Robinson has published 19 books and more than a hundred scholarly articles that have appeared in essentially every major law review. His work has been published in 15 languages and he has lectured in more than a hundred cities in 28 countries and 34 states.

General Audience Books

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER AND RAPE: RETHINKING THE BALANCE OF INTERESTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (Rowman and Littlefield forthcoming 2024) (with Jeffrey Seaman and Muhammad Sarahne)

AMERICAN CRIMINAL LAW: ITS PEOPLE, PRINCIPLES & EVOLUTION (Routledge 2023)

Links: Routledge, Amazon
Available as an audiobook (Tantor); reviewed by Booklist, and others

SHADOW VIGILANTES: HOW DISTRUST IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM BREEDS A NEW KIND OF LAWLESSNESS (Prometheus 2018)  Links: Prometheus Books, Amazon; reviewed at State Bar of Texas Journal


Criminal Law and Justice Books

MAPPING AMERICAN CRIMINAL LAW: VARIATIONS ACROSS THE 50 STATES (with Tyler Scot Williams) (Praeger 2018), translated into Chinese and published by Shanghai People’s Publishing House 2023  Links: ABC-CLIO, Amazon, other Chinese translations


CRIMINAL LAW CONVERSATIONS (Editor, with Steve Garvey & Kim Ferzan) (Oxford 2009)  Links: CLC Project webpage, Oxford University Press, Amazon


CRIMINAL LAW DEFENSES (West Publishing Co. 1984) (two volumes)  Links: Thomas Reuters/West, Amazon

Coursebooks


  Links: West Academic, Amazon, Book’s website for students & teachers

THE STRUCTURE AND LIMITS OF CRIMINAL LAW, Editor, The International Library of Essays on Criminal Law (Ashgate 2014)  Links: Ashgate, Amazon

  Link: Amazon

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, CHAPTERS, AND REPORTS

Criminal Law and Justice Articles, Essays, and Chapters  (see also Criminal Law Codification Articles, Essays, and Chapters below)  (links are to free downloads from SSRN.com)
  Rethinking the Balance of Interests in Non-Exculpatory Defenses, Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology (forthcoming 2024) (with Jeffrey Seaman and Muhammad Sarahne)
  Our Troubling Failures in Catching Criminals: Rethinking Legal Limits on Crime Investigation, Case Western Reserve Law Review, Case Western Reserve Law Review (forthcoming 2024) (with Jeffrey Seaman and Muhammad Sarahne)


Individualizing Criminal Law’s Justice Judgments: Shortcomings in the Doctrines of Culpability, Mitigation, and Excuse, 67 Villanova Law Review 273-338 (2022) (with Lindsay Holcomb)


The Opposite of Punishment: Imagining a Path to Public Redemption, 73 Rutgers Law Review 1-32 (2020) (with Muhammad Sarahne)

Indoctrination and Social Influence as a Defense to Crime: Are We Responsible for Who We Are?, 85 Missouri Law Review 739-801 (2021) (with Lindsay Holcomb)


Die empirisch ermittelte verdiente Strafe und die Strafeofechtskodifikation im In- und Ausland (Empirical Desert and Criminal Law Codification, Domestic and Foreign), in Johannes Kasper and Tonio Walter, Strafen “im Namen des Volkes”?: Zur rechtlichen und kriminalpolitischen Relevanz empirisch feststellbarer Strafbedürfnisse der Bevölkerung (Nomos 2019)

Strict Liability’s Criminogenic Effect, 12 Journal of Criminal Law and Philosophy 411-426 (2018) (Also available at this link.)


The Effect of Mental Illness under U.S. Criminal Law, 65(2) Northern Ireland Law Quarterly 229-242 (2014) (peer-reviewed)


The Structure and Limits of Criminal Law (the introductory essay to the essay collection by the same name) xi-xxi (Ashgate 2014) (with Joshua Barton)


Advantaging Aggressors: Justice & Deterrence in International Law, 3 Harvard National Security Journal 143-222 (2011) (with Adil Haque)


Abnormal Mental State Mitigations of Murder – The U.S. Perspective, Chapter 17 in Alan Reed & Michael Bohlander (eds.), Loss of Control and Diminished Responsibility: Domestic, Comparative & International Perspectives on the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, 291-310 (Ashgate 2011)


**The Difficulties of Deterrence as a Distributive Principle**, in Robinson, Garvey & Ferzan, eds., CRIMINAL LAW CONVERSATIONS 105-116, 124-127 (2009)


Justification Defenses in Situations of Unavoidable Uncertainty: A Reply to Professor Ferzan, 24 Law & Philosophy 775-784 (2005)


Summary of the Structure of American Criminal Law, 22 Tribune of Political Science & Law 72-79 (September 2004), 23 Tribune of Political Science & Law 98-111 (May 2005), translated into Chinese by Professor He Bingsong


Prohibited Risks and Culpable Disregard or Inattentiveness: Challenge and Confusion in the Formulation of Risk-Creation Offenses, 4 Theoretical Inquiries in Law 367-396 (2002), translated into Chinese (by Xie Jai)


Criminal Law Scholarship: Three Illusions, 2 Theoretical Inquiries in Law 287-322 (2001)


One Perspective on Sentencing Reform, 8 Criminal Law Forum 1-41 (1997)
Hate Crimes: Crimes of Motive, Character, or Group Terror?, Annual Survey of American Law 605-616 (1993)
The Criminal-Civil Distinction and Dangerous Blameless Offenders, 83 Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology 693-717 (1993) (Foreword to Supreme Court Review issue)


An Empirical Study of Federal Habeas Corpus Review of State Court Judgments (United States Department of Justice 1979)


Criminal Law Codification Monographs and Reports


REPORT OF THE SOMALI RECODIFICATION INITIATIVE (MARCH 2017) (with the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Criminal Law Research Group)

REPORT ON OFFENSE GRADING IN NEW JERSEY (January 2011) (with University of Pennsylvania Law School's Criminal Law Research Group)

REPORT ON OFFENSE GRADING IN PENNSYLVANIA (December 2010) (with University of Pennsylvania Law School’s Criminal Law Research Group)


Criminal Law Codification Articles, Essays, and Chapters


Neocolonialism, Common Law, and Uncodifiable Shari'a: A Reply to Professor An-Na'im, 2 Journal of Comparative Law (British) 61-68 (2007) (with Adnan Zulfigar)


The Five Worst (and Five Best) American Criminal Codes, 95
Northwestern University Law Review 1-89 (2000) (with Michael Cahill and
Usman Mohammad), reprinted in The Codification of Criminal Law (Ashgate
2014); reprinted in Michael Bohlander and Daley Birkett, eds., The Codification of
Criminal Law (International Library of Essays on Criminal Law) (Ashgate 2014)
Structuring Criminal Codes to Perform Their Function, in Symposium: The
reprinted in Michael Bohlander and Daley Birkett, eds., The Codification of
Criminal Law (International Library of Essays on Criminal Law) (Ashgate 2014)
In Defense of the Model Penal Code: A Reply to Professor Fletcher, in
Symposium: Toward a New Federal Criminal Code, 2 Buffalo Criminal Law
The Federal Sentencing Guidelines Ten Years Later: An Introduction and
Comments, Symposium Issue, 91 Northwestern University Law Review 1231-
1246 (1997)
Reforming Federal Criminal Law and The Model Penal Code: A Top Ten
List, in Symposium on Rethinking Federal Criminal Law, 1 Buffalo Criminal Law
Making Criminal Codes Functional: A Code of Conduct and a Code of
Adjudication, 86 Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology 304-365 (1996) (with
Peter D. Greene and Natasha R. Goldstein)
Are Criminal Codes Irrelevant?, 68 Southern California Law Review 159-
202 (1994)
Codifying Criminal Law: Do Modern Codes Have It Right?, 5 Canterbury
Four Predictions for the Criminal Law of 2043 (Conference on the 25th
Legality and Discretion in the Distribution of Criminal Sanctions, 25
Dissenting View of Commissioner Paul H. Robinson to the Promulgation of
Sentencing Guidelines by the United States Sentencing Commission, 52 Federal
(1987))
Dissenting View of Commissioner Paul H. Robinson to the Proposed
Sentencing Guidelines for United State Courts, 52 Federal Register 3986-3988
(1987))
INTERDISCIPLINARY PUBLICATIONS


The Ex Ante Function of the Criminal Law, 35 Law and Society Review 165-189 (2001) (as co-author, after John Darley and Kevin Carlsmith)


GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS: Op-Eds and Short Articles


Can Tasers Help Police Avoid Fatal Mistakes?, Baltimore Sun, January 12, 2016
Lost in a Legal Thicket, Los Angeles Times, July 3, 2015, p. A21
Mandatory Minimums Worked. Now They Must Go, Bloomberg View, August 15, 2013
Remember Bernie Goetz? Why We Need a U.S. Inquiry, Bloomberg View, July 16, 2013
Why the Zimmerman Verdict Will Be All or Nothing, The Wall Street Journal, July 9, 2013, A13
What the New Delhi Gang Rape Does Not Tell Us About India (Reactions to Steubenville, Ohio and India Gang Rapes Show India Isn't So 'Backward'), Christian Science Monitor, March 15, 2013 (with Shyam Balganesh)
Is It a Game or a Crime?, Philadelphia Inquirer, February 8, 2013, A19
The Day After 9/11, Los Angeles Times, September 10, 2012, A15
State’s Weird Law Skewed Au Pair Case, Newsday, guest columnist, November 17, 1997, A32
‘Not Guilty’ Isn’t Always ‘Innocent’, The Chicago Tribune, Op-Ed, February 8, 1994, p. 18

WORK IN PROGRESS

forthcoming 2024) (with Shima Baughman and Michael Cahill)

Red Code, Blue Code: Is a State’s Political Orientation Reflected in Its Criminal Law? The country is increasingly politically polarized and many of the points of conflict concern criminal law. It might be natural to assume that those political differences are reflected in a state’s criminal code, especially the criminal codes of states in which both legislative houses and the executive are controlled by the same political party. This project, which will be the basis for next year’s Criminal Law Theory Seminar, compares the criminal codes of the six largest “red” states and the six largest “blue” states to see whether the assumption is correct. Are the codes different in the ways that one might predict? If not, what explains why they aren’t? Taking account of a wide range of state characteristics other than their political orientation, how can similarities and differences among the codes be best explained?

“Mass Incarceration” and the “Carceral State”: The Claim of Exceptional American Punitiveness. This project examines the current U.S. imprisonment practices and compares them to those in the nineteen sixties and to those of current foreign democracies in order to determine whether there is in fact a special current American problem of “mass incarceration” due to exceptional American punitiveness, or whether the current American rates of imprisonment and times served are explained by and naturally follow from differences between the US now versus then in the US versus foreign democracies and have little or nothing to do with the claimed exceptional American punitiveness.

Does Progressive Criminal Justice Reform Undermine Fairness, Justice, and Equity? This short essay examines the primary features of progressive criminal justice reform, focusing in particular on the anti-punishment, anti-prison, and progressive prosecutor movements, to determine whether those progressive reforms promote the values of justice, fairness, and equity that the progressives purport to cherish.

Sentencing and Punishment Variations among the States. Are similar crimes punished substantially differently in different states? One can imagine arguments justifying some differences but also arguments for why those differences ought to be limited if, as the studies suggest, ordinary people across all jurisdictions share strong intuitions about the relative blameworthiness of different offenses. It turns out to be quite difficult to answer this very basic question because some states do much to make information about their punishment practices inaccessible. Further, even where conviction and sentencing data is available, in many jurisdictions that information is of little importance because the real punishment determinations are made out of public view by parole commissions and the discount off the sentence imposed publicly in court may be dramatic, perhaps 75% or more. Thus, it is a major challenge, but an important one, to try to sort out the actual punishment differences among the states. What are the nature of the differences? Do they vary depending upon the nature of the offense? Are state legislators even aware of the actual punishment patterns that their legislation generates?
EDUCATION

Diploma in Legal Studies, Cambridge University Law Faculty, England
LL.M., Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
J.D., University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California
B.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York
Northfield Mount Hermon School, Mount Hermon, Massachusetts

ACADEMIC AND PRE-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Edna & Ednyfed Williams Professor of Law: Northwestern University School of Law, 1998-2002; Professor 1993-1998; Visiting Professor 1992-1993
Distinguished Professor of Law: Rutgers University School of Law at Camden; 1985-1993; Professor 1980-1985; Associate Professor -- ; Assistant Professor 1977-1980
Acting Dean: Rutgers University School of Law at Camden, 1989-1990
Commissioner: United States Sentencing Commission (see Ch. 58, Tit. 28, U.S. Code), 1985-1988, nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate in October 1985
Legislative Counsel: United States Senate Judiciary Committee;
Subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures, 1977
Federal Prosecutor: Special Assistant United States Attorney, Alexandria, Virginia; 1976
Attorney: United States Department of Justice; Criminal Division, Legislation and Special Projects Section, 1975
Faculty Fellow: National Center for State Courts, 1973

VISITORSHIPS (IN RESIDENCE)

Visiting Professor, Tel Aviv Law Faculty, May-June 2006
Sackler Professor, Tel Aviv University, November 2000 - January 2001
Visiting Professor of Law, The University of Michigan Law School, 1998-1999
Visiting Professor, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Fuchu, Tokyo, Japan, November 1995
Canterbury Fellow, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, May-June 1995
Adjunct Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center; Class: Criminal Law; Seminar: Sentencing Theory, Practice, and Reform, 1986-1988
ADVISORY BOARDS AND EDITORSHIPS

Member, American Law Institute, 1990-1995, 2020 – present
Member, National Academy of Sciences, Committee on Law and Justice, 2019 - 2020
Advisory Board, Journal of Criminal Law (UK), 2019 - present
Editor, SSRN Legal Scholarship Network: Criminal Law Abstracts, Criminology Abstracts, Criminal Procedure Abstracts, 1996 – present
Creator & Co-Editor, Criminal Law Conversations (with Stephen Garvey & Kim Ferzan), 2007 - 2009
Faculty Advisory Board, New Criminal Law Review, 1996 - 2013

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND HONORS — DOMESTIC

Director, Delaware Criminal Law Recodification Project, September 2015-September 2016, Consultant September 2016-November 2017
Director, Criminal Law Research Group, University of Pennsylvania Law School, 2005 - present
Nominated by the Pacific Command to U.S. Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to receive the Annual Eugene Fubini Award (given to the civilian advisor who has made greatest contribution to US military’s mission), April 2015
Associate PI for law (selecting reviewers for proposals), TESS, National Science Foundation, 2009-2013
Reporter, Kentucky Penal Code Revision Project, Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, 2000-2003
Stanford Clinton, Sr. Research Professor, Northwestern University Law School, 1994-95, 1996-98
Advisor, Short Course for Prosecutors and Defense Counsel, 1993-1999
Chair, New Jersey Attorney General's Task Force on Use of Force in Law Enforcement, Committee on Law, 1991-1992
Member, New Jersey Judicial Conference, Committee on Sanctions, 1991-1992
Consultant, New Jersey Supreme Court Sentencing Pathfinders Committee, 1991-1992
Member, American Law Institute, 1990-1994
Special Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General (of New Jersey), State Grand Jury Investigation (of Teaneck police shooting and riots), 1990
First Recipient, "Outstanding Faculty Member" of Rutgers University; Award from New Jersey Department of Higher Education and Board of Governors of Rutgers--The State University of New Jersey, 1989
Recipient, Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research, 1988
Chair, Committee on State Legislation, A.B.A. Criminal Justice Section, 1984-1985 (Vice-Chairperson 1983-1984; Member 1982-83)
Director, Rhode Island Criminal Code Revision Project, 1982-1985
Member, Governor's Advisory Committee on Implementation of the N.J. Penal Code, 1978-1981
Harvard University Knox Traveling Fellow, Great Britain, 1974-1975
Comment Editor, U.C.L.A. Law Review (Vol. 20), Associate Editor (Vol. 19)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND HONORS — INTERNATIONAL

Director, Somali Criminal Law Recodification Initiative, December 2015-December 2018
Consultant to Irish Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee, 2007-2009
Visiting Professor of Shangdong University Law School, Jinan, China, 2005-present; Research Fellow, 2003-2005
Consultant, Criminal Code of Belarus Drafting Committee; conducted seminar for officials involved in drafting a new criminal code; Minsk, Belarus, November 1993
Advisory Committee, Zeitschrift für die gesamte Strafrechtswissenschaft, 1991-2007

SELECTED PUBLIC LECTURES & KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy Keynote Lecture, “A Truce in the Distributive Principle Wars?,” University of Surrey, May 2019
Keynote Address, “Codifying a Sharia-based Criminal Law in Developing Muslim Countries,” Conference on Criminal Law Development in Muslim-Majority Countries, Tehran, Iran, March 2019
Keynote Address, “A Truce in the Distributive Principle Wars?,” Conference on Punishing “In the Name of the People”? Exploring the Relevance of Empirical Needs for Punishment by the General Public in Terms of Penal Theory and Criminal Policy, Augsburg, Germany, November 2018
Shirley G. Wassong Memorial Lecture in European and American Art, Culture, and History, “Trigger Crimes & Social Progress: The Tragedy-Outrage-
Reform Dynamic in America," Trinity College, Hartford, April 2017
Plenary Session, “Empirical Desert as the Principle of Criminalization,”
ChangBai International Forum of Criminal Law, Changchun, China, September 2016
Plenary Session, "Drafting an Islamic Criminal Code: The Freedom to
Invent New Forms," Third International Conference on Legislative Drafting and
Law Reform, co-sponsored by the Legal Secretariat of the World Bank, the
Federal Bar Association, and the International Judicial Academy, at World Bank
Annual Dinner Speaker, “Does Vigilantism Help or Hurt?,” International
Affairs Association, University of Pennsylvania, October 2015
Keynote Address, "The Rise and Fall and Resurrection of American
Criminal Codes," Forum on Criminal Law Reform, Louisville, Kentucky,
November 2014
Public Lecture, "Fair Notice and Fair Adjudication: Two Kinds of Legality,"
Universidad de Chile, October, 2013
Keynote Address, "Shared Intuitions of Justice and Criminal Law,"
Changchun, China, October 2011
Public Lecture, "Distributive Principles of Punishment: A Hybrid Principle
Centered on Empirical Desert," Jilin University, China, October 2011, published
Public Lecture, “Offense Grading Irrationalities,” 223rd Annual Meeting of
The Pennsylvania Prison Society, Independence Visitor Center, Philadelphia,
May 2010
Testimony before a Joint Session of the Pennsylvania Senate Judiciary
Committee and House Judiciary Committee, "Final Report of the Pennsylvania
Criminal Code Grading Study," Capitol Building, Harrisburg, December 2009
Conference Luncheon Speaker, "A System of Excuses: How Criminal
Law's Excuse Defenses Do, and Don't, Work Together to Exculpate Blameless
and Only Blameless Offenders," Conference on Excuses & the Criminal Law,
Texas Tech University School of Law, April 2009
First Annual Edward J. Shoen Leading Scholars Lecture, "The Ongoing
Revolution in Punishment Theory: Doing Justice as Controlling Crime," Sandra
Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, February 2009
Plenary Session, "Betting on the Irish Codification Project: A Handicapper's
Perspective," Conference on Codifying the Criminal Law: Modern Initiatives,
International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, Dublin, July 2008
Plenary Session, "The Utility of Desert," International Colloquium on
Contemporary Criminal Law Theory, Tel Aviv University Law School, May 2006
Keynote Address, "How Psychology Is Changing Punishment Theory and
Practice," University College London Current Legal Issues Colloquia 2005: Law &
Psychology, London, July 2005
2005 Albert M. Greenfield Memorial Lecture on Human Relations,
University of Pennsylvania, April 2005
Opening Plenary Session, "What Should Sentencing Try to Achieve?,"
Conference on Reforming the Reform: Sentencing in the 21st Century,
Oklahoma City University Law School, October 2004
Provost's Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, January 2005

SELECTED SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS (PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED) — INTERNATIONAL

"Mitigations: The Forgotten Side of the Proportionality Principle," University of Surrey, May 2019
"Empirical Desert and Criminal Law Codification, Domestic and Foreign," Conference on Punishing “In the Name of the People”? Exploring the Relevance of Empirical Needs for Punishment by the General Public in Terms of Penal Theory and Criminal Policy, Augsburg, Germany, November 2018
"What Effect Should Intoxication Have on Criminal Liability?," University of Sussex Conference on Intoxication, Addiction, and Criminal Law, Brighton, UK, January 2018
"Intuitions Of Justice and the Utility of Desert: The Proper Role of the Community in Determining Criminal Liability and Punishment," International Symposium, East China University of Political Science and Law; and Shanghai Bar Association, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"Rethinking Sentencing Guidelines," Shanghai Academy of Social Science, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"Distributive Principles of Criminal Law: Theoretical Inquiries and Practical Innovations," Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"Lessons from Life outside the Law," East China University of Science and Technology, Fengxian District, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"Distributive Principles, Insider Trading, and the Problem of Media Influence," Shanghai People's Prosecutorate, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"Problems with the Deterrent Effects of Criminal Law," East China University of Science and Technology, Xuhui District, Shanghai, China, June 2015
"An Overview of the Effect of Mental Illness under U.S. Criminal Law," Mental Disorder and Criminal Justice Conference, Northumbria University Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, October 2013


"The Utility of Being Just," Austral University, Argentina, August, 2013

"Role of the Community in Criminal Punishment," International Seminar on Global Constitutional Order and Criminal Law, Barcelona, November 2012


"The Proper Role of the Public in Assessing Criminal Liability and Punishment," conference on Popular Punishment, Copenhagen, October 2012

"Legality, Uniformity, and Credibility in American Criminal Liability and Punishment," Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China, May 2012

"Empirical Desert," Renmin (People's) University, Beijing, China, May 2012

"The Importance to Criminal Law of People's Intuitions of Justice," Peking University, Beijing, China, May 2012

"The Proper Role of the People in Determining Criminal Liability and Punishment," China Youth University for Political Sciences, Beijing, China, May 2012

"Distributive Principles of Criminal Liability and Punishment," Hangzhou Normal University, Hangzhou, China, May 2012

"The Proper Role of the People in Determining Criminal Liability and Punishment," Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, May 2012

"Intuitions of Justice," Heilongjiang University, Harbin, China, October 2011, published (in Chinese) in the NORTHERN LAW REVIEW.


Comments, Criminalization Conference, University of Glasgow, September 2009


"Sentencing: Two Distinctions" (July 15), "Criminal Codes: Adjudicators, Users & Audiences" (July 13), Conference on Codifying the Criminal Law:
"Comments on Irish Criminal Law Codification," Irish Criminal Law Codification Advisory Committee, Dunbrody House, Arthurstown, Ireland, November 2007
"Organizing Irish Criminal Law Codification," Irish Criminal Law Codification Secretariat and Research Support Unit, Dublin, November 2007
Organizer of the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on the New Theoretical System of Criminal Law in the Age of Globalization, Beijing, China, October 2007
"What Should the Next Generation of Penal Codes Look Like?" Hebrew University Law School, Jerusalem, March 2006
"Accommodating Shari'a and International Norms in Drafting an Islamic Penal Code," Hebrew University Law School, Jerusalem, March 2006
"Current Controversies in American Criminal Justice," Shandong University Law School, Jinan, China, November 2005
"Coercive Versus Normative Crime Control," The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel, January, 2001
"Why Does the Criminal Law Care What the Layperson Thinks is Just?," Tel Aviv University Law Faculty, January, 2001
"Punishing Dangerousness," Hebrew University, Jerusalem, January, 2001
"The Moral and Legal Problems in the Conjoined Twins," Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, January, 2001
"Do National Emergencies Require the Creation of Special Criminal Law Rules: The Use of Force in Interrogation as a Case Study," Conference on Legal Aspects of Emergency Regimes: International and Comparative Perspective, Tel Aviv, December, 2000
"Criminal Law Scholarship," Conference on Legal Scholarship, Cegla Institute, University of Tel Aviv, December 1999
"Criminal Justice in the Information Age," Conference on Information and Information Technology, Tel Aviv, Israel, May, 1999
  Speeches given in Tokyo, Japan in November 1995, reprinted as
  "Sentencing Reform (I): Rationality, Uniformity, and Truth in Sentencing," and
  Presentation, Cambridge University Criminal Theory Seminar, December 1994
  Presentation, Fulbright Workshop on Criminalization, University of Stirling, Scotland, November 1993
  "Harm and Evil and the Criminal Law," University of Edinburgh, Scotland, November 1993
  "Comments on the Proposed Finnish Criminal Code General Part," Law Faculty, University of Helsinki, Finland, June 1991
  Comments, Conference on Gauging the Seriousness of Criminal Harm, Uppsala University, Sweden, June 1991.
  Conference on Basic Problems in Criminal Law Theory, Max-Planck Institute, Freiberg, West Germany, Summer 1984
  Symposium on "Crimes of Omission," Association Internationale de Droit Penal, Syracuse, Italy, October 1982
  Symposium on "Crimes of Carelessness," Association Internationale de Droit Penal, Moscow, December 1977

SELECTED SPEECHES, PRESENTATIONS & TESTIMONY (PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED) — DOMESTIC

Speaker Series, Conference Presentations, etc.

  "Understanding Criminal Punishment," Conference Discussion Leader, Federalist Society, Austin, March, 2023
  "The War Among Distributive Principles for Criminal Liability and Punishment," Amherst College NEH Institute, July 2022
  "A Truce in the Distributive Principle Wars?," AALS Annual Conference, Panel on Experimental Jurisprudence, Washington, D.C., January 2020
  Introductory Lecture, Program on Modern Narcotics Law and Criminal Procedure, Program for the Office of the Judiciary of Thailand, Penn Law, August 2019
  Comments, International Conference on Theorizing Criminal Law Reform, sponsored by Rutgers Law School – Newark, The London School of Economics Department of Law, and Rutgers Institute for Law and Philosophy, Newark, April 2017
Comments, Heritage Foundation Policing Strategy Roundtable, Washington, D.C., March 2017


Comments, Conference on Bridging the Gap: Scholarship and Criminal Justice Reform, Phoenix, February 2017


Comments, Delaware Federal Bench and Bar Conference, Wilmington, May 2016


“Modern Developments in Criminal Sentencing,” Conference on Death Penalty and Criminal Sentencing Guidelines: Halt or Reform?, Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, PA, April 2015

Commentator, 2014 Junior Scholars Colloquium, Federalist Society Faculty Colloquium, Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia, June 2014


“The Utility of Desert,” Conference on Philosophy of Criminal Law, University of Richmond, April 2014
"Mental Dysfunction and Emotional Disturbance in Homicide Cases: A Legal Survey of American Jurisdictions," Criminal Law Symposium, Texas Tech University School of Law, April 2014
Commentator, 2013 Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Penn Law, October 2013
"The Moral Vigilante and her Cousin in the Shadows," Columbia International Criminal Law Colloquium, September 2013
Commentator, 2013 Junior Scholars Colloquium, Federalist Society Faculty Colloquium, Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia, June 2013
"Under What Theory Do We Punish Corporate Criminality?," Federalist Society Faculty Colloquium, Airlie Center, Warrenton, Virginia, May 2011
"Life Without Parole Under Modern Theories of Punishment," Amherst College, December 2010
"Innocence Procedures and the Criminal Justice System’s Moral Credibility with the Community It Governs," Conference on Exonerating the Innocent, New York Law School, November 2010
"The Disutility of Injustice," Center for Law, Society & Culture, Indiana University, September 2010
"Overcriminalization, Exaggerated Grading, and Changing Norms," Conference on Overcriminalization: The Past, Present, and Future Expansion of the Criminal Law, Pace University Law School, April 2010
"Should Dangerousness Be the Distributive Principle for Criminal Liability and Punishment?," Law & Neuroscience Project, MacArthur Foundation, Santa Barbara, January 2009
"Teaching Criminal Law," Penn Law Faculty, November 2008
"An Introduction to Punishment Theory," University of Pennsylvania, Department of Criminology, August 2008
"Victims and Criminal Adjudication: A Public Conversation Between Paul Robinson & George Fletcher," Pace University Conference on Victims, April 2008
"Legal & Policy Implications of Intuition of Justice," Southern Methodist University Law Faculty Forum Series, Dallas, TX, September 2007
"Principles for the Distribution of Criminal Liability and Punishment," Florida State University College of Law Faculty Enrichment Series, Tallahassee, FL, September 2007
"Intuitions of Justice," University of North Carolina Law School Faculty Speaker Series, September 2007

Panelist, "Crafting a Scholarly Persona," Section on Scholarship, Washington, D.C., AALS Conference, January 2007, transcript published as Ian Ayres, Paul H. Robinson, Carol Sanger & Kimberly Kessler Ferzan, Crafting a Scholarly Persona: A Panel Discussion


"Intuitions of Justice," annual conference of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES), Penn, June 2006


"Are Intuitions of Justice the Product of Human Evolution?" Vanderbilt University Law School, 2006 Scholarship Roundtable, April 2006

"Restorative Processes and Doing Justice," Symposium on Exploring Alternatives to the Incarceration Crisis, University of St. Thomas School of Law, St. Paul, MN, March 2006


"Does the Availability of Effective Non-Lethal Weapons Mean that Use of Firearms in Defense is Unlawful?" presented at the Bessie Jones Day Conference on Self-Defense, George Mason Law School, November 2005

"Fair Notice & Fair Adjudication: Two Kinds of Legality," University of Pennsylvania Law Review Author's Lunch, October 2005


"Should Kansas Criminal Law Be Recodified?," Kansas Recodification, Rehabilitation & Restoration Committee (created by S.B. N. 45, April 11, 2004), December 2004

Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Defender Services Division, Comments on the Recent Amendments to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Boston, May 2004

Rutgers University Philosophy Department and Rutgers-Camden Institute for Law and Philosophy, Symposium on Justification and Excuse: Philosophical and Legal Perspectives, May 2004


"The Accelerating Degradation of State Criminal Codes: Can an MPC2d Save the States from Themselves?," AALS Conference, Criminal Justice Section Program, January 2003
"The Virtues of Victim-Offender-Mediation, the Vices of Restorative Justice," University of Utah Restorative Justice Conference, Salt Lake City, March, 2002
Conference on Hate Crimes, University of San Diego Institute of Law and Philosophy, March 2001
"Can Ethnic Rage Provide a Mitigation or Excuse to Homicide?," American Academy of Forensic Science, Seattle, February 2001
"Rewriting American Criminal Codes 40 Years After the Model Penal Code Reforms," Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, October 2000
"Why Does the Criminal Law Care What the Lay Person Thinks Is Just?," Olin conference, University of Virginia Law School, February, 2000
"Two Criminal Codes," Conference on the Model Penal Code, Buffalo Criminal Law Center, October, 1999
"Testing Lay Intuitions of Justice," MacArthur Foundation Preferences Network Legal Research Initiative Workshop, Chicago, October, 1999
"A Reply to Professor Katz's Arguments by Hypothetical," Symposium in Honor of Sandy Kadish, University of California at Berkeley, October 1999
"Comments on Modern Criminal Code Reform: A Reply to Professor Fletcher," Buffalo Criminal Law Center Conference, November 1997
Comments on Criminal Disenfranchisement, Symposium on Voting Rights, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee, April 1995
Presentation, Boston University Symposium on the Intersection of Crime and Tort, March 1995
Presentation, Conference on Criminal Law Theory, University of San Diego Law School, February 1994


Testimony at Hearings on Sentencing Guidelines Before the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, July 1987

Confirmation Hearing (for appointment to the United States Sentencing Commission) before the United States Senate Judiciary Committee, October, 1985 (printed as Senate Hearings 99-141, Pt. 2, pp. 305-345)

Other Law School Faculty Paper Presentations