

Minutes of the Eighteenth Meeting of the
Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group Steering Committee
St. Louis, MO, USA – November 11th, 2008

In attendance:

Steering Committee

David Farrington, Cambridge University, UK
Peter Grabosky, Australian National University, Australia (co-chair)
Martin Killias, University of Zurich, Switzerland
Jerry Lee, Jerry Lee Foundation, USA
Friedrich Lösel, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg/Cambridge University, Germany/UK
Jacque Mallender, Matrix Knowledge Group, UK
Phyllis Schultze, Rutgers University, USA
Lawrence Sherman, University of Pennsylvania/Cambridge University, USA/UK*
Brandon Welsh, University of Massachusetts-Lowell, USA
David Weisburd, Hebrew University/George Mason University, Israel/USA (co-chair)
David Wilson, George Mason University, USA (editor-in-chief)

Invited guests

Thomas Feucht, National Institute of Justice*
Catherine Gallagher, George Mason University*
Charlotte Gill, University of Pennsylvania (managing editor/coordinator)
Peter Greenwood, Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practices
Susyan Jou, National Taipei University, Taiwan
Welmoed Spahr, Springer*
Margaret Zahn, National Institute of Justice*

* Present for part of the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Weisburd welcomed everyone to the eighteenth meeting of the Campbell Crime and Justice Group (CCJG) Steering Committee. Committee members Jan Andersson (National Council on Crime Prevention, Sweden), Catherine Blaya (European Observatory of Violence in Schools, France), Vicente Garrido (Valencia University, Spain), Peter van der Laan (NSCR, Netherlands), Peter Neyroud (National Policing Improvement Agency, UK), Jonathan Shepherd (Cardiff University, UK), and Hiroshi Tsutomi (Shizuoka University, Japan) sent their regrets at being unable to attend the meeting. Invited guests Catherine Gallagher, Peter Greenwood, and Susyan Jou introduced themselves to the Steering Committee.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Participants received a copy of the minutes of the seventeenth meeting of the CCJG Steering Committee, held on June 15, 2008 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Committee unanimously agreed to accept the minutes.

3. Progress Report on Current CCJG Titles

Participants received a handout entitled ‘Campbell Collaboration Crime & Justice Group Progress Report.’ The key points on the progress of CCJG titles include:

- 17 reviews have been published.
- 3 reviews are being revised with peer reviews completed (one of these was submitted shortly before the meeting).
- 1 review is under peer review.
- 3 reviews are being revised before seeking peer reviewers.
- 2 reviews are in progress but no protocol has been submitted.
- 10 protocols have been approved but the review has not yet been submitted.
- 4 protocols are being revised with peer reviews completed.
- 3 protocols are being revised before peer review.
- 6 titles have been approved but the protocol has not yet been submitted.

In summary, 17 reviews have been published, 18 reviews are in progress, and 14 protocols are in progress.

David Weisburd explained that the production of systematic reviews is the most important of the CCJG’s many functions and goals. In Stockholm the CCJG made a commitment to moving ahead, and has increased its publications from eleven at that time to seventeen by this meeting. A further two reviews are due to be approved in the next few weeks, bringing the total to nineteen. This was achieved through pushing the authors of nearly completed reviews to finish up, and holding monthly meetings between the co-chairs, editor, and managing editor to discuss progress. Small grants from the National Institute of Justice and the central Campbell Collaboration (C2) in Norway have also been extremely helpful in moving reviews forward. Three of the reviews that have been published since the last meeting were funded by the National Institute of Justice.

David Wilson reported that four new protocols and three new titles had also been approved since the last meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Catherine Gallagher

Catherine Gallagher described her work in developing a Network for Justice Health. The Network is working to advance seven different research agendas in that field, some of which coincide with the work of the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations. Its aims are to consolidate research, prioritize new research, and disseminate the findings in an area (the justice population) that is critical to public health but currently suffers from an unsystematic knowledge base.

The Network has begun or plans to begin activities in the following areas:

- Using the National Academy of Sciences ‘What Works in Healthcare’ model (available through NAS Institute of Medicine), systematically collecting and coding studies on healthcare outcomes in the justice population.
 - Open access will be provided to the studies and data.
 - Supported by Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Centers for Disease Control, Office of the Surgeon General.
 - Due to be up and running in six to eight months.
- Evidence mapping – what we know, where the gaps are, priorities for systematic review research.

- Evidence-based practice guidelines and policy recommendations.
- Exploratory meetings with the Cochrane Collaboration in view of becoming a ‘field’ within Cochrane (a field cut across different review groups and advises those groups on its agenda).

The Committee discussed how the CCJG could become more involved in this process. The importance of increased collaboration and communication, including the cross-listing of reviews between CCJG and Cochrane and a closer relationship between those two groups generally, were highlighted. David Wilson suggested sending a CCJG representative to meetings of the Network, and noted that central C2 was also very interested in the new Network. Jacque Mallender noted that links should also be forged between the Network and the Economic Methods Group.

David Weisburd thanked Catherine for attending, and offered to explore ways to involve her more formally in the CCJG process and meetings. He also offered Catherine the opportunity to send out information about her work to the CCJG mailing list.

5. Deregistration of Inactive Titles

David Weisburd emphasized the importance of focusing on title deregistration. Registration of a title with CCJG represents ownership and prevents others from conducting similar reviews. Authors should, therefore, show evidence of progress. The Campbell Collaboration model prevents authors working simultaneously on the same review, so deregistration is a necessary part of freeing up inactive titles.

The status of several previously highlighted stalled reviews was discussed:

- Farrell/Pease: repeat victimization programs. David Farrington reported that personal circumstances had prevented the authors from moving forward. The Committee agreed that this title should not be deregistered until contact had been made with the authors and a timeline secured. David Wilson will write to the second author, copying David Farrington.
- Marandos/Perry: interventions for victims. David Wilson reported that the lead author did not have time to complete the review and the second author could not take it on alone. Peter Grabosky noted that this is an important title and should be offered to new authors.
- Renzema: electronic monitoring. David Weisburd noted that this author had published his review in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, and offered to write to him to encourage him to complete the review for CCJG. He will be given the deadline of completing the review two weeks before the next meeting of the CCJG SC.
- Maxwell/Garner: arrest for domestic violence. This title will be deregistered unless progress is made before the next meeting.

Christopher Koper’s review on firearm control was also highlighted. This review is awaiting funding, and the author also needs research assistance. David Weisburd indicated that the latter may be available through George Mason University.

In general, David Weisburd requested that any review not making progress between this meeting and the next should be listed for the next meeting’s deregistration discussion. Charlotte Gill will monitor this.

6. Consideration of New Titles

David Weisburd noted that CCJG must focus on encouraging the submission of new reviews to continue the progress the Group has recently enjoyed. So far, the most successful way to find reviewers so far has been to approach people directly. Calls for papers have not been successful, though unsolicited submissions occasionally come through. He asked for suggestions on how to widen the title base. The following suggestions were put forward:

- Asking practitioners what they want (Jerry Lee);
- Mapping the field (David Farrington);
- Rapid evidence assessments (Peter Greenwood);
- Incentives, e.g. publication (Friedrich Lösel);
- Publicity through mailing lists, publications, and conferences (David Farrington/Peter Grabosky).

Practitioners

Catherine Gallagher noted the importance of convincing practitioners (rather than academics) that CCJG reviews could be a trusted source of ‘gold standard’ research, and that the practitioners could influence policy. Martin Killias agreed that academics would likely follow once they knew practitioners were interested in the end products. Peter Greenwood offered to link leading practitioners with CCJG through his organization.

David Weisburd proposed an ad hoc committee to work on the dissemination issue. The committee will consist of: Jacque Mallender (chair), Catherine Gallagher, Peter Greenwood, Peter Neyroud, and Lawrence Sherman (the last two members provisional, as they were nominated in their absence). Jacque will report back on the committee’s progress at the next meeting.

Mapping the Field

David Wilson noted that the Group had done this some time ago. The Committee agreed that it should be done again (topic areas as well as scope).

David Weisburd proposed that a group be formed to work on the mapping process and bring the results to the next CCJG SC meeting. Catherine Gallagher and Jacque Mallender both indicated that they had knowledge of organizations or colleagues with expertise in evidence-based mapping, and offered their assistance. Jacque suggested that a new colleague at Matrix, Tony Munton, would likely be willing to facilitate the process. Since funding for a meeting cannot currently be guaranteed, Martin Killias offered to host the group at his home by Lake Maggiore to reduce travel expenses.

The Committee decided that Martin Killias, Phyllis Schultze, Jacque Mallender, Tony Munton, Friedrich Lösel, and Catherine Gallagher would comprise the mapping group. They would meet in March or April, and limit discussion to interventions or clear social policies. Catherine agreed to work with a graduate student after the meeting to draft a recommendations document.

Friedrich Lösel also suggested that every Committee member send in a list of ten important topic areas in advance, so that the groups could focus on those key areas that came up most frequently. Charlotte Gill will send out a reminder about this.

Rapid Evidence Assessments

Peter Greenwood suggested locating people who are currently working on rapid evidence assessments (REAs) and getting graduate students or interns involved in building larger systematic reviews from those starting blocks to get them interested in the field. Jacque Mallender noted that it is not always possible to transplant REAs directly into systematic reviews. However, we should connect with organizations like EPPI (UK) and RAND (USA), which are building up a ‘Campbell lite’ base of REAs.

Incentives

Friedrich Lösel noted that young academics need publications, and the web library may not be enough of an incentive. David Weisburd explained that Springer was not amenable to publishing CCJG review abstracts in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, so would probably not be willing to allow automatic publication of CCJG reviews either. Plus, such a policy would restrict options for authors who may prefer to publish in other journals or fields. David pointed out that the central Campbell Collaboration is working on the issue of wider dissemination of the Campbell Library.

Publicity

Jacque Mallender suggested that all Committee members should have a CCJG PowerPoint ‘pack’ explaining the work of the CCJG and including a brief description of the findings of each published review. Charlotte Gill will put this together for the Committee.

David Farrington agreed that it was important to publicize the work of the CCJG to reduce the likelihood of authors losing interest in the project after securing journal publication. He offered to take the lead on writing an article for *The Criminologist* showcasing CCJG’s work and published reviews. David Weisburd added that he would take the issue to the central Campbell Collaboration Steering Group to inform their discussions about publicity. He also suggested putting together a booklet of published review abstracts to display at conferences.

Jerry Lee noted that in order to seek funding for specific reviews, authors should be held to a more formalized timetable. David Weisburd agreed that the Group should formalize its expectations in this regard and put together a ‘fact sheet’ containing this information to give to new reviewers. The co-chairs, editor-in-chief, and managing editor will work on this.

The discussion then turned to specific new titles that had been proposed. David Wilson informed the Committee that Cherise Burdeen from the Pretrial Advisory Service wants to commission CCJG to review the effectiveness of bail bonding in persuading people to show up for trials. David stated that John Goldkamp and Jim Austin are on the organization’s advisory board and could be asked to do the review. Jerry Lee pointed out that John Goldkamp is currently undertaking an emergency review of Pennsylvania’s parole system and would be too busy. He indicated that Shawn Bushway may have done some work in this area.

Charlotte Gill had been approached by Jodie Doyle, coordinator of the Cochrane Collaboration’s Health Promotion and Public Health field, who would like to propose a co-registered title (possibly on the topic of marijuana legalization). The Committee decided to wait to see what potential topics arose from the mapping exercise.

Peter Grabosky indicated that Adam Graycar, who is starting up an Institute on Corruption Studies at Rutgers University, could be encouraged to submit a title but would require funding.

Peter Greenwood noted the lack of reviews on initiatives for gangs and street workers. Alcohol-related violence and knife crime were also put forward as potential areas to explore. Friedrich Lösel said that he was working on persuading a colleague to submit a proposal for a review on sports programs for juvenile offenders.

David Weisburd concluded the discussion by reinforcing that a big push would be made in the lead-up to and following the next meeting to encourage title submissions.

7. CCJG Governance

Committee members received a copy of the revised CCJG Governance Plan. David Wilson summarized the edits made since the last meeting:

- Page 3: Editor. The overall C2 Steering Group Governance Plan indicates that C2 central has to approve the CCJG's choice of editor. The text of the CCJG Plan has been revised to reflect this.
- Page 4, Section L. Previously no written policy on title deregistration existed. The Plan has been updated to include a section dealing with the criteria and timeline for deregistration.

David Weisburd thanked David Wilson for taking the lead on drafting and revising the Governance Plan.

David Weisburd highlighted a potential problem with the clause on co-chair election in Section 2. The co-chairs' terms were organized so that there would always be an overlap between a new appointee and a more experienced co-chair. However, Peter Grabosky has announced that he will be retiring and will not continue for a second term. David Weisburd's appointment also expires at the end of Peter's first term.

The Committee agreed that it is essential for a new co-chair to have an opportunity to work for some time with a more experienced colleague. However, due to C2's concern about people holding positions for too long, any extension of the length of the term would have to be limited. David Farrington suggested changing the text of the governance plan to say that a co-chair could serve "up to three terms." Others suggested that this should be further limited to apply only in this specific situation: "up to three terms if necessary to allow for overlap." The Committee voted 6-3 in favor of the latter alteration over the former. Changing the governance plan to include this proviso would not be inconsistent with the overall C2 Governance Plan. Ideally, this third term would not last a full three years; rather, it would continue only until the new co-chair had gained sufficient experience.

David Weisburd thanked Peter for his hard work in the role so far, particularly in contributing to the development of the website and bringing in new contacts.

8. C2 Developments

David Weisburd reported that the work of C2, and CCJG's relationship and communications with C2 central were all going well. C2 has adopted many policies initially put forward by CCJG.

One problem highlighted by committee member Martin Killias was the delays in peer review payments. Martin himself has two outstanding payments from earlier in 2008. Charlotte Gill reported that this had been a problem with several reviewers. C2 was still working to resolve the issues and clear the backlog, but this was taking some time. She is waiting to hear back from Eamonn Noonan, CEO of C2, about the 'normal' timeframe for payment processing, in order to better manage the expectations of payees. Martin Killias suggested that an apology letter from the co-chairs should be sent out to those peer reviewers whose payments have been delayed.

9. Funding

(a) U.S. National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

David Weisburd reported that CCJG had successfully delivered three reviews funded by an \$85,000 grant from NIJ in 2007. Two of these reviews will be published by the COPS office and one has been published by Brå (Swedish National Council on Crime Prevention).

Thomas Feucht addressed the group about developments at NIJ. He is currently on sabbatical at SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and will return to NIJ in January as Executive Senior Science Advisor. In this role he will be establishing a What Works Clearinghouse for crime and justice. He also described SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs, which currently covers primarily substance abuse and mental health interventions, but is growing.

Several committee members noted that, with the new administration and increase in CCJG's review base, CCJG may be in a position to lobby towards increasing this agenda. Lawrence Sherman offered to take the lead on drafting a position paper for the transition team, to be discussed by the SC over email. The Committee agreed with this course of action.

(b) U.K. National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

Peter Neyroud has approved funding for two CCJG reviews (Koper: firearm control, and Braga: Pulling Levers policing), but the transfer of funds has been delayed. David Weisburd will be discussing these issues in person with Peter next week. David noted that in general, funding from NPIA can only be directed toward policing-related reviews.

(c) Jerry Lee Foundation

David Weisburd thanked Jerry Lee for providing the most consistent funding for the group, particularly for its infrastructure (including the managing editor). Jerry has kindly continued this funding beyond his original commitment, so the Group will be looking for additional sources in future. The Jerry Lee Symposium has become an extremely important fixture, and is now expected by people in government and practice. The Committee thanked Jerry for his dedication and support.

(d) Nordic Campbell Centre (NC2)

NC2 has provided support for many CCJG reviews. Payment is made on completion of the review, providing some incentive to finish. NC2 recently had some uncertainty about its own funding, but eventually received additional money.

(e) C2 Norway

C2 has committed \$40,000 per year to each group for reviews, and \$25,000 for the group editor. It also looks for ad hoc funding for reviews with an important social welfare element. C2 will fund four CCJG reviews in 2009:

- Piquero: programs to increase self-control
- Sherman/Strang: restorative justice
- Smedslund: motivational interviewing for substance abuse
- Van der Laan: human trafficking

(f) Discussions with Other Funding Agencies

Martin Killias reported that the European governments increasingly supported evidence-based practices and research synthesis, and that he and Friedrich Lösel would investigate opportunities. Martin Killias has been able to get funding from the Swiss government for reviews, and will find out about more stable funding sources for reviews and infrastructure. Friedrich Lösel noted that an offer of money from Germany had been restricted to reports on German studies.

10. Guest Speaker: Peter Greenwood

Peter Greenwood addressed the group, giving an overview of the development of evidence-based practices and the work of his organization, the Association for the Advancement of Evidence-Based Practices (AAEBP). Since the late 1990s, when the Blueprints project and Lipsey's meta-analysis identified model programs for juveniles, a big area for research has been the 'transfer process' – the effective implementation of programs. Lipsey, for example, has been working in this area, providing feedback to providers on how to improve their processes. Several states have taken note of the move toward evidence-based practice, and want to build their own lists of effective programs. AAEBP has been commissioned by some state governments to assist in this process. Furthermore, a new area of inquiry into ethical obligations is developing – once we know what works and what does not, is there an ethical obligation to provide or remove funding? AAEBP organizes a yearly conference that brings together politicians, policymakers, and providers to discuss these issues and provide information on different types of services.

Peter asked the group how CCJG and AAEBP could collaborate more closely. Lawrence Sherman suggested collaborating on the position paper discussed earlier. David Weisburd proposed giving a presentation about CCJG at one of AAEBP's conferences, either in California (April 2009) or Philadelphia (October 2009). He also suggested sharing information across the two organizations' mailing lists, and putting the user abstracts for CCJG reviews on AAEBP's website. Finally, David suggested that Peter contact C2 to discuss the possibility of developing a web-based tool based on Mark Lipsey's program evaluation model.

11. Evolution of the CCJG Steering Committee

David Weisburd drew attention to a provision in the new CCJG Governance Plan that SC members who have not attended at least one of the last three meetings should be considered for removal from the Committee (except in extenuating circumstances). The rule currently applies to some Committee members. One of them, Catherine Blaya, had already asked if she could step down. The Committee agreed that since the Governance Plan had only just been approved, the rule should not be applied retroactively to others. Instead, it was agreed that the rule should come into effect as of this meeting, and the co-chairs would write to all Committee members after the meeting to notify them.

Nominations for new membership were discussed. Currently the SC has 17 members (not counting Catherine Blaya). The maximum membership is 24, though it is unlikely to reach that number. Currently six members are wholly or partly based in the US and six in the UK, so the Committee agreed that new members from other countries should be prioritized.

Six people were either nominated or self-nominated following a recent call. After some discussion of these nominees, the Committee decided that more detail should have been included in the call for nominations about what qualifications or expertise in evidence-based practice should be required of nominees. Language referring to support of the development and promulgation of evidence and systematic synthesis should also be included. The Committee agreed to withhold decision-making until the requirements were clarified. After the meeting, the co-chairs will write to the current nominees explaining this, and will work to develop a clearer policy over the next two months.

David Weisburd noted the importance of increasing representatives from Asia. Susyan Jou agreed to discuss potential nominees from the region with her colleague Chuen-Jim Sheu. Lawrence Sherman asked if C2 would consider funding travel expenses for representatives from developing nations to ensure they could come to at least one meeting per year. David Weisburd offered to raise this issue with the Steering Group. David Farrington noted that Canada is currently unrepresented on the Committee, and that Canadian representation should be sought since their government once provided funding for CCJG. Jacque Mallender added that it was very important to consider the emerging economies, especially since academics, policymakers, and practitioners from these countries are often less set in their ways and more open to new methods.

David Weisburd added that the issue of SC evolution should be allocated more time and be placed higher on the agenda in future meetings.

12. Publications

(a) Progress Report on Springer Book Series

Welmoed Spahr reported that Springer was ready to offer a contract to the editors. Since Peter Grabosky is no longer able to act as co-editor with Lawrence Sherman, a new co-editor is sought. Welmoed indicated that Springer would be open to rotating series editors, who could be drawn from the SC or others with a strong interest in evidence-based practices. Lawrence Sherman offered to ask Jonathan Shepherd, who was unable to attend this meeting. Welmoed agreed that it would be possible to contract with Lawrence Sherman alone at this point, although since this was not ideal the SC should move quickly to identify a second editor.

(b) Progress Report on *Journal of Experimental Criminology*

David Weisburd reported that the Journal has been very successful, with the number of articles submitted doubling since 2007. Nineteen research articles were published this year, a figure comparable to the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. Furthermore, an ISI impact factor evaluation is scheduled for Spring 2009. Springer is continuing its policy of making the annual McCord Prize Lecture article available for open access online.

David Weisburd acknowledged that the Journal has been successful because of the support of prominent CCJG SC members, and hoped that the systematic reviews recently approved by the Group would be submitted for publication in the Journal. He thanked Welmoed Spahr for her patience and assistance.

[At this time, David Weisburd left the meeting due to another commitment, and Peter Grabosky took over the role of meeting chair].

(c) Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

Peter Grabosky congratulated David Farrington, and his co-authors Trevor Bennett and Katy Holloway, on the publication of their Neighborhood Watch systematic review by the COPS office.

David Farrington commented that the COPS reports lacked a summary page indicating the outcome of the review, and asked if this could be added if possible to make the reports even more accessible to busy practitioners.

(d) Swedish National Council on Crime Prevention

David Farrington reported that the Swedish National Council on Crime Prevention had published seven reports of evidence-based policy. Most of these were based on CCJG reviews. He distributed copies of some of the titles. Hard copies are available for purchase on the Swedish National Council on Crime Prevention's website (www.bra.se), and electronic versions could be downloaded for free. The reviews are published in English and Swedish, and receive considerable media publicity in Sweden.

(e) Other Publications

National Institute of Justice website

Margaret Zahn noted that the National Institute of Justice often publishes links to specific articles on its home page. She suggested that Charlotte Gill contact Jolene Herndon to discuss linking CCJG reviews to the website.

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law

Friedrich Lösel has been appointed editor of this journal. They are interested in publishing CCJG reviews related to the theme of the journal. Although journal content must be original, it may be possible to modify reviews or produce a special issue. David Farrington agreed that publication in this journal would broaden CCJG's audience.

13. CCJG Website and Mailing List

Susyan Jou described the progress toward developing a Chinese language version of the CCJG website. She explained that although randomized controlled trials are not

conducted in China, many are interested in research synthesis, but few among the target audience possess sufficient English skills. Therefore, she has been in discussion with her colleague Chuen-Jim Sheu, a founding CCJG SC member, and SC member Hiroshi Tsutomi, who translated the website into Japanese. She explained that the process would be long – the production of the Japanese website took over a year, with a team of more than ten volunteers. She will also need technical assistance and web hosting. Peter Grabosky stated that when Susyan was ready to move ahead, the CCJG would put her in touch with C2 in Norway to draw up a memorandum of understanding and discuss technical assistance.

Lawrence Sherman raised the possibility of posting articles about C2 and CCJG on Wikipedia and Google KNOL. Google KNOL differs from Wikipedia in that articles are single-authored, rather than open to public editing. David Farrington offered to send his article on CCJG, authored with David Weisburd, for posting on that website. Charlotte Gill agreed to consult with Camilla Chausse, C2's Information Officer, about writing C2 and CCJG articles.

Peter Grabosky noted that considerable progress had been made with the improvements to the C2 website, and asked for that to be passed on to the C2 team.

14. Report on Recent Meetings

(a) C2 Steering Group Meeting, October 2008, Freiburg, Germany

David Wilson updated the group on developments from the meeting:

- Website: there is a plan to add a place on the website where people can suggest new topics. David Wilson will suggest that this should include a check box to indicate whether the proposal has come from an academic, policymaker, or practitioner.
- Library: improvements to the online library were proposed. The library will be renamed 'Campbell Systematic Reviews,' and will feature a citation standard, a monograph number for each review, and a unified visual identity. There is no date for completion yet, as all the documents will have to be reformatted, which will take some time.
 - Phyllis Schultze suggested that the reviews could be given an ISSN so that libraries could catalogue them. David Wilson will suggest this to C2.

(b) Ad hoc C2 Progress Committee Conference Call, 30 September 2008

This committee, consisting of David Wilson (chair), Arild Bjørndal, Jerry Lee, Mark Lipsey, Jacque Mallender, and Peter Neyroud, held a conference call to discuss why reviews took so long to complete and how this could be improved. Charlotte Gill took notes during the call. The main barrier to quick completion identified by the committee was the fact that many authors have never done systematic reviews before and needed more training and support. Several suggestions for improvement were proposed:

- Develop systematic review centers staffed by trained personnel who would collaborate with the primary review authors to do the technical work.
 - David Wilson reported that the C2 Steering Group was very enthusiastic about this idea and was exploring funding sources for infrastructure support.
- Develop a standard format for the protocol.

- Mark Lipsey is working on this, but no timeline yet.
- Create two Campbell systems: full reviews, and involvement in rapid evidence assessments (REAs).
 - C2 central was not keen on becoming directly involved in REAs, but thought working with REA producers to convert them into full reviews would be more feasible.
 - David Wilson suggested that Jacque Mallender should email Arild Bjørndal about how that could work.
- Streamline the peer review process (especially in the Methods Group, where there is a lot of overlapping work).
 - C2 was supportive of allowing the methods editor to be the sole methods reviewer on all straightforward reviews, only seeking additional reviews in complex cases. This proposal will now be put to the Methods Group.

Charlotte Gill will send the meeting notes to the Committee.

(c) American Society of Criminology, 12-15 November 2008, St Louis, MO

Brandon Welsh reported that, thanks to the efforts of the CCJG Committee and authors, five CCJG-sponsored panels had been arranged at the current conference. Titled ‘Evidence-Based Crime Prevention I-V,’ the panels cover methodological as well as substantive topics. The Committee congratulated Brandon on his achievement and thanked him for his efforts.

David Weisburd reminded SC members about Academy of Experimental Criminology events at the conference, and congratulated Peter Grabosky on his appointment as an Honorary Fellow of the Academy. The Committee congratulated David on being awarded this year’s Joan McCord Prize.

(d) European Society of Criminology, 2-5 September 2008, Edinburgh, Scotland

Martin Killias and Friedrich Lösel organized two CCJG sessions at the conference. Martin Killias presented his review on the effectiveness of custodial vs. non-custodial sentences.

15. Upcoming Meetings

(a) Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology, 25-28 November 2008, Canberra, Australia

Peter Grabosky has organized sessions and will present on the work of the CCJG.

(b) 9th Annual Jerry Lee Crime Prevention Symposium, 27-28 April 2009, University of Maryland/Washington, DC

The symposium will be on Monday (University of Maryland) and Tuesday (Capitol Hill). The new Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University will also hold its official opening ceremony that week.

(c) Campbell Collaboration Colloquium, 18-20 May 2009, Oslo, Norway

David Wilson noted the correct dates of the Colloquium, which were listed incorrectly in the agenda and previous minutes. He encouraged SC members to attend, as the CCJG has historically been underrepresented at this conference.

The next C2 Colloquium will be held in October 2010 in Denver, CO, coinciding with the Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium.

(d) Stockholm Criminology Symposium, 22-24 June 2009, Stockholm, Sweden

The Stockholm Prize ceremony will take place on the evening of June 23.

(e) European Society of Criminology, 9-12 September 2009, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Martin Killias noted that CCJG should have a presence at this meeting and suggested that he, Friedrich Lösel, and other European committee members could arrange panels.

(f) American Society of Criminology, 4-7 November 2009, Philadelphia, PA

Brandon Welsh offered once again to organize panels showcasing the work of the CCJG at this conference.

(g) United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, 12-19 April 2010, Salvador, Brazil

Peter Grabosky will be working with Jan Andersson and Eamonn Noonan (C2) to increase the presence of the Campbell Collaboration at this event.

(h) ISC World Congress of Criminology, 21-26 October 2011, Kobe, Japan

CCJG should arrange a presence at this conference nearer the time.

16. Other Business

No further items were submitted for discussion.

17. Date of Next CCJG SC Meeting

The next meeting of the CCJG SC will take place on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at the offices of the National Council for Crime Prevention (Brå) in Stockholm, Sweden. A dinner for participants will also take place on a date to be confirmed.