Criminology Qualifying Exam THEORY
Doctoral Program in Criminology
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas

October 2018

Instructions

You will have six (6) hours to complete the Theory portion of the qualifying 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 npiquero@utdallas.edu before 4:00pm today (10/27/2018). Good luck.

THEORY QUESTIONS

Answer ONE of the following:

1. Variable measurement is an issue with many of our criminological theories. Pick one theory that has had to deal with measurement issues regarding its key predictor(s). Explain the evolution of the theory with special emphasis on variable measurement. How has it improved or suffered over the years? How would you design a research study to test the theory today given what we've learned? Make sure to include sampling, measurement, and analytic choices (and their rationale) in your answer.

2. A criminological theorist's job is to explain criminal behavior. Discuss two different criminological theories—one micro and one macro—and the state of the evidence surrounding them. Have they been supported, not supported, or received mixed support from research? In addition to focusing on general conceptual matters, your answer should address methodological issues in prior testing of the theories. Have the two theories been adequately tested? What are the main methodological issues that continue to affect the fate of these theories?

Criminology Qualifying Exam POLICY
Doctoral Program in Criminology
School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
University of Texas at Dallas

October 2018

Instructions

You will have six (6) hours to complete the Policy portion of the qualifying 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 npiquero@utdallas.edu before 4:00pm today (10/28/2018). Good luck.

POLICY QUESTIONS

Answer ONE of the following:

1. In September 2018, the New York division of the ACLU opened a pop-up art installation, The Museum of Broken Windows. The Museum

> "showcases the ineffectiveness of broken windows policing, which criminalizes our most vulnerable communities. The strategy of broken windows policing is outdated and has never been proven to be effective at reducing crime. For decades, communities of color have been disproportionately impacted by broken windows policing. It is time for a change."

How would you respond to the claim that broken windows policing has been ineffective and never proven to be effective at reducing crime? How have communities of color by disproportionately impacted by broken windows policing? What changes would you suggest policing agencies make to be effective at reducing crime rates while at the same time reduce racial/ethnic tensions between police and communities? You must support your answers with empirical research.

2. The recently launched the Square One Project is a three-year initiative to rethink justice policies from top to bottom. According to the President and CEO of the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, a sponsor of the project, "The project asks: "if we set aside the traditional response to crime, and ask first whether other responses might be more effective—if we begin at 'square one'—how would criminal justice policy be different?" Additionally, the project will develop new responses to violence and other social problems that can emerge under conditions of poverty and racial inequality.

Based on your knowledge of "what works" in reducing crime or achieving justice, how would you answer the question, "if we begin at "square one" how would criminal justice policy be different?" Your answer must be supported by the relevant theoretical framework(s) and empirical literature. Lastly, your proposal must have an evaluation component such that future policymakers and the public can know whether your policies work.