A Journey into Lithuanian Soviet Past: Visit to the Soviet Bunker

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In September, 2011, I attended the 11th Annual Conference of the European Society of Criminology, September 21-24, in Vilnius, Lithuania. One of the tours was a visit to the Soviet Bunker which was established in Lithuania. The tour was called *Survival Drama in a Soviet Bunker*; a three-hour long interactive tour of the bunker.

The Bunker is located in a forest about 25 kilometers outside Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. This Bunker was a secret two-level underground maze which occupies an area of over 3,000 square meters and six meters underground. It was built in 1984 by the Soviet Regime in case of a nuclear war with the US or NATO. It was designed to break the will of its occupants who were trapped and controlled by the Soviet regime.
Message from the Chair

Happy New Year! I trust that everyone had a great holiday break and found some time for friends and family. I had big plans, but had to deal with flu like symptoms for about five days! So, I got plenty of rest this holiday break. My plans to visit my home state of Florida have been rescheduled. At any rate, I hope that many of you will be able to attend the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in Philadelphia – and that you will pay close attention to panels of interest identified by the Section. In addition, please remember to attend the Section’s business meeting and the Awards ceremony.

At the awards ceremony, we take time out to recognize the talents and accomplishments of our members. I thank Faith Lutze and Jaya Davis for service on this year’s award committee and Tracy Andrus for his work on the Madriz Travel Award. And also my continued gratitude to the Section’s Executive Counselors: Bohm, Petrosino and Sims for their service and to each of you for your support of the Section. Here’s hoping that you will enjoy this issue of MWS Speaks. Thanks Kim for the fine work you do each quarter on this phenomenal newsletter.

Sincerely,

Bob

Message from the Editor

Welcome to another edition of MWS Speaks. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming ACJS Conference in Philadelphia, PA. Philadelphia is a great city and there is lots to do there. On the last page of the newsletter you will find a list of restaurants and sites to see while you are at the conference. I especially recommend that you take the time to tour Eastern State Penitentiary. It has a fascinating history and I guarantee it is a tour you won’t want to miss.

I also encourage you to join us for the MWS general business meeting to be held on Thursday, February 20, 201 at 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM in Franklin 13, 4th Floor. This is your opportunity to get more involved with the section and to offer suggestions for improving and diversifying what we do.

I would like to thank Dr. Janice Joseph for her contribution to the newsletter. Her essay is riveting and definitely worth the read. A big “thank you” goes out to LeAnn Cabage, Associate Editor for her work on this edition of the newsletter.

I rarely close a newsletter without asking you, the membership, to contribute to the newsletter. Please consider submitting a short article or essay, book review, or position announcement. We would love to highlight research projects you are working on or innovative teaching strategies you are using in your classrooms. Lastly, we would welcome the opportunity to celebrate your professionals accomplishments.

See you in Philly!

Kim
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One of such facility was established in Dubingiai Lake, Lithuania, a few minutes outside Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Construction began in 1983 and the lower floor of the secret facility was 4 meters below ground and the upper one was built under overground embankments. The walls were about half a meter thick, the roof was 60 centimeters and a 1 meter layer of soil was placed on the roof designed so that it would withstand the impact of a nuclear bomb. It consisted of several tunnels and cave-like rooms, communication lines to Moscow. It had its own heating and sewerage facilities which are still functioning today (History of the Bunker, n.d.).

The visit to the Soviet Bunker turned out to be a first-hand interactive ‘torturous’ and raw experience depicting the lives of those who lived in the Bunker. Before entering the visiting room, we were asked to leave all of our belongings, including money, cameras and phones on the bus. We were greeted by men wearing Russian uniforms with vicious-looking dogs on short leashes. Although they were actors, apparently most of them were former KGB agents.

Once we had entered the visiting room we were told to wear old oversize damp coats and sign a waiver indicating that we would not hold the theater company responsible for any psychological or physical trauma experienced as a result of participating in the 1984 Soviet Bunker theater reality performance.

Before entering the Bunker, we were ordered to go outside and stand in a military-styled formation. We were given a number which we repeated in Russian. We then stood in silence as the national anthem of the USSR was played over a loud speaker and the flag was ceremoniously raised. We then marched in military style through a wooded area where we would enter the Bunker. While we were walking through the woods towards the Bunker, the silent was interrupted by a gunshot from one of the officer’s gun. We did not expect it so we were all startled at the sudden sound.

During the visit, we were depersonalized and subjected to concentration-camp-style conditions. We were told to repeat the following phrases over and over again: “Here you are nobody!” “You have a brain but it is not for thinking, it is for obeying orders.” Throughout the tour, we were also forced to listen to USSR songs and speeches. We were prodded, searched by officers and their vicious dogs, shouted at, and made to repeat demeaning statements over and over again. We were forced to run through a maze of corridors and up and down poorly lit stairs and wear used old canvas gloves to clean piles of trash from two benches and then put the trash back on the bench in a few seconds. We were treated like the occupants of the bunker when it was in operation under the control of the former USSR. We became fully immersed in the role of the Soviet citizens who were housed in the Bunker.
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Throughout the visit, there was a smell of old tobacco oozing from every corner of the Bunker. Bats were flying around and we were under the watchful eye of the officers with vicious-looking dogs and the officers seemed to enjoy what they were doing. The tour was conducted in Russian with English translations.

There were some memorable experiences. One of them was the visit to the gas mask chamber with one of the officers who showed us how to wear the gas mask. On each table in the room, there was a burlap bag which contained an authentic Soviet rubber gas mask. He then ordered us to open the bags and remove the gas mask, showed us how to disinfect the gas masks, and how to wear it. We then had to put on our gas mask within a few seconds. Since many of us failed to complete the task in the required time, we were ordered to do it again and again. During that time, the officer shouted at us, humiliated us, and lectured us about how the enemy, those from the evil West (especially the United States), intended to invade the great USSR with gas attacks so we had to be prepared in case such attacks take place. Once he was finished with his lecture, we removed our gas mask and replaced it into the burlap bag. Wearing the gas mask was a strange experience for many of us.

Another memorable event was contact with the dogs. As they were a constant feature as we journeyed throughout the bowels of the bunker, from time to time, they would bark to remind us of their presence. When we visited the interrogation room, a “KGB interrogator” ordered us to stand facing the wall with our palms on the wall while the dogs searched us. The dogs were wearing meshed muzzles to prevent them from biting us. However, because the dogs looked so vicious, they created fear in us when they were allowed to search us. In fact, the dog that searched me slightly bruised my skin because of its aggressiveness.

The electric chair and the prison cell were interesting. The electric chair was used to execute the residents of the Bunker who disobeyed orders. The chair had a stove pipe, leading out of the back, which was used to funnel the ashes and smoke from underground. Its physical condition indicated that it has been used several times. The prison cell that we visited had no windows, was painted pale green and inside there was an iron bed with a stained mattress on it. There was also a bucket in the corner of the cell for the prisoner to use. Like most cells, the door opened only on the outside. As I stared at the cell, I visualized the kinds of physical abuse that had taken place there – beatings, torture, and even deaths.

At the end of the tour, we also were taken to the canteen for a good-bye dinner, Soviet-style. It consisted of large sausages, bread and drink (similar to Kool-Aid) and was served on a tin plate, tin cups, and tin fork. When it was over, we were given a certificate of participation and a photograph of each of us wearing the gas mask; this was apparently taken during our
The visit lasted 3 hours - from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. During the tour, our wills and spirits were broken. Even if we wanted leave the bunker we could not leave. We were trapped with no way to run so we were forced to obey the orders. Before it was over, many of us were totally controlled by the guards and fell into total submission to their orders. I then understood why we were asked to sign a waiver agreement indicating that the organizers of this real-life tour were not responsible for anything that happened to us while participating in the tour. There have been stories about visitors who fainted or were traumatized by the experience.

This was a first-hand experience of manipulation and control which may have destroyed the minds of those who lived in the Bunker. Although, I do not completely regret participating in this real-life experience because it provided an insight into some of the abuses in the former USSR, it is, however, an experience that I will remember for a very long time.

References


Recent Member Publications

Carolina Academic Press

Criminal Justice

Animal Cruelty is an anthology that addresses all critical aspects of animal cruelty including: its history and prevalence; related legislation; special types of cruelty (hoarding, poaching, blood sports, etc.); its link to other types of violence and crime; theories used to explain animal cruelty; the role of the media; and emerging issues related to animal cruelty. The text is suitable for undergraduate and graduate classes in criminal justice, criminology, psychology, law, sociology, animal studies, and other disciplines, and is especially well-suited for use in classes on such topics as animal cruelty, animal welfare, deviant behavior, animal law, violent crime, veterinary studies, abnormal psychology, and animal husbandry.

Edited by: Mary P. Brewster and Cassandra L. Reyes
Recent Member Publications

Robert Bohm and Keith Haley’s combined experience of more than 50 years in teaching criminal justice, as well as working in the field—Bohm as a correctional officer and Haley as a police officer—comes through in their accessible yet comprehensive presentation of *Introduction to Criminal Justice*, now in its 8th edition. They make it easy for readers to understand that much of what the public “knows” about criminal justice in the United States is myth, and help students learn the truth about the U.S. criminal justice system.

**What Instructors Are Saying about *Introduction to Criminal Justice*:**

“*Introduction to Criminal Justice* presents information on the criminal justice system that serves introductory courses well. It is effectively organized and serves as a springboard for more subject-specific courses by introducing topics that satisfy students seeking general knowledge with sufficient detail to keep the interest of the serious criminal justice student.”—Jim Reynolds, Florida Institute of Technology

“This is one of the best Introduction texts I have seen. From the beginning it appears designed for the success of the students...the text is designed to grab and keep the student’s interest.”—John Michaud, Husson University

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Open Position

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

The Criminal Justice program in the School of Community Affairs at Wichita State University invites applicants to apply for a full time tenure track assistant professor position beginning August 2014.

Qualifications: Candidates must have an earned doctorate in criminal justice, criminology or a related field. Promising ABDs with firm completion dates will be considered. We seek a generalist with the ability to teach a broad range of criminal justice courses. The ability to attract external funding, and successful university teaching experience, including online teaching experience is also a plus. The position requires candidates to have excellent written and oral communication skills, the ability to conduct and publish research, willingness to teach online and occasional evening courses. Teaching occasionally at the university’s off-site satellite campus is also required.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain a vigorous research and publishing agenda, teach undergraduate and graduate courses, advise students as needed, and teach both in the classroom and online. The position currently has a 3/3 course teaching load based on a semester system. Candidates must be willing to accommodate a variety of learning styles and strategies in instructional delivery and learning activities, including online and blended learning, flexible teaching methods, and applied learning approaches.

Wichita State University is a Carnegie Research Extensive university located in a metropolitan area with a population of more than 500,000. The criminal justice program serves 500 undergraduate and graduate student majors. For more information about Wichita State University and the Criminal Justice Program please visit www.wichita.edu. Wichita is located in a metropolitan area in south central Kansas and has low cost of living and a generally mild climate. Wichita State University enrolls 15,000 students, and employs more than 500 full-time faculty.

Application review will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. Applicants should complete a full application packet online at (https://jobs.wichita.edu). Offers of employment at Wichita State University is contingent on a successful background check as required by the Kansas Board of Regents. Women and people of color are especially encouraged to apply.

Member News

Congratulation to Dr. Lorenzo Boyd, University of Massachusetts Lowell, who was elected 2nd Vice-President for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Congratulation to Dr. Kimberly D. Dodson, Western Illinois University, who was elected Secretary of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association.

Congratulation to Dr. Barbara Sims, Mars Hill University, who was elected Trustee-at-Large for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.
The ACJS Annual Conference is fast approaching. The conference is being held in Philadelphia, PA, February 18-22, 2014. Below is information pertaining to MWS meetings and some points of interest in Philadelphia.

**Minorities and Women Section General Business Meeting**  
Thursday, February 20, 2014  
3:30 PM — 4:45 PM  
Franklin 13, 4th Fl.

**Minorities and Women Section Awards Ceremony and Reception**  
Friday, February 21, 2014  
5:00 PM — 6:00 PM

**Places to Eat**

**John’s Roast Pork (14 Snyder Ave.)**  
A small shack amidst shopping plazas, John’s Roast Pork is perennially cited as one of the city’s top steak spots. John’s has long been a favorite of South Philadelphia dock workers and contractors.

**Amada (217-219 Chestnut St.)**  
Amada is known for its authentic Spanish tapas, like garlic shrimp and lamb meatballs.

**Bobby’s Burger Palace (3925 Walnut St.)**  
On The Best Thing I Ever Ate, Claire Robinson names Bobby’s Buffalo Style Burger with blue cheese and buffalo sauce as one of her favorites. She cautions you must order it crunchified (with potato chips) to get the full effect.

**Brown Betty Dessert Boutique (722 N. 2nd St.)**  
A tiny slice of a shop in the Northern Liberties neighborhood that boasts delicious cupcakes and sweet treats, including a rich and creamy rice pudding that Duff Goldman calls the “best in the city.”

**Gooie Looie’s (231 McClellan St.)**  
Gooie Looie’s lives up to its name, serving huge, over-stuffed hoagies and cheese steaks you need both hands to eat.

**Lolita (106 S. 13th St.)**  
Located in burgeoning Midtown Village, Lolita serves delicious contemporary Mexican fare.

**Eastern State Penitentiary (2027 Fairmount Ave.)**  
Eastern State Penitentiary set the standard for penal reform, with its soaring, castle-like Gothic architecture and its founders’ Quaker-inspired belief that solitary confinement could reform criminals. Tours include a look at life inside the prison’s historic cell blocks. Al Capone’s restored 19th-century cell, stories of inmate escapes, and critically acclaimed art installations.

*Don’t miss this tour!*
Places to Visit

National Constitution Center (525 Arch St.)
The 160,000-square-foot National Constitution Center explores and explains this amazing document through high-tech exhibits, artifacts, and interactive displays. The Kimmel Theater, a 350-seat star-shaped theater, features “Freedom Rising,” a multimedia production combining film, a live actor, and video projection on a 360 screen to tell the stirring story of “We the people.”

Reading Terminal Market (12th and Arch Streets)
Reading Terminal Market is the nation’s oldest continuously operating farmers’ market. When you visit the market, you can enjoy eating virtually every type of cuisine. The market is also home to the best sandwich in America. DiNic’s Roast Pork and Beef has been named the Travel Channel’s “Best Sandwich in America.”

The Liberty Bell Center (526 Market St.)
Throughout the expansive, light-filled Center, larger-than-life historic documents and graphic images explore the facts and the myths surrounding the Bell. X-rays give an insider’s view, literally, of the Bell’s crack and innerworkings. In quite alcoves, a short History Channel film traces how abolitionists, suffragists, and other groups adopted the bell as its symbol of freedom.

Black Bodies in Propaganda: The Art of the War Poster Wartime works on display at the Penn Museum (3260 South St.)
The exhibit examines 33 wartime posters, mostly depicting Africans and African Americans, dating from the Civil War to World War I, World War II, and African independence movements. More than just simple advertising, these works were carefully created to mobilize people of color in war efforts, and in retrospect, they capture defining historical moments.

Independence Hall (520 Chestnut St.)
They risked everything — “their lives, their fortune, and their sacred honor.” During the blistering summer of 1776, 56 courageous men gathered at the Pennsylvania State House and defied the King of England. Eleven years later, representatives from 12 states gathered to shape the U.S. Constitution, finally creating a unified nation. The guided tour, led by National Park rangers, begins in the courtroom where lawyers from opposing sides shared tables and law books.

The Betsy Ross House (239 Arch St.)
Betsy, who made a living as a furniture upholsterer, rented the 1740 homes, and the teeny-tiny rooms and tight little staircases give a good portrayal of a working class woman’s life in colonial America. Her workroom, two bedrooms, and kitchen are all included in a self-guided tour. An exhibit area in the house’s extensive gift shop displays family treasures.

The Charles L. Blockson Afro-American Collection (12th and Berks Mall)
Gothic-revival Sullivan Hall houses a collection that has become a destination for African-American scholars. Pause before entering the reading room and see a modest but impressive exhibition selected from the collections. Inside, researchers have access to more than 30,000 items on the black experience.

Tides of Freedom African Presence on the Delaware River: Compelling new exhibition at the Independence Seaport Museum (211 S. Columbus Blvd.)

United States Mint (151 North Independence Mall)
Visitors get to watch operations on the mint floor from high above and behind protective glass, to be sure. Interactive displays depict the many presidential and honorary commemoratives designed and made here. You’ll also see early mint and coining equipment and rare and historic coins.