

**Final Report – Professional Development Grant
Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting – 2015**

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RESTATEMENT OF PROBLEM

This grant helped to fund my attendance to the Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

REVIEW OF THE WORK / PROCEDURE

I presented research entitled “No Horsing Around: Bestiality Law and Structural Ritualization Theory as a New Law Formation Model.” Attending the conference enhanced my understanding of research trends in criminology, especially those focusing on deviant behavior and the criminal justice system. It also allowed me to expose my scholarship to sociologists and criminologists with solid backgrounds in the area of qualitative studies.

OUTCOMES

I attended the conference and presented my research. Specifically, I met with many other scholars carrying out research on criminology-related topics. Conversations with those contacts will allow me to fine-tune the conference paper and subsequently use aspects of it in a book manuscript I am developing.

CONCLUSIONS

This grant allowed me to attend a conference and make beneficial contacts in the field. I might not have been able to make the contacts without extra funding. I feel that I have built a lasting network with scholars from across the country working on projects related to my presentation. This will prove beneficial as I move my research agenda on the link between structural ritualization dynamics and criminal justice forward. Aside from research, I plan to use the information gathered from sessions I attended in several of the classes I am responsible for teaching. This includes Prisons and Corrections and Deviant Behavior. With the success of this experience, I plan to apply for similar grants in the future in order to aid my scholarship and teaching.