Research over the last decade has provided strong evidence of an inverse relationship between work and crime at the individual level. In spite of the accumulated evidence that work can play an important role in curtailing criminal behaviour, we know relatively little at present about the mechanisms through which work affects individual involvement in crime, especially among serious adult offenders. In this seminar Professor Horney will describe a study that aims to advance our understanding of the relationship between work and crime through an analysis of monthly employment and offending histories of a sample of males sentenced to a state correctional institution. Employing a fixed-effects approach that focuses on within-person change, the study asks whether criminal involvement varies concurrently with the characteristics of particular jobs held, and whether the extent of criminal involvement depends on the degree of personal commitment to those jobs. The study also provides the first empirical assessment of a routine activities framework by determining whether any observed employment effects are mediated by changes in time spent in leisure activities that are likely to provide situational inducements to crime.

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