



CAREERS AND RESEARCH

Patrick J. Carr, Phd, Director, Program In Criminal Justice



Patrick J. Carr is the Program Director of the Program in Criminal Justice, as well as associate professor of sociology at Rutgers University; furthermore, he is an associate member of the MacArthur Foundation's Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. He earned his PhD in sociology from the University of Chicago in 1998, and his master's degree in sociology from University College Dublin in 1990. His research interests include communities and crime, informal social control, youth violence, and the transition to adulthood.

Carr and his wife, Maria Kefalas (Saint Joseph's University), are founders of the Philadelphia Youth Solutions Project, which “offers a safe space for Philadelphia’s young people to explain their views and emotions about the danger and violence that consumes so much of their daily lives, to ask questions of themselves and the people charged with running [Philadelphia], and to have a serious conversation with teachers, parents, city officials, community leaders, state legislators, reporters, politicians, and anyone else who wants to know what is going on in the city to move forward on solutions inspired by the youth perspective.” The Philadelphia Youth Solutions Project is a venue for Philadelphia’s young people to offer their own expert advice on how to transform the city based on their experiences and perspectives.

Carr and Kefalas are ethnographic researchers who seek to understand people's experiences through participating in their lives and interviewing them in depth. In another project, they investigated the experiences of young adults growing up in a small midwestern town by living in the town and sharing in community experiences. Their subsequent book was *Hollowing Out the Middle: The Rural Brain Drain and What It Means for America* (2009).