

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice present:

Sex Offender Registries in the Era of #MeToo: Failed Policies and New Directions

Friday, March 8th

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

SSB Building, Room 133

Refreshments will be served

For nearly the last three decades, sex offense registries and their associated restrictions have been a central policy fixture in terms of how we approach reckoning with and preventing sexual harms in our society. Despite mounting evidence that registries perpetuate the very harms that they are intended to prevent, courts have generally been reluctant to meaningfully extend constitutional protections to people on them due in large part to a pair of 2003 decisions from the United States Supreme Court. Now, sixteen years later, Michigan's Attorney General has argued in court that such registries are significant punishments that do little to protect our communities. As our society continues to wrestle with the everyday reality of sexual harms, how to prevent them, how hold those who cause them accountable, a critical re-examination of law and policy that targets nearly one million people and their families is badly needed. An approach that harmonizes accountability for harm, constitutional rights, and prevention policies would better meet our stated goals.



Guy Hamilton-Smith

Mr. Hamilton-Smith is a 2011 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, the legal fellow for the Sex Offense Litigation and Policy Resource Center at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, and a 2019 JustLeadership fellow. He regularly writes and speaks on issues related to the development of effective sexual violence prevention policies, civil rights litigation, and criminal justice for a variety of publications and audiences. He is also routinely interviewed as an expert on these topics, including most recently in Rolling Stone. He also has former involvement with the justice system stemming from a 2006 conviction, has been on the registry for over a decade, and has written extensively about his own experiences.

Criminology & Criminal Justice

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