GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association and Alpha Phi Sigma presents: Dr. Bruce Link Talk

“A Rocky Road to Understanding Connections Between Mental illnesses and Violent Behaviors”

Date & time: February 5, 2016 at 1-3pm
Location: GSU Student Center West, Room 462

Dr. Link is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Public Policy at the University of California at Riverside. Dr. Link discusses answers to two questions: 1) Does the public believe that mental illnesses lead to violent behaviors? 2) Is there evidence to suggest that mental illnesses do in fact foster the perpetration of violent and illegal behaviors? The answer to the first question is clear with evidence consistently showing majorities of the American Public believing that people with symptoms of mental illnesses will be violent. The answer to the second question has proven exceptionally recalcitrant to researchers’ efforts to answer it with authority. This talk describes the efforts of Dr. Link and others to answering these questions over the past 25 years. Far from a linear progression of knowledge the story is full of twists and turns with cherished beliefs and carefully conceived theories finding themselves repeatedly challenged by empirical facts. I render a current conclusion – one that awaits, if the past indeed predicts the future – the next twist or turn in the story.

In 2012, Dr. Link won the Presidential Award for Outstanding teaching at Columbia University.

Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association & Alpha Phi Sigma.
Hosted by the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Georgia State University.