. Brotherton and Jayne Mooney will be taking over from me as Editors-in-Chief of *Critical Criminology: An International*—the first time that the journal will have co-editors at the helm. The two are longtime collaborators and friends, and the journal will be in good hands. Volume 30, the first volume under their leadership, will contain two special issues: David C. Brotherton and Louis Kontos’s special issue, “Critical Gang Studies,” and Dawn L. Rothe, David Kauzlarich and Bruce J. Arneklev’s special issue, “A Spectre is Haunting Higher Education: The Neoliberal Takeover and Beyond.” A forthcoming issue will contain articles from the collection, “Resistance: A Discussion with Jeff Ferrell” (https://link.springer.com/journal/10612/topicalCollection/C_58e38c9783826cb8b8183b0d804177a0/page/1), which will include Jeff Ferrell’s piece, “In Defense of Resistance” (2019), and reactions and responses to it by Laura Bedford (2021), Emma Kelly and Simon Winlow (2021), Laura Naegler (2021), and others. There is much to look forward to—and to provide you with a preview of the type of work that might appear in the future, I leave you with “Social Control and the Gang: Lessons from the Legalization of Street Gangs in Ecuador” (2021), which David has co-authored with Rafael Gude, and which serves as the final article before the book reviews.

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