

A Wider Lens: Highlighting the  
Impact of Culture,  
Social Structures, & Community on  
Criminal Justice Issues



Criminology Consortium

Annual Meeting Program  
October 16 – 20, 2023

# THE CRIMINOLOGY CONSORTIUM

## ANNUAL MEETING

### October 16 - 20, 2023

Website: <https://crimcon.org/>

Email: [admin@crimcon.org](mailto:admin@crimcon.org)

Twitter: @CrimConOrg

#### Executive Board Members, 2023-2024

**President:** Bobbie Ticknor, Ph.D.

**Vice-President:** Daniel Lytle, Ph.D.

**Treasurer:** Arelys Madero-Hernandez, Ph.D.

**Secretary:** Jessica J. Warner, Ph.D.

**Executive Officer:** Jay Lawrie, Ed.D.

***Our Vision:*** We envision an inclusive consortium where everyone can share their knowledge of criminology and criminal justice regardless of their position, education, location, or financial status.

***Our Mission:*** To provide ways to disseminate knowledge about criminology and the criminal justice system using various technologies. Our objectives are to:

- Promote and foster evidence-based practices in education, training, and practice related to criminal justice and criminology
- Provide a venue for those who want to share their knowledge and offer networking opportunities for academics, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, or those simply interested in the topic
- Foster ethical standards and promote diversity and inclusion in the field
- Provide an option for those who cannot travel to conferences in the United States for a variety of reasons and/or participants who cannot afford to attend any face-to-face conferences for whatever reason.

***We'd like to send a special thank you to our participants. We see your efforts and appreciate you selecting CrimCon to talk about your research.***

## **Conference Registration**

The Criminology Consortium believes in free sharing of research and science. Attendees can [register](#) online. The conference is free to attend. We are a non-profit organization. [Donations](#) are always welcome.

## **Sponsors**

We'd also like to thank our university sponsors. Their support allows us to continue our goal to offer this conference to as many attendees as possible and at no cost. Thank you for your support.

*Note: All times listed in the program are EDT.*

# THE CRIMINOLOGY CONSORTIUM ANNUAL MEETING October 16 - 20, 2023

## Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at a Glance: Policing

<b>9:30 - 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<b>Police Innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Evaluation of the East St. Louis Community Engagement Response Team</li> <li>II. “You Have to Be Able to Basically See Through the Weeds”: Critical, Public Order and Major Incident Decision-Making in Policing</li> <li>III. Police Search and Rescue Tools and Technologies</li> <li>IV. Understanding Characteristics of Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers: A Descriptive Analysis of Place and Officer Characteristics</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 – 11:50</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker: Ian Adams, “Small Thoughts on Policing Research”</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<b>Police and the Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Enhancing Procedural Justice Measurement Tools in Policing Contexts: A Comprehensive Review</li> <li>II. Examining Community Perceptions of the Police Post 2020: The Role of Civic Attitudes, Experiences, and Socio-Demographic Traits</li> <li>III. Motivations for Becoming Police Officers Among College Women</li> <li>IV. Reframing Police Education: A Model for Decentralized Police Training</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<b>Policing Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The Long-term Effects of Structural Discrimination on Public Safety: The 1930s Redlining Maps</li> <li>II. Contrasting the legality of escalating responses during encounters between police officers and community members</li> <li>III. Preliminary Outcomes of an Online Mental Health Awareness Training for Law Enforcement</li> </ul>

## Tuesday, October 17th at a Glance: Intersections of Criminology & Victimology

<b>9:30 - 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker: Tara Streng-Schroeter, “Building Support for Victims and Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault within their Social Circle”</b>
<b>11:00 – 11:50</b>	<p><b>Gendered Dynamics in Violent Victimization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Understanding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)’s Impact through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Research and Evaluation (R&amp;E) Initiative</li> <li>II. Cycle of Violence as a Cycle of Fear: Narratives of Women Victims of Intimate Partner Violence</li> <li>III. Sexual Harassment Policy at a Higher Education Institution in Kwazulu-Natal: Knowledge and Perceptions of Undergraduate Students in Two Departments</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<p><b>Human Trafficking: Data on Victims and Perpetrators in Spain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Women as Offenders in Human Trafficking Cases: An Analysis of Spanish Judicial Sentences</li> <li>II. Foreign Minors Who Are Victims of Human Trafficking: Challenges to Assist Them</li> <li>III. Human Trafficking as An Economic Crime: Approach from the Criminal Justice System</li> <li>IV. Labour Trafficking: Enslavement and Liberation Processes as Seen by Survivors</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<p><b>Investigating Violence Through Intersectional Lens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The UN Genocide Convention and the USBP Immigration Checkpoints in South Texas: A Knowledge-Based Application</li> <li>II. Anti-Immigrant, Anti-Muslim, or Anti-Black Racism? Unpacking Violence against ‘Twice Racialized’ Minorities</li> <li>III. An Overview of Mass Murders in Brazil: Characteristics, Motivations, Perpetrator’s Mental Functioning and Legal Repercussions</li> </ul>

## Wednesday, October 18th at a Glance: Corrections

<b>9:30 - 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<b>Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Watts, “A Pathway Towards Justice: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Community Supervision”</b>
<b>11:00 – 11:50</b>	<b>Corrections I</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. CT DOC Personnel’s Stress Levels, Both Emotional and Physical, During The COVID-19 Pandemic Including Data</li> <li>II. The Role of Correctional Officers in The Punishment and Parole Processes</li> <li>III. What Really Happens Behind Bars? Social Media</li> </ol>
<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<b>Corrections II</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Disparities In Prison Work Programs</li> <li>II. Returning to a Closed Community Environment After a Carceral Experience and Its Effect on The Rehabilitative Imago.</li> <li>III. Self-Efficacy, Agency, And Civic Orientation: The Positive Effects of Developing a Reflective Anthology with A Jail-Based Inside-Out Program</li> </ol>
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<b>Corrections III</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Child First: Examining Children’s Collaboration in The Youth Justice System</li> <li>II. Infidelity And Anger Within Incarcerated Couples: A Brief Report</li> <li>III. Lived Experience, The Key in Turning a Holistic Approach to A Who-Listic One. The Story of Four Lived Experience Practitioners Working in The Reintegration Space in Western Australia</li> </ol>

## Thursday, October 19th at a Glance: Communities & Courts

<b>9:30 - 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<p><b>Racial Disparity &amp; Specialty Courts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Signals of Racial Disparity: Who Enters and Graduates from Specialty Court Dockets?</li> <li>II. Sources of Racial Disparity: Perspectives from Participants and Legal and Treatment Professionals Affiliated with Mental Health and Drug Court Dockets</li> <li>III. Identifying and Understanding Racial Disparities in Women’s Referral to and Success Within Sex Trafficking Specialty Docket Court Programs: A Mixed-Methods Investigation</li> </ul>
<b>11:00 – 11:50</b>	<p><b>Courts &amp; Sentencing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Traditional Leaders at Crossroads: Upholding Tradition vs. Law of South Africa - A Case of Umguyo Practices in Eastern Cape, South Africa</li> <li>II. The Role of Victim’s Abuse of Alcohol in Sentencing: Results of Text Mining Analysis of Court Verdicts on Intimate Partner Femicides</li> <li>III. The Future of Courts: Justice Is Reexamined in An Online World</li> </ul>
<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Laugh: Social Hour</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<p><b>Commentary on Community Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Bridging Knowledge Gaps: Blogging As a Tool to Improve Public Understanding in Criminal Justice</li> <li>II. Communication, Coordination, And Collaboration: A Precursor to Effective Deflection Service Delivery</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<p><b>Studies on Criminological Theories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The Impact of Family Economic Scarcity on Self-Regulation in a Sample of Justice-Involved Youth</li> <li>II. Examining the Definitions of Immigration and Crime: A Systematic Analysis</li> <li>III. Gendered Violence in Greece: Examining Femicides</li> </ul>

## Friday, October 20th at a Glance: Interdisciplinary Criminal Justice

<b>9:30 – 9:50 AM</b>	<b>Opening Welcome</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<b>The Reformation Project: Criminal Justice Equity Documentary Screening</b>
<b>11:00 – 11:50</b>	<b>Panel Discussion from the Producers of the Documentary</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:50</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>1:00 – 1:50</b>	<b>Media &amp; Crime</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Artistic Censorship and the Use of Lyrical Content Against Performers: The Case of Rap Music</li> <li>II. Art Crime: How Behavioral Analysis Can Help Solve Thefts</li> <li>III. Importance of Game Theory in Intelligence Analysis: An Approach for Students</li> </ul>
<b>2:00 – 2:50</b>	<b>Learning in Practice</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Transforming School Communities: Harnessing Restorative Justice Mechanisms to Address Violence in South African Township Schools</li> <li>II. Increasing Diversity Through Leadership</li> <li>III. An Evaluation of a Learning Community in Criminal Justice for Transfer Students</li> </ul>
<b>3:00 – 3:30</b>	<b>Presidential Address and the Welcome of new CrimCon President, Daniel Lytle</b>



**THE CRIMINOLOGY CONSORTIUM  
ANNUAL MEETING  
October 16 - 20, 2023**

**Thank you to our University Sponsors**

We wouldn't be able to continue with our goal to provide a venue for those who want to share their knowledge and offer networking opportunities for academics, researchers, practitioners, policymakers, or those simply interested in the topic. We appreciate your support.



# THE CRIMINOLOGY CONSORTIUM

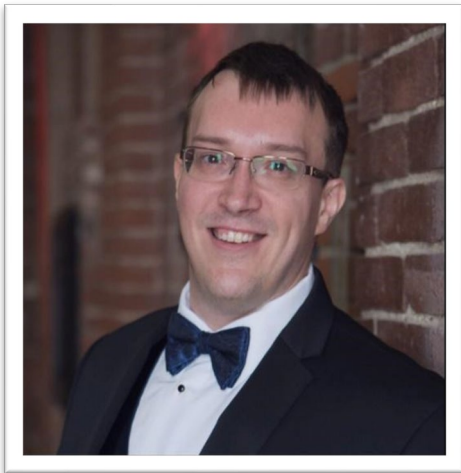
## ANNUAL MEETING

### October 16 - 20, 2023

#### MONDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

#### 9:30 – 9:50 Daily Welcome Address

##### Dan Lytle, Board Member



Daniel Lytle is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Dr. Lytle's current research projects involve assessing officer wellness and recruitment and retention with police departments and sheriff's offices in North Carolina. His work also focuses on the use of meta-analysis to understand police officer decision-making and the relationship between fear of crime relates to police satisfaction. Dr. Lytle continues to explore the use of meta-analysis to understand the decision-making of other criminal justice actors. His work has been published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Police & Society*, and *Deviant Behavior*.

#### 10:00 – 10:50 Police Innovation

##### I. Evaluation of the East St Louis Community Engagement Response Team

*Alex Menninger Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority*

This presentation will share findings from the evaluation of the East St Louis Community Engagement Response Team (ESL-CERT) located in Illinois. In the program, police officers who encounter victims of violent crime connect them with case management and services. The program started in 2021 and has served nearly 100 participants. Participants are primarily those who have experienced domestic violence or sexual assault, as well as family members of homicide victims. We will share findings from data collected during action planning, participant data, and stakeholder interviews. We will provide insights into, and recommendations for, a program to assist victims of violent crime in an urban community.

## II. “You Have to Be Able to Basically See Through the Weeds”: Critical, Public Order and Major Incident Decision-Making in Policing

*Laura Huey University of Western Ontario*  
*Judith Andersen University of Toronto*  
*Lorna Ferguson University of Western Ontario*

On May 24, 2022, a gunman entered an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas and fatally shot 19 victims. During the incident, local police were present at the site but did not enter the building to confront the gunman. It was subsequently reported that an Incident Commander mischaracterized the situation as a ‘barricaded subject’ rather than as an ‘active shooter’, and officers were ordered to stay out of the scene and to keep student families and bystanders from entering the building. Drawing on qualitative interviews with Incident Commanders, Critical Incident Commanders, Emergency Planners, and Tactical and Public Order Unit personnel, our research seeks to better understand the influence of various stressors on decision-making in high-risk, high-profile events. This paper presents an analysis of these interviews that considers four important questions: 1. Who takes on this type of role? 2. What is their function during a major or critical incident? 3. How are decisions made? and 4. What types of internal/external stressors are involved?

## III. Police Search and Rescue Tools and Technologies

*Lorna Ferguson University of Western Ontario*

Police search and rescue (SAR) teams employ a host of tools and technologies to locate missing persons efficiently and successfully. However, as this is an emerging area of policing scholarship, little research exists on this topic. Therefore, through in-depth interviews, surveys, analysis of over twenty thousand missing persons records, and document analysis, this study is dedicated to uncovering the tools, technologies, and other resources used in this area of police work related to the various tasks and responses. Tools and technologies discussed include drones, helicopters, K9 Searchers, and infrared imaging. It also describes how these developments in the field may impact police SAR and what the future of police SAR may look like in the face of emerging tools and technologies like artificial intelligence and virtual and augmented reality. Therefore, the implications of the findings for policing, SAR, and missing persons, and areas for future research, are discussed.

## IV. Understanding Characteristics of Assaults on Law Enforcement Officers: A Descriptive Analysis of Place and Officer Characteristics

*Brian Simpkins Eastern Kentucky University*

The purpose of the present study was to gain a better understanding of assaults on law enforcement officers by identifying characteristics of place and officer characteristics. The present study was based on official assault on law enforcement officer data from a major metropolitan area within a southeastern state for the years 2010-2019. Within the data, several characteristics were examined to identify elements that are more closely related to assaultive events. For example, the findings revealed high percentages of assaults on law enforcement officers in response to disturbance calls as well as high percentages of assaultive events

occurring in general roadways and private residences. In terms of officer characteristics, overall half of all assaultive events involved officers with less than five years of service, which also accounts for over 80 percent of all assaultive events involving officers at the rank of Officer/Patrolman. Further, close to two-thirds of assaultive events involved one-officer vehicle patrols. Although descriptive in nature, the present study provides avenues for future research and to begin discussions with other researchers to help direct research efforts.

## **11:00 – 11:50 Keynote Speaker**

### **“Small Thoughts on Policing Research”**

*Ian Adams University of South Carolina*



Dr. Ian Adams is a multidisciplinary researcher and Assistant Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina, with a Ph.D. in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Utah. His research focuses on the practical concerns of police practitioners, with a specific interest in technology, policy, and personnel in law enforcement. He has a strong background in law enforcement, having served over twelve years at both the state and local level. By connecting his research to the practical concerns of policing agencies, their employees, and the communities they serve, Dr. Adams’ work helps inform evidence-based policies and practices within law enforcement.

## **1:00 – 1:50 Police and the Community**

### **I. Enhancing Procedural Justice Measurement Tools in Policing Contexts: A Comprehensive Review**

*Véronique Chadillon-Farinacci Université de Moncton*

The intricate relationship between law enforcement agencies and the public has been a subject of extensive inquiry. Among the array of factors shaping public perceptions of the police, a pivotal role is played by procedural justice. Ever since the seminal work of Thibaut and Walker in 1975, multiple studies have underscored the importance of, on one hand, equity, participation, transparency, and trust, and on the other hand, the quality of decision-making and treatment, in influencing perceptions of justice. These studies have deepened our comprehension of procedural justice and delved into its underlying mechanisms. However, certain conceptual gaps pose challenges when examining interactions between law enforcement and the public. This presentation aims to introduce key concepts of procedural justice, seeks to elucidate the conceptual definitions of procedural justice, shed light on how they are operationalized in empirical studies within the field of criminology. Drawing upon two primary

approaches, this comprehensive literature review lays a robust foundation for the development of an innovative procedural justice measurement tool tailored to the law enforcement context. It emphasizes on the critical interplay between law enforcement practices and the broader cultural and societal dynamics.

## II. Examining Community Perceptions of the Police Post 2020: The Role of Civic Attitudes, Experiences, and Socio-Demographic Traits

*Christina Mancini* Virginia Commonwealth University

*Robert Lytle* University of Arkansas-Little Rock

*Brittany Keegan* Virginia Commonwealth University

*Nick Devlin* Virginia Commonwealth University

A robust public opinion scholarship spanning several decades has examined differences in experiences with police, views about law enforcement, and procedural justice involving police officers. A continued emphasis on public views is needed given the nexus between public opinion and police legitimacy. This study examines the extent to which perceptions and experiences of Virginia residents influence evaluations of the police, particularly as it involves fairness and equity.

## III. Motivations for Becoming Police Officers Among College Women

*Melchor de Guzman* Georgia Gwinnett College  
*Patrice Morris*

Despite efforts for women inclusion in policing, their representation in the profession remains stagnant. This research examines the factors that motivate or demotivate female college students from choosing policing as a profession. Findings suggest personal affiliations with current officers are strong motivators for joining the police profession. Organizational and other social factors tend to demotivate women in joining the police force. Policy and research implications are discussed.

## IV. Reframing Police Education: A Model for Decentralized Police Training

*Beth Easterling* Roanoke College

*Martin Greenberg* Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators

This research presentation provides an overview of a proposed decentralized police training academy model consisting of an intensive fieldwork experience; a college degree course of study; the initial completion of a volunteer police training course (auxiliary or reserve) in conformity with state standards; and the completion of the state's mandated basic police school. A key component of the program should be to recruit, train, and deploy auxiliary police officers. Auxiliaries are the civilians whose duties and training most closely approximate the police, and whose activities blur the lines between civilian and cop, volunteer, and worker. The result should be greater public safety since the proposed program will incorporate placing police trainees on the same streets they have already patrolled—generating greater accountability between police and community members.

## 2:00 – 2:50 Policing Issues

### I. The Long-term Effects of Structural Discrimination on Public Safety: The 1930s Redlining Maps

*David Mitre Becerril University of Connecticut*

Enduring disinvestment can lead to different growth trajectories and cause the clustering of distressed, blighted urban areas. Do these differential trajectories also explain present-day criminal and police behaviors? This study examines the long-term public safety impacts of the residential security maps, the once-legal 1930s racially discriminatory maps used to determine the real estate market “risk” of lower property values, limiting residential loans to racial-minority creditworthy individuals. By collecting data from 27 police departments and exploiting within-city variation by comparing areas near different color-grade boundaries around a small bandwidth, the spatial regression discontinuity design reveals significant increases in violent, property, and low-level offenses in redlined areas. Changes in arrests seem to concentrate on property and low-level offenses. In contrast, areas labeled as green experienced public safety improvements and fewer arrests for violent and non-serious offenses and police stops. The results suggest that long-term structural disinvestment is a driving factor preventing safer neighborhoods.

### II. Contrasting the Legality of Escalating Responses During Encounters Between Police Officers and Community Members

*Danielle Cooper University of New Haven*

Commonly, police officers encounter community members as part of their patrolling duties in local towns and cities. During their day-to-day operations, issues arise between these groups that rise to the level of disagreement or higher conflict. The responses during these conflicts may escalate, but the parties involved do not have the same expectations about their roles and actions. Using a framework that maps out deference and defiance upon receiving orders, commentary is provided about the legality of escalating responses, ranging from ignoring the other parties’ requests to physically fighting. Data from multiple research projects involving samples of different ages, races, and genders, as well as examples from news stories and court cases, are integrated to contrast how different responses are perceived differently by systems (e.g., legal, political, and education) and society more generally. These reflections will benefit future development of police training and community engagement projects.

### III. Preliminary Outcomes of an Online Mental Health Awareness Training for Law Enforcement

*Hee Yun Lee University of Alabama*  
*Cho Rong Won University of Alabama*  
*Susan Jasko Center for Advanced Public Safety*

Individuals with mental illness are involved in one-fifth of police calls, occupy 20% of the beds in prisons, and are victims of over one quarter of fatal police shootings in the nation. Though evidence-based mental health awareness training models exist, implementation is lacking, particularly for officers in rural regions. To address these alarming statistics, an online training was developed and assessed among rural county officers in Alabama. A convenience sample (N=95) of officers were recruited, and independent sample t-tests were conducted to analyze differences in attitude and behavioral health knowledge items between the pre- and post-training. Knowledge regarding schizophrenia, generalized anxiety disorder, depression, and bipolar significantly increased after the training. Also, statistically significant greater agreement with the statement “People with behavioral health conditions take up more than their share of police time” after the training was found. The findings suggest that online training may be feasible in a rural environment and can provide positive outcomes in knowledge increase about common behavioral health conditions and reduce negative attitudes about individuals with these conditions. As a continuing study, future plan includes expansion to other rural regions where mental health resources are limited.

# SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The University of Cincinnati's Criminal Justice program is ranked as one of the top programs by U.S. News and World Reports and one of the top programs in a number of peer-reviewed studies of faculty productivity. Graduate Incentive Awards fund tuition up to 100% for on campus programs and other forms of financial assistance are available. The following graduate programs and research opportunities are offered by the School of Criminal Justice:

## **Master of Science Degree**

A 30-semester credit hour on-campus program designed to be completed in one academic year, with interdisciplinary courses that focus on Criminal Justice theory, policy analysis, Justice Administration, and effective justice practices. Students select a Corrections, Policing/Crime Prevention, or Crime, Law and Justice concentration.

## **Master of Science Degree Online**

A 33-semester credit hour program delivered online by full-time faculty members. The program is designed for working professionals who practice in our complex and challenging Criminal Justice system. Students are prepared to respond to emerging trends, assume leadership roles, and have an applied base of knowledge. The degree can be completed in one year (full-time enrollment) or two years (part-time enrollment).

## **Doctoral Degree**

The Ph.D. program prepares professional social scientists for rigorous academic or agency research careers. Areas of concentration include Criminology, Criminal Justice systems, Policing, Crime Prevention, Corrections, and research methods and statistics. All doctoral students receive financial assistance in the form of tuition waivers and assistantships.

## **Graduate Certificate Programs**

The School of Criminal Justice also offers online graduate certificate programs in Correctional Rehabilitation, Crime and Intelligence Analysis, and Analysis of Criminal Behavior.

The certificate in Correctional Rehabilitation will provide a better understanding of correctional rehabilitation, and more specifically the use of evidence based programs and practices designed to reduce recidivism. The certificate in Crime Analysis and Prevention is a specialization that provides students with the conceptual knowledge and technical, analytical skills required of crime analysis and prevention professionals.

The graduate certificate in Analysis of Criminal Behavior builds on the Crime, Law, and Justice specialization where students are provided with the conceptual knowledge and analytical skills relevant to characterizing patterns of individual criminal behavior and responding to it.

## **School of Criminal Justice Research Centers & Institutes**

The School of Criminal Justice houses a number of centers and institutes that are all committed to bridging the research-practice gap, fostering strong community partnerships, and doing impactful work that informs and promotes evidence-based practices to improve the administration of criminal justice across a variety of settings and professions.

### **Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR)**

Director: Sarah Manchak, Ph.D.

### **Center for Justice and Communities (CJC)**

Director: Paula Smith, Ph.D.

### **UC Center for Police Research & Policy (CPRP)**

Director: Nicholas Corsaro, Ph.D.

### **UC Corrections Institute (UCCI)**

Director: Myrinda Smith, Ph.D.

### **Institute for Crime Science (ICS)**

Director: Cory Haberman, Ph.D.



**Learn More**

For more information about  
our graduate programs, visit:

[cech.uc.edu/cj](http://cech.uc.edu/cj)



**WELCOME TO OUR  
NEW FACULTY**



**LEAH BUTLER, PhD**

**University of Cincinnati**

A graduate from the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Butler's research is centered on corrections, with an emphasis on the effects of race and racial attitudes on public opinion of correctional policy, and also on sexual victimization and intimate partner violence.

**AUDREY HICKERT, PhD**

**University of Albany (SUNY)**

Dr. Hickert's research interests span post-conviction justice interventions, with a focus on understanding the mechanisms that affect life-course trajectories.



**JOHN LEVERSO, PhD**

**University of Washington**

Dr. Leverso is a sociological criminologist whose research focuses on the urban street gang, later-in-life outcomes for justice involved youth and health criminology.

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

### 9:30 – 9:50 Daily Welcome Address

#### **Arelys Madero, Board Member**

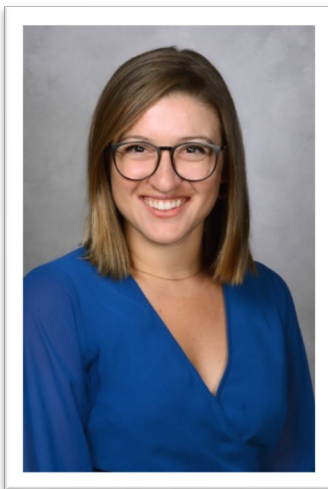


Arelys Madero is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Shippensburg University. She earned her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. At Shippensburg University, Dr. Madero oversees the first and only undergraduate certificate in Victimology and Victim Services in the Pennsylvania System of Higher Education. Her research focuses on ethnic disparities in victimization, crime prevention strategies, and the repercussions of immigration on criminal justice outcomes. Her work appears in various academic journals including *Justice Quarterly*, *Victims & Offenders*, *Race & Justice*, and the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*.

### 10:00 – 10:50 Keynote Speaker

#### **“Building Support for Victims and Survivors of Campus Sexual Assault within their Social Circle”**

*Tara Streng-Schroeter University of Colorado Boulder*



Tara Streng-Schroeter is a Doctoral Candidate in the Department of Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU) and a Graduate Research Assistant at CU's Institute of Behavioral Science. Tara's research focuses on support for victims and survivors of sexual violence across the individual, community, and policy levels. She has gained additional expertise regarding support for victims, implementation of policy, and violence prevention, throughout her career working at a community-based rape crisis center, within the criminal justice system, and at research institutes.

## 11:00 – 11:50 Gendered Dynamics in Violent Victimization

### I. Understanding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)'s Impact through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative

*Ginger Baran Lyons U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women (OVW)*  
*Kia Jackson Women (OVW)*

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)'s Research and Evaluation (R&E) Initiative is designed to study and evaluate approaches to addressing and preventing domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. By generating more knowledge about strategies for serving victims and holding offenders accountable, grantees that benefit from Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funding will be better equipped to align their work with evidence-based practices that are known to be effective and have practical utility. R&E prioritizes researcher-practitioner partnerships and rigorous evaluation methods for investigating if and how VAWA-funded strategies help keep communities safe and promote justice. R&E funding supports evaluations of approaches used in law enforcement, prosecution, courts, victim services, healthcare, schools, faith communities, culturally specific organizations, and other settings. This presentation will provide an overview of OVW's R&E Initiative, as well as efforts to prevent and respond to domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It will also highlight the Department of Justice's (DOJ) updated guidance on Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias and explore opportunities for research tied to this guidance. Participants will gain a greater understanding of the R&E Initiative's critical role in understanding VAWA's impact and ensuring the continued success of VAWA programs.

### II. Cycle of Violence as a Cycle of Fear: Narratives of Women Victims of Intimate Partner Violence

*Camila Iglesias Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Crime Justice and Security (CJS) - Faculty of Law of the University of Porto*  
*Carla Cardoso*  
*Pedro Sousa*

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a widespread phenomenon that affects 1 in 3 women around the globe. For those who are victimized within their private spaces, fear constantly affects their health and quality of life and is commonly referred to as one of the significant reasons for keeping them within the cycle of violence of an abusive relationship. The present study is based on 21 semi-structured interviews conducted with women victims of IPV in Brazil and Portugal. Results show that psychological violence, fear of IPV and, controversially, in some cases, the lack of recognition of the violence suffered are the leading causes of the perpetuation of the cycle of violence. Narratives commonly refer to manipulation (namely blaming the victim) as a commonly used strategy of power and control. Despite the evident social and cultural differences between both contexts of study, narratives about fear and the cycle of violence are similar among interviewees. In some cases, the lack of adequate support and economic dependency may increase women's insecurity. Results also show that there is no safe place for women victims of IPV, and the cycle of violence is also a cycle of constant fear.

### III. Sexual Harassment Policy at A Higher Education Institution in Kwazulu-Natal: Knowledge and Perceptions of Undergraduate Students in Two Departments

*Smbatho Mbatha*

The purpose of this paper was to establish a rich understanding of the knowledge and perceptions that students at a rural higher education institution in South Africa have on sexual harassment and sexual harassment policies, and the role played by the policy in the institution in educating students about the crime. This study used a qualitative exploratory design based on a multi-method approach, focusing on the hermeneutics paradigm in understanding issues of sexual harassment. This study revealed that sexual harassment is prevalent; student participants indicated general knowledge of sexual harassment. However, they showed poor knowledge of the institution's policy. Findings further revealed that the institution lacks trained individuals receiving cases of sexual harassment. According to the support specialists who have been interviewed, findings from students regarding sexual harassment incidences show that the latter impacted their academic performance, health, and social life. Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that students be educated on sexual harassment policies and that changes to the institution's sexual harassment reporting protocol be introduced.

### **1:00 – 1:50 Human Trafficking: Data on Victims and Perpetrators in Spain**

#### I. Women as Offenders in Human Trafficking Cases: An Analysis of Spanish Judicial Sentences

*Marc Salat University of Lleida*

This research is grounded on the hypotheses raised by the results of two quantitative research studies carried out in Spain on judicial sentences on trafficking in human beings (Salat, 2021; Salat, 2022). In this regard, it was found that there were a high number of female offenders of trafficking in human beings and that in case of conviction they received higher sentences than their male counterparts. It was also found that most of the traffickers come from the same regions as their victims. The present research, still in an exploratory phase, aims to analyze these same sentences from a qualitative point of view in order to find out the reasons for this over-representation of foreign female offenders. The provisional results suggest that women tend to play very specific roles in the recruitment phase of the victim, which makes them the ideal offender. However, in most cases, along with female offenders, there are also male ones who assume the leading roles.

## II. Human Trafficking as an Economic Crime: Approach from the Criminal Justice System

*Clàudia Torres University of Lleida*

Trafficking in human beings, as one of the most profitable criminal businesses on a global scale, must be approached from an economic perspective. Based on the study of 128 convictions for human trafficking handed down between 2012 and 2022 by the Spanish Courts, we analyze the implementation and effectiveness in Spanish jurisprudential practice of certain criminal mechanisms of a substantive-procedural nature that directly or indirectly affect the lucrative component of trafficking. Given that their effectiveness will be determined, to a large extent, by their capacity to satisfy civil liability *ex delicto*, the degree to which compensation is awarded to victims of trafficking is also analyzed. After highlighting the scarce use and limited effectiveness of these instruments in our jurisprudential practice, some considerations and proposals are offered to implement and improve this economic approach to trafficking in human beings, which would make it possible to guarantee the right to reparation of its victims.

## III. Labour Trafficking: Enslavement and Liberation Processes as Seen by Survivors

*Carolina Villacampa University of Lleida*

Despite being one of the most prevalent forms of human trafficking, trafficking in human beings for labor exploitation remains a victimization process that has received little scholarly attention. This qualitative study, based on data from 7 in-depth interviews with labor trafficking survivors in Spain, seeks to apprehend how they experienced that situation whilst giving them a voice and adopting a survivor-centric approach to the phenomenon. To this end, it first analyses from their perspective the process of their enslavement, as well as the feelings it engendered: from recruitment, to transfer, to exploitation, including the objective circumstances and means used. It then analyses the essential aspects of the process leading to their liberation, examining how the situation was ended, the type of assistance received and desired, and the recourse they had to a criminal-law response. It concludes with a series of proposals for how labor trafficking should be institutionally addressed in view of the survivors' suggestions.

## IV. Foreign Minors Who Are Victims of Human Trafficking: Challenges to Assist Them

*Rubén Espuny Cugat  
Carolina Villacampa Estiarte University of Lleida (UdL)*

Minors who are victims of trafficking in human beings are susceptible to suffering alterations in their personal development towards adulthood. Even more vulnerable are unaccompanied foreign minors, who in addition to their young age are unaccompanied by their parents or legal guardians in a country that is not their own. In this context, the response of professionals to quickly and effectively detect and identify these cases, as well as to provide the appropriate assistance needed by these victims, is essential. On this basis, a qualitative study has been carried out consisting of 15 interviews with different professionals from the administrative field and third sector working in the autonomous community of Catalonia (Spain), in order to gain a deeper understanding of the reality of this type of victims and the difficulties or obstacles that currently exist to help them successfully complete their recovery process.

## **2:00 – 2:50 Investigating Violence Through Intersectional Lens**

### **I. The UN Genocide Convention and the USBP Immigration Checkpoints in South Texas: A Knowledge-Based Application**

*Colin Wark Texas A&M University-Kingsville*

Following Goldsmith (2010) I present a knowledge-based application of the UN Genocide Convention to the United States Border Patrol's (USBP's) operation of the immigration checkpoints in and near Brooks County Texas between 2009 and 2019. A knowledge-based application of the convention obviates the need for specific intent (*dolus specialis*) instead relying on the actor's knowledge that their activities are destroying a protected group. The victims in this case are the roughly 650 mostly Hispanic migrants from Latin America who died in rural Brooks County, Texas during the aforementioned time period while trying to circumvent the nearby checkpoints (Leutert 2019). USBP agents staffing the checkpoints may racially profile motorists and Hispanics are targeted by these investigations (e.g., Osete 2016; Anthony 2020; *U.S. v. Martinez-Fuerte*, 428 U.S. 543). Thus, the goal of these checkpoints may be to force undocumented Hispanic migrants to hike through the deadly South Texas brush country in order to avoid them. This objective has been characterized as "deterrence." Thus, by operating these checkpoints, the USBP may be "Deliberately inflicting on the [ethnic] group [Hispanics] conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in...part". Accordingly, these activities should be assessed under Article II (c) of the Genocide Convention.

### **II. Anti-Immigrant, Anti-Muslim, or Anti-Black Racism? Unpacking Violence against 'Twice Racialized' Minorities**

*Aneesha Baboolal University of Massachusetts - Dartmouth*

After 9/11, research highlighted how predominantly immigrant Muslim communities endured discrimination, surveillance, and violence. In recent years, research has shed light on gender-based violence against Muslim women including verbal harassment and physical violence in the public sphere (Baboolal, 2023). Drawing from qualitative in-depth semi-structured interviews with Muslims (n = 50) across various racial and ethnic identities, this research highlights the impact of the normalization of Islamophobic sentiment that continues to reshape the lived experiences of a new generation of Muslim Americans. Findings related to the complex nature

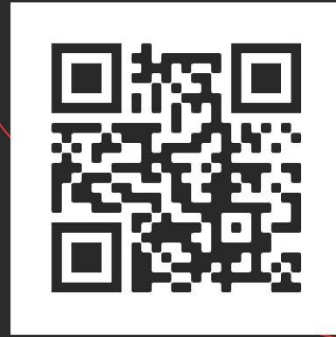
of discriminatory violence intertwined with myriad forms of bias linked to racial, ethnic, or religious identity are examined.

### III. An Overview of Mass Murders in Brazil: Characteristics, Motivations, Perpetrator's Mental Functioning and Legal Repercussions

*Anna Cecilia Santos Chaves*  
*Roberto Augusto de Carvalho Campos* *Universidade de São Paulo (USP), Brazil*

Mass murders consists of a criminal modality characterized by the attempt to produce the greatest possible number of fatal victims in a single incident, which typically occurs in a confined and crowded space. This modality of crime has been progressively growing in Brazil. This study aimed to investigate this phenomenon. Between 1999 and 2023, 21 mass murders were detected in Brazil, in addition to records of massacres that would have been planned but failed to materialize. Those data were collected in extensive research in various digital and print media vehicles. In Brazil, schools were targeted in 16 (84%) out of the 21 mass murder events. In 90% of them, the perpetrator was under 25 years old. Young criminals appear to be motivated by bullying and exhibit narcissistic and/or schizotypal personality traits, while the older ones appear to be odd recluses with some angry agenda. Suicidal tendencies also seem to be a common feature among perpetrators. The 19 consummated attacks produced 46 dead and 97 injured. Only in the last decade (2011-2021), there were 15 mass murders reported in Brazil, consummated, or attempted, at increasingly smaller intervals, especially in the last four years. In 2019 alone, there were six events. The widespread use of the internet and social networks makes the contagion effect alarming in mass killings. It sets an undeniable backdrop to this criminal phenomenon in Brazil, where several similar characteristics to the attacks that occur in the United States were observed, especially regarding to the offender's mental functioning and motivations.

# Violence Intervention & Policing Research Lab



INTERESTED IN JOINING US?  
EMAIL US AT [UNOPOLICINGLAB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UNOPOLICINGLAB@GMAIL.COM)

## ABOUT OUR LAB

- We are an interdisciplinary, collaborative effort that focuses on enhancing public safety by providing research, resources, and training that engages with state agencies, practitioners, and the community
- Located in the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, we work with students to conduct data-intensive research, develop specialized skills, and connect with the public and practitioners in policy formation
- For the latest news and information on events, recent publications, and projects, visit our website at [www.vipr.org](http://www.vipr.org) or email us at [unopolicinglab@gmail.com](mailto:unopolicinglab@gmail.com)

## CO-DIRECTORS

Dr. Jessie Huff  
Assistant Professor

Dr. Justin Nix  
Distinguished  
Associate Professor

Dr. Sadaf Hashimi  
Assistant Professor

VIPR

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity.



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>

### 9:30 – 9:50 Daily Welcome Address

#### Board Member, Jay Lawrie



Jay Lawrie retired from the Connecticut Department of Correction in 2013, spending his entire 20-year career at the MacDougall/Walker Correctional Institution in Suffield, Connecticut. In 2014, Jay joined the faculty at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Ct., where he currently serves as an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology. Prior to assuming this position, Jay was a criminal justice adjunct faculty member for 13 years at various Massachusetts colleges. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1989 and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2000 from Westfield State College, as well as his Doctorate in Education from American International College in 2014.

### 10:00 – 10:50 Keynote Speaker

#### **“A Pathway Towards Justice: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Community Supervision”**

*Dr. John Watts University of Saint Joseph*



Dr. John Watts is an Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Criminal Justice and Restorative Justice Program at the University of Saint Joseph. He is a retired Chief Probation Officer with 20 years of experience working at the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Service Division (CSSD). Dr. Watts is a national trainer and consultant with the SAMHSA's GAINS Center and Policy Research Associates and holds certifications as a Criminal Justice Addictions Professional (CCJP) and in Forensic Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (F-CBT). Dr. Watts earned his Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Charter Oak State College, a Master's Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from Albertus Magnus College, and a Doctorate Degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Leo University.

## **11:00 – 11:50 Corrections I**

### **I. CT DOC Personnel’s Stress Levels, Both Emotional and Physical, During The COVID-19 Pandemic Including Data**

*Casey Ann Ramos*

Staff well-being should be prioritized alongside correctional' safety and security concerns. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the current Connecticut Department of Corrections personnel concerns has been significant. During the pandemic, there has been a constant change to adhere to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition to a lack of resources to assist staff during their stressful situations. The Health Improvement Through Employee Control (HITEC) research, which worked with the Connecticut Department of Corrections on a 16-year UCONN study, was sadly put on hold due to the COVID-19 epidemic. This paper will delve deeper into staff stressors, discuss stress response, mental health, and exposure to trauma, and discuss the staff's stressors during the COVID-19 pandemic. If these stressors are not managed and treated, the most pressing issue the Connecticut Department of Correction will face in the future is staff recruitment and retention. This paper will also discuss my experiences as a Correctional Lieutenant and a member of the Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) during the pandemic and the experiences of those I interviewed regarding their COVID-19 pandemic encounters.

### **II. The Role of Correctional Officers in The Punishment and Parole Processes**

*Kanagie Naidoo University of Zululand*

### **III. What Really Happens Behind Bars? Social Media**

*Samantha DeTiberiis University of Nevada, Reno*

Social media is a form of communication that is frequently utilized and widely accessible to many people in the United States, and it provides direct insight into individuals’ lived experiences. In comparison to other social science disciplines, the criminal justice field lacks research that collects data through this medium of communication. Current research regarding life in correctional facilities is often restricted to parameters set forth by correctional institutions, which creates limitations to the scope of correctional research. This current study unobtrusively collects data about individuals’ lived experiences with correctional institutions through a social media video content analysis. This approach to collecting data about the correctional system is important because it examines the branch of corrections through the method in which the general public gains much of their knowledge about this topic. Information distributed through social media can influence public perceptions and opinions, which could influence current practices and policies within the criminal justice system. Emerging themes and implications that can guide future research will be discussed.

## 1:00 – 1:50 Corrections II

### I. Disparities In Prison Work Programs

*Tyaira Smith Miami University*

60% of previously incarcerated individuals experience difficulty finding work post-release due to employer hesitancy, policy restrictions, and perceived skill gaps (Raphael, 2011; Wang & Bertram, 2022). In an effort to provide incarcerated individuals with work-like experiences, many correctional facilities offer prison work programs. These programs are divided by three categories: prison industry, institutional maintenance/service tasks, and agriculture (Crittenden et al., 2018, p. 360). While all three categories aim to provide incarcerated individuals with meaningful experiences, not all are created equal nor is the opportunity for incarcerated individuals to participate. This presentation will examine the following inequities: a) types of work, b) work assignments, c) eligibility requirements, and d) socioeconomic implications found in prison work programs through the lens of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Disability Critical Race Theory (DisCrit).

### II. Returning to a Closed Community Environment After a Carceral Experience and Its Effect on The Rehabilitative Imago

*Claire Silverstone University of Sunderland*

Quinn-Hogan (2021) states “Deficient societal acceptance” after prison as the biggest barrier to successful rehabilitation. When the returning citizen identifies as a member of a particular community, how simple is the transition back, which could, in many cases may provide greater opportunities for support than traditional family ties. Consideration will be given to two instances based on experiential evidence of the Orthodox Jewish Community and will also draw on epistemological research done within the deaf community, (Kelly-Corless and McCulloch 2023). Orthodox Jewish liturgy teaches the words of Rabbi Abbahu: “In the place where penitents stand, even the full-fledged righteous do not stand;” experientially, while penitent process (that is, being in prison) is being endured, the prison resident may find themselves surrounded by much support from the Jewish community. On release, the rejection from that community presents a completely different picture. The work considers the concept of “Conditional Forgiveness” from the accused’s perspective. When a complaint is made, a social contract is made, that a crime will be investigated and a sentence, codified in law, will be passed. Whilst there is a suggestion that society will accept this, there is no written rule of “forgiveness.”

### III. Self-Efficacy, Agency, And Civic Orientation: The Positive Effects of Developing a Reflective Anthology with a Jail-Based Inside-Out Program

*Jennifer Lanterman University of Nevada, Reno*

Inside-Out Prison Exchange Programs facilitate sustained dialogue between traditional campus-based students and detained or incarcerated students for a semester-long course held in carceral institutions. Students in these courses complete a series of assignments, including a group project. The spring 2023 cohort of Inside-Out students who met at the Washoe County Detention Facility in Reno, Nevada developed a semi-self-published anthology focused on education,

accountability, and redemption for their group project. This presentation briefly examines the project development process and reports the findings of a content analysis of a class survey and course evaluations. Students reported feelings of enhanced self-efficacy, agency, and civic orientation associated with participation in the course, generally, and specifically in relation to the collaborative process of writing an anthology together. The pedagogical implications and research next steps are also discussed.

## **2:00 – 2:50 Corrections III**

### **I. Child First: Examining Children’s Collaboration in the Youth Justice System**

*Stephen Case* Loughborough University  
*Kathy Case* Aberystwyth University  
*Andrea Nisbet* Loughborough University

National developments towards ‘Child First’ justice have supported seeing children (who offend) as children and putting them at the heart of service provision by promoting pro-social, positive behavior and prioritizing their active participation, engagement and inclusion within youth justice processes. Diverse cultures, social structures and communities impact how child first principles are embedded into practice around the world. The participatory research project ‘Child First Examining Children's Collaboration in the (English and Welsh) Youth Justice System’ ensures child-centric, collaborative research goals by involving children in co-creating research design and implementation processes with a Project Reference Group of justice-involved children. Emerging findings from the fieldwork sample of children being supervised in custodial and community settings to date have highlighted different experiences depending on establishments/sites; different understanding and experiences of collaboration and participation; the importance of education, training and positive activities; patchy provision & engagement in interventions and resettlement activities; and inconsistent child friendly service delivery. Challenges for children and practitioners exist on several levels: micro, meso and macro. Reflecting on these research issues, solutions proffered include bringing practitioners to a point of understanding the importance to basic engagement of giving children a voice, and providing children with engaging, creative and rewarding activities as part of research processes.

### **II. Infidelity and Anger Within Incarcerated Couples: A Brief Report**

*Eman Tadros* Syracuse University  
*Shannon Pedersen* Adler University

Incarcerated couples face a variety of concerns and barriers in their relationships, with infidelity being a major problem. This study sought to research incarcerated individuals’ intimate relationships and experiences of anger and fidelity for both partners. Using data from the Multi-site Family Study on Incarceration, Parenting, and Partnering we utilized Actor-Partner Interdependence Modeling (APIM) to examine fidelity and anger management for incarcerated men and their nonincarcerated female partners. The findings showed that the actor effect was not statistically significant, but the partner effect was statistically significant for both the incarcerated male partner and non-incarcerated female partner. There was no statistical significance for the control variable of education, which is contrary to previous correlational

studies of anger management and education levels. Based on these results, it is recommended that incarcerated individuals receive anger management training to strengthen fidelity.

### III. Lived Experience, the Key in Turning a Holistic Approach to a Who-Listic One. The Story of Four Lived Experience Practitioners Working in the Reintegration Space in Western Australia

*Lukas Carey*   *Outcare*  
*Todd Edwards*

The role of lived experience as a form of assisting with reintegration, post incarceration and/or recovery, continues to gain relevance throughout the world. Different countries frame lived experience in different ways with the premise remaining the same, the lessons learnt from someone who has walked the path are used to assist others in similar situations. The ability to utilize the learnt skills of others to help incarcerated people return to the community is rare but continues to grow in effectiveness and popularity. This round table presentation will bring together four Australians that have experienced incarceration and drug and alcohol challenges and are now using their journeys to help others within a large Not for Profit group, Outcare, in Western Australia. Embracing throughcare principals these practitioners take a holistic approach and turn into a Who-listic approach, seeing everyone and their journeys as unique and requiring differing support. Listen to these four inspirational humans speak about their work in Australia and how their own battles made them stronger and turned them into beacons in the reintegration battle being faced by many.



## EDUCATING A NEW GENERATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS.

Associate in Applied Science in Criminal Justice / Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice /  
Social Work and Criminal Justice Double Major

Faculty in Miami University Regionals' degree programs in  
Criminal Justice are committed to educating students who...

...will understand how authority is framed in a democracy.

...will appreciate service to others.

...will uphold the discipline's highest ethical standards.

Field experience coupled with co-curricular activities such as the student-run Criminal Justice  
Society, Citizenship and Democracy Week, and Criminal Justice Week provide opportunities  
for students to explore the situations they will face as criminal justice professionals.



REGIONALS  
*Department of Justice  
and Community Studies*

[MiamiOH.edu/Regionals/JCS](https://miamiOH.edu/Regionals/JCS)

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>

### 9:30 – 9:50 Daily Welcome Address

#### Board Member, Jessica J. Warner



Jess Warner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Justice & Community Studies at Miami University (Ohio) Regionals where she teaches corrections, research methods, and field experience courses on both regional campuses. Dr. Warner earned her doctorate in Criminal Justice from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati in 2015. Her practical experience includes working as a quality improvement manager and security staff at various community correctional facilities. Her research specializations include correctional rehabilitation, reentry, justice and community collaborations, organizational climate in corrections, and victimization. Dr. Warner has served as a consultant to many correctional agencies nationally and internationally by providing training, technical assistance, and evaluation services. In her free time, Dr. Warner likes to spend time with her family and attend music concerts.

### 10:00 – 10:50 Racial Disparity & Specialty Courts

#### I. Signals of Racial Disparity: Who Enters and Graduates from Specialty Court Dockets?

*Symone Pate  
Catherine Driver University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice  
Sarah Manchak*

Specialty treatment courts offer justice-involved persons the opportunity to receive treatment for substance use and mental health challenges, and people who successfully complete program requirements are often eligible for reduction or dismissal of the convicting offense, reducing the potential for future collateral consequences. Prior research has identified disparate rates of referral, enrollment, and graduation by race—a finding that was also published in 2020 by the Ohio Supreme Court with respect to the state’s specialty dockets. This report, which recommended immediate changes to policy and procedure to reduce these disparities, was soon followed by a series of highly publicized incidents of racial inequities and even violence toward Black individuals by police and the larger criminal legal system. Around the same time was the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which further exacerbated racial inequities in both communities and within the criminal legal system. Using a de-identified secondary data set provided by the Ohio Supreme Court, this study examines differences in referral, acceptance, and successful completion of all certified adult specialty treatment courts among between Black and White individuals in the immediate time period (2020) after the state report and these

impactful social events. Results will be reported within and across specialty court types, across these three time points in 2021.

## II. Sources of Racial Disparity: Perspectives from Participants and Legal and Treatment Professionals Affiliated with Mental Health and Drug Court Dockets

*Madeline Lancaster* University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice  
*Jordan McCoy* University of Cincinnati School of Human Services  
*Sarah Manchak* University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice

Across a variety of scholarly articles and technical reports, researchers have identified the presence of racial disparities in specialty treatment courts. Specifically, relative to White individuals, Black individuals are significantly less likely to be referred to, accepted in, and successfully complete specialty court dockets. There are likely many factors that contribute to these disparities, but very little extant research that examines their importance. In this presentation, we report the findings from a qualitative study of professionals affiliated with, and individuals participating in, one Midwestern county's mental health and drug courts. Findings are organized within three primary sources of disparity: systemic, programmatic, and individual factors. Implications and future recommendations for practice and research are discussed.

## III. Identifying and Understanding Racial Disparities in Women's Referral to and Success Within Sex Trafficking Specialty Docket Court Programs: A Mixed-Methods Investigation

*Aaron Murnan* University of Cincinnati - College of Nursing  
*Gwen England* Franklin County Municipal Court  
*Sam Boch* University of Cincinnati - College of Nursing  
*Sarah Manchak* University of Cincinnati School of Criminal Justice

Women involved in the sex trade are at uniquely high-risk for negative health outcomes. Decades of research have documented their vulnerability to poor physical/mental health, severe substance use, violent victimization, and homicide. Yet very little research has documented effective strategies to mitigate that risk or promote health and well-being. Many of these women enter the criminal legal system annually following an arrest. In recent years, the criminal legal system has re-thought its response to this population through the advent of specialty court programs for women in the sex trade. These programs represent a unique opportunity for treatment as they seek to refer women to trauma-informed substance use and mental health treatment as opposed to enforcing punitive punishment (i.e., incarceration). Long-standing and well-documented racial disparities exist throughout the criminal legal system. It is unclear whether these permeate into specialty court programs. The current study sought to investigate the presence of racial disparities within referral to and success within these programs. Additionally, we recruited 15 Black women previously arrested for prostitution-related offenses to explore their perceptions and experiences within the criminal legal system and with specialty court programs with a specific emphasis on identifying barriers and facilitators of equity within these programs.



## 11:00 – 11:50 Courts & Sentencing

### I. Traditional Leaders at Crossroads: Upholding Tradition vs. Law of South Africa - A Case of Umguyo Practices in Eastern Cape, South Africa

*Tandiwe Mdlungu*  
*Oscar Magadze* University of South Africa

South Africa, a country ranked high on the global scale of crime, is currently grappling with a widespread epidemic of crime, encompassing rural areas as well. Within this context, certain traditional practices, such as the Umguyo practice, are associated with an increase in violent crimes, including murder and assaults, occurring seasonally in rural regions. The Umguyo practice incorporates various elements like stick fighting, the carrying of dangerous weapons, and underage drinking, among others. These elements have been misused by attendees, predominantly children, thereby exacerbating the crime rates. In accordance with the South African constitution, rural chiefs bear the responsibility of upholding the law and safeguarding traditions, which are sometimes intertwined with criminal activities. This paper sought to explore the inherent contradictions between elements associated with traditional practices and constitutional mandates, and how village chiefs find themselves entangled in this predicament. The study was conducted in the Eastern Cape, utilizing a qualitative approach that involved interviews with 15 key informants. The findings of this study shed light on the cultural acceptance of carrying dangerous weapons, underage drinking, and engaging in violence and assault, exemplified by stick fighting, despite their illegality under the constitution. Chiefs face significant challenges in striking a delicate balance between preserving tradition and enforcing the law. Consequently, the study recommends that traditions evolve alongside societal changes, necessitating the abandonment of harmful aspects to ensure the preservation of African traditional practices. By contributing to the ongoing discourse surrounding traditional practices and their impact on law enforcement in South Africa, this study underscores the imperative for traditional leaders to possess an awareness of the country's laws and effectively reconcile them with cultural practices.

### II. The Role of Victim's Abuse of Alcohol in Sentencing: Results of Text Mining Analysis of Court Verdicts on Intimate Partner Femicides

*Svetlana Zhuchkova* HSE University

According to the theories of focal concerns and bounded rationality, judges may rely on stereotypes in their decisions due to limited time and information. This research examines how such extralegal factor as victim's abuse of alcohol affects sentences in intimate partner femicides and how this effect differs for male and female judges. Using data extracted from the texts of court decisions on intimate partner femicides occurred in Russia in 2013-2019 (N=1478), we employed regression analysis to identify the association between victim's abuse of alcohol and offender's length of imprisonment. Our analysis reveals that, all legal factors being equal, victim's abuse of alcohol decreases the sentence length, but this effect is common only for female judges. The data also demonstrate that specifically women's abuse of alcohol, but not the consequent verbal provocation, is associated with lenient sentences.

### III. The Future of Courts: Justice Is Reexamined in An Online World

*Angelo Brown Arkansas State University*

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, many courts, including traditional and community courts, had to transition online. Since the pandemic, many courts have continued to operate virtually. Virtual courts operate in various ways, from having pre-case help through artificial intelligence and chatbots. The use of efficient electronic filing, online case access to help facilitate payments and files, online dispute resolutions, and electronic reminders that include instructions for upcoming appearances. Remote appearances are used throughout the court process, from meeting with the court and judge, mediator, and/or probation/parole officers. There is a serious debate about the virtual court and what cases are best served in person compared to virtually. Proponents argued that the benefits could outweigh the costs, including the fact that the traditional courts often were inefficient and costly, which could be helped by using an online platform. This presentation will examine how the transition to virtual courts has impacted the judicial system.

#### **1:00 – 1:50 Commentary on Community Engagement**

##### I. Bridging Knowledge Gaps: Blogging as a Tool to Improve Public Understanding in Criminal Justice

*Emily Stewart  
Jourdan Gohn The John Howard Society of Canada*

Canada is experiencing a significant call for more so-called ‘tough on crime’ policies, despite the presence of low measured crime rates. This call is driven by partisan politics and media sensationalism, contributing to public fear and anger. These factors exert pressure on governments to create policies that research tells us are both expensive and ineffective. Research about the relationship between evidence and policy - called Knowledge Mobilization (KM) (Levin, 2013) helps us understand why evidence alone does not change opinions or policies. This is especially the case in the field of criminal justice, which is dominated by strong emotions, especially fear and anger. Nonetheless, providing more factual information and stories about the real problems of the criminal justice system can play a role in shaping public views especially by helping third parties. While the US has a rich network of organizations engaged in this work, Canada does not. The John Howard Society of Canada, a national non-profit organization, is making efforts to improve public knowledge through its blog on criminal justice and other efforts on Twitter (now X) and Instagram, with the goal of providing more visibility to the efforts of others in this field. As such, this presentation will provide an overview of the blog, including statistics on blog views and engagement, to showcase how blogging has become a powerful tool to counterbalance the prevailing narrative of fear and crime, and contribute to a more informed public.

## II. Communication, Coordination, And Collaboration: A Precursor to Effective Deflection Service Delivery (Parts I & II)

*Joshua Kirven Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA)*

A successful and sustainable community program to tackle local problems needs to have the right people at the table, have awareness of what each stakeholder is doing, and maintain open, authentic communication. This presentation will examine the efforts of a small, Midwest city with multiple initiatives to target a homeless population. We will discuss the level of engagement and collaboration of the program and offer recommendations for programs to promote success. The goal is to avoid good intentions, poor communication, and mediocre outcomes.

### **2:00 – 2:50 Studies on Criminological Theories**

#### I. The Impact of Family Economic Scarcity on Self-Regulation in a Sample of Justice-Involved Youth

*Alexandra Hanson  
Timothy Piehler University of Minnesota - Twin Cities*

Research with justice-involved youth (JIY) frequently measures self-regulation to understand impulsivity and its relationship to antisocial decision making. Understanding contextual factors that may impact measures of self-regulation is critical in JIY research, as many measures used to understand this population are normed within the cultural majority, rather than tailored specifically for JIY. The Delay Discounting Task (DDT) is a frequently used measure that asks participants to choose between receiving a small sum of money now or a larger sum later to measure temporal discounting. We examined the generalizability of this task for youth referred to diversion programming, hypothesizing that family economic scarcity (FES) may impact the accuracy of the DDT. Data were collected from 197 adolescents (ages 10-18) in a juvenile diversion program in the Midwestern United States. We used a hierarchical regression to determine whether FES predicted DDT scores above and beyond other correlated factors. After accounting for covariates, FES explained an additional 2.2% ( $p = 0.03$ ) of variance in the model beyond the other factors. This indicates that the DDT may produce a biased assessment of temporal discounting in the face of varied economic contexts for JIY and should be used cautiously with this population.

#### II. Examining the Definitions of Immigration and Crime: A Systematic Analysis

*Rebecca Petersen Kennesaw State University*

The relationship between immigration and crime is complex. However, few studies have considered the definitions and meanings of immigration or crime from a holistic perspective. This research aims to systematically examine how both immigration and crime have been operationally defined and measured in empirical studies. All peer-reviewed articles published from 2010-2021 with immigration and crime in the title were included ( $n=51$  after exclusion criteria). Most research defined immigrant as foreign-born or non-citizen with a few focusing solely on Hispanics or Latino immigrants. Crime was measured in a multitude of ways from a

variety of different sources and included all crime, or specific violent and property crimes. Most contemporary research has found that immigration does not lead to higher rates of crime and sometimes even negates it. How findings from this research can be transformed into public policy warrants further investigation.

### III. Gendered Violence in Greece: Examining Femicides

*Ana Chalkia National Kapodistrian University of Athens*

*Martha Lempesi Center for the Study of Crime*

*Joanna Tsiganou National Center for Social Research*

Femicide, the intentional killing of women due to their gender, is a complex global issue often overlooked. It violates fundamental human rights and hinders social and economic progress. Femicide arises from multiple factors at individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels, characterized by a disproportionate number of women killed by men, prior non-lethal violence, and its persistence over time. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the problem and limited support services. Femicide takes various forms, such as family or intimate partner violence, honor killings, dowry deaths, witch-hunting, femicide-suicide, infanticide, and gender-biased neglect. Accurate data collection is vital for effective policy development. Greece, like many places, grapples with a rising femicide rate. However, due to insufficient data and research, it has largely remained hidden. This paper illuminates femicide in Greece through qualitative and quantitative insights, emphasizing the need for a multidisciplinary, intersectional approach and collaboration among sectors and stakeholders to drive meaningful change.

## **Thank You!**

As we move into our final day of the conference, we just want to thank all of the presenters and participants. We appreciate your continued support.

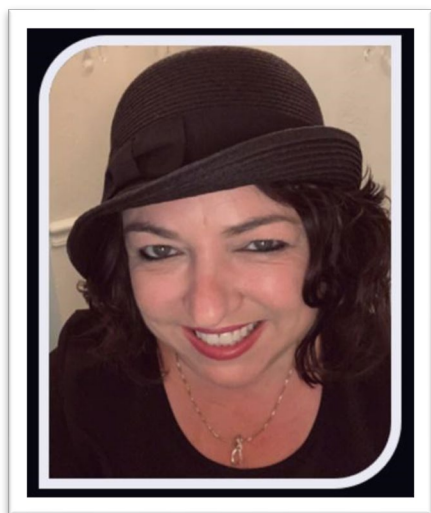
This conference was started as a response to a global pandemic. The Board felt that a new outlet for sharing research would be needed. CrimCon was created in 2020 as a result. While traditional conferences are back to face-to-face presentations, we recognize there is still the need to provide this forum for those who cannot attend these conferences for whatever reason. We plan to continue this conference for many years to come. We look forward to hosting many more and hearing from you!

Don't forget to tune in at 3PM.  
Incoming President Lytle will reveal the theme for #CrimCon24



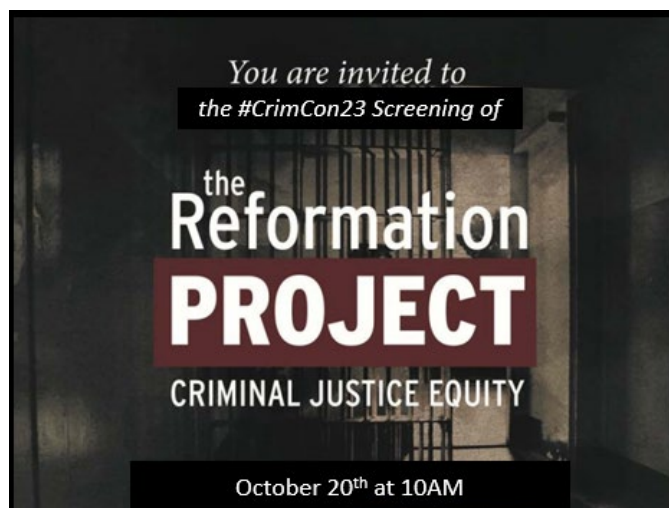
## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>

### 9:30 – 9:50 Greetings from the President of CrimCon



Bobbie Ticknor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Valdosta State University. Dr. Ticknor aids various criminal justice agencies with training, evaluation, and program design. She has also written several cognitive-based curricula used for either correctional rehabilitation or family guidance and social support. Dr. Ticknor was a professional software developer for nearly fifteen years. She brought this experience with her to the field by using different technology, such as virtual reality (VR), for her work in Corrections. Dr. Ticknor was the principal researcher on the first pilot in the United States to use VR to treat an offender population. She has published numerous scholarly articles on the topic and her book, *Virtual Reality and the Criminal Justice System: Exploring the Possibilities for Correctional Rehabilitation*, was released in 2018. Dr. Ticknor continues to develop various solutions for a variety of real-world problems. She is currently the Coordinator for the VSU Virtual Reality Lab. Her other research interests include offender classification and assessment, reentry, sex offender policy and practices, experiential learning, and biosocial criminology.

### 10:00 – 10:50 The Reformation Project: Criminal Justice Equity Documentary Screening



## 11:00 – 11:50 Panel Discussion from the Producers of the Documentary



*Steven Heddon*

Steven Heddon is a film maker and educator with Philanthro Films in South Georgia. His experience comes from running a production company, Fusion Creative Marketing, for the last 25 years. The Reformation Project is the 3<sup>rd</sup> documentary that he has produced, directed, and edited. As a documentarian Steven tells his stories from an unbiased perspective, by interviewing people with different points of view of the storyline.

*Angela Ward*

Angela Ward is the one of the leading talk show hosts in the Southeast with The Game Changers Show with Angela Ward. While focusing on businesses in America, Angela wanted to add a dimension to the show that would impact societal in a positive way by interviewing activists, national leaders, and motivational speakers. She has now added to her resume, video producer by consulting and working with Steven Heddon, Video Producer in the creation of the documentary, The Reformation Project.

## 1:00 – 1:50 Media & Crime

### I. Artistic Censorship and the Use of Lyrical Content Against Performers: The Case of Rap Music

*Manos Karousos Center for the Study of Crime (CSC)*

Countless times rappers have tried to speak through their songs to convey their own truth. This tactic can be seen as a marketing ploy to boost record sales, but on the other hand, it has often caused problems for the artists, especially because of the content of their lyrics, which have brought them to court or even led to a conviction against them.

### II. Art Crime: How Behavioral Analysis Can Help Solve Thefts

*Jasper van der Kemp  
Jara Kieft  
Bente Seuninga*

*VU School of Criminology, Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit  
Amsterdam*

Art crime is a complex and challenging issue. Although not a widespread phenomenon, the impact of such crimes can be disproportionate in terms of financial or cultural loss. This paper presents an exploratory empirical analysis of art crimes in order to study the potential for profiling art crimes. We collected open-source data on more than 300 thefts of paintings and over 50 cases of theft of bronze works of art. Using homogeneity cluster analysis and a crime script model, we statically identified several types of art theft. Our findings suggest that there is a potential to profile art crimes by analyzing characteristics such as *modus operandi* and *modus via*. This could help to focus police investigations and make it more likely that art crimes are solved. However, further academic study is needed to determine which characteristics are most important for profiling art crimes. This study is one of the few statistical empirical and theory-driven studies of art crime. By contrasting the statistical results to the theoretical crime scripts model, we determine which characteristics are in need of further academic studies.

### III. Importance of Game Theory in Intelligence Analysis: An Approach for Students

*Charles Russo St. Johns University*

This article will examine the importance of Game theory as a theoretical approach to intelligence analysis (IA) for students in higher education and practitioners. Uncertainty is a fundamental concept in Intelligence Analysis, although no theory addresses how uncertainty fits into IA and cybersecurity specifically or how it may be understood or managed. Application of the Game Theory framework to Intelligence Analysis to include terrorism scenarios and cybersecurity are addressed. In politics and social sciences, Game Theory can be applied to model the behavior of individuals and groups in various scenarios, such as criminal organizations, terrorism, theft rings, insurance fraud, and conflict resolution. An element of Game Theory involves critical thinking, which is necessary to evaluate the potential outcomes of scenarios and make informed decisions that benefit one side or the other.

## **2:00 – 2:50 Learning in Practice**

### I. Transforming School Communities: Harnessing Restorative Justice Mechanisms to Address Violence in South African Township Schools

*Sunshine Minenhle Myende University of Zululand*

School violence is a pressing issue affecting educational institutions worldwide, and South Africa is no exception in that phenomenon. The country has faced unique challenges regarding violence in schools, with incidents ranging from bullying to gang-related violence, weapon possession including cyber bullying and sexual assaults. The use of drugs and fights for drug territories has also been evident in South African schools. Traditional disciplinary measures often fall short in effectively addressing the root causes of violence; the needs of victims are often not fully incorporated during the school disciplinary hearings leading to secondary victimization of victims due to neglected needs, therefore the growing interest in restorative justice mechanisms to transform the school communities and end violence in schools. This study will make use of primary data collected in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal township schools. Semi structured interviews were administered to ten participants, five in Gauteng and five in KwaZulu Natal.



Restorative mechanisms of addressing the cause and impact of violence amongst learners have proved to be working and less cases of recidivism have been reported when learners have been involved in a process of reconciliation after a conflict. This paper explores the concept of restorative justice theory and its potential for transforming school communities to tackle violence in South African schools.

## II. Increasing Diversity Through Leadership

*Andrea Borrego Metropolitan State University of Denver*

Across the academy and criminal justice discipline efforts exist to increase diversity. While many areas focus on recruiting, retention and sustainability are major components to leading to a more diverse and equitable workforce. Systemic change championed by leaders is needed to increase retention. Effective and knowledgeable leadership is needed to increase diversity in a meaningful way. In the academy, chairs, deans and provosts must go beyond using buzzwords. Through my experience as a Latina department chair, I share ways to advocate and inspire others to advocate for intentional efforts to diversify the academy, and as an extension, students who will become criminal justice practitioners.

## III. An Evaluation of a Learning Community in Criminal Justice for Transfer Students

*Charisse Coston The University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

Learning communities are themed programs and offer their intended audience and opportunity to acclimate, socialize within their environs. Undergraduate transfer students participated in a year-long learning community for over 10 years. Academic as well as social outcomes support, that for participants, the program was a success.

## **3:00 – 3:30 Presidential Address and the Welcome of new CrimCon President, Daniel Lytle**

**Thank you for attending the Annual Meeting of the Criminology Consortium.**