

# Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Criminology

The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) is a field of study that focuses on the improvement of teaching and learning in higher education. It is based on the idea that teaching is a scholarly activity that can be studied, researched, and improved upon. SoTL has been gaining increasing attention in recent years, as educators have become more interested in finding ways to improve the quality of their teaching.

Criminology is a field of study that focuses on crime and criminal behavior. It is a multidisciplinary field that draws on a variety of social sciences, including sociology, psychology, and economics. SoTL in criminology is a relatively new field, but it is rapidly growing. Criminology educators are increasingly interested in finding ways to improve the teaching and learning of criminology.

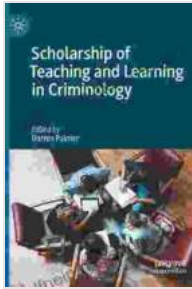
In the years that followed, a number of criminologists began to write about the teaching of criminology. In 1931, Edwin Sutherland published an article in the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* entitled "The Teaching of Criminology." In the article, Sutherland argued that the teaching of criminology should be based on the latest research findings and that teachers should use a variety of teaching methods to meet the needs of their students.

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by Darren Palmer

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In the 1950s and 1960s, the American Society of Criminology (ASC) began to take an interest in SoTL. In 1957, the ASC established a Committee on Teaching and Research. The committee's mission was to promote the study of teaching and learning in criminology and to develop resources for criminology educators.

In the 1970s and 1980s, SoTL in criminology began to flourish. A number of criminologists published articles and books on the subject, and several universities established centers for the study of teaching and learning in criminology. In 1989, the ASC established the Section on Teaching and Learning, which is now one of the largest sections of the society.

Today, SoTL is a well-established field of study in criminology.

Criminologists are actively engaged in research on teaching and learning, and a number of universities offer courses and programs in SoTL.

- **Teaching is a scholarly activity.** Teaching is not simply a matter of delivering information to students. It is a complex process that involves planning, instruction, assessment, and reflection. Teachers need to have a deep understanding of their subject matter and of the learning

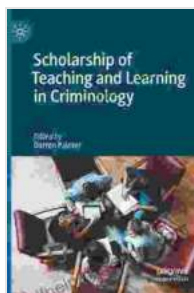
process. They also need to be able to use a variety of teaching methods to meet the needs of their students.

- **Learning is a process.** Learning is not a passive activity. It is an active process that requires students to engage with the material and to construct their own understanding. Teachers need to create learning environments that encourage students to think critically and to develop their own ideas.
- **Assessment is a tool for learning.** Assessment can be used to measure student learning, but it can also be used to provide feedback to students and to help them improve their learning. Teachers need to use a variety of assessment methods to assess student learning and to provide feedback that is meaningful and actionable.
- **Reflection is essential for improvement.** Teaching is a constantly evolving process. Teachers need to reflect on their teaching regularly to identify areas for improvement. They can use a variety of methods to reflect on their teaching, such as keeping a teaching journal, seeking feedback from students and colleagues, and attending workshops and conferences.
- **Action research** is a type of research in which the researcher is also the practitioner. Action research can be used to study a wide range of topics, such as the effectiveness of a particular teaching method or the impact of a curriculum change.
- **Case studies** are in-depth studies of a particular case or situation. Case studies can be used to provide rich descriptions of teaching and learning processes and to identify factors that contribute to success or failure.

- **Experiments** are controlled studies in which the researcher manipulates one or more variables to measure the effects on another variable. Experiments can be used to test the effectiveness of a particular teaching method or to compare different teaching methods.
- **Surveys** are a type of research in which data is collected from a large number of people. Surveys can be used to collect data on student learning, teacher beliefs, and other topics related to teaching and learning.
- **Improved teaching methods.** SoTL research can help teachers to develop more effective teaching methods. By studying the learning process, teachers can identify what works and what doesn't. They can then use this knowledge to improve their teaching practices.
- **Increased student learning.** SoTL research can help to increase student learning. By understanding how students learn, teachers can create learning environments that are more conducive to learning. They can also use a variety of assessment methods to track student progress and to provide feedback that is meaningful and actionable.
- **Improved curriculum design.** SoTL research can help to improve curriculum design. By studying the learning process, teachers can identify what content and skills students need to learn. They can then use this knowledge to develop curricula that are more effective and engaging.
- **Enhanced professional development.** SoTL research can help teachers to enhance their professional development. By reflecting on their teaching and by studying the work of other teachers, teachers can

identify areas for improvement. They can then use this knowledge to develop their own professional development plans.

The scholarship of teaching and learning is a valuable field of study that can help to improve teaching and



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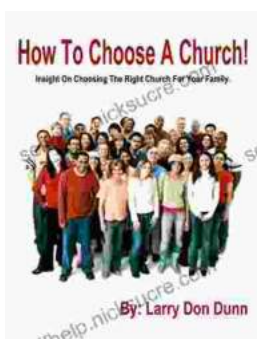
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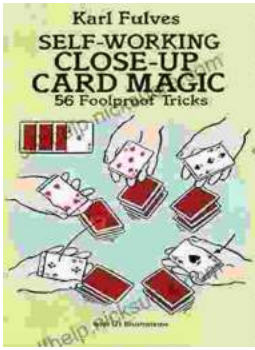
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