

2025 TAA Social Justice Award

Nominee: Steven Barkan

The following was submitted by the nominee:

Please consider this self-nomination for the Social Justice Award. This nomination rests on my career authoring in sociology and criminology/criminal justice concerning two topics relevant to the award: (1) racial issues and (2) movements for social change and justice.

Racial Issues

Much of my scholarship as a sociologist and criminologist has highlighted racial issues. These issues are examined in virtually every chapter of the many textbooks I have written in my fields, and they are the central focus of one of my textbooks and several of my articles in top journals in their areas.

In particular, I have a series of five journal articles (boldfaced below) with my late colleague, Steven Cohn, that use national survey data to connect white Americans' racial prejudice with their support for the death penalty and other harsher treatment of criminals. As far as I know, my colleague and I were the first scholars to document this troubling connection. These five articles have collectively received more than 900 citations according to Google Scholar and are important for two reasons. First, they demonstrate a significant source of white Americans' support for harsher criminal sanctions. Second, they suggest that policymakers should avoid being overly influenced by public opinion on crime since this opinion partly reflects the racial produce of white Americans.

The following publications have racial issues as their central focus:

Steven F. Cohn, Steven E. Barkan, and William A. Halteman. 1991. "Punitive Attitudes Toward Criminals: Racial Consensus or Racial Conflict?" *Social Problems* 38:287-296.

Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 1994. "Racial Prejudice and Support for the Death Penalty by Whites." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 31:202-209.

Steven E. Barkan. 1998. "Race, Issue Engagement, and Political Participation: Evidence from the 1987 General Social Survey." *Race & Society* 1:63-76.

Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 1998. "Racial Prejudice and Support by Whites for Police Use of Force." *Justice Quarterly* 15:743-753.

Steven F. Cohn and Steven E. Barkan. 2004. "Racial Prejudice and Support by Whites for Punitive Sanctions Against Criminals." Pp. 33-47 in Robyn Miller and Sandra Browning et al. (eds.), *For the Common Good*. Carolina Academic Press.

Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 2005. "Why Whites Favor Spending More Money to Fight Crime: The Role of Racial Prejudice." *Social Problems* 52:300-314.

Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 2005. "On Reducing White Support for the Death Penalty: A Pessimistic Appraisal." *Criminology & Public Policy* 4:39-44 (invited essay).

- Steven E. Barkan. 2008. "Race and Crime." In Richard T. Schaefer (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity, and Society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 2010. "Contemporary Regional Differences in Support by Whites for the Death Penalty: A Research Note." *Justice Quarterly* 27:458-471.
- Steven E. Barkan. 2010. "Presidential Address. Toward a New Abolitionism: Race, Ethnicity, and Social Transformation." *Social Problems* 57: 1-4.
- Steven E. Barkan. 2018. *Race, Crime, and Criminal Justice: The Continuing American Dilemma*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Steven E. Barkan and Michael Rocque. 2018. "Socioeconomic Status and Racism as Fundamental Causes of Street Criminality." *Critical Criminology* 26(2):211-231. *Awarded the 2020 Outstanding Contribution Award from the Division of Biopsychosocial Criminology of the American Society of Criminology.*

Movements for Social Change and Justice

Beginning with my doctoral dissertation and first book on the criminal justice experiences of Southern civil rights and Vietnam antiwar protesters, much of my scholarship has also focused on the strategies and dynamics of movements for social change and justice and the efforts of legal officials to thwart those movements. A major thrust of this scholarship has concerned *political justice*, or the use of the criminal justice process by and against social movements. I was the first sociologist to study political justice and remain one of the few social scientists to do so. My scholarship in this area led to two invited publications: a 2006 article in the leading social movements journal, and a forthcoming article in an international handbook on political control, both listed below. My articles on political justice and other aspects of social movements have appeared in top journals in their fields, have collectively earned more than 1,300 citations in Google Scholar, and have deepened scholarly understanding of the efforts by social movements to bring about social change and justice.

The following publications address legal or other aspects of social movements:

- Steven E. Barkan. 1977. "Political Trials and the *Pro Se* Defendant in the Adversary System." *Social Problems* 24:324-336.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1979. "Strategic, Tactical and Organizational Dilemmas of the Protest Movement Against Nuclear Power." *Social Problems* 27:19-37.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1980. "Criminal Prosecutions in the Southern Civil Rights and Vietnam Anti-War Movements: Repression and Dissent in Political Trials." In Steven Spitzer (ed.), *Research in Law and Sociology*, vol.3. JAI Press.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1980. "Political Trials and Resource Mobilization: Towards an Understanding of Social Movement Litigation." *Social Forces* 58:944-961.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1983. "Jury Nullification in Political Trials." *Social Problems* 31:28-45.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1984. "Legal Control of the Southern Civil Rights Movement." *American Sociological Review* 49:552-565.
--reprinted in Michael McCann (ed.). 2006. *Law and Social Movements*. Surrey, UK: Ashgate Publishing.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1985. *Protesters on Trial: Criminal Justice in the Southern Civil Rights and Vietnam Antiwar Movements*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. *Honorable*

Mention [second place], annual book award of the American Sociological Association Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements, 1987; Honorable Mention, annual award of the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Human Rights in the United States, 1986.

- Steven E. Barkan. 1986. "Interorganizational Conflict in the Southern Civil Rights Movement." *Sociological Inquiry* 56:190-209.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1986. "Law, Power, and Political Trials." *Sociologie et Societes* 18:153-161.
- Pat. D. Dauphinais and Steven E. Barkan. 1992. "Predictors of Rank-and-File Feminist Activism: Evidence from the 1983 General Social Survey." *Social Problems* 39:332-344.
- Steven F. Cohn, Steven E. Barkan, and William H. Whitaker. 1993. "Activists Against Hunger: Membership Characteristics of a National Social Movement Organization." *Sociological Forum* 8:113-131.
- Steven E. Barkan, Steven F. Cohn, and William H. Whitaker. 1993. "Commitment Across the Miles: Ideological and Microstructural Sources of Support in a National Anti-Hunger Organization." *Social Problems* 40:362-373.
- Steven E. Barkan, Steven F. Cohn, and William H. Whitaker. 1995. "Beyond Recruitment: Predictors of Differential Participation in a National Antihunger Organization." *Sociological Forum* 10:113-134.
- Steven E. Barkan. 1996. "Clamshell Alliance." In Christopher Kruegler et al. (eds.), *An Encyclopedia of Nonviolent Action*. New York: Garland Publishing Company.
- Steven F. Cohn, Steven E. Barkan, and William A. Halteman. 2003. "Dimensions of Participation in a Professional Social-Movement Organization." *Sociological Inquiry* 73:311-337.
- Steven E. Barkan. 2004. "Explaining Public Support for the Environmental Movement: A Civic Voluntarism Model." *Social Science Quarterly* 85:913-937.
- Steven E. Barkan. 2006. "Criminal Prosecution and the Legal Control of Protest." *Mobilization* 11:181-195.
- Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 2006. "Recruitment to Social Movements." In George Ritzer (ed.), *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Steven E. Barkan and Steven F. Cohn. 2013. "Recruitment." In David A. Snow, Donatella della Porta, Bert Klandermans, and Doug McAdam (eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Steven E. Barkan. Forthcoming. "Political Justice: Legal Control and Movement Mobilization in Democratic Society." In Jennifer Earl and Jessica Braithwaite (eds.), *De Gruyter Handbook of Political Control*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

Thank you for considering this self-nomination. I believe with all humility that my authoring in these two areas speaks strongly to the authoring criteria for the Social Justice Award and hope that the Awards Committee will agree with this assessment.