

## ELSA Y. CHEN

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### EDUCATION

**University of California, Los Angeles.** Department of Political Science. Ph.D. 2000; M.A. 1996.  
Major fields: American Politics and Quantitative Methods.  
Dissertation: *Impacts of Three Strikes and You're Out and Truth in Sentencing on Corrections and Crime*. (Committee: James Q. Wilson and James D. DeNardo, co-chairs; Mohan Penubarti Rao, Peter W. Greenwood, and Eric Monkkonen.)

**Harvard University.** John F. Kennedy School of Government. M.P.P. (Public Policy), 1993.

**Princeton University.** Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. A.B. with Honors, 1991.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Professor, Santa Clara University, Department of Political Science.** September 2000 – present.

Courses taught: Making Public Policy, Special Topics in Public Policy (Housing & Homelessness Policy), Seminar in U.S. Politics: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice Policy, Public Sector Internship, Introduction to American Politics. Consistently earned stellar teaching evaluations.

**Director, Santa Clara University, Public Sector Studies Program.** September 2000 – present.  
Designed public sector studies curriculum and courses; directed interdisciplinary Public Sector Emphasis. Increased SCU students' participation in Washington Semester program to record levels. Managed close partnership with Panetta Institute for Public Policy. Supervised over 140 student internships. Established and maintained close relationships between Santa Clara University and numerous government and nonprofit offices including City of San Jose, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, CA State Senate and Assembly, U.S. Congress, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, International Rescue Committee, and Catholic Charities.

**Faculty Scholar, Santa Clara University, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics.** 2003 – present.  
Provided ethics training at workshops for government officials and contributed input regarding the Ethics Center's programs and direction.

**Policy Analyst, RAND Criminal Justice Program.** November 1996 – June 2000.

Projects included:

- “Violent Offender Incarceration / Truth in Sentencing: Impacts on Correctional Management and Privatization.” (Project Manager) Assessed effects of sentencing policies on management, programming, and health care in prisons and private correctional facilities.
- “Violent Offender Incarceration / Truth in Sentencing National Evaluation.” Collected and analyzed statistical and qualitative data for three-year evaluation of a multi-billion dollar component of 1994 Violent Crime Act.
- “Assessing the Impacts of Mandatory Minimums.” Performed statistical analysis of impacts of “Three Strikes and You’re Out” for project funded by National Institute of Justice.
- “Five Years of Three Strikes in CA: Effectiveness and Cost Effectiveness in Reducing Crime.” Collected and analyzed data for study funded by the Smith Richardson Foundation.
- “Violence Prevention Initiative.” Evaluated community-based crime prevention efforts. Project sponsored by the California Wellness Foundation.

**Lecturer, California State University, Long Beach, Political Science Department.** Spring 1999.  
Taught Quantitative Methods for Political Science, including data analysis using SPSS. Excellent teaching evaluations.

**Policy Consultant, Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney.** Hardcore Gang Division and Bureau of Public Affairs. Summer 1992.  
Worked on alternative dispute resolution proposal and efforts to reduce domestic violence among Chinese and Korean immigrant populations.

## **JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

Chen, Elsa Y. “Impacts of ‘Three Strikes and You’re Out’ on Crime Trends in California and throughout the United States.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* (special issue on Empirical Research on the Impact of Sentencing Reforms, November 2008).

Chen, Elsa Y. “The Liberation Hypothesis and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Application of California’s Three Strikes Law.” *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, Volume 6, Number 2 (Fall 2008), p. 83-102.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Cumulative Disadvantage and Racial and Ethnic Disparities in California Felony Sentencing.” Invited chapter in *Racial and Ethnic Politics in California, Vol. Three*. Editors Bruce Cain, Jaime Regalado, and Sandra Bass. Berkeley, CA: Institute of Governmental Studies Press (2008), p. 251-274.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Victim and Witness Intimidation.” *Encyclopedia of Race and Crime*. Editors Helen Taylor Greene and Shaun L. Gabbidon. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications (forthcoming 2009).

Chen, Elsa Y. Book Review of *Unjust Sentencing and the California Three Strikes Law* (2005) by Douglas W. Kieso. *Criminal Justice Review*, Volume 32, Number 4 (December 2007), p. 459-461.

Chen, Elsa Y. “E-mail Concerns and Obstacles for Local Elected Officials.” *Journal of E-Government*, Volume 3, Number 3 (December 2006), p. 91-106.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Virtual Representatives: Local Elected Officials Online.” *Journal of E-Government*, Volume 2, Number 1 (November 2005), p. 55-78.

Chen, Elsa Y. “You’ve Got Politics!” *STS Nexus*, Volume 4, Number 2 (Spring 2004), p. 6-12.

Turner, Susan, Terry Fain, Peter W. Greenwood, and Elsa Y. Chen. “The Impact of ‘Truth-in-Sentencing’ and Three-Strikes Legislation on Prison Populations, State Budgets, and Crime Rates.” *Stanford Law and Policy Review*, Volume 11, Number 1, Winter 1999, p. 75-83.

## **TECHNICAL REPORTS**

Turner, Susan, Terry Fain, Peter W. Greenwood, Elsa Y. Chen, and James Chiesa. *National Evaluation of the Violent Offender Incarceration / Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grant Program*, September 2001. RAND Report # DRU-2634-NIJ. Prepared for the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

Peter W. Greenwood, Susan S. Everingham, Elsa Y. Chen, Allan F. Abrahamse, Nancy Merritt, and James Chiesa. *Three Strikes Revisited: An Early Assessment of Implementation and Effects*, April 2000. RAND Report # DRR-1905-NIJ. Prepared for the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Chen, Elsa Y. “In the Furtherance of Injustice? A Multilevel Analysis of Politics, Race, and Prosecutorial Decision-Making.” Study of the effects of offender-level and county-level factors on sentencing outcomes for third-strike eligible offenders in California. Paper applies a hierarchical logistic model to an original dataset obtained from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Race, Prosecutorial Discretion, and Sentence Length in California.” Analysis of the impacts of individual and contextual factors on sentence length for entire population of inmates held in California correctional facilities, using hierarchical linear modeling.

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Crime and Justice Summer Research Institute. Criminal Justice Research Center, The Ohio State University. July 2008. One of eight scholars nationwide selected to participate in a three-week intensive summer research and professional development program funded by the National Science Foundation and Ohio State University.

“Public Policy and the Homelessness-Crime Nexus.” Presidential Research Grant, Santa Clara University. March 2008 – June 2009 (\$3,892).

- “In the Furtherance of Injustice? Prosecutorial Discretion and Sentencing Disparities in California Counties.” Faculty Development Program, Santa Clara University. Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2007 – June 2008 (\$1,050).
- “Race, Ethnicity, and ‘Three Strikes’ in California.” Arthur Vining Davis Grant, Santa Clara University. Support for Junior Faculty Development Leave, July 2006 – June 2007 (\$3,265).
- “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in California’s Criminal Justice System.” Faculty Development Program, Santa Clara University. Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2006 – June 2007 (\$1,750).
- “Three Strikes: Crime and Offender Impacts” Faculty Development Program, Santa Clara University. Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2005 – June 2006 (\$1,000).
- “You’ve Got Politics!” Faculty Development Program, Santa Clara University. Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2004 – June 2005 (\$1,000).
- “DISCOVERing Public Sector Opportunities: Internships as Vocational Exploration.” DISCOVER Program, Santa Clara University. June 2004 – June 2006 (\$1,300).
- “Research Support, Student of Color Mentoring, and Conference Attendance for Junior Faculty of Color.” Center for Multicultural Learning, Santa Clara University. April 2004 – December 2005 (\$4,385).
- “Assessing the Impacts of Three Strikes and You’re Out in California.” Faculty Development Program, Santa Clara University. Faculty/Student Research Assistant Program. July 2003 – June 2004 (\$1,000).
- “E-mail and Politics Survey.” Center for Science, Technology and Society, Santa Clara University. May 2002 – June 2003. Supplemental research grant to conduct surveys and case studies on e-mail use by local and state government offices and lobbying groups (\$9,128).
- “E-mail and Politics.” Thomas Terry Research Grant, Santa Clara University. March 2001 – June 2003. Grant to support research on e-mail communication between government agencies and public officials, interest groups, and citizens (\$4,880).
- National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Graduate Research Fellowship. June 1998 – June 2000.  
Received fellowship to support empirical research on the impacts of “Three Strikes and You’re Out” and “Truth in Sentencing” on the volume and composition of correctional populations (\$34,997).
- Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Dept. of Political Science. September 1995 – June 1996.  
Directed team of student researchers working on project cataloguing achievements of Chinese Americans, working with Professor James Tong.
- UCLA Institute for Social Science Research Traineeship in Minority Politics. 1993 – 1995.  
Conducted qualitative and quantitative research on the status of African-American men, concentrating on criminal justice and health, with Professor Franklin Gilliam.

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship in Public Policy and International Affairs. June 1990 – June 1993.  
Summer institute, funding for summer internship, and full scholarship for MPP degree.

## **TEACHING AWARDS**

Faculty Award, Pan-Asian Senior Ceremony (Santa Clara University Center for Multicultural Learning), June 2007. Chosen by Asian-Pacific-American students from the graduating class.

“Best Professor, 2005 – 2006.” Department of Political Science, Santa Clara University. Awarded by students of the Political Science Department.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Chen, Elsa Y. “In the Furtherance of Injustice? A Multilevel Analysis of Politics, Race, and Prosecutorial Decision-Making.” Paper presented at the Racial Democracy, Crime, and Justice Network Conference, Columbus, OH, July 2008.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Impacts of ‘Three Strikes and You’re Out’ on Crime Trends in California and throughout the United States.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2008 (also served as panel chair). Also delivered in an invited lecture to the faculty of the Santa Clara University Department of Economics, January 2008.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Prosecutorial Discretion and Racial and Ethnic Sentencing Disparities in California Counties.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, September 2007.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Sentencing under California’s ‘Three Strikes and You’re Out’ Law.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2007. Also delivered in an invited lecture to the faculty of the Santa Clara University School of Law, April 2007. Earlier version presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, November 2006 (also served as panel chair).

Chen, Elsa Y. “Race, Ethnicity, and Felony Sentencing in California.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2006.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Virtual Representatives: E-mail and Local Politics.” Paper presented at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, March 2005.

Chen, Elsa Y. “You’ve Got Politics! The Impact of E-mail on Political Communication and Participation.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2004.

Chen, Elsa Y. “Effects of ‘Get Tough’ Legislation on Correctional Management and Prison Privatization.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, November 1999.

- Chen, Elsa Y. “Lessons from RAND’s National Evaluation of the Federal Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth in Sentencing Program.” Paper presented at the Justice Research and Statistics Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 1999.
- Chen, Elsa Y. “Three Strikes and You’re Out and Truth in Sentencing: Game-Winning Plays or Unnecessary Roughness?” Poster presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, September 1999. Also presented at the Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, College Station, TX, July 1999.
- Chen, Elsa Y. “Three Strikes and Truth in Sentencing: An Early Assessment of Impacts on Crime and Corrections.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 1999.
- Chen, Elsa Y. “Impacts of Three Strikes and Truth in Sentencing on Crime Rates and Correctional Populations: an Empirical Analysis.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 1998.
- Everingham, Susan E., and Elsa Y. Chen. “Three Strikes Revisited: An Early Assessment of Implementation and Effects.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 1998.
- Chen, Elsa Y. “Estimating the Impact of Three Strikes and Truth in Sentencing on Correctional Populations.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 1998. Also delivered at the Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 1998.
- Everingham, Susan E., and Elsa Y. Chen. “What Effect Has Three Strikes Really Had in California?” Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 1997.
- Chen, Elsa Y. and Nancy Merritt. “Evaluation of the Federal Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Act.” Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, November 1997.
- Chen, Elsa Y. “Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing: A National Evaluation of Implementation Experiences and Impact on Corrections, Case Processing, and Public Safety.” Presented at the Justice Research and Statistics Association Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, September 1997.

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS (not listed above)**

- “Navigating Professional Service: When to Say ‘Yes’ and How to Say ‘No’” (roundtable panel discussion). Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2007.
- “A Mouse in Town Hall: E-mail and Local Politics.” University of California, Berkeley - Center for Globalization and Information Technology, Berkeley, CA, November 2005.

“The Impact of the California Recall Election on Bay Area Local Governments.” Santa Clara County Cities Association, Sunnyvale, CA, September 2003.

“Moral Choices and California's Huge Budget Deficit.” Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University, February 2003.

“How Hard Has Three Strikes Struck?” Three Strikes Policy Roundtable, RAND Criminal Justice Program, Santa Monica, CA, August 2001.

“Measuring the Impact of Three Strikes and You’re Out at the National, State, and County Level” and “Estimating the Impacts of Three Strikes and TIS on Crime and Correctional Populations.” University of Michigan, Intercollegiate Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Workshop on the Effects of Sanctions. Ann Arbor, MI, June 1998.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

### **Leadership Roles in Professional Organizations**

- Executive Council, Division on People of Color and Crime, American Society of Criminology (2007 – present).
- Advisory Board, Asian Pacific Council on Democracy (2004 – present). Co-organizer, “Rethinking Freedom and Democracy in a Rapidly Changing World” conference, Santa Clara, CA, October 2004. Panel chair, “Transnational Forces and Democracy in Asia” and panel discussant, “Freedom and Democracy in Action in Asia.”

### **Membership in Professional Organizations**

- American Political Science Association (1994 – present)
- Midwest Political Science Association (1996 – present)
- American Society of Criminology (1997 – present)
- Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network (2008 – present)
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2000 – 2002)
- Society for Political Methodology (1999 – 2004)
- Justice Research and Statistics Association (1997 – 2000)
- Western Political Science Association (1996 – 2001)

### **Reviewer for Journals**

- *State and Local Government Review* (2008 – present)
- *American Politics Research* (2006 – present)
- *AAPI Nexus: Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, Policy, Practice and Community* (2007 – present)

### **University Service**

- Advisor, SCU College Democrats
- Advisor, SCU College Republicans
- Member and participant, SCU Women of Color Network
- Experiential Learning curriculum development workshop for new core curriculum, June 2008
- “Reflector” (reviewer) for thought papers on new core curriculum Civic Engagement requirement, November 2004

- Lay participant, Convocation of the California Province of the Society of Jesuits, August 2003

**Department Service**

- Director, Public Sector Studies Program (described above)
- Search committees: American Political Institutions (2-year lecturer, 2004; Tenure-track, 2005), Applied Quantitative Methods (2-year lecturer, 2007; Tenure-track, 2008)
- Amos Dana Award for Public Service, committee chair, 2004 – present
- Panetta Congressional Internship, selection committee chair and liaison between SCU and Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy, 2001 – present
- Kronick Student Research Award, selection committee, 2005, 2007, 2008