

**COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE**  
**Annual Report 2013-14**

To: The Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on the Faculty Research Lecture enthusiastically nominates Craig Haney, Professor of Psychology, as the Faculty Research Lecturer for the 2014-15 academic year.

Professor Haney embodies the interdisciplinarity that we value at UCSC. He received a joint Ph.D. and J.D. from Stanford University and has spent his career in the Psychology Department on this campus. Throughout his prolific career Professor Haney has examined the immediate psychological trauma and long-term mental health effects of incarceration and isolation on prisoners. He has argued persuasively that the prevailing prison policies violate the legal and civil rights of prisoners. Haney studies the social histories of those accused or convicted of serious violent crimes as well as how legal procedures affect attitudes and beliefs about crime, punishment and legal fairness.

Haney has been quite prolific, as he has published widely in a great variety of venues, including three books. The Law & Society Association bestowed its Herbert Jacob Book Prize, which is awarded for the Most Outstanding Book on Law and Society, on Professor Haney for his book, *Death by Design: Capital Punishment as a Social Psychological System* (Oxford 2005). *Reforming Punishment: Psychological Limits of the Pains of Imprisonment* (American Psychological Association Books 2006) was nominated for the National Book Award by the American Psychological Association. *Technical Report for the National Commission on Testing and Public Policy* (Ford Foundation, 1989) was revised and distributed (1994) by the Ford Foundation as *Standardized Error: Fair Employment Testing and Employment Discrimination*. In addition to publishing in a wide array of peer-reviewed journals in Psychology, including *Crime and Delinquency*, *American Psychologist*, *Behavioral Sciences and Law*, *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, and a long list of others, he has also published a significant number of articles in law reviews. Haney's work has appeared, for example, in *Stanford Law Review*, *DePaul Law Review*, *University of San Francisco Law Review*, *Hofstra Law Review*, and *Santa Clara Law Review*, among others. He has also published a truly impressive number of book chapters and many of his journal articles have been reprinted. His research productivity is ongoing as he is completing another book, *Context and Criminality: Toward a Rational Model of Crime Control*, to be published by Harvard University Press.

Perhaps more important than the extraordinary quantity of his published research, however, is its influence. Professor Haney embodies the values of UCSC's tradition of engaged scholarship and concern with social justice. He has traveled all over the country from one prison to another for decades, working on dozens of high-profile death penalty cases. He has literally saved lives with his research and expert testimony to a variety of state and national legislative bodies. For example, he has presented testimony based on his research to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights Hearing on Solitary Confinement in 2012, the California Assembly Committee on Public Safety in 2011, the United States Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights in 2006, and the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims

in 2005, and the National Commission on Prisoner Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons in 2005.

One of these instances of expert testimony is particularly impressive: Haney was a star witness in an historic case (*Brown v. Plata*) in 2011. In this case, the US Supreme Court upheld a 9th Circuit Court decision that called for the State of California to reduce its prison population. The 9th Circuit Court reasoned that the oppressively over-crowded prisons in our state led to such utterly debilitating conditions (including health services so deficient that inmate deaths occur on a regular basis) that they violated the 8th Amendment's ban on "cruel and unusual punishment" and were therefore unconstitutional. Haney's evidence from his years of research—including evidence from life histories, case studies, first hand observations, experiments, and aggregated data on prison systems—was the empirical spine of the 9th Circuit's decision, and it was so powerful that it withstood the interrogation of justices who attempted to undermine the argument. This decision essentially forced the State of California to pass AB109, prison realignment, which requires non-violent, non-sexual, non-serious offenders to serve time in county jails rather than the state prison system and therefore to serve less time overall and to get more help from community services and treatment agencies at the local level. This means that more than 30,000 low-level offenders have been released to local authorities a bit earlier as a direct result of Haney's heroic work—saving the overwhelmingly poor and people of color thousands of combined person-years of imprisonment, and taxpayers billions of dollars better spent on things like higher education.

Beyond this, Haney was selected by the National Academy of Sciences to serve on a panel about the causes and consequences of high rates of incarceration in the United States, one of a half-dozen experts in the country from all fields. Haney is also a key leader in our local group, Smart On Crime, which won a grant from the Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California and has helped develop an array of alternatives to incarceration that improve public safety and human rights.

Professor Haney has also won several teaching awards, notably the Golden Apple Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Social Sciences Division and the Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award, to name only two. He is a gifted lecturer who brings in the human element to critiques of policies related to incarceration and their psychological effects.

In sum, Professor Haney is a public intellectual whose research demonstrates great distinction. He is well deserving of the honor of presenting his research to the university and larger community at the 49<sup>th</sup> annual Faculty Research Lecture.

Respectfully submitted,

## **COMMITTEE ON FACULTY RESEARCH LECTURE**

JJ Garcia-Luna-Aceves  
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