



2018 SCHWARTZ PRIZE NOMINATION

2017 GAMECHANGER IDEAS FESTIVAL

IN JUSTICE:

RETHINKING AMERICA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM



NOMINATING STATEMENT

Humanities North Dakota nominates the 2017 GameChanger Ideas Festival In Justice: Rethinking America's Criminal Justice System program for the 2018 Hellen and Martin Schwartz Prize. In 2017, the Game Changer Ideas Festival served as the catalyst for a statewide conversation on justice in America focused on police protests, racial disparity, poverty, mass incarceration, and more.

For more info visit, www.gamechangernd.com (current year)

www.gamechangerndinjustice.weebly.com (2017 event)



We have the biggest prison population in the world. We have the biggest prison population in human history here in the United States...Our prison population has grown from 500,000 in 1980 to 2.4 million today. It's been massive growth. The fastest-growing segment of our criminal justice system and that prison population has been women. Female incarceration has risen by 800 percent in this country...I believe that we've reached a point in this country where most people are questioning whether we have made the best choices.

-Piper Kerman, former prisoner and prison reform advocate

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We live in a rapidly changing world. Travel, technology, and economics are uniting us in ways we could not have imagined just a short time ago. Advances in science and engineering are providing unheralded possibilities for problem solving and discovery. Major cultural and political shifts are transforming the global landscape overnight leading to unrest at home and abroad.

In response to these challenges Humanities North Dakota created GameChanger, an annual ideas festival focused on a major event or issue significantly changing the face of our world. We invite people close to the action to share their ideas for managing these changes in ways that will lead to a better, more prosperous world.

The GameChanger ideas festival aligns with the mission of Humanities North Dakota to provide people opportunities to engage with and debate powerful ideas, because democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens. We believe GameChanger is an investment in public humanities education that ensures our democracy never loses its roots or its visionary leadership.



"I wanted to share what I was discovering in order to help others question their own preconceptions about crime -- and through this to improve our collective understanding of human nature and society more generally. Allowing people to see what is so often hidden from view might enable them to recognize which government policies had a good chance of working and which didn't -- and to nudge politicians into better decisions. I wanted people to understand the limitations of our two dominant narratives of crime and regard as fiction much of what we are told about crime on a daily basis. The information that we can now access should, after all, have dramatically reduced our reliance on unquestioned beliefs about crime."

-Tom Gash, international crime analyst

2017 TOPIC: RETHINKING AMERICA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Justice is one of America's founding principles. Yet, many in our country feel as if our system of justice has failed them. Although America is home to less than 5% of the world's total population, we boast almost 25% of the world's prison population. How did we get here?

While police officers and emergency personnel make split-second decisions on life and death matters, our nation's historians, philosophers, legal scholars, journalists, and writers take years to painstakingly research and reach conclusions. The 2017 GameChanger Ideas Festival brought first and last responders together because America is in crisis. Leading up the event we saw the reemergence of Nazi ideology from Leith, North Dakota to Charlottesville, North Carolina. According to national polls, trust between police and their communities continues to degrade in many places across our nation. Fake news and social media overshadow thoughtful journalism. Prison populations in America are at staggering numbers. At a time when our nation is so polarized, we sought to bring people with opposing views together in conversation based on both painstaking research and the immediate experiences of those who do not have the luxury of a second guess. In the middle were the everyday people striving to be the thoughtful and informed citizens our democracy needs. What we all had in common was the belief that together we can meet the challenges facing our nation.

The event featured a series of presentations by national and international experts followed by sit down interviews with investigative journalist Eric Schlosser. A local panel working within the criminal justice system presented the challenges they are working to overcome to create a more just system that maintains public safety while addressing issues of race, poverty, and addiction. The day culminated with a one act play performed by Sheriff's Deputy Jinho "J. Piper" Ferreira, that explores the police shooting of an unarmed black man from the perspective of 17 different people. The play served as a text for a discussion between law enforcement and the community, a critical discussion for North Dakota following in the wake of the Dakota Access Pipeline Protests that pitted local law enforcement against Native American protesters during the previous year.



SPEAKERS & TOPICS

Piper Kerman's best-selling memoir *Orange is the New Black: My Year in a Women's Prison* chronicles what the author calls her "crucible experience"—the 13 months she spent in the Federal Correctional Institution in Danbury, Connecticut.

A brief dalliance with drug trafficking while she was in her early twenties sent Kerman to prison ten years later on money laundering charges. In her compelling, moving and often hilarious book, she explores the experience of incarceration and the intersection of her life with the lives of the women she met while in prison: their friendships and families, mental illnesses and substance abuse issues, cliques and codes of behavior. The book also raises provocative questions about the state of criminal justice in America, and how incarceration affects the individual and communities throughout the nation. The memoir was adapted into a critically acclaimed Netflix series of the same name by Jenji Kohan.

Since her release, Kerman has worked tirelessly to promote the cause of prison and criminal justice reform. She works with nonprofits, philanthropies, and other organizations working in the public interest and serves on the board of directors of the Women's Prison Association. She has been called as a witness by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights to testify on solitary confinement and women prisoners, and by the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs and Homeland Security Committee to testify about the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Kerman has spoken at the White House on re-entry and employment to help honor Champions of Change in the field, as well as the importance of arts in prisons and the unique conditions for women in the criminal justice system. In 2014 she was awarded the Justice Trailblazer Award from John Jay College's Center on Media, Crime & Justice and the Constitutional Commentary Award from The Constitution Project; the Equal Justice Initiative recognized her as a Champion of Justice in 2015.



Tom Gash is an adviser, researcher and writer, who helps people to think differently about the big challenges facing governments and societies worldwide. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Government, an Honorary Senior Lecturer at University College London's Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science, and an expert adviser with the Boston Consulting Group, where he started his career.

Is crime an immoral choice, eliminated by tough punishment? Or is poverty its main cause, and social reform the remedy? Neither, says Tom Gash. Using the latest research, he demolishes the myths around crime – revealing that it is both far less rational and much easier to reduce than we thought. Tom's work focuses on two areas. First, crime policy, second, government effectiveness.

His first book, *CRIMINAL: The Truth About Why People Do Bad Things* (Penguin 2016) was shortlisted as a Sunday Times 2016 'Thought' Book of the Year and was described by The Times as "as enlightening about crime in modern society as any book that I have read".

Tom spends the majority of his time working with ministers, senior officials and practitioners in governments internationally – and with charities and private companies who work with or are heavily affected by government policy. His work usually focuses on either crime and justice policy or government's use of private and voluntary sector companies.

Tom believes an informed public leads to better government and a happier society.

Jinho "J. Piper" Ferreira is a rapper, actor and writer from Oakland, California. His alternative hip-hop band Flipsyde has toured internationally with artists such as Snoop Dogg, The Black Eyed Peas, Akon, The Game and more. Flipsyde has written anthems for both the Winter and Summer Olympics. In 2009, Piper won the Creative Promise Award for screenwriters at the Tribeca Film Festival with his CIA thriller: *Walter's Boys*.

Appalled by the death of Oscar Grant at the hands of BART police in Oakland, Piper payed his own way through a Bay Area law enforcement academy in the spring of 2010. He eventually graduated in the top percentile and delivered the commencement speech at graduation. Due

to his performance in the academy, Piper was offered an opportunity to be the change he wanted to see. In January 2011, Piper became an Alameda County Deputy Sheriff.

Piper joined the Youth and Family Services Bureau Crime Prevention Unit, and along with his co-workers, helped to create what ArtPlace describes as one of the most progressive units in the country. The paradox of being a member of the Black community and a hip-hop artist, while simultaneously working in Law Enforcement, served as the inspiration to write *Cops and Robbers**, a solo performance about an officer involved shooting in which Piper plays 19 characters. Piper wrote a screenplay version of *Cops and Robbers* and was accepted into the 2017 Sundance Screenwriter's Lab.

As an investigative journalist, **Eric Schlosser** tries to explore subjects ignored by the mainstream media and give a voice to people at the margins of society. Over the years he's followed the harvest with migrant farm workers in California, spent time with meatpacking workers in Texas and Colorado, told the stories of marijuana growers and pornographers and the victims of violent crime, gone on duty with the New York Police Department Bomb Squad, and visited prisons throughout the United States. His aim is to shed light on worlds that are too often hidden. And his work defies easy categorization, earning praise not only from liberal publications like the *Nation*, but also from *Fortune*, the *Financial Times*, and the *National Review*. Schlosser's first book, *Fast Food Nation* (2001), helped start a revolution in how Americans think about what they eat.

Command and Control (2013) reveals the details of America's effort, for the past seventy years, to prevent nuclear weapons from being stolen, sabotaged, or detonated by accident. *Command and Control* was a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize (History).

Schlosser's next book, *The Great Imprisonment* (Tim Duggan Books/Crown, 2018), will describe how the United States came to have the largest prison system in the history of mankind—and how that system affects every one of us.



LOCAL PANEL

In addition to our national/international experts, we invited a panel of local experts to talk about critical issues facing the criminal justice system in North Dakota, with particular attention to Native American incarceration rates, which are significantly higher than that of the average population.

District Court Judge **Donovan Foughty** chaired the Tribal/State Court Forum in North Dakota with a final report being submitted to the Chief Justice in December of 1993. He chairs the standing Committee on Tribal and State Court Affairs. He is a past chair of the Judicial Conduct Commission. He co-chaired the North Dakota Commission to study Racial and Ethnic Bias in the Courts submitting a final report to the Chief Justice in June of 2012. He now sits as chair of the Minority Justice Implementation Committee. He sits on the board of directors of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. He chairs the Justice Commission for Three Affiliated Tribes, Fort Berthold Nation in North Dakota. The commission has court oversight duties.

Leann K. Bertsch has served as the Director of the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (NDDOCR) since July 2005. As Corrections Director, Bertsch has implemented the 'what works' principles of reducing recidivism throughout the North Dakota Corrections system focusing resources on long-term behavior change as opposed to monitoring and compliance. Bertsch currently serves as President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

Aaron Birst serves as the Executive Director for the North Dakota State's Attorneys Association and works on a contract for the Department of Transportation to provide support to law enforcement and prosecutors in the area of traffic safety to help end the needless tragedy on our highways. Previously, Aaron was a prosecutor in both Cass and Stutsman counties where he practiced all areas of criminal law.

Lorraine Davis is founding Executive Director of the Native American Development Center Lorraine's life experiences of addiction and economic struggles are common to Native Americans and has brought

great insight to the design and development strategies to effective and cultural competent programming.

Karla Rose Hanson serves in the North Dakota House of Representatives, representing District 44 (north Fargo). During the 2017 legislative session, Representative Hanson was a member of the House Judiciary Committee, which worked on major justice reinvestment reforms. During the interim, Hanson is serving on the Justice Reinvestment Committee, which is studying alternatives to incarceration and the juvenile justice process.



The United States has developed a prison-industrial complex—a set of bureaucratic, political, and economic interests that encourage increased spending on imprisonment, regardless of the actual need. The prison-industrial complex is not a conspiracy, guiding the nation's criminal-justice policy behind closed doors. It is a confluence of special interests that has given prison construction in the United States a seemingly unstoppable momentum. It is composed of politicians, both liberal and conservative, who have used the fear of crime to gain votes; impoverished rural areas where prisons have become a cornerstone of economic development; private companies that regard the roughly \$35 billion spent each year on corrections not as a burden on American taxpayers but as a lucrative market; and government officials whose fiefdoms have expanded along with the inmate population."

-Eric Schlosser, investigative journalist

GameChanger Ideas Festival Schedule of events

September 23, 2017

The days events are moderated by investigative journalist Eric Schlosser

- 9:00 AM Intro and Opening
- 9:15-10:05 TOM GASH - "We Can Reduce Crime by Changing One Mind at a Time" Presentation and Q&A
- 10:20-11:10 Keynote - "Orange is the New Black: a Conversation with PIPER KERMAN" Presentation and Q&A
- 11:30-12:15 Meeting of the Minds: our highlighted speakers, Piper Kerman, Tom Gash, and J. Piper come together for a round-table discussion to compare and contrast their views on the criminal justice system.
- 12:15-12:45 Book Signing
- LUNCH
- 1:45-2:45 Local Panel: Our community is full of individuals working to make our criminal justice system the best it can be. No one group can do it alone, and all have expertise in a different area.
- 3:00 Theatrical performance of "Cops & Robbers"*
Written and performed by J. Piper, this one-man play depicts 17 characters reacting to a cop shooting a possibly unarmed suspect.
- 4:30 Q&A with J. Piper: Sheriff's Deputy, writer, and actor
- 5:00 PM Conclusion



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A critical component of the GameChanger Ideas Festival is a community advisory committee that meets through the year to offer feedback and help shape the event. The 2017 committee was composed of business leaders, legislators, educators, police, corrections staff, Native American leaders, lawyers, nonprofits workers, and members of the general public. Each person offered their expertise and ensured that the event was fair and balanced and would challenge the view points of everyone who attended, regardless of their political affiliation or views.

A NEW AUDIENCE AND A UNIQUE COLLABORATION

In order to have a conversation on police violence, we felt we needed to invite members of the law enforcement community to the table as we planned the event. Humanities ND reached out to Bismarck Police Chief Dan Donlin. Chief Donlin agreed that this was a critical conversation and appreciated the opportunity to engage in a civil conversation surrounding the issue. Chief Donlin served on our advisory committee and was instrumental in advertising the event to peace officers across the state. Humanities ND offered free admission to the event for peace officers serving in North Dakota and one quarter of our total audience for the event was composed of police and/or corrections officers. In addition, we were able to offer Peace Officer Standard and Training (POST) credit for all officers who attended the event, in addition to a special training we hosted for officers on policing diverse communities, featuring Deputy Ferreira. This was the first time we partnered with law enforcement on a public humanities program.

SATELITE EVENTS/OFFERINGS

Although our statewide discussion culminated at the GameChanger Ideas Festival on September 23, 2017, in Bismarck, Humanities ND hosted a series of additional events to deepen the conversation.



***On Second Thought* magazine**

Humanities ND issues a special In Justice issue of our *On Second Thought* magazine dedicated to the topic of rethinking America's criminal justice system. We distributed over 6,000 copies in print and have received over 7,000 online visitors. The issue featured a mix of North Dakota experts, as well as, the national and international experts who would appear on our GameChanger stage.

GameChanger 101

These monthly book discussions at Bismarck Public Library featured a deep dive into the books written by our 2017 GameChanger Ideas Festival speakers. Led by Dr. Chad Litton chair of University of Mary's Criminal Justice Department, these communiversity style courses brought the study of criminal justice reform out of the university and into the community.

Community GameChangers Series

HND in partnership with KFYR television created a series of ten short videos featuring people across the state making a difference in North Dakota's criminal justice system. From a school superintendent working to change the pipeline to prison for Native American students to an employer who hires incarcerated individuals to produce quality goods and services in a self-sustaining manner while preparing them to successfully reintegrate into society, we ran social media campaigns featuring our Community GameChangers leading up to our September event.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj1TdMtPNAWDsPVm7hnTiRg/>
videos

Journeys Through Justice

Humanities ND funded a series of public radio reports and podcast episodes called Journey Through Justice that looked at the criminal justice system, in particular the way that people with mental health and addiction problems end up in jail.

And Justice For All: A Discussion with Eric Schlosser

September 20

As part of national Constitution Day observation, HND partnered with the University of North Dakota (UND) to host a sit down interview between Eric Schlosser and Martin Gottschalk, Associate Professor and Chair of UND's Criminal Justice Department. Schlosser discussed his current research, including how the three-fifths clause in the Constitution helped pave the way for the United State to become home to almost twenty-five percent of the world's modern-day prison population. Lawyers and judges who attended received 1 credit of North Dakota CLE and 1 credit of North Dakota CJE. In addition, the event was live streamed to three other public universities/colleges in the state.

Training for Legislators/Policy Makers

September 22

Open to North Dakota legislators (state and local), members of law enforcement, judges, lawyers, this event with Tom Gash provided an in-depth discussion on current research on criminal justice policy. Officers who attended received two hours of POST training credits.

Training for Peace Officer Standards & Training Workshop

September 22, 2017

The recent deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice -- all of whom were black and shot by police officers -- have sparked intense discussion about race and law enforcement. But for Jinho "J. Piper" Ferreira, the conversation started years ago. Ferreira talked about the incident that inspired him to become a cop, and how his experiences have shaped the way he views the current conversation about race. He discussed his one-man play about the police shooting of an unarmed black man by a black police officer and engaged officers in a question and answer session on effective tactics for community engagement and violence prevention. Officers who attended received two hours of POST training credits.

Writing Workshop at the Youth Correction Center

September -December 2017

On September 22, Jinho "J. Piper" Ferreira, visited the incarcerated children at the state Youth Correction Center (YCC), performing a concert and talking to the kids about his play and book. Following on his visit, the children there requested the opportunity to write their own stories. HND sent University of Mary English Professor Nita Ritzke to YCC for three months, working with the kids to craft their own stories. The result was a special publication by HND entitled, "Look Again," published in booklet form and online at <http://onsecondthoughtmagazine.humanitiesnd.org/archives.html>

CONTINUED IMPACT

The Cop and the Criminal

The In Justice issue of our *On Second Thought* magazine featured an article written by the Bismarck Chief of Police and an ex-criminal who has since become an addiction counselor. The article entitled, *The Cop and the (ex)Criminal: An Unlikely Friendship*, continues to attract attention online. In addition, the article has resulted in speaking requests by the authors and we have reprinted their article in booklet form for distribution to over 3,000 people who have attended their talks on addiction and criminal justice reform initiatives, with continued requests coming in to our offices.

NEH Advocacy

Following on our partnership with the Bismarck Police Department, Chief Dan Donlin attended the 2018 Humanities on the Hill event with HND executive director Brenna Gerhardt. Chief Donlin advocated for the NEH and spoke highly of the importance and impact of the public humanities to creating civil discourse and addressing critical issues facing our democracy.

Poetry in Prisons Program

After attending In Justice: Rethinking America's Criminal Justice System, Bismarck State College Associate Professor Michael Tomanek approached Humanities ND with a proposal to teach poetry classes to

inmates. HND was able to connect Professor Tomanek with our program partners at the ND Department of Corrections and they have established a poetry writing workshop for inmates. HND plans to publish selected works in upcoming issue of *On Second Thought* magazine.

Skid Row Marathon

One of our Community GameChanger speakers, Judge David Reich, reached out after the event to request grant funding to show the documentary film *Skid Row Marathon* and bring in Judge Craig Mitchell to talk about criminal justice reform and issues of addiction as a continuation of the 2017 GameChanger Ideas Festival.

EVALUATION

Over 400 people participated in person and over 500 people viewed the events via livestream.



CHANGE

76% of attendees reported their thinking had changed or evolved after attending In Justice



INFORMATION

97% of attendees rated the event very or extremely interesting and informative

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

The GameChanger Ideas Festival cost \$96,866 to run in 2017. HND raised \$17,500 in grant funding and sponsorships and sold \$12,000 worth of tickets. KFYZ Television also donated \$15,000 worth of

marketing and promotion costs. The remaining funds to cover the program came out of HND's general operating budget.

GameChanger is a priority of HND and as we grow the program our goal is also to fund sustaining sponsors. For year 2018, we have already raised over \$30,000 in grants and sponsorships and have received \$15,000 in in-kind marketing and promotion from KFYZ Television. We have expanded the program to include a satellite ideas festival in Grand Forks, North Dakota in September 2018.



This one-man play is a culmination of J. Piper's life experiences from growing up during the crack epidemic to becoming a police officer. He created 17 characters that represent law enforcement officers, the media, and the community...This theatrical piece is confrontational, aggressive, and unapologetic. It shows J. Piper's belief in the intellectual capacity of his audience. J. Piper has encapsulated a necessary link between law enforcement, the media, and the black community--the ability to see a situation from different perspectives. ... Each character has a truth and by portraying such a plethora of characters, J. Piper lets everyone hold a different opinion. Instead of launching into a reactionary debate, the audience is captivated, listening, and taking it all in. Cops and Robbers is more than a play; it is a gift to the community and a tool for change.

-Dawn Williams Ferreira, Ph.D.