

Murphy, Daniel, S. (2007) An Ex-Convict Teaches Criminal Justice: The Etics-Emics Debate and the Role of Subjectivity in Academia. *Justice Policy Journal (JPL)*. Spring, 2007. vol. 4(1) (ISSN 1530-3012) Published by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. The version of record is available open access at the publisher's website and can be downloaded at: <http://www.cjcj.org/jpj/2007/05/justice/policy/journal/0>

An Ex-Con Teaching Criminal Justice: The Etics-Emics Debate and the Role of Subjectivity in Academia

Daniel S. Murphy

ABSTRACT

The etics-emics debate, "neutral objectivity" versus "biased subjectivity," is ongoing within the academy. As academics we are indoctrinated into, and convince ourselves of, the ideology of objectivity. We are subjective human beings who attempt to develop objective standards. This stated, we are subjective by nature yet strive for the arcamedian point of absolute neutrality. The present paper explores the positive-negative aspects of incorporating personal-subjective experience(s) in teaching criminal justice. The reality of subjectivity is explored within the context of the unobtainable pursuit of pure objectivity.

ARTICLE

The version of record is available **open access** at the publisher's website and can be downloaded at: <http://www.cjcj.org/jpj/2007/05/justice/policy/journal/0>