Pitfalls, Strengths, and "Saves" for Women Leaving Prison
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This talk focuses on findings about 100 women after they are released from prison. Challenges and strengths are described. They include some that many prior studies have recognized, such as unsafe housing and markers of extreme poverty. They also include unique challenges such as contending with lack of transportation and welfare cut backs. Quantitative predictors of success on parole are identified. Based on the quantitative analysis, two question arise: (1) Does women's exercise of agency differentiate those who comply with requirements of supervision and avoid police contact? (2) Exactly what are women trying to do when they exercise their agency to improve their lives? To begin to answer these questions, exploratory case studies are presented to illustrate the agentic moves of women who succeed on parole and avoid additional justice system contact.