Week 8 (Social Capital) Discussion Questions

Bellair, Light, & Sutton (2019):

1. Bellair and others found in their sample that most of its prison sample do not have a single node in their network that would be proud of them for committing a crime nor encourage them to commit crime (75% stated this was true). If it's not for social capital, then what could be a reason some of these people chose to commit a crime?

2. Bellair, Light, & Sutton (2019) did not survey those in maximum security prisons? If they did, is it reasonable to assume that the social networks of these prisoners would have been more socially isolated (without "important" social ties) or had more criminal influences?

Smith (2005):

3. Is it reasonable to believe that Smith (2005) findings would be applicable regardless of ethnic/racial classifications?
    a. Similarly, would this be applicable for people outside of concentrated disadvantaged communities? Do you think all people review an individual's reputation, and bond to that person to determine if they should mobilize their social capital? Is it more evident in lower-income communities or concentrated disadvantaged because the risk of hurting their own position is more severe?

Goodson (2018):

4. Goodson's research focused on female networks and support system. Would this study look the same if it was for males? Why or why not?

5. Considering that family was the most helpful yet more hurtful part of the network, how does family structure play a role in helping/hurting an individual on probation/parole?

Brown (2010):

6. Brown (2010) spoke of mentoring as a way to increase social capital, what other forms of social capital may be pivotal to desistance from crime that were not addressed in the article?
7. Participation in programming? Educational/ vocational?
8. A statement was made in the article that there has been some confusion about the efficacy of mentorship programs in the desistance process, after reading Brown's (2010) article, do you think that mentoring is beneficial in obtaining social capital and therefore contributes to the desistance process? Why or why not?
9. How might social network analysis address the factor of race in the reentry process and the accumulation of social capital through mentorship?

10. As previously incarcerated individuals leave prison, one factor that has dominated society is the entrenchment of technology. That being said, how might the concept of mentorship be re-invented with modes of technology? How might this increase or decrease the attainment of social capital?
11. How might legitimacy affect the ability to form trust through mentoring and obtain social capital?