The Shifting Landscapes of Adulthood, Masculinity, and Crime:
A Case Study of a High-Reentry Community
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Criminologists know so much more about crime across the life course than we did two decades ago, largely thanks to longitudinal data sets that have followed offenders in and out of criminal careers. Ironically, though, the more comprehensive a longitudinal data set, the less precisely it can account for history -- especially economic, cultural, and other social changes. The well-known Glueck sample, which Laub and Sampson (2003) followed into their 70s, for example, is theoretically bounded by the fact that the men came of age during the economic prosperity of the post-WWII period. As with many samples, it also suffers from a lack of racial diversity.

In this presentation, Jamie Fader discusses the shifting social and cultural landscapes of adulthood, masculinity, and crime. Drawing on findings from two previous qualitative studies of marginalized men in Philadelphia, she will describe a new book-length research project focused on men aged 25-34 living in a community characterized by a constant churn of departing and returning prisoners. The project will provide an in-depth investigation of the role of both race and community in navigating adult masculine roles, including desistance from crime.