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*Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008*

## **K-STATE GRAD STUDENT TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR HIS DEDICATION TO JUSTICE**

MANHATTAN — Travis Linnemann has been a prison guard, child welfare worker and a probation officer. In all, the Kansas State University doctoral student in sociology has spent 10 years on the front lines of the U.S. justice system.

It's that real-life experience that inspired Linnemann, Manhattan, to return to school and study the connection between race and gender and incarceration. Just before he came to K-State, he led a multi-year research/intervention project on the overrepresentation of minority youth in juvenile justice.

"I thought the best place I could affect the most change would be teaching the next generation of criminal justice workers and producing research that can improve the treatment of youth and adults in our criminal justice systems," Linnemann said.

For his work in this area, the American Society of Criminology's Division of People of Color and Crime will recognize Linnemann Friday, Nov. 14, with the Outstanding Graduate Student Award. In addition, his recent paper "Mad Men, Meth Moms, and Moral Panic: Gendering Meth Crimes in the Midwest," will receive the American Society of Criminology's Critical Criminology Graduate Student Paper Award.

"Travis is a first-rate young scholar with tremendous promise," said Spencer Wood, assistant professor of sociology, anthropology and social work at K-State. Wood nominated Linnemann for the national honor. "He has real-world experiences that strengthen his scholarship and insights. Also unique among critical criminologists studying mass incarceration is that he is originally from a small rural town, Marysville, and that he has worked as a probation officer. Only a few other critical and cultural criminologists have these types of experiences."

Linnemann's research focuses on race and gender considerations related to incarceration. To date, he has published four articles in peer-reviewed journals.

"Many things are terribly wrong with our criminal justice system," Linnemann said. "However, current injustices reflect broader social inequalities that are perhaps deeper and not as easy to see.

(more)

"The study of crime provides perhaps the best glimpse and opportunity to examine all manner of social inequalities based on race, class sex, and more," he said.

Linnemann's ongoing research projects include studying how methamphetamine abuse and control has changed life for rural residents, and the influences of court and community context on criminal sentences.

Linnemann earned a master's degree in sociology from K-State in 2006, and is working toward completing his doctorate in 2010.

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