**Criminology Comprehensive Exam THEORY**

**Doctoral Program in Criminology**

**School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences**

**University of Texas at Dallas**

**October 2019**

**Instructions**

You have six (6) hours to complete the Theory portion of the comprehensive exam.

Your answers will be evaluated on their organization, coherence, clarity, intellectual rigor, substantive validity, conceptual development, and application of relevant literature to the question at hand.

Answers must be emailed to [scotch@utdallas.edu](mailto:scotch@utdallas.edu) before 4:00pm today (10/26/2019).

We wish you all success!

**THEORY QUESTIONS**

**Answer ONE of the following:**

Question 1

It is no secret that males commit the vast majority of crime.  Arrest, self-report, and victimization data all reflect the fact that men and boys offend at a much greater level than do women and girls.  Apply one macro-level and one micro-level criminological theory of your choice to explain this gender gap.  Discuss the tenets of each of your chosen theories, how they explain the gender gap, and how specific studies in each of the two traditions substantiate your points.  Make sure you also include a discussion of the methodological strengths and weaknesses of the studies you integrate.

Question 2

Almost a century ago, criminologists predicted that areas with higher levels of immigration would be associated with more crime. Current empirical work, though, has consistently found that places with more immigration have lower levels of crime. Using one micro-level and one macro-level criminological theory of your choice, describe the mechanisms by which this paradox has resulted.  Discuss the tenets of each of your chosen theories, how they explain the paradox, and how specific studies in each of the two traditions substantiate your points.  Make sure you also include a discussion of the methodological strengths and weaknesses of the studies you integrate.