



The Martin Institute PRINTS is an undergraduate peer-reviewed academic journal that aims to support and promote the scholarship of Stonehill students in the fields of Anthropology, Criminology, Political Science, and Sociology.

PRINTS 2023 Editorial Staff:

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**Many thanks to our Faculty Advisor, Associate Professor of Criminology and Director of the Martin Institute
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Meet the Editorial Staff!



Sydney Farrell
Editor-in-Chief

Sydney is a rising senior with a Criminology and Psychology double major, and a minor in Political Science. She is highly interested in the functions of the criminal justice system, and what supports are available to both victims and offenders engaged in the system. Along with being the Editor-in-Chief of PRINTS, Sydney is in the Moreau Honors Program, the President of the Criminology Club, on the Honors Advisory Council, a Head Resident Assistant, and is also on the Women's Rugby team. Sydney has completed multiple internships over her time at Stonehill, including the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Victim Services Unit, the District Attorney's Office in Waterbury Superior Court, and Smart, Donahue & NeJame P.C. law firm.

Tess Donnelly
Editor

Tess is a rising senior majoring in English and minoring in Creative Writing. Aside from PRINTS, Tess is a Resident Assistant, Brother Mikes bartender, FYE Facilitator, and a member of Anchors Leadership Society. This summer she will be working as an Editorial Intern at a local literary magazine. Tess joined the PRINTS staff this year as a student editor to gain more experience in editing published pieces, and to learn more about law and society. Her experience working with PRINTS has furthered her passion for editorial and publishing within the literary field.



Grace Shaughnessy
Editor



Grace is a graduating senior with a double major in Criminology and Psychology. She is captain of the Women's Rugby Team at Stonehill and President of the women's newspaper, Her Campus, where she was also an editor for her staff writers. She has previously interned at Family and Community Resources, Inc. where she worked in the intimate partner abuse education program rehabilitating domestic violence offenders. Her interests have been focused on victims of domestic violence and rehabilitation of offenders. She also has particular interest in forensic psychology in hopes of helping offenders and creating criminal justice reform. She plans to pursue a career in the criminology with a focus on victim studies as well as trauma intervention after graduation.



Avery Holzworth

Avery is a rising junior at Stonehill double majoring in Political Science and Spanish, with minors in Economics and Latin American and Caribbean Studies. She has a strong interest in the feminist approach to international relations and security studies and will be traveling to Armenia this summer with Stonehill's Learning Inside Out Network (LION) program. While in Armenia, Avery will complete an internship working on women's rights advocacy and research Armenia's National Action Plan (NAP) on United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325) focused on Women, Peace, and Security. In her spare time, Avery is involved in Stonehill's Student Government Association, Model United Nations, Political Science Club, Honors Advisory Council, and Women's Rugby team. After graduation, Avery hopes to pursue a career in international relations and diplomacy.

Climate Change: Will Global Cooperation Sink or Swim?

International cooperation to combat climate change becomes increasingly important as countries continue to emit greenhouse gases, deplete natural resources and pollute the environment, posing threats to all sovereign nations of the world. Although climate change affects the global population, there is still a lack of incentive for immediate, aggressive, and widespread action to reduce the global ecological footprint and switch to more sustainable practices and sources of energy. Global cooperation is necessary to achieve significant improvements to combat climate change, however it is difficult to achieve. Various state preferences, different perceptions of potential gains of agreements, and levels of trust among nations all affect the possibility for collaboration and the establishment of agreements, which sometimes results in the Prisoner's dilemma or free rider problems. It is necessary to use "bottom-up" cooperation and consider the variables that encourage successful cooperation to create incentives for states to join international agreements that have high joint gains and are self-enforcing.

Using a realist perspective, emphasizing the self-prioritization of sovereign states in international relations, the collaboration of sovereign nations is difficult to achieve. However, the goal of a state to preserve itself plays an important role in potential cooperation in the fight against climate change. Although sovereignty can be a barrier to cooperation, due to the freedom of a state to act independently and govern itself, climate change poses a threat to all nations' sovereignties and provides an incentive to give up a certain extent of power for long-term preservation (Krasner 20). The increased occurrence of intense storms, pollution of the environment, and depletion of natural resources will fuel instability and chaos within nations across the globe, threatening the power of the state. A large challenge inhibiting cooperation is prioritization of short-term rewards rather than considering long term effects. Using a short-term perspective, world leaders focus on the expense of cutting emissions and its

effects on “national economic competitiveness,” rather than the habitability of their environment in the future (Keohane 2). For this reason, when forming initiatives for global cooperation among sovereign nations, it is important to emphasize the threat climate change poses to each nation individually, as well as the threat to the entire planet.

Although the costs of investment in climate change policies often prevent cooperation, the effects of climate change are already resulting in large economic costs and political conflicts, which will continue to worsen if not addressed soon. The social cost of carbon, which measures the economic costs of damage caused by CO₂ emissions, averages between \$10 to \$350 per ton of CO₂ (Withgott 327). As emissions increase, these costs will continue to rise, harming the economic stability of nations and fueling internal and external state conflicts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that climate change “may impose costs of 1-5% GDP globally, with poor nations losing proportionally more than rich nations” (Withgott 327). The global community is already suffering economic losses, which should incentivize investment in climate change policies now to mitigate future losses and environmental disasters.

Climate change is a critical threat to national security and should serve as an incentive for global cooperation. In fact, “the Pentagon, the White House, the U.S. Navy, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Central Intelligence Agency have all concluded and publicly reported that climate change is contributing to political violence, war and revolution, humanitarian disasters, and refugee crises” (Withgott 328). Other national security experts have also found that climate change and drought have fueled conflicts in Syria, as well as other regions in the Middle East and Africa, and have heavily contributed to the refugee crisis in Europe (Withgott 328). The United States and other hegemony must begin significant investments now, to maintain prosperous economic conditions and social stability, for the best interest of themselves and the global community.

A lack of trust and accountability among global climate change initiatives has increased the prevalence of the Prisoners’ Dilemma and free rider problem. The Prisoners’ Dilemma is a situation in which two parties must choose to cooperate to receive the best outcome, however, often choose to act in their own best interest at the expense of the other. In the case of climate change agreements, many nations decide to act independently, increasing emissions and using environmental resources for economic growth, while others suffer from the effects of climate change. The self-interest of nations has limited the ability for substantial changes and actions. Although many international efforts have been made to address climate change, such as the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and the 2015 Paris Agreement, they have not been enough to slow rising global temperatures and sea levels, the depletion of natural resources, pollution, or other negative externalities of human activity (Keohane 2). Emission targets and policies established by these agreements are the first steps to beginning cooperation and acknowledging policy areas, however, lack of action by participants towards the agreed common goal undermines the international framework that is necessary to achieve significant progress. The countries who sign these international agreements and do not strictly adhere to

them for their own self-interests are labeled “free riders”. These free riders undermine the agreements as other countries begin to recognize that not all states are acting in the best interests of all nations in the agreement, creating the free rider problem which reduces international cooperation. After the U.S. withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2017 due to economic concerns, accountability was further diminished by demonstrating a disregard for responsibility and undermining the trust of the agreement. This proved the importance of establishing an authoritative entity for international agreements on climate change to increase its jurisdiction and incentivize cooperation through punishment and reward systems.

Without accountability and self-enforcing global agreements, the incentives remain small for countries willing to adopt policies to minimize emissions and combat climate change. The global community lacks the authority to penalize nations who act as free-riders and “avoid costly unilateral action, to wait for others to act, and to negotiate for self-interested advantages” (Keohane 2). Agreements that are self-enforcing and offer strong incentives for adherence should be prioritized, to reduce free riders, ensure accountability, and build trust among nations before advancing to agreements of cooperation, which are not self-enforcing. Domestic interest groups and climate clubs both play important roles in creating self-enforcing agreements which can transform into initiatives for global cooperation. By establishing specific policy areas to address, such as setting emission caps and increasing sources of renewable energy, efforts can be developed from the “bottom-up” approach (Keohane 5). Once the consensus is reached for a country to address specific climate change policies, they can begin to work towards large-scale global cooperation with others. These nations can then establish climate clubs, allowing “cooperation to emerge in small groups” and trade sanctions to be established for violations (Keohane 10). These clubs are essential to building trust and establishing accountability, to mitigate free-riders and the Prisoner's Dilemma. By “excluding non-members from the benefits that they produce or forcing these non-members to pay for the benefits they receive” cooperation becomes incentivized and self-enforcing (Keohane 10). This allows nations that are concerned about the potential economic losses of climate change initiatives to gain from investment and encourages other nations to follow.

Global cooperation requires the formation of smaller groups to begin with incremental and realistic change, before transitioning to substantial climate change policies for the global community. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) have played a key role in “building a system that creates incentives to reveal more reliably about their actual and proposed contributions to global emissions cuts” (Keohane 7). This system can allow networks, such as climate clubs, to form among nations with similar policy goals and focus areas. Beginning with cooperation among similarly interested nations will “promote deeper collaboration over time” by “focusing on areas where agreement is feasible and then working with reciprocity-based strategies” (Keohane 4,5). Although INDCs are “not nearly ambitious enough to stop the buildup of warming gases in the atmosphere” they are a first step in building trust through what Elinor Ostrom calls “cheap talk” (Keohane 9). Ostrom states that “cheap talk” increases communication among nations and has proven to reduce overconsumption of common

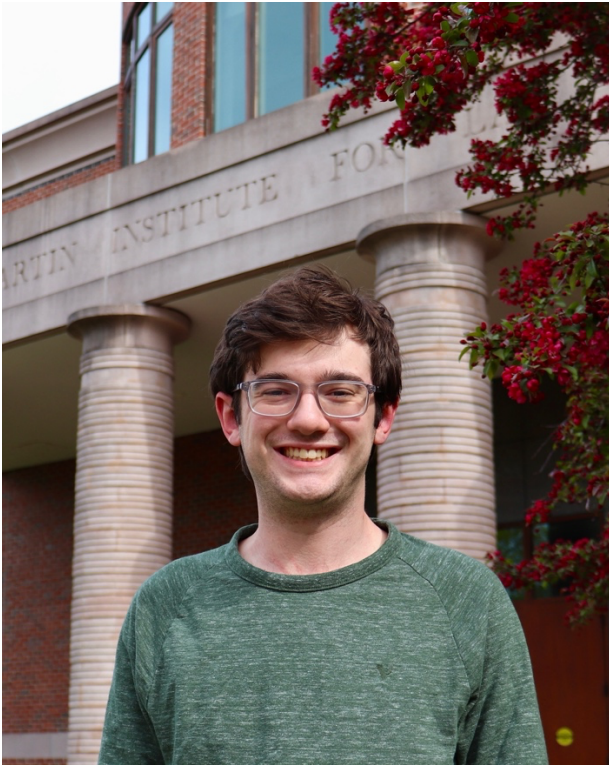
resources and increase benefits among participants (Ostrom 409). Climate change policies cannot be expected to be effective and efficient from the beginning, due to the conflicting self-interests of sovereign nations, however, it becomes more possible over time as trust is built. Creating frameworks for cooperation is an important first step to establishing norms between nations, promoting constructivist theories, and encouraging sovereign nations to sacrifice some of their self-governance for the collective good.

The threats of climate change are not representative of the responsibility of countries to the climate crisis, creating a question of accountability. As Garrett Hardin highlights in *Tragedy of the Commons*, “the rational man finds that his share of the cost of the waste he discharges into the commons is less than the cost of purifying his wastes before releasing them” creating a system of “fouling our own nest” (Hardin 5). As the international community fails to prioritize adaptation approaches to climate change, rather than mitigation efforts to reduce environmental impacts, the planet will continue to suffer. Today’s current international system allows large countries that are responsible for most emissions to feel no responsibility in order to avoid having to pay for the costs, as it is not in their immediate self-interest. The U.S. and China alone are responsible for over a third of global CO₂ emissions and should be held responsible for the lack of policy change that has disproportionately affected less developed nations (Keohane 2). Small islands, such as the Maldives, that do not have high CO₂ emissions are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, for example the rising of sea levels. This led the President of the Maldives to host an underwater cabinet meeting in 2009, in hopes of gaining attention from the global community (Withgott 325). Global cooperation to combat climate change requires dedication from the highest emitters of CO₂ to invest in sustainable policies and lead global efforts to ensure accountability from others.

The world’s reliance on fossil fuels which have created threats from climate change are non-renewable. The finite supply of these energy sources requires an eventual shift to renewable resources. Although the costs of investment in climate change prevent countries from enacting effective and significant policy changes, it is in the best interest of all nations to begin cooperation and investment now. The effects of climate change are already devastating for nations across the globe and will continue to worsen as emissions increase. Global cooperation is possible by incentivizing climate change policies through the initial formation of climate clubs and smaller initiatives. Nations must build trust by prioritizing realistic agreements that nations will uphold to reduce free rider problems and the Prisoners’ Dilemma to allow nations to work together in their mutual best interest. Climate change policy must be established as a bipartisan and collective task, to ensure stability in policy efforts which require years to implement effectively.

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Adam Ammirata

Adam is a member of the Stonehill Class of 2026 pursuing a double major in Criminology and Psychology with a minor in Political Science. He is a Moreau Honors Scholar with a passion for the criminal justice system and the significant impact of stress and pressure on individuals. Through his time at Stonehill, Adam has been an active member of the Criminology Club and has obtained a domestic violence and mental health internship at Family and Community Resources Inc. in Brockton, MA. Over the next few years, he wants to continue to explore the field of Criminology and determine a more specific path of interest within the Criminology and Psychology field.

The Underrated Influence of a Rubik’s Cube in O’Hara’s Common Room

Many people worldwide set out to solve the complex brain teaser known as the Rubik’s Cube. Most commonly, this game is made up of six sides, each a three-by-three grid of colorful blocks that need to be turned and twisted to solve the puzzle. While the algorithm can be difficult to solve, there are individuals who have mastered this skill and draw in the attention of others. This is exactly what happened September 20, 2022, in the common room of Stonehill College’s Cardinal O’Hara Hall. Interests were piqued and group boundaries were dropped as students of all social groups found enjoyment in solving this small, but important, cube. Typical, group boundaries remain set in a college setting, where you might see cliques and groups of students only staying within a certain crowd. Students aren’t inclined to expand into other groups and meet new people who they didn’t already know from their past. It is very uncommon for people to interact with people without similar interests, unless something piques their interest and forms a connection. Individual’s interests, such as the Rubik’s Cube, are essential for forming social groups as they are created based on similar interests and values within society.

The main aspect of my observation revolves around social structure and social grouping. Society often finds itself facing these social groups as part of its structure and distribution of status. In reviewing these terms, social structure is defined as “the boundaries people confront as they make decisions about their individual and collective actions” (Halasz 5). In addition, social grouping is “a set of individuals who hold a common social identification or view of themselves as members of the same social category” (Stets & Burke, 2000). According to the research done by Stets and Burke (2000), all people are controlled by boundaries that are created based on how society has determined people should act in each social grouping. In and out groups are created around the idea of who is similar to your social categorization: those similar labeled as “in” and those not labeled as “out”.

What is similar is often determined by reviewing traits like common attitudes, values, speech styles, and other properties believed to be relevant to intergroup categorization. Stets and Burke even found that people want to be within the in-group as they feel they'll receive a more positive judgment from others and their self-esteem will increase with adherence to popular social boundaries. Each person has a role and the rules and consequences created by society are what dictate how people behave. Everyone wants to be accepted and welcomed and the best way for people to do that is to conform to what is expected of them. People don't stray from their in-groups as it is easiest for them to conform to their expected behaviors when they are in a comfortable group setting surrounded by similar individuals as themselves.

During my observation, I took note of all the different people and activities occurring throughout O'Hara's common room. I was sitting at a small, round table toward the back of the room with a view of everything that could occur. Before I began the observation, I hypothesized that the different social groups hanging out in the common room would not socialize outside of their own group because they would only want to talk to people they had similar interests with. As the observation went on, I realized that people interacted with one another more than I had predicted. The common room was laid out in three main groups of students. To my left, at the tables against the wall, there were both men and women studying and talking. In the center of the room, at a large, rectangular table, there were two small groups sitting together. All were working on schoolwork; some were doing philosophy while others were studying for a biology exam. Finally, to my right, there was a group of students lounging on the couch watching television and chatting.

The group to my left was studying when I initially began my observation. There were a mix of White men and women, specifically one man and three women, sitting together, actively conversing with each other. Many of the women were using their computers to complete work, while I noticed the man watching the football game on the television across the room. As the hour went on, many of the individuals would get up, leave, and come back some time later. It was unclear what they were doing when they were not in the room, but some would come back with food or drinks and resume what they were previously doing. This group stayed to themselves throughout the night, only interacting with each other. They had common interests in completing what they were working on and being productive in that amount of time. They also had common interests in their discussions as the conversations I was observing would not be possible without them.

Continuously, the group in the center of the room originally consisted of two separate groups of students. There was a pair, a White man and White woman, working to prepare for their biology exam. They were very vocal with one another and could be heard throughout the room. The other group, composed of three White students, was also working on schoolwork but relatively silently. As time progressed, the two groups began to converse with each other, "exchange names" (Ammirata, 2022), and eventually merge into one. As I observed the group, I noticed them talking and laughing together, which I inferred to mean they were having a good time with one another. Both original groups had students studying for their biology class and they worked together to

prepare for their exam. The common interest in biology created a bridge between these two groups that otherwise did not exist. My observation notes state, “those in a bio class are all working together” (Ammirata, 2022). It was clear to me the biology class they had in common was what allowed them to begin to talk with one another. The individual groups did not speak to each other when they originally sat down, but once this commonality was discovered, they began to interact. The interaction also expanded from just the biology students to the entire table as they now had even more in common with each other. Some of the biology students had other friends they introduced and incorporated into the newly formed group. This is a perfect example of what is known as a social network. According to *A Sociology Experiment*, a social network is, “a series of social relationships that links a person directly to other individuals (such as friends) and indirectly to even more people (for instance, friends of friends)” (Halasz 12). The groups became intertwined as one common interest created a social network of friends and allowed for relationships to expand. Those who were not originally connected by a biology class were now connected because of a network of common interests.

The final group in the room was sitting on the couches on the right side of the common room. White and Black men were together, some sitting and some laying, on the couch talking about the football game on the television. The number of students in this final group was constantly changing, however, they never left someone alone. The football game had been on since before the observation began and all the students on the couch were watching and commenting on it. This was an interest of theirs that had brought them together. It could also be inferred from their clothing that these students played on the Stonehill Football team. The clothes either had a football symbol on it or said “football” across the chest. Their common interest in football created this social group and gave them the foundation they needed to interact with other people. Each one of them had their own of what is known as an achieved status, which is a status that “results in part from your efforts” (Halasz 7). Their achieved status was that of a football player because of all the work they put in to train and be a part of a football team, and they found a community with other people of that same status. Some statuses, like an achieved status, are a result of choice and in this instance that choice was to follow an interest in football. That interest resulted in a social group of people who all have the same interest in football.

The most interesting part of my observation was when the small, but influential, Rubik’s Cube was introduced to the common room. Unannounced and unplanned for, a fellow student sat down at the table with me and began to play with his Rubik’s Cube. At first, I jotted it down and thought nothing of it. But, once it piqued the interest of a football player, I noticed it had more significance than I thought. One of the football players looked over at the student with the Rubik’s Cube and expressed his amazement at how quickly he was able to complete it. They began to interact with one another and there was a mix of social groups over this new interest. Another student at the center table was also interested in the Rubik’s Cube and said, “Hey, Rubik’s Cube” (Ammirata, 2022). He called the student over and they also exchanged conversation over this small, colorful cube. The students in both social groups expanded outside of their group boundaries to latch onto this additional, hidden

interest of theirs. Instead of staying within their predetermined group, these specific students talked to others within the common room. They didn't initiate these conversations with just anyone, but with someone who had something they liked. The interest in the Rubik's Cube created a small social group at that moment within O'Hara's common room. Social groupings need a common interest or value to emerge, and the Rubik's Cube was that commonality.

As seen in the common room, people spend the most time with those that they have common interest with. They form social groups based off these interests, building a community of those similar to themselves. *A Sociology Experiment* offers another definition of what a social group consists of with that definition being, "two or more people with similar values and expectations who interact with one another on a regular basis" (Halasz 12). In this specific observation, the group in the center of the common room valued their course work and spent time to ensure they were completing their assignments and prepared for their exam. In addition, the group on the couch valued their football knowledge and spent time watching and discussing the game in front of them. I spent less time observing the final group as they remained quiet throughout the observation and were not involved in the Rubik's cube exchange. Regardless, they were also quietly focused on completing whatever task they were working on (with little interaction with others). These values created their groups and created boundaries around them. It was when a new interest or value presented itself that a door opened to allow groups to mix. Students in both the center and couch groups placed value on the skills needed to master the Rubik's Cube and were very fascinated with how fast it was solved and wanted to know more. This expanded their initial social group and allowed for the foundation of a new one. The students I observed used the value of Rubik's Cube skill to create another social group and use it to move outside of the already established social groups. They didn't talk with everyone in the room, but those who they found something in common with.

Throughout the course of the observation, many different components of social structure and grouping became clear. The common room was split into different social groups who kept to themselves until there was a new value or interest to pull them in. Football and academics were strong values that initially separated the students I observed, until the Rubik's cube was introduced. This small toy was able to break down the boundaries that had been in place since first-year move-in and bridge a gap in social grouping. It was a new interest that revealed values completely hidden from plain view and created a mix of students who typically do not interact.

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Colton Varholak



Colton Varholak is a Criminology and Environmental Studies double major with a minor in Arabic from Orange, Connecticut. Throughout his time at Stonehill, he has been involved with Habitat for Humanity and the H.O.P.E. program where he has led both in person and virtual immersions focusing on social justice issues such as hunger, homelessness, and natural disaster relief. Colton has also been involved in Campus Ministry retreats, Criminology Club, Students for Environmental Action, and the Student Alumni Association while serving as an Honors Mentor and Honors Orientation Leader. His passion for service inspired him to start volunteering at My Brother's Keeper as a first-year student where he has been for the last four years. He has also worked for Campus Police as a student worker and dispatcher as well as for the Lux et Spes Society as a tour guide. Colton is an 8-semester Dean's List Student, as well as a member of the Lambda Epsilon Sigma, Theta Alpha Kappa, and Edwin H. Sutherland Honor Societies, and is the recipient of a grant from the Sean M. Gannon Memorial Fund. He is excited for what the future holds as he pursues a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army following three years in R.O.T.C. and is eager to begin a career in law enforcement one day.

Prosecuting and Investigating Financial Cybercrime: Business Email Compromise

Financial Investigations Task Force

Financial crime in all forms is at the center of many Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) investigations. HSI actively pursues financial crimes “in order to identify and seize illicit proceeds of crime, and to target financial networks and third-party facilitators that launder and hide illegal financial gains” (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022). The FITF is uniquely positioned to disrupt the operations of transnational criminal organizations profiting from cross-border crime due to its significant access to financial and trade data through relationships with financial industry partners in banking and money services. Investigations include cases involving financial fraud, particularly those involving vulnerable populations; cyber-enabled financial crime and fraud; all forms of money laundering, to include bulk cash smuggling and trade-based money laundering; and international corruption investigations (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022). Partnerships with domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies, regulatory agencies, and non-governmental organizations including the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Financial Action Task Force; U.S. Department of Justice, Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section; the Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group; and the Five Eyes Law Enforcement Group (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2022) allow the FITF to identify trends, exchange information, and facilitate investigations. The FITF for HSI New England focuses on three main types of financial cybercrime: BEC, romance scams, and Jamaican lottery scams. While the focus of this paper is BEC, it is important to know and understand the other primary forms of financial cybercrimes investigated and how they are facilitated as they are often intertwined with BEC investigations.

Many financial cybercrimes are facilitated through the art of social engineering, a practice where “a fraudster successfully manipulates a victim into taking specific actions like sending wire transfers or disclosing confidential information while posing as a trustworthy source” (Meinert, 2016). Social engineers use a variety of tactics to gain the information necessary to win over the trust of their victims including phishing attacks, dumpster diving, pretext calling, or impersonating a company employee or business associate (Meinert, 2016). Anyone can fall victim to a social engineering scam, especially once the necessary information to appear legitimate has been obtained by the fraudster (Meinert, 2016).

Business Email Compromise

BEC is one of the most financially damaging forms of financial cybercrime and exploits the fact that email is so heavily relied on to conduct business both personally and professionally. While the financial impacts of BEC are obvious, there is no known research exploring the non-financial impacts of such scams (Cross and Gillett, 2020). In BEC scams, criminals send a message that appears to come from a known and trusted source making a legitimate request such as a CEO directing the CFO to wire money to someone or vendors asking that invoice payments be made to different bank accounts (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). Each of these scenarios happened to real victims, and in each case, hundreds of thousands of dollars were sent to scammers. BEC scams have resulted in a net loss of nearly \$26 billion since 2016 (Cross and Gillett, 2020, p. 2) and have resulted in more losses than any other type of fraud in the United States according to the FBI (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). BEC scams tripled between 2016 and 2019 and grew by nearly 50 percent in the first three months of 2019 when compared to the same time period in 2018 (Better Business Bureau, n.d., p. 2). In 2019, one Nigerian gang was exposed for collecting information on 30,000 individuals, 13,000 organizations, and 12 countries ranging from the Boy Scouts of America to the YMCA and the United Kingdom (Better Business Bureau, n.d, p. 4).

BEC scams all follow a very similar timeline. The first step is identifying a target. Organized crime groups often target businesses in the United States and internationally by utilizing available information to develop a profile on the company and its executives. The second step is grooming the target. Phishing attacks via email or phone call target employees within the victim organization. Scammers often utilize persuasion and pressure to manipulate and exploit employees’ human nature which may take place over several days or weeks. The third step is the exchange of information in which the victim is convinced they are conducting a legitimate business transaction before being provided wiring instructions. Lastly is the wire transfer in which the funds are sent to a bank account controlled by the organized crime group. It is important to note that scammers can continue repeating steps two through four in order to obtain additional funds from the victims.

Scammers executing BEC scams function like magicians in some ways. A good magician can do things that seem unbelievable. However, once they explain their tricks, their actions seem obvious. They purposely move rapidly through their tricks to keep their audience from focusing on what is really happening right in front of their

eyes. When it comes to BEC, there is no reason for victims to closely examine an email received from a superior or a trusted source. So, while BEC employs several clever techniques to identify key employees and contact them directly, the backbone of such operations is social engineering coupled with a sense of urgency (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). Untrained employees will open and interact with phishing emails approximately 30 percent of the time compared to 2 percent of the time following company-wide training according to KnowB4, a company that specializes in training companies about email fraud (Better Business Bureau, n.d., p. 3). Like the aforementioned magic trick, once victims are aware of, and understand the danger, they rarely fall for such attacks. Not every BEC attempt needs to succeed. Agari, an email security solutions provider found that one in every 300 emails is successful (Better Business Bureau, n.d., p. 4). Despite the fact that most of the time, their tactics will fail, one successful attack can bring in a substantial amount of money (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). The following example demonstrates the fact that no company nor individual is completely protected from BEC scams and that one small mistake can lead to catastrophic financial loss.

Preventing Business Email Compromise

Phishing is a major threat to all Internet users and is difficult to trace or defend against since it does not present itself as malicious in nature (Vayansky and Kumar, 2021). Both technological enhancements and individual education are critical for creating a safe environment online. As technology continues to advance, Internet users must adapt in order to protect themselves from potential attacks. There are many small and simple steps that organizations and individuals alike can take to stay protected in cyberspace. For example, requiring multifactor authentication can help prevent cybercriminals from hacking into someone's email account (Better Business Bureau, 2022). Enforcing limits on how much money each senior executive can approve for transfer or implementing the mandatory authorization of wire transfers can also be effective (Biskup and Weil, n.d.). Furthermore, senior executives can change their network settings to flag emails coming from outside organizations (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). Administrators can also limit the number of times people can use incorrect login information before needing to contact an administrator, require the verification of changes in information relating to customers, employees, or vendors, and monitor any unusual rules regarding email accounts such as automatic anonymous forwarding (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). However, technological enhancements alone are not enough to protect companies and individuals from BEC attacks.

Unsurprisingly, humans are typically described as the weakest link in the security chain (Meinert, 2016), yet they are the best defense against BEC scams (Aggarwal, 2022). Therefore, it is not enough for a workforce to simply have policies in place to prevent BEC attacks. Employees need to be thoroughly educated on how to recognize key indicators of a BEC attack and how to react. Employees must become a "human firewall," and like any IT firewall, they must be continuously tested and updated with new information as trends emerge (Meinert, 2016). A critical part of developing this "human firewall" is creating a strong cybersecurity culture within

organizations. One simple step that could prove effective in stopping most BEC scams before any financial loss occurs is confirming transfer requests via phone or in-person meeting (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). In this era of electronic communication, employees seem somewhat reluctant to confirm orders with their senior executives. People in positions of leadership need to encourage a culture where employees feel comfortable confirming requests that appear suspicious and employees must be diligent in verifying requests to ensure they do not fall victim to BEC scams (Conrad and Wahsheh, 2020). Part of the prevention of financial cybercrimes like BEC is rooted in common sense such as being wary of last-minute email account address changes, checking emails or email addresses for slight changes, and ensuring that desktop and web email clients run the same version (Bradley, 2020).

Methodology

Participant Observation

I used participant observation which is “a qualitative method with roots in traditional ethnographic research used to help researchers learn the perspectives held by study populations” (Woodsong et al., 2005). Researchers use participant observation to gain knowledge of diverse perspectives and understand the interplay among them. Participant observation takes place in community settings, specifically in locations believed to have some relevance to the research questions. This method is particularly unique because the researcher approaches the participants in their own, natural environment rather than having the participants come to the researcher. Researchers make careful, detailed, and objective notes about what they see while immersed in the environment. Such information may contain details regarding informal conversations and interactions with the participants as well as information and messages communicated through mass media.

Participant observation serves as a check against participants’ subjective reporting of what they believe and do. It helps researchers gain an understanding of the physical, cultural, social, and economic contexts in which their participants live as well as the relationships that exist between people, contexts, ideas, and norms. Furthermore, researchers can uncover factors that are important for a thorough understanding of research questions that were unknown when the study was designed. Perhaps the greatest advantage is that what we learn can be used not only to help us understand data from other methods of collection, but to also help us develop the right questions for those other methods that will give us the best understanding of the phenomenon being studied. To collect data through participant observation, I recorded field notes and participated in various law enforcement operations such as warrant executions and surveillance operations.

Semi-Structured In-Person Interviews

I also used semi-structured in-person interviews which are typically “one-on-one face-to-face interviews designed to elicit a vivid picture of the participant’s perspective on the research topic” (Woodsong, MacQueen,

Guest, and Namey, 2005). The participant is considered the expert and the interviewer assumes the role of a student. Interviewing techniques are motivated by the desire to learn all that the participant can share about the research topic. Researchers pose questions in a neutral manner, listen attentively, and ask follow-up questions based on previous answers in order to elicit additional information from the participant.

Interviews are advantageous because they provide information regarding individual perspectives rather than group norms. They provide an opportunity for researchers to learn about participants' feelings, opinions, and experiences while gaining insight into how people interpret and order the world. Such information is obtained through the ways in which participants describe the connections and relationships they see between particular events, phenomena, and beliefs. Furthermore, interviews are important for addressing sensitive topics that participants may be reluctant to discuss in a group setting. I interviewed Special Agent 1 who is in their 5th year with HSI. Prior to working with the FITF, Special Agent 1 spent 5 years with the U.S. Border Patrol as a Patrol Agent out of El Paso before transferring to the U.S. Secret Service where they served as a Special Agent for 3 years out of New York City. I also interviewed Task Force Officer 1 who is in their 3rd year with HSI. Prior to becoming a TFO with the FITF, Task Force Officer 1 spent 16 years with the Boston Police Department as a Sergeant Detective.

Findings

Lucrativeness of BEC

BEC scams are lucrative for several reasons. Offenders are easily able to remain anonymous, they are incredibly easy to execute, and there are several barriers that present challenges when law enforcement agencies investigate such crimes. Research shows that in 2021, BEC scams in the United States alone resulted in financial losses of over \$2.4 billion while ransomware attacks only cost \$49.2 million (Aggarwal, 2022, para. 2). The FBI has consistently found that, despite the overwhelming press surrounding ransomware, Jamaican Lottery Scams, and romance scams, BEC remains the costliest form of financial cybercrime. A recent study found that companies are losing 51 times more money through BEC scams than through ransomware attacks, however, enterprise security continues shifting towards ransomware protection, giving scammers a valuable opportunity (Aggarwal, 2022, para. 2).

Part of the attraction of BEC scams stem from how easy they are to execute. While the average payout of a BEC scam (\$120,000) is far lower than the average ransom requested in ransomware attacks (\$2.2 million), the ease of execution means cybercriminals can initiate a number of BEC scams simultaneously with minimal computer skills (Aggarwal, 2022, para. 8). Furthermore, since primary targets are companies and organizations that transfer money regularly and may not detect the intrusion until it is too late, scammers will take any opportunity to initiate a scam as they require far less preparation than a ransomware attack (Aggarwal, 2022). It is for many of these reasons that law enforcement officials often have extreme difficulty investigating such

incidents. Local law enforcement agencies do not have the time or resources necessary to conduct effective investigations surrounding BEC scams. Therefore, the burden of investigation falls on federal agencies like HSI. Such investigations are incredibly laborious and oftentimes revolve around following the money as it is transferred to cryptocurrency wallets, between money-mules, and eventually into overseas accounts. The anonymity of offenders, quick movement of money, and resources necessary to successfully conduct investigations makes BEC a very lucrative form of financial cybercrime, one that offenders will not overlook once they learn how easy it is to execute.

My interview with Special Agent 1, a five-year veteran with HSI who has over 13 years of federal law enforcement experience, confirmed much of my research. Special Agent 1 explained that part of the attractiveness of BEC scams comes from the fact that it is a very versatile form of crime. “You are not always BECing individuals...a lot of the time, you’re going after massive corporations who won’t even report a scam because the amount of money stolen is negligible in their eyes,” said Special Agent 1. Additionally, not every scam needs to be successful. The Better Business Bureau (n.d.) cited Agari saying that approximately one in every 300 scams is successful. Fraudsters need minimal skill to send 300 phishing emails and when it comes to the technicalities of the scam, “there’s a lot of background information that violators don’t even know...all they know is the high level of success when just one individual or corporation falls victim, and that’s a big enough reason for them to continue.” “The unfortunate part of this investigative discipline given the current state of both crime in general and federal law enforcement agencies is that there is a large gap between what will and won’t get investigated,” he continued. I witnessed this firsthand throughout my time with HSI as cases were often thrown away in the pursuit of larger cases that would appeal more to an AUSA for potential prosecution.

My interview with Task Force Officer 1, a three-year veteran with HSI who has over 16 years of law enforcement experience with the Boston Police Department, further confirmed my findings. Task Force Officer 1 alluded to the fact that many of the individuals who fall for these scams are not tech savvy and cannot identify malicious emails leaving them vulnerable to attack. Unfortunately, BEC scams do not require a lot of skill to execute successfully. Task Force Officer 1 said, “you could go on Google tonight, read for 10 minutes, and successfully execute a number of scams within the next month.” Furthermore, Task Force Officer 1 elaborated on the ability of offenders to remain anonymous when executing BEC scams. Investigators may never learn the true identities of suspects due to the foundation of such criminal activity in the technological field. “Because BEC scams are primarily based in emails, all offenders need to do is create a fake email address using someone else’s personal information which is why oftentimes BEC scams will involve other violations such as identity theft or bank fraud,” said Task Force Officer 1. He continued, saying, “law enforcement agencies are left playing an endless game of catchup with violators...once the money is taken, it gets put in a bank, and banks don’t communicate well with each other or with law enforcement...that money moves fast, and once it does, good luck finding it.” Task Force Officer 1 expanded on this idea saying, “scammers often go for big companies like Nike

or Under Armor.” “When a company like that loses \$50,000, they know they’ll make that back from one store alone in a week, so there’s no need to get law enforcement involved,” he continued. Such challenges demonstrate the labor that goes into investigating these offenses which makes successful prosecution even harder.

Preventing BEC

Phishing is at the backbone of all BEC scams and is a threat to all Internet users that is difficult to trace or defend against as it does not present itself as malicious in nature (Vayansky and Kumar, 2021). Therefore, technological enhancements and individual education are critical for creating a safe environment online. Implementing multi-factor authentication is one way to prevent cybercriminals from hacking into email accounts (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). Senior executives can edit network settings to flag emails coming from outside individuals or organizations (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). Furthermore, administrators can monitor the network settings of their employees to prevent vulnerabilities such as automatic anonymous forwarding, unlimited login attempts, and the lack of verification of information changes (Better Business Bureau, n.d.). However, regardless of technological enhancements, humans are still considered the weakest link in the security chain (Meinert, 2016). Internet users must participate in continuous education regarding the risks of cybercrime such as BEC in order to create a “human firewall,” the most effective defense against such offenses (Meinert, 2016). As people become more aware of the risks associated with using the Internet, they will become more aware of their surroundings and be more willing to report suspicious activity, protecting themselves and their organizations from falling victim to financial cybercrimes such as BEC.

Conclusion

Research, participant observation, and semi-structured in-person interviews repeatedly show you that BEC, the most lucrative form of financial cybercrime, is a challenging crime to prosecute and convict at the federal level for a number of reasons. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of BEC incidents has skyrocketed, and the gross loss has been nothing short of catastrophic. Scammers with minimal skill are able to infiltrate and exploit individuals, businesses, and organizations, wreaking financial havoc with ease. Much to the demise of the law enforcement officials tasked with investigating BEC scams, USAs and AUSAs are typically unlikely to prosecute such violations. However, while prosecution and conviction are difficult, they are not impossible, and there have been several successful prosecutions in recent years. The most effective way to combat BEC is through proactive prevention and creating a culture of education. Only then can law enforcement officials effectively investigate BEC scams providing federal prosecutors with a solid case and a high likelihood of conviction, despite the legal, technical, and investigative challenges that currently hinder such progress.

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Prescription Opioids and Associated Offending

Over the last decade, much of the United States has experienced a crisis in the number of drug related deaths, many of which involved prescription opioids. There continues to be a steady increase in the number of prescription opioid involved deaths as in 2017, there were 47,600 opioid deaths out of the total 70,237 of drug overdoses experienced in the United States (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2023). This number has continued to increase as it 2021, there were 80,411 opioid involved deaths (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2023). As these statistics solely account for the number of prescription opioid involved deaths, in 2014, approximately four million people reported the use or misuse of prescription opioids and of these people, they also reported having a concurrent arrest or active probation or parole status (Galoustian, 2022). Given these staggering statistics of approximately 175 individuals dying per day due to the misuse and overdose of prescription opioids in the United States and the correlation of millions of people misusing prescription opioids and being involved in criminal activity, it is necessary to continue to research the drug-crime connection to assist in targeting the most vulnerable groups and implement resources in our criminal justice system that would be of assistance to them.

Opioids are often prescribed following a major injury and surgery as the drug triggers the release of endorphins, allowing an individual to feel a reduction in pain. These prescribed drugs act on many places in the brain and nervous system as they can depress breathing by changing the neurochemical activity in the brain stem of someone, can reinforce drug taking behavior by altering the activity in the limbic system which controls emotions, and can block pain messages transmitted through the spinal cord. As opioids release endorphins, the body experiences the activation of powerful reward centers in the brain, ultimately boosting an individual's feelings of pleasure and creating a temporary yet powerful sense of well-being. Given these aspects that an individual feels when taking prescription opioids, they are highly addictive. In 2017, more than 191 million opioid

prescriptions were dispensed to American patients, with more than 11.5 million American reporting misusing prescription opioids in the past year (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). Just in Michigan alone, there were 7,130 retail prescriptions per 10,000 individuals and 3,190 Medicare prescriptions per 10,000 people in 2013, which results in a rate of more than one prescription per person in that calendar year (Rydeberg et al., 2019). According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in four patients receiving long-term opioid therapy in a primary care setting struggle with opioid addiction (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). As dentists prescribe one in ten opioid prescriptions in the United States, it was found that between 2011 and 2015, twenty-nine percent of prescribed opioids exceeded the recommended morphine equivalents for appropriate management of acute pain and fifty-three percent exceeded the recommended days' supply of prescription opioids (Suda et al., 2020). Given these statistics and the highly addictive nature of prescription opioids, the United States must continue to examine the role that the medical field plays in creating addicts and their involvement in criminal history due to the over prescription of opioids.

As the opioid epidemic continues to strain the United States in many ways such as economically, socially, and politically, one of the biggest strains the nation has experienced is a relationship between the use of opioids and criminal activity as the use of opioids are disproportionately involved in criminal activity. According to research conducted by Michigan State University, the Michigan Incident Crime Report data showed that opioids consistently appeared in thirteen to fourteen percent of illegal drug related crime incidents between 2013 and 2017, making prescription opioids the second most prevalent drug category next to marijuana (Rydeberg et al., 2019). The nation as a whole experienced more than 100,000 criminal justice cases that had an opioid use disorder diagnoses in 2014 with opioid use increasing rate ratios of offending by sixteen percent for males and doubling the possibility of crime for females (NCBI). Although the majority of these cases involving opioids focus on criminal activity that generates sufficient income to financially support their substance use and addiction, the United States continues to experience financial and social strain due to the opioid epidemic despite these crimes not being violent in nature (Galoustian, 2022). According to researchers in their descriptive study of 221 opioid dependent and treatment-seeking subjects, eighty-five percent of these individuals confirmed criminal activity by obtaining money to support their substance use habits through various illegal means such as theft, frauds, deception, and illegally claiming unemployment benefits (Cold et al.). Ultimately, given the statistics that have shown a positive correlation between overprescribing opioids, an increase in opioid substance abuse, and criminal activity, it is necessary for the criminal justice system to implement ways to assist individuals who are most vulnerable to becoming an addict to assist in the decrease of criminal activity and assist in the wellbeing of the United States and its people.

A present-day example of an individual struggling with substance use, specifically through prescription opioids, and partaking in criminal activity in which they gain financial means to support their substance use is the case of Alex Murdaugh. A former attorney who resides out of South Carolina admitted to a decades-long

prescription opioids addiction. During his struggle with substance use, Murdaugh admitted to the allegations against him of stealing money from clients and his former law firm as he stated “I misled them, I did wrong. I stole their money” (Clifford et al., 2023). Given his guilt, Murdaugh faced ninety-five separate charges related to financial crimes across seventeen different indictments (Clifford et al., 2023). According to Murdaugh’s legal team, the financial thefts stemmed from an almost two-decade long opioid addiction that Murdaugh states he developed after a series of “botched” knee surgeries following an injury while playing collegiate football (Clifford et al., 2023). Over the course of his time practicing at his law firm, he had stolen approximately \$792,000 in fees and although he obtained a yearly seven-figure salary, he was more than four million dollars in debt and barely had \$70,000 saved (Clifford et al., 2023). Murdaugh blames this lack of financial stability on “battling addiction for so many years” (Clifford et al., 2023). The case of Murdaugh and his struggle with his addiction to opioids and the committing of financial crimes to supply his addiction is a great example of how the overprescribing of opioids creates a long term affect that impact the individual, their actions, and the overall economic and social well-being of communities.

To better alleviate the effects of the opioid crisis which include overdose deaths and associated offending and victimization, the collaboration of law enforcement and public health programs is necessary. Law enforcement’s role in alleviating the effect of the opioid epidemic would focus on seizing illicit drugs to reduce the available supply of opioids in communities through the use of drug task forces that prioritize the enforcement of substances based on harm. Another crucial role for law enforcement to assist in reducing the number of overdoses and opioid use is the increased accessibility of treatment programs for drug crimes rather than a prison sentence as according to research, in North Carolina, the risk of opioid overdose death for former inmates was forty times higher in the two-weeks post-release from prison compared to the general state’s residents (Rydeberg et al., 2019). The accessibility of treatment programs inside correctional institutions and the criminal justice system as a whole also plays a crucial role in alleviating the issue of the opioid epidemic. According to research, it has been found that a majority of offenders serving their sentence were under the influence or have used opioids at the time of their crime, but fewer than six percent of criminal justice cases received opioid substance use treatment (Galoustian, 2022). Finally, to truly experience a reduction in the number of overdose deaths and associated offending and victimization, greater intervention to monitor and enforce regulations for the number of opioids being prescribed to patients following injuries, surgeries, or medical needs, would create a reduction in availability of opioids, ultimately assisting in the reduction of opioid related deaths and associated criminal activity.

Ultimately, as the United States has continued to experience the economic, social, and political effects of the opioid epidemic due to the issue of the medical field overprescribing opioids, research has found a correlation to opioid use and criminal activity, especially crimes focused on financial gain. To assist in reducing the number of lives lost from the misuse of prescription opioids, it is essential for the collaboration of law enforcement and

public health departments to decrease the availability the opioids and increase the accessibility to treatment facilities. Through the increased implementation of law enforcement task forces to focus on intercepting the illegal distribution of prescription opioids and enforcing regulations for the number of opioids per prescription for the medical field, society would experience a dramatic decrease in the availability of prescription opioids, ultimately assisting in reducing the number of deaths caused from the overdose of prescription opioids. Although the collaboration of many differing agencies and departments is a hefty task, due to the staggering statistics on how many opioid overdose deaths the United States has experienced and the misuse of prescription opioids' correlation to crime rates, such implementations are necessary for the overall wellbeing of the nation's society and its people.

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Interview with Stanley I. Thangaraj

Director of The Center for the Study
of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice

By: Sydney Farrell

Dr. Thangaraj was kind enough to agree to sit down with me for an interview to dive into what the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice is, and how students can get involved. Stan has a kind and welcoming presence that is vital to his role as director and allowed me to ask him questions to give the Stonehill population an insight into who he is. If you have a chance to stop by and meet Dr. Thangaraj during your time at Stonehill, I highly encourage you to do so.

Can you explain what The Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Social Justice is, and how it got started?

The Center is a product of faculty and student activism to say that we need a space to engage in really important conversations about race, gender, sexuality, and justice. The center specifically creates intellectual and academic spaces for students to engage with issues of race, ethnicity, and social justice in the broadest terms possible. So, what that means is we bring in speakers that do that important work, but we also have other events that are more student-friendly. We hold an event called “Justice Jam” which we've done only once this academic year. We are aiming to build a major and minor out of the center, which would be something like an Ethnic Studies major. This would be about understanding African American, Asian American, and Indigenous studies. It would also be about understanding race in a much more global sense so that we are not confined to studying what we think we know as race in the U.S. as if it exists by itself without people also coming with their own experiences and stories.

How can students get involved with the Center?

We host four events every year: two in the fall and two in the spring. One of the best ways to get involved with the center is to come and meet me. I would encourage students to jump into a research project and see if it could be presented at the undergraduate conference in the spring. What we're doing right now is trying to work with a journal to possibly publish student essays. When you apply for graduate school, having a published paper will set you far apart from everyone else who's applying. We would like to give our students a leg up through the center. We want students to feel like this is a space where they can take risks and find ways to connect with each other.

What events can we expect from the Center in the 2023-2024 academic year?

What we're hoping to do next year is further cultivate a community where students are willing to come in and grow. Dr. Sandy Grande is coming to talk about the role of educational institutions with Native American dispossession. How have U.S. colleges and universities been key players in displacing indigenous communities? Three more speakers will be coming in November to talk about the relationship between language and race. Focusing on African American vernacular and race, teaching Spanish in schools and race, and language and race in Asian American communities. We'll bring in Dr. Tracy Canada, who does work on Division One sports and the politics of exclusion. Dr. Kim Talbert, an indigenous scholar that studies the genome project, will also be coming to speak on the engagement with biological science and the genome project (ex. Ancestry.com and 23 & Me).

What does your role entail as the Director of the Center?

This is actually something I am still in the process of figuring out. I serve as an intellectual mentor for students, so I have various students who have come to see me talk about their intellectual journeys and what they're thinking about for graduate school. I mentor students who are interested in thinking about how can we understand current issues in our world and how we can theorize them and what we can do to create better worlds. The director creates the course the programming and a lot of mentoring faculty. One of the things we see on our campus is we can't keep women and faculty of color here. They're leaving in great numbers and that's not a good thing, so the position here is to help not only recruit but retain women and faculty of color, as well as LGBTQIA+ scholars. As the director next year, we're hopeful that we'll have a cluster hire that brings in three faculty who will teach a broad swath of courses that are Ethnic Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies that will then help grow the major and in the process. As the director, I will be the mentor to those three faculty through their entire journey as professors here.

Speaking of minority faculty members leaving the college, is there any programming on campus that requires faculty members to participate in continuous training to ensure they practice cultural humility?

What we do at the Center is support scholars who are doing incredible intellectual work, including those who are not from marginalized backgrounds. We've held a brown bag series where these faculty present their research with a closed community of anywhere from 5 to 10 other faculty to give them feedback for something that would be published. For faculty to get tenure or even promotions, you have to publish, so this series helps both assistant professors and associate professors on their pathway to publication and promotion.

What made you choose to apply for this position and transition into the Stonehill community?

Prior to seeing this position, I had no idea about Stonehill College. I grew up in the South and did my graduate work in the Midwest. I've lived in the northeast for a while but as a kid, so when I saw the position I was really interested in seeing how I can develop my leadership style. This was a chance for me to engage with leadership but also carve out spaces create spaces that support students and faculty. The biggest honor is being the James A. Hayden endowed chair, which means I get the opportunity to support and uphold the legacy of James Hayden. He died on September 11th and was on one of the planes. So, why does that matter so much to me? All of my research is on Muslim American communities who have faced the wrath after September 11th, so for him to die on that day and for his family to want to cultivate a center for justice, it's the most incredible fit, right? For me, the draw was being able to push forward the legacy of the Hayden family at Stonehill. I wanted to cultivate a space here where Stonehill becomes a recognized name in critical studies of justice.

The undergrad conference took place on April 21st and 22nd as a way for our students to connect with faculty. There were six panels, and five of them had professors from outside Stonehill as the moderators, so our students got to meet faculty from all across the Northeast. These institutions included Harvard, Tufts, Rodger Williams, and Bridgewater State. Students came from the University of Vermont, the University of Colorado Boulder, Pittsburgh, Bridgewater State, and Ithaca. This position is really exciting because I am able to create spaces for students to play with ideas and expand the intellectual circle and network of both students and faculty.

Can you talk about your main research interests, and what are you hoping to look into in the future?

I grew up in the South in Atlanta where everything is understood as black and white, so I wanted to see what the politics of citizenship were for communities who were not imagined within the racial landscape of the South. My first book is called *Desi Dreams* and looks at the stories of South Asian American men, specifically Pakistani American men, who have been the most detained and deported after September 11th – even though there were none on those three planes. I wanted to look at the difference between these young men, who are all born in the U.S. or grew up in the U.S., specifically at the difference between legal citizenship and cultural citizenship. Even though they have all papers, they're treated as outsiders. I wanted to study that to see how we can study that through this realm of basketball leagues. I looked at what the cultures and politics of exclusion in our country are, and how we can reconfigure them to create a much more equitable world.

My newest project is on the Kurdish diaspora. Kurds are one of the largest stateless communities of nearly 30 to 40 million people spread out through Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. I'm studying the Kurdish community in the United States, where the largest Kurdish community is in Nashville. Nashville has over 600 churches and refugees

need sponsors; so, the churches have been vital players as sponsors. For some of these churches, it was also their mission to convert Muslims as well as some of them wanting to support these precarious communities. There's also a very small community here in the Northeast, particularly Boston and New York City, as well as Connecticut and Rhode Island. I'm looking at how they create a sense of Kurdish community even though they're in different parts of the U.S.

One of my last book projects looks into Memphis Tennessee, where Dr. King was killed on April 4th, 1968. I looked at how their civil rights museum emerged and played a vital role in the gentrification of the city and in the continual pushing out of working-class and poor black communities. Even though it's about the black struggle and black rights, it's playing a very key role in this same exclusion of poor black communities.

Can you detail your experience before coming to Stonehill, specifically your educational path?

I went to Emory University in Atlanta because my father was a Professor of Theology. I come from a family where all the men in my family since 1874 have been ordained Protestant Christian ministers except for me. So, I went to Emory on a courtesy scholarship as a math major to pursue engineering. I took one anthropology course as an elective and thought “This is the first time in my life I've enjoyed reading in advance for a class”. Over the course of a year, I took more anthropology courses while still being a math major, and I realized that I wanted to be in a space where I could engage with people and people's histories and stories. I switched over to anthropology, but growing up in the South I felt like something was missing. I got a chance to take a black politics course with Dr. Robert Brown who became one of my mentors and I took four courses with him because it was the first time I heard of race being talked about explicitly. I thought maybe I should go into teaching, since both my parents have an education background. I went and taught at an international school in India, where I was once a student for half a year.

I completed my master's in social sciences at the University of Chicago, but I felt like I rushed into it. I wish I had taken time off because I really enjoyed teaching and coaching. I coached basketball and volleyball at the school in India, and I loved it so much. I just couldn't wait to finish my master's, and I was in the local area in Chicago working with underrepresented youth. I did okay, but I didn't put time into it. I had a passion for being in the world to do good, so I thought I should do social work. I worked with several nonprofit organizations and realized that that wasn't my vision of what justice looked like. I was the director of community service at LaGrange College in Georgia, where I set up social justice projects for students. I love working with college students and teaching them in my classroom and giving them different readings so that they can explore their world. After about 5 years, I applied to graduate school so I could be a professor. I had the most amazing mentors who really supported me as a researcher. I finished graduate school, then got a postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt.

Then City College of New York had an opening that looked interesting. Audrey Lorde is a poet and incredible black feminist scholar who did her activism there. When I got the chance to teach there, to know that I would get a chance to walk in the place where Audrey Lorde once walked and advocated for black and brown students was the greatest honor.

Your journey has taken many different turns, and that is something extremely important for students to hear. Do you have any advice for college students today?

On my journey, I have taken chances, which means I've made a lot of mistakes. Those mistakes have been so pivotal for me to realize who I am and what I love to do. If I hadn't taken that chance, I would be the most frustrated and depressed engineer – it wasn't right for me. Many of my students have been first-generation and students of color, and I've gotten them into premier institutions across the U.S. and into various jobs. I am able to be a resource on this campus, so if you come and see me, I can help you open doors to worlds you never knew were possible. I would say we're at a time in our world where we have to take a chance and risk jumping into projects of justice. We have to take risks, and those risks are uncomfortable, but those risks will affirm us in the long run.



A Man for Others: Justice Serge Georges delivers impactful speech during campus visit.

By: Liam Dacko

Stonehill College welcomed Serge Georges, an associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, to campus on February 1 as part of a program co-hosted by the Office of Intercultural Affairs and the Martin Institute for Law & Society.

During an impassioned address delivered to students, faculty, staff and friends of the College, the Randolph resident not only traced his path to the highest court in the Commonwealth, but also shared words of wisdom applicable to people from all walks of life.

“Justice Serge Georges is an inspirational man and leader in our courts and state. With a humble and kind demeanor, he used humor to connect with our audience. He inspired us all to work hard and help others. If more people like Justice Georges make it to the bench, the future of our justice system will be bright,” said Professor Kathleen Currul-Dykeman, chair of the Department of Criminology and director of the Martin Institute.

Here are some of the important lessons learned during Georges’ visit.

Working Hard and Being Good to People

Georges shared stories from his youth throughout his speech. He noted that his parents, who immigrated to the United States from Haiti in the 1970s, were “big parochial school people.” As such, Georges attended Boston College High School when he was a teenager. He later completed undergraduate studies at Boston College, where he also played football. His experiences at these Jesuit institutions impressed upon him the importance of showing people kindness.

“The Jesuit tradition is steeped in the model that we are called upon to be men and women for others,” Georges said. “There’s always been this aspect of my life that’s been informed by my faith, that you just need to be good to people and help people if you can...In terms of how I got here, I guess you could distill it down to working hard and being good to people.”

Finding the Ties That Bind

Georges believes that part of being good to people involves taking time to get to know others, especially those who seem different from us.

“You may wonder whether you can find any common ground,” he said. “They may not look like you. They may not eat the same food that you eat. They may not come from the same background as you. So what? Say hello. Have a conversation. I can almost guarantee you, dollars to doughnuts, that if you talk long enough, you’ll find you have some tie that binds, some shared experience, and you’ll both be richer for that.”

Conquering Imposter Syndrome

Though he currently sits at the top of his profession, Georges is like many people in that he sometimes grapples with imposter syndrome, a psychological occurrence in which a person doubts their skills. “[Am I] hoping nobody figures out that I’m terrified I’ll fail, that I’m terrified I won’t do a good job? I am,” he said.

When faced with these negative thoughts, Georges tries to remind himself that the only things he can control in life are his integrity and work ethic. He then proceeds with his work accordingly.

Giving Others a Chance

At times when he feels uncertain about his own abilities, Georges also takes time to reflect on all the people who knew he could achieve great things, even when he did not. Recognizing the impact that their influence had on him, he notes the value of paying that goodwill forward.

“If we know one thing that is unequivocally true in this world...it’s that if you give human beings a chance, they can be awesome and they will be awesome,” he said. “If you really find yourself wondering if there’s anything you can do, think about any amount of kindness that’s ever been given to you or shown to you and just put that back out in the world. It’s going to be the gift that keeps on giving.”