

Midwestern Criminal Justice Association

48th Annual Meeting



© Alaina Vecchio

*Integrative Approaches to Justice: Fostering Innovation
Through Academic & Professional Partnerships*

September 25th & 26th, 2025
Aloft Chicago Mag Mile

[MCJA.org](https://www.mcja.org)

**Midwestern Criminal Justice Association
2024 – 2025 Executive Board**

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Transform your future in CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Online BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Bowling Green State University offers the ideal degree programs for working professionals looking to advance their careers and become leaders in the criminal justice field. You will go further faster with our accelerated MSCJ programs.

- 100% online
- Study at your own pace
- 7-week classes

WHY BGSU?

Strong reputation. The BGSU criminal justice program is one of the oldest in the nation and one of the best in Ohio.

Level up your degree. Build on your associate degree to earn your bachelor's or prepare for management positions with a master's degree.

Proven results. We are known for educating future criminal justice leaders who:

- Identify and propose solutions to problems confronting the criminal justice system
- Critically evaluate crime policies and practices
- Equip students with the skills to be leaders and change-makers in their communities

Expert faculty. Our faculty bring a wealth of experience in law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice and the criminal justice system with the majority of faculty actively engaged in research or practice.

BGSU | Criminal Justice
BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

READY TO LEARN MORE?

Undergraduate programs
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Graduate programs
Eric Cooke
mscj@bgsu.edu

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Earn a degree in just two years.

Online degree-completion program. Designed for those with an associate degree or similar undergraduate credit in criminal justice or a related field who are working in criminal justice, social services or the military.

A career builder. Having a bachelor's degree typically leads to pay increases. Most larger agencies prefer employees to have four-year degrees and almost always require one for promotions.

Credit for experience. Your current employment or previous training may translate to internship credit.

Earn your master's in one extra year. Save money and time in our accelerated bachelor's to master's degree program. Take up to three graduate courses (9 graduate credit hours) that count toward both degrees.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Earn a degree in as little as 18 months.

Nationally ranked program. Our online criminal justice master's program is one of the top programs in Ohio and is ranked 15th in the U.S.

Convenient and flexible.

- 6 start dates
- 7-week semesters
- Log in to class when it works for you

In-demand skills. Courses integrate theory, research and the practical experience that will prepare you to tackle today's criminal justice challenges. Learn how to:

- Lead and manage in criminal justice departments and programs
- Critically evaluate policies and programs
- Uphold and promote ethical standards
- Communicate effectively in dynamic environments

Professional growth. The master's program prepares you to advance to leadership positions in criminal justice and federal law enforcement such as chief of police, chief probation officer, prison warden, juvenile justice corrections officer, criminal justice analyst and community corrections specialist.



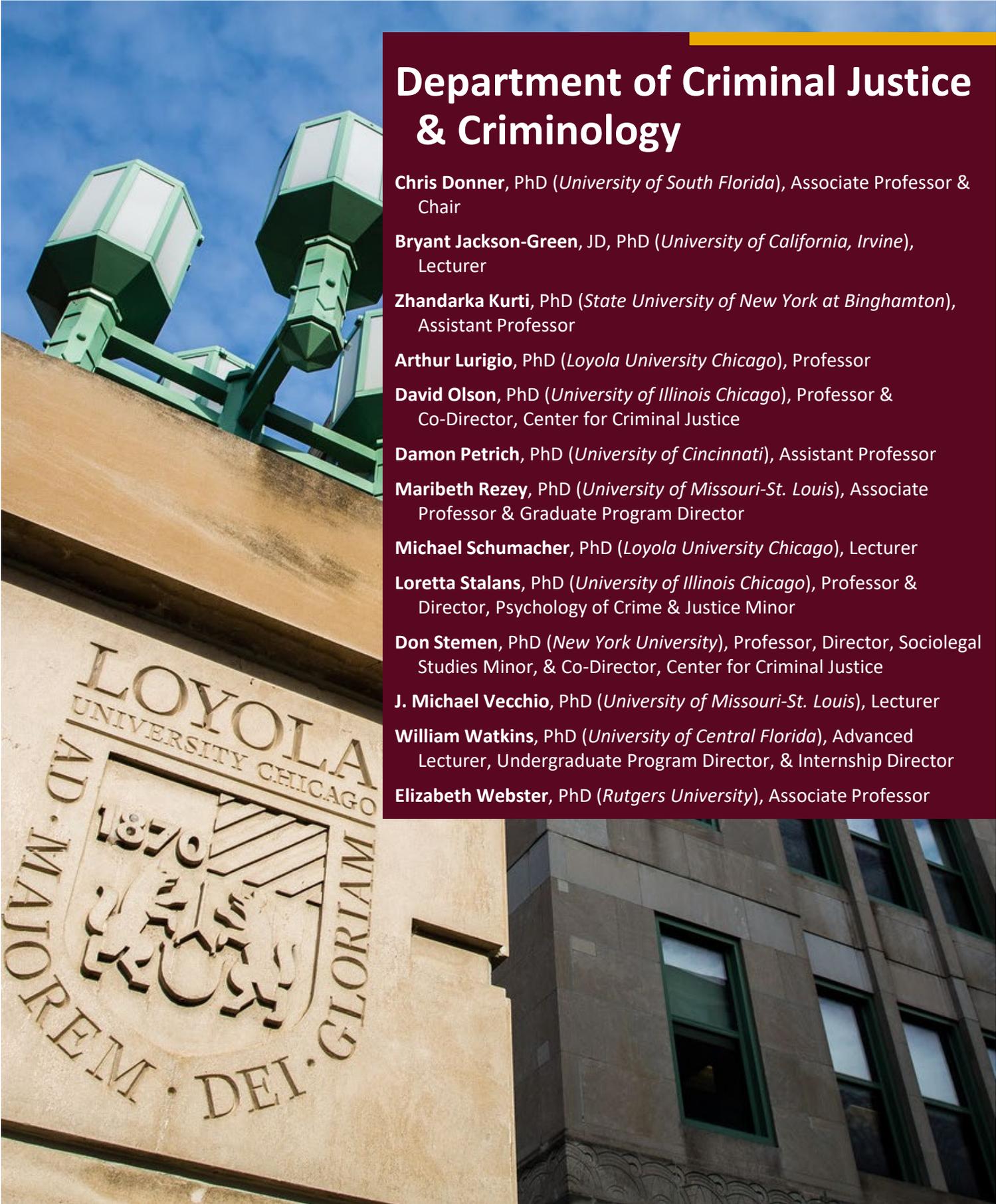


Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology

■ Bachelor of Science ■ Master of Arts ■ 5-Year Program

Established in 1975, the department is home to 13 full-time faculty, 450 undergraduate and 35 graduate students, and is located on Loyola's Lake Shore Campus in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. The department offers courses and degrees addressing social and criminal justice issues.

Our faculty produce high-impact scholarship across the discipline. In the past five years, faculty and the *Center for Criminal Justice* (LUC.edu/CCJ) have secured \$6+ million to produce applied research across the country.



Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology

Chris Donner, PhD (*University of South Florida*), Associate Professor & Chair

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Zhandarka Kurti, PhD (*State University of New York at Binghamton*), Assistant Professor

Arthur Lurigio, PhD (*Loyola University Chicago*), Professor

David Olson, PhD (*University of Illinois Chicago*), Professor & Co-Director, Center for Criminal Justice

Damon Petrich, PhD (*University of Cincinnati*), Assistant Professor

Maribeth Rezey, PhD (*University of Missouri-St. Louis*), Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director

Michael Schumacher, PhD (*Loyola University Chicago*), Lecturer

Loretta Stalans, PhD (*University of Illinois Chicago*), Professor & Director, Psychology of Crime & Justice Minor

Don Stemen, PhD (*New York University*), Professor, Director, Sociolegal Studies Minor, & Co-Director, Center for Criminal Justice

J. Michael Vecchio, PhD (*University of Missouri-St. Louis*), Lecturer

William Watkins, PhD (*University of Central Florida*), Advanced Lecturer, Undergraduate Program Director, & Internship Director

Elizabeth Webster, PhD (*Rutgers University*), Associate Professor

Midwestern Criminal Justice Association

Past Presidents

2023 – 2024	David White	1999 – 2000	Bryan Dean Byers
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2001 – 2002	Kevin Bryant	1977 – 1978	Bob Parsons
2000 – 2001	Dean Champion		

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMS



SAMPLE FACULTY RESEARCH INTERESTS

Police strategies, behaviors and organizations • Gender, race and crime • Sentencing disparities • Corrections and reentry • Criminological theory and victimology • Comparative and international criminology • Crime prevention and evidence-based policy

ccj.siu.edu
ccjgraduate@siu.edu

LET'S TALK.

Open doors. Connect with faculty today.



WHY SIU?

You'll join a diverse community of scholars at SIU and learn from and research alongside nationally and internationally recognized faculty. Enjoy a student-centric culture, small seminar-style courses, and mentorship tailored to your aspirations. Extensive travel, assistantship, and fellowship support allow you to gain teaching experience, pursue internships, and attend academic/professional conferences.

You need a place with the people, resources and opportunities that make it possible to turn vision into action. **That place is SIU.**



Southern Illinois University
CARBONDALE

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Criminal Justice

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration



Master's Degree?

Ready to Move Forward

As you advance in your career, you've probably realized that a master's degree would help you develop and enhance the administrative skills you need to move up through the ranks of your agency. In addition to developing the skills and credentials needed for promotion, this degree is designed to meet the theoretical and analytical needs of people continuing their education with doctoral or law studies.

Location is not a problem

Online with Synchronous Zoom Lectures

To accommodate the needs of our students no matter where they live, our master's program is online. The professors use Zoom to conduct lectures on the material they teach. It also allows the students to meet each other, form groups, and do presentations. For full-time students, the degree will take one year to complete (fall, spring, and summer). For students taking two classes per semester, the degree can be completed in two years, or in four years by taking one course per semester.

Questions about admissions and curriculum should be directed to the School of Criminal Justice in Big Rapids.

Big Rapids

School of Criminal Justice

231-591-3652

<https://www.ferris.edu/business/criminal-justice-grad/homepage.htm>

Required Core (15 credit hours)

CRIM 605 Legal Issues in Criminal Justice (3 credits)

CRIM 615 Nature of Crime (3 credits)

CRIM 655 Qualitative Inquiry (3 credits)

CRIM 630 Seminar in Law Enforcement **OR**

CRIM 640 Seminar in Corrections (3 credits)

CRIM 645 Quantitative Inquiry (3 credits)

Administration (9 credit hours)

CRIM 608 Organizational Leadership (3 credits)

CRIM 665 Financial Management for CJ Administrators (3 credits)

CRIM 673 Human Resource Management (3 credits)

Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)

Option 1: CRIM 660 Criminal Justice Thesis (6 credits)

Option 2: CRIM 670 Graduate Topics in Criminal Justice (3 credits) **AND**

CRIM 699 Comprehensive Review (3 credits)

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration requires 30 semester hours for graduation.

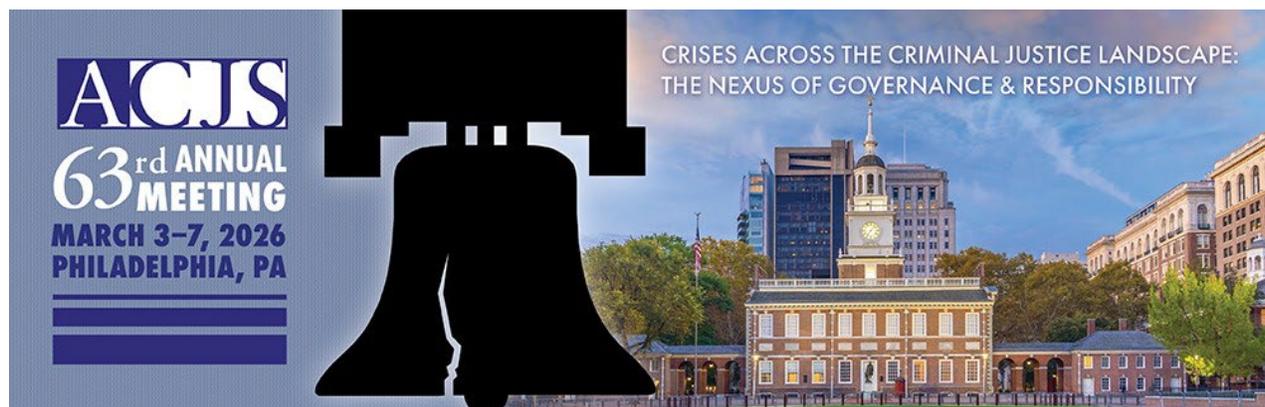
For course descriptions go to <https://www.ferris.edu/catalog/current/courses/crim.htm>

Students are encouraged to apply early in order to facilitate financial aid requests if needed. Applications are available online at <https://www.ferris.edu/graduatestudies/application.htm>

If you have any questions please contact Dr. Nancy Hogan, Graduate Coordinator at hogann@ferris.edu



SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE IMPORTANT GATHERINGS!



Dr. Stephanie Mizrahi
ACJS President

Join over 1,500 industry and academic professionals at the **ACJS 63rd Annual Meeting, March 3- 7, 2026 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown** for experience unlike any other. This renowned meeting provides attendees the opportunity to learn, grow, and network!

ACJS is now accepting abstracts for the 2026 Annual Meeting. To view the Call for Presentations and submission information, visit <https://www.acjs.org/2026-call-for-presentations/>. The Call for Presentations PDF document will provide details on the various Annual Meeting topic areas, types of submission formats, and deadline information. The webpage also includes a link to the submission system.

Details on Early Bird Registration for the Annual Meeting, including dates, fees, and registration process, will be forthcoming.

2027

ACJS 64th Annual Meeting - March 30 – April 3, 2027
Orlando, FL - Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center
Theme: Criminal Justice Leadership: Forging Stronger Connections Between Research, Education, & Practice



We look forward to seeing you at these ACJS events!

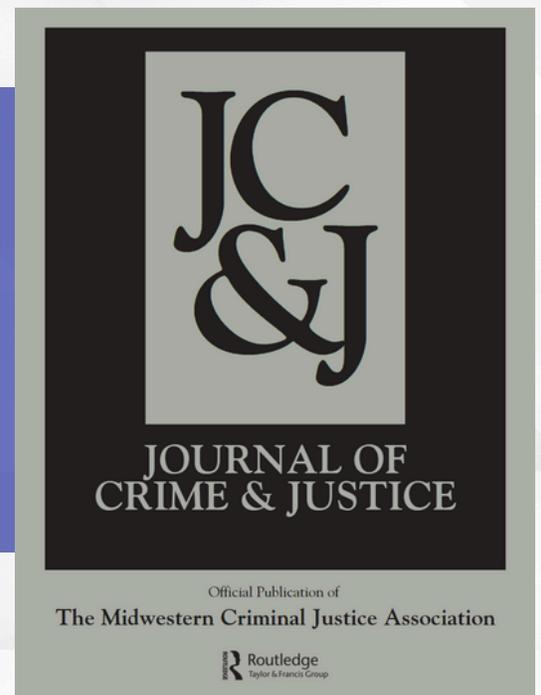
www.acjs.org

THE JOURNAL OF CRIME AND JUSTICE

The Journal of Crime & Justice, the official journal of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, aims to reflect the current concerns and latest research of Criminology and Criminal Justice scholars and advance discussion of these issues.

Empirical quantitative and qualitative articles that address issues in criminology, criminal justice, and related social issues are welcomed. Special topic issues are also considered.

Visit the [Journal of Crime and Justice](#) for more information.



AT A GLANCE

IMPACT FACTOR

- One year: 1.5
- Five year: 1.7

CITESCORE

- Scopus: 2.7

PUBLISHING

- Submission to first decision: 2 days
- Submission to first post review decision: 56 days

GET TO KNOW THE EDITORIAL TEAM!



EDITOR IN CHIEF

Jennifer Peck, PhD
University of Central Florida



MANAGING EDITOR

Sara Lucak, M.S.
University of Central Florida

Deputy Editors

Dena C. Carson - *Indiana University Indianapolis*
William R. King - *Boise State University*
Breanne Pleggenkuhle - *Southern Illinois University Carbondale*
Joseph A. Schafer - *Arizona State University*

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Rapid Communication

The Journal of Crime and Justice is now accepting manuscripts for rapid communication. Check out the website for more information.

2. Special Issues

The Journal of Crime and Justice is open to accepting ideas for special issues. If interested in heading a special issue, please reach out to the editorial team.

3. Social Media

The Journal of Crime and Justice has a Twitter/X page! Be sure to follow us for updates on recently published articles, special issues, and updates about the journal. Be sure to also follow the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association.



[@JournalofCandJ](#)

[@MidwesternCJA](#)

[@tandfhss](#)

Welcome to the 2025 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference!

On behalf of the Executive Board, I welcome you to Chicago for the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association's (MCJA) 48th annual meeting! I earnestly hope you enjoy the conference, social gatherings, and your time in the "great American city". We are grateful you have chosen MCJA as the platform to share your work and learn from others around the region.

For almost 50 years, MCJA has been dedicated to fostering communication and collaboration between students, researchers and academics, as well as practitioners from around the Midwestern region. If you are a current member, thank you. If you have never been, I encourage you to join. Your annual membership is central to our association's success as well as to providing unique opportunities to all who attend the conference. For more information, please go to: [MCJA.org/shop/](https://mcja.org/shop/).

We have assembled an impressive assortment of scholarly panels highlighting the breath and diversity of the field of criminology and criminal justice. Highlights include:

Keynote Address

- Drs. Justin Nix and Tara Richards (University of Nebraska at Omaha) will co-present *Science Under Scrutiny: Strengthening Criminal Justice Research Through Transparency and Local Engagement* on Thursday afternoon at 4:30 pm in Warhol 1 & 2

Professional Development Roundtables

- *Call Me Maybe: A Candid Talk on Leadership Roles in Professional Organizations* on Friday morning at 10:30 am in Warhol 2
- *Thriving in Academia: An Early Career Faculty Panel* on Friday afternoon at 2:45 pm in Lichtenstein

Student Posters & Awards

To be considered for the *Student Poster Competition* awards, attendance at both the judging and open poster sessions is mandatory

Poster Judging Session

- For student presenters and judges only on Thursday afternoon at 1:15 pm in Marck (19th floor)
- **Students must set-up their poster between 10:30 am and 1:00 pm**; judging begins at 1:15 pm

Poster Session

- Scholarly poster presentations by undergraduate and graduate students on Friday afternoon at 5:30 pm in Escher and Mondrian
- **Students must set-up their poster around 4:00 pm** – see MCJA volunteers in Pre-Function Space

Business Meeting & Award Ceremony

- Open to all on Friday afternoon at 4:15 pm in Warhol 1 & 2
- Updates, sponsor recognition, & 2025 – 2026 Executive Board announcements
- 2025 Awards presentation
 - *Journal of Crime and Justice* Outstanding Paper Award
 - Practitioner Award; Tom Castellano Award
 - Student Travel Awards; Student Paper Awards; Student Poster Awards

Receptions & Lunch

- *Coffee & Breakfast Snacks* – Thursday & Friday morning from 8:00 am to 10:30 am
- *Welcome Reception* featuring Chicago food classics – Thursday at 6:00 pm (co-sponsored by Routledge)
- *Lunch Buffet* – Friday afternoon at 11:45 am
- *Presidential Reception* – Friday evening at 5:30 pm

The 2025 conference would not be possible without the contributions of so many of our friends and colleagues. As 1st Vice President and Program Chair, I want to stress my extreme gratitude to our sponsors and advertisers, cover photographer (Alaina Vecchio), as well as Ashley Sola and the Aloft Chicago Mag Mile team. Thank you also to the Student Affairs Committee (Melissa Burek, Mackenzie Grace, Lisa Growette-Bostaph, Sara Lucak, Catherine Pape, Jen Peck, & Joe Schafer) for your efforts in overhauling the student awards as well as to Lisa Growette-Bostaph and our judges of both the paper (Mackenzie Grace, Eric Lambert, Maribeth Rezey, & David White) and poster competitions (Melissa Burek, Eric Cooke, David Lapsey, Sara Lucak, & Breanne Pleggenkuhle). Special recognition to Melissa Burek, Catherine Pape, and the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) students for their invaluable assistance, both in terms of staffing our conference as well as all the preparation that goes into making registration so effortless for attendees. From a proud BGSU alum, thank you sincerely and *Ay Ziggy Zoomba!*

Thank you to the 2024 – 2025 MCJA Executive Board (Catherine Pape, Julie Hibdon, Eric Cooke, Audrey Hickert, & David White, as well as Matt Matusiak [Membership Chair]) for your tireless work throughout the year to make these meetings and our association a success. Thank you also to the triennial Auditing Committee (Dena Carson, Bill King, & Hannah Klein) as well as to Breanne Pleggenkuhle – and Logan Johnson – for the herculean efforts on the website transition. Thanks to the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), including Stephanie Mizrahi (ACJS President), Ming-Li Hsieh (ACJS Region 3–Midwest Trustee), and Melissa Burek (ACJS Trustee-At-Large). Finally, a tremendous thank you to Jen Peck (Editor) and her editorial staff (Sara Lucak & Editorial Board members) at the *Journal of Crime and Justice*. Your dedication to the journal and our association is as “good as gold”.

Finally, thanks to all of **you** for your attendance, membership, involvement, and support of MCJA! Please know that MCJA is “*your organization*”; present your scholarship, participate in the sessions, get to know and collaborate with others from around the Midwest, and volunteer to help MCJA continue to grow and evolve. We look forward to seeing you next fall in Chicago.

Enjoy the meetings and welcome home,



Mike Vecchio
1st Vice President & Program Chair (2024 – 2025)

Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology



LOYOLA
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



Shape the Future of Justice

At the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the School of Criminal Justice and Criminology (SCJC) prepares students to lead and serve in today's complex justice system.

Founded in 1972, SCJC is Arkansas' premier criminal justice program and offers the **state's only standalone graduate degrees in Criminal Justice and Criminology**—including the MA, MS, and PhD. We also offer an **Associate of Science in Law Enforcement** and a **Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice**, with flexible **online options** available for the associate, bachelor's, and MS programs.

Our curriculum emphasizes real-world experience through **internships, community partnerships, and collaborative research via the Justice Research and Policy Center**. Students benefit from one-on-one mentoring, small class sizes, and faculty with strong ties to local, state, and federal agencies.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to advance your career, SCJC provides the education, experience, and connections to help you succeed.

Join a thriving community of scholars, practitioners, and leaders in the field of criminal justice.



SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
AND CRIMINOLOGY

Your journey in criminal justice starts here.

criminaljustice@ualr.edu | ualr.edu/criminaljustice



School of Criminal Justice and Criminology Faculty



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Specialization – Policy, Guns, Criminal Justice Education, Program Evaluation



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Dr. Amanda Sharry
Assistant Professor
Specialization - Punishment + Institutional and community corrections + Mass Incarceration + Reentry and labor markets + Criminal Justice Policy



Dr. Taylor Tolles
Assistant Professor
Specialization – Law Enforcement + Military Socialization, Adolescent Violence, Deviance, Drug use + Mental Health



Dr. Haley Moon
Assistant Professor
Specialization – legal decision making, sentencing/punishment, mental health + legal system involvement, program implementation/evaluation, quantitative methods

ualr.edu/criminaljustice

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advancing Justice in...

JUSTICE SYSTEMS & ORGANIZATIONS

Addressing the challenges justice systems and organizations face by preparing the next generation of leaders to utilize evidence-based practices in the fields of Policing, Juvenile Justice, Corrections, and more.

COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION

Fulfilling the Land Grant Mission of Michigan State University by utilizing a community collaborative approach to pair justice system practitioners with community stakeholders to prevent crime and create safer communities.

CYBERCRIME & DIGITAL INVESTIGATIONS

As the landscape of crime increasingly involves online spaces, we are preparing and training the next generation of researchers and practitioners to be ready. The School of Criminal Justice is a leader in cybercrime and digital investigation research, professional training, and curriculum at all levels of instruction.



ON CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice
(BA, MS, PhD)



ONLINE PROGRAMS

Criminal Justice (MA)
Cybercrime & Digital Investigation (MS)
Law Enforcement Intelligence & Analysis (MS)



School of Criminal Justice
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Advance Justice.
..... cj.msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We advance justice through interdisciplinary research that addresses the challenges posed by crimes and emerging risks, translate knowledge into innovations that transform justice systems, and prepare students to utilize evidence-based practices and to serve as future leaders committed to interdisciplinary and engaged scholarship that advances justice.

MEET OUR ACADEMIC TEAM

Vivian Aranda-Hughes
David Carter
Caitlin Cavanagh
Steven Chermak
Jennifer Dungy
Mary Finn
Taylor Fisher
Matthew Galasso
Carole Gibbs
Anna Gurinskaya
Joseph Hamm
Karen Holt
Tom Holt
Kayla Hoskins
Julie Krupa
Sanja Kutnjak-Ivkovich
Cooper Maher

Christopher Maxwell
Sheila Maxwell
Rachel McNealey
Chris Melde
Merry Morash
Mahesh Nalla
Meghan O'Neil
Allison Rojek
Jeff Rojek
Ryan Scrivens
Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar
Bilal Sevinc
Brandon Turchan
Jeremy Wilson
Thomas (Wally) Wojciechowski
Scott Wolfe



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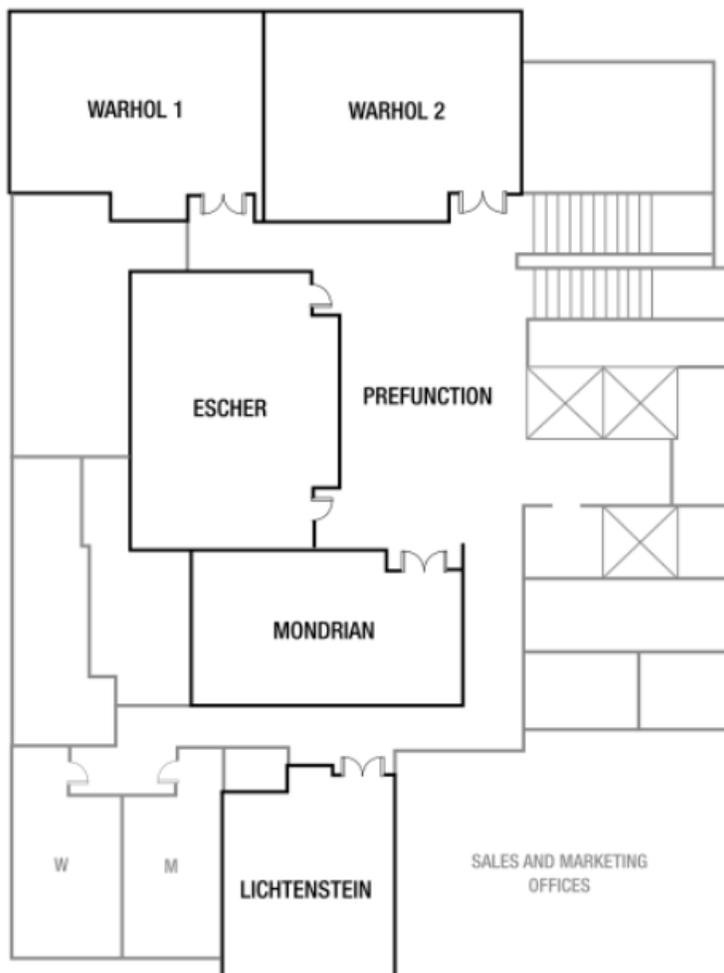
Midwestern Criminal Justice Association 48th Annual Meeting

A Note for Panel Chairs & Presenters

All panel chairs are responsible for providing – or making sure panelists have – a laptop for the presentations. Provided projectors as well as 'HDMI to USB-C' and 'USB-C to USB-A' adapters **must** remain in the conference rooms. Please be sure to keep presentations and panels to their scheduled times to allow the next group ample set up time. With four presenters, each presenter is allotted 15 minutes for their paper with 15 minutes remaining for questions; with five presenters, each presenter is allotted 13 minutes with 10 minutes for questions; with three presenters, each presenter is allotted 20 minutes with 15 minutes for questions.

The **Marck** room is located on the 19th floor. This is the location of the *Student Poster Judging Session* on Thursday (1:15 pm to 2:30 pm) – restricted to judges and student presenters only.

Conference Map





Move Forward in Your Career with a Master's in **Criminal Justice & Criminology**

The Master of Science in Criminal Justice & Criminology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prepares students for leadership positions in the criminal justice field.

Students benefit from accessible faculty and are vital contributors to faculty research. Faculty and instructors provide opportunities for research and community connections that help students develop new skills and launch their careers.

“ I’d say the most unique thing about studying at UWM is the depth of experience among the professors and lecturers. I always felt like there was someone for almost every aspect of the field from whom I could seek assistance. ”

– Daniela Imig, Alumna and Vice President, Communications and Network Initiatives at the Difference Principle

“ Studying criminal justice at UWM has allowed me to be competitive in the workforce because the faculty is dedicated to ensuring that you receive the best resources possible. ”

– Michaela Lawrence, Alumna and Cryptologic Linguist for the U.S. Army

Learn more!



Criminal Justice & Criminology Faculty

Danielle Romain Dagenhardt (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Associate Professor. *Specialties:* Courts and sentencing; prosecutorial discretion; domestic violence; sexual assault; gender and racial disparities.

Tina Freiburger (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), Dean and Professor. *Specialties:* Gender and racial disparities in criminal justice decision-making; juvenile delinquency and court processing; program evaluation; the intersection of the criminal justice system with substance use and behavioral health.

Kimberly D. Hassell (University of Nebraska), Associate Professor. *Specialties:* Data-driven policing strategies; police-community relations; women and policing; race/ethnicity and policing; police organizational behavior; program evaluation.

Rebecca Headley Konkol (Georgia State University), Associate Professor. *Specialties:* The associations between neighborhood context and offending, victimization, and substance use; the impact of programming on recidivism and desistance from substance use.

Thomas LeBel (University at Albany, SUNY), Chair and Associate Professor. *Specialties:* Prisoner reintegration; desistance from crime; substance use treatment and services for individuals in the criminal justice system; women involved with the criminal justice system.

Leon Sawh (University of Massachusetts-Lowell), Visiting Assistant Professor. *Specialties:* Smart decarceration; community corrections and behavioral health; community reentry; qualitative research methods.

Alyssa Sheeran (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), Assistant Professor. *Specialties:* Correlates of jail recidivism; race, gender, and age disparities in the criminal justice system; adult drug treatment courts; veteran's treatment courts.



**APPLY
TODAY!**

uwm.edu/socialwelfare



ONLINE!

Master of Science in Criminal Justice & Criminology

**Shape the future of
criminal justice!**



UW-Milwaukee's criminal justice programs blend theory with practice. With expert mentorship and real-world experiences, you'll graduate ready to thrive in a wide range of settings, build safer communities and make an impact!

MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMS:

Accelerated Master's Degree
Crime Analytics Concentration
Criminal Justice & Criminology:

- + Public Administration
- + Social Work
- + Social Welfare PhD

GRADUATE CERTIFICATES:

Cyber Crime Forensics
Trauma-Informed Care

PHD PROGRAM:

Social Welfare PhD with
Criminal Justice Specialization



Criminal Justice
& Criminology



Criminal Justice Faculty

Tamara J. Lynn, Ph.D. (Kansas State University), Professor. Specialties: Research generalist, social movement organizations, police response to protest, de-escalation training for law enforcement, pedagogies, policy development, and grant writing.

April N. Terry, Ph.D. (Kansas State University), Professor. Specialties: Juvenile justice, gender and crime, rural criminology and gender-based violence.

Morgan Steele, Ph.D. (University of Cincinnati), Associate Professor. Specialties: Police decision-making and strategy, community criminology, quantitative methods, experiment design, and use of forensic evidence.

Ziwei Qi, Ph.D. (University of North Dakota), Associate Professor. Specialties: Rural victimology, health equity, and economic justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

Troy Terry, M.L.S. (Fort Hays State University), Instructor. Specialties: Policy evaluation, implementation, and improvement across the criminal justice system.





- ▶ Research, internships, and student employment opportunities in the program's two centers
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Midwestern Criminal Justice Association

Integrative Approaches to Justice: Fostering Innovation Through Academic & Professional Partnerships

2025 Annual Meeting
Thursday, September 25th – Friday, September 26th
Aloft Chicago Mag Mile

Schedule at a Glance

Thursday, September 25th

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration
8:00 am – 10:30 am	Coffee & Breakfast Snacks (sponsored by MCJA)
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Panels
10:30 am – 1:00 pm	Set-up for Student Poster Judging Session [Marck, 19 th floor]
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Panels
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Panels
	Student Poster Judging Session [Marck, 19 th floor]
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Panels
	Executive Board Meeting
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 pm – 5:45 pm	ACJS Update – Dr. Stephanie Mizrahi (ACJS President) <u>Keynote Address</u> – Drs. Justin Nix & Tara Richards
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome Reception [featuring Chicago food classics] (sponsored by MCJA & Routledge)

Friday, September 26th

8:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration
8:00 am – 10:30 am	Coffee & Breakfast Snacks (sponsored by MCJA)
9:00 am – 10:15 am	Panels
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Panels
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch Buffet (sponsored by MCJA)
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Panels
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Panels
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Break
	Set-up for Student Poster Session
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	<u>General Business Meeting & Awards Ceremony</u>
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Student Poster Session
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Presidential Reception (sponsored by MCJA)

Registration

Thursday, September 25th
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Pre-Function Space

Coffee & Breakfast Snacks

8:00 am – 10:30 am
Pre-Function Space

Panel 01

Thursday, September 25th
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Warhol 1

Navigating Reentry: Support, Stigma, & Strategic Choices

Chair
Tom LeBel
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Reframing Reentry: A Strengths-Based Alternative to the Deficit-Driven Paradigm

Judith Leary
Maranatha Baptist University

Reentry has long been framed through a deficit-based lens, emphasizing risk, pathology, and individual failure. This presentation, drawing heavily from Houser and Schlager Arnold’s Rethinking the Reentry Paradigm (2nd ed., 2023), critiques that model and explores a strengths-based alternative to the mainstream approach. By centering on returning citizens’ agency, collaboration, and contextual assets, the strengths-based approach offers a more constructive and theoretically sound framework for supporting successful reintegration. This session examines the historical roots of deficit thinking, contrasts it with emerging strengths-based practices, and discusses implications for research, policy development, and evidence-informed reentry strategies in contemporary criminal justice systems.

Understanding Immediate Experiences After Release from Incarceration: A Qualitative Analysis

VanKe’via Garner
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Breanne Pleggenkuhle
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Beth Huebner
Arizona State University

The first 24 hours after release from incarceration is critical yet often an overlooked period in the reentry process. Using interviews from 130 individuals released from incarceration in a Midwestern state, this study qualitatively explored immediate post-release experiences, including initial needs (and barriers), attitudes and emotions, and discharge planning prior to release. Findings reveal a range of responses, from feelings of overwhelm to relief, to transportation challenges, to inadequate release planning, and support from family members. These findings highlight the urgent need for adequate discharge planning and immediate post-release support, offering an opportunity to directly inform policy and practice.

Social Distance: An Experimental Study of Enduring Stigma of a Criminal Record

Laura Nolterieke
University of Cincinnati

Ample research has detailed how people experience stigma due to criminal records, but less research on the relationship of stigma with markers of social distance, like how willing someone is to associate with someone with a criminal record in their daily lives. Research also suggests that there is a time where people with convictions will be statistically indistinguishable from those that have never committed an offense in terms of risk of offending. Using an experimental vignette manipulating gender, crime type, and time since conviction, I explore what factors predict comfortability interacting with individuals with a criminal conviction.

To Tell or Not to Tell? Justice-Impacted Individuals’ Use of Concealment/Disclosure as a Stigma Management Strategy

Tom LeBel
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

In managing information about his or her criminal past, a justice-impacted person must decide “to display or not to display; to tell or not to tell; to let on or not to let on; to lie or not to lie; and in each case, to whom, how, when, and where” (Goffman, 1963, p. 42). This paper assesses justice-impacted persons’ use of concealment and/or disclosure as a coping strategy to manage the stigma of a criminal conviction. The impact of using different coping strategies on psychological well-being is examined. The paper concludes by discussing the implications and directions for future research.

Incarceration during Moments of Crisis: An Examination of Shelter-in-Place Orders and Incarceration Patterns during the COVID–19 Pandemic

J. Amanda Sharry
*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

This exploratory study examines how the severity of shelter-in-place (SIP) orders during COVID–19 affected county-level incarceration and recidivism rates in the U.S. While prior research explored the impact of SIP policies on crime, no studies have addressed their influence on imprisonment and recidivism. This paper fills that gap by asking: (1) Did stricter SIP restrictions reduce imprisonment rates? (2) Did they reduce recidivism? (3) How do these patterns compare to the Great Recession? Using four fixed effects models, the study finds that more severe SIP orders led to a 3% drop in imprisonment and a 3–5% drop in recidivism. Additionally, incarceration rates were 16% lower during COVID–19 than during the Great Recession. These results highlight the complex relationship between economic disruption and carceral outcomes, offering insight for policymakers preparing for future crises.

Panel 02

Thursday, September 25th
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Warhol 2

Landscape of Extremism: Digital Footprints, Evolving Threats, & Attack Prevention

Chair
Ryan Scrivens
Michigan State University

Examining Online Posting Profiles of Violent and Non-Violent Right-Wing Extremists

Ryan Scrivens
Michigan State University
Garth Davies
Simon Fraser University
Richard Frank
Simon Fraser University

Despite the ongoing need to identify violent extremists online before their engagement in violence offline, little is empirically known about their digital footprints in general or differences in their posting behaviors compared to non-violent extremists. Even less is known about the composition of their online presence. This study drew from a unique sample of violent and non-violent right-wing extremists (RWEs) and used a sentiment analysis-based algorithm – that adapts criminal career measures – to identify extremist posting profiles (high-intensity, high-frequency, and high-duration) in the most conspicuous RWE forum. The results highlight several noteworthy profiles that may assist in identifying credible threats online.

Understanding Violent Non-State Actors' Use of Geospatial Technologies

Michael Becker
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*
Eleanor Greenbaum
Georgetown University
Austin Doctor
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*
Louis Max Wasser
*University of Maryland,
College Park*
Steve Sin
*University of Maryland,
College Park*
Ryan Vilter
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Violent non-state actors (VNSAs) are increasingly using commercial geospatial technologies – e.g., unmanned systems, geographic information systems, and the Internet of Things – to conduct attacks. We conduct qualitative content analysis on 20 expert interviews, informing why some VNSAs use geospatial technologies, and how they choose among available technologies to augment tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs). We describe two dimensions: barriers to adoption and threat actor technical capabilities. Our analysis helps to categorize risks and offers insights into both the relative prevalence of different kinds of attacks, and the mechanisms by which geospatial technologies may shift the threat landscape.

Understanding the New Face of Radicalization: A Subculture Viewpoint

**Amanda M. Sharp
Parker**
Campbell University

Radicalization into extremist groups has changed over the years due to the prevalence of such groups online. Terrorists and other extremists utilize the ease and availability of the Internet for recruitment, fundraising and propaganda. This paper examines if traditional subculture theory perspectives can be applied to this new age of radicalization.

Threats at Event Venues: Comparing and Contrasting Completed versus Failed or Foiled Plots

Erin Kearns
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Callie Vitro
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Sarah Schappert
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Cynthia Kennedy
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Allison Munderloh
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Tin Nguyen
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Completed attacks on public event venues, such as the Hamas' October 7th attack on the Nova Music Festival and the January 1st ISIS-inspired attack in New Orleans, highlight the security challenges—and the cost of security failures—for public events. Yet, some terrorist plots against public event venues fail or are foiled. How are completed versus failed or foiled attacks on event venues similar and how are they different? To better understand why plots may have these different outcomes, we compared 42 plots against public event venues in the United States from 1970 to 2024.

Panel 03

Thursday, September 25th
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Mondrian

*Understanding & Responding to Gun Violence:
Data, Policy, & Prevention*

Chair
Tiana Gaudette
Michigan State University

Creating a K-12 School Shooting Typology: A Latent Class Analysis of Offender Traits and Offense Characteristics

Tiana Gaudette
Michigan State University

This study explores variations among K-12 school shooting offender traits and offense characteristics by applying a statistical method, Latent Class Analysis, to data drawn from The American School Shooting Study (TASSS), a national open-source dataset of every intentional shooting on K-12 school grounds in the United States between 1990 and 2016 (N=354). The results from the Latent Class Analysis identify five perpetrator types and three incident types and chi square analyses demonstrate statistically significant associations between perpetrator and incident types. The study concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings for scholars, practitioners, and educators.

A Process Evaluation of a Focused Deterrence Program: Promoting Comprehensive Data Collection

Jordan Parker

Michigan State University

Julie Krupa

Michigan State University

Kait Campbell

Michigan State University

Focused deterrence programs, such as Detroit Ceasefire, use a multidisciplinary strategy to reduce and change norms around violence through a blend of law enforcement, community mobilization, and social services actions. To date, research has predominantly focused on these programs' impact on crime outcomes, such as official shooting incidents. This study assesses the outreach component of a focused deterrence program and how it can be enhanced to better understand social service activities and participant needs. Study results discuss participants' needs, outreach efforts, and recommendations for data collection enhancements to facilitate the evaluation of the social services component of focused deterrence models.

Trends in Firearm-Related Crime Pre- and Post-Permitless Carry Laws: A Comparative Study of Ohio and Michigan

Stephanie DeCroix

Bowling Green State University

Melissa Burek

Bowling Green State University

Eric Cooke

Bowling Green State University

Julia Bell

Northeastern University

Aiden Kelly

Bowling Green State University

In recent decades, over two dozen states have enacted permitless carry laws, allowing concealed handguns without a permit. Ohio joined this trend in mid-2022, while neighboring Michigan still requires a license for concealed carry. This study examined firearm-related crime in Ohio's eight largest cities and compared the data with similar cities in Michigan. The analysis focused on periods before and after Ohio's law took effect, aiming to determine whether the legislative change correlated with any shifts in crime trends between the two states with differing gun policies.

Applying Procedural Justice to Adolescent Firearm Carrying: The Mediating Roles of Legal Cynicism and Legitimacy

Taylor Tolles

University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Firearm carrying is a strong precursor to firearm violence and disproportionately affects justice-involved adolescents, identifying its influences is essential for prevention. This paper used longitudinal data from the Pathways to Desistance Study (N = 1,116) to examine how distinct domains of risk, including structural, psychological, social, and behavioral, influence adolescent firearm carrying. In total, twelve domain-specific structural equation models estimated the direct effects of baseline risk factors on firearm carrying during critical reentry period (one-year post-adjudication), as well as the indirect effects operating through legal cynicism and perceived legitimacy (six-months post-adjudication). Findings indicate that social influences of parental monitoring and association with delinquent peers were mediated by both legal cynicism and perceived legitimacy. While psychological, structural, and behavioral influences had been mediated by either cynicism or legitimacy. These findings underscore the importance of targeting malleable legal attitudes and social contexts as intervention points to reduce firearm carrying among justice-involved adolescents.



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University of Cambridge

Panel 04Thursday, September 25th

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Lichtenstein

***Uncovering Hidden Harms: Exploitation, Justice,
& Accountability*****Chair**

Calli Cain

University of Denver

Exploring the Violation Histories of America's 'Greenest' Corporations**Kimberly L. Barrett***Eastern Michigan
University***Michael J. Lynch***University of South
Florida***Ronald G. Burns***Texas Christian University*

Published lists of America's "Greenest" or "Most Sustainable" corporations generate positive press for named corporations, possibly increasing their appeal among environmentally conscious consumers. Yet, analyses of their corporate offending histories—including violations of environmental laws—appears missing from such lists. This study examines the violation histories from corporations with "green" rankings to explore the relationship between their ranking and their corporate violation histories. Analyses include violations in general as well as environmental violations specifically. Results reveal extensive violation histories among the corporations studied.

Exploiting the Vulnerable: The Resurgence of Child Labor in the U.S. Economy**Calli Cain***University of Denver*

This presentation explores the resurgence of child labor exploitation in the U.S. using data from the Violation Tracker database. It examines how deregulation, weak enforcement, and corporate impunity have enabled violations, especially in fast food, meatpacking, and auto manufacturing. The research also highlights agricultural exemptions that legally permit child labor, disproportionately impacting migrant and low-income youth. By analyzing repeat offenders and regulatory gaps, the study reveals how structural policy failures have normalized child labor in hazardous industries. The findings underscore the urgent need for stronger protections and accountability in the face of growing labor exploitation.

An Examination of the Distinctions and Benefits of Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions**Wendelin Hume***University of North
Dakota*

Justice coalitions can play a vital role in coordinating resources, sharing expertise, and strengthening responses to elder abuse. While both state and Tribal elder justice coalitions aim to protect and empower older adults, key differences exist in the challenges faced as well as in structure, authority, and cultural context. Tribal coalitions often integrate traditional values, community-defined approaches, and sovereign governance, whereas state coalitions tend to follow standardized protocols and statutory frameworks. This presentation will explore how Tribal coalitions foster culturally grounded, community-led solutions and highlight the mutual benefits of intergovernmental collaboration. Understanding these distinctions enhances effectiveness and inclusiveness across jurisdictions.

***Set-up* for Student Poster Judging Session**Thursday, September 25th

10:30 am – 1:00 pm

Marck [19th floor]

For students participating in the *Student Poster Competition* (i.e., undergraduate, master's, & doctoral level), the room is available for poster **set-up** between **10:30 am and 1:00 pm** – MCJA volunteers on-site. The judging session begins promptly at 1:15 pm.

To be considered for a *Student Poster Award*, attendance at **both** the judging session (Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm) and the open poster session (Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm) is mandatory.

Innovations in Crime Prevention: Weather, Technology, Community, & Evidence**Chair**
Bradley O'Guinn
University of Cincinnati

Evaluating the Impact of AI-Powered License Plate Readers in Property Offenses: Results from a Natural Experiment**David Lapsey***Indiana University
Southeast***Emily Hayden***Campbellsville University***David Fegett***Campbellsville University*

License plate readers (LPRs) are increasingly used by law enforcement agencies in the United States, including most medium-sized agencies. Despite their growing use, few rigorous evaluations exist, and many have focused on LPRs' potential to deter crime. Using a natural experiment, our study assesses the effect of stationary LPR implementation on weekly property offenses rates by comparing data from pre- and post-LPR deployment.

Optimizing Community Policing Outcomes Through Evidence-Based Approaches**Bradley O'Guinn***University of Cincinnati***Cory Haberman***University of Cincinnati*

Over the past 30 years, the U.S. Department of Justice has supported community policing nationwide. This study examines the impact of adding COPS-funded officers to a single jurisdiction and deploying them in an evidence-based way. Using a synthetic control design, we compare trends in crime-related calls for service (CFS) between the treated jurisdiction and a 'counterfactual' control unit that closely resembles the jurisdiction in the absence of the initiative. The results suggest the initiative produced statistically significant reductions in crime-related CFS in the treated jurisdiction when compared to its 'synthetic' counterpart over the duration of the intervention.

How Do Stakeholders View Community-led Crime Prevention Programs? Insights from Seattle, Washington**Cody Telep***Arizona State University***Julie Hibdon***Southern Illinois**University Carbondale*

As cities fund crime prevention programs led by neighborhood groups and non-profits, it is important to understand how communities engage with these initiatives. We report on themes that emerged from interviews with stakeholders partnering with Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG), a non-profit that led multiple hot spot projects across Seattle. These interviews suggest the promise and challenges of community-led crime prevention. Specifically, SNG is viewed as an effective connector between communities and city government and is trusted more than police in many neighborhoods. Challenges emerge, however, in engaging all parts of the community and in sustaining projects after grant cycles end.



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***Reimagining Justice Processes: Prosecutors, Diversion,
& Courtroom Dynamics*****Chair**

Eric Grommon

Indiana University Indianapolis

Exploring the Effect of Prosecutor-led Traffic Infraction Diversion Programs: Evidence from Two Indiana Jurisdictions**Eric Grommon***Indiana University
Indianapolis***Tri Keah Henry***Indiana University
Bloomington***Evan Lowder***George Mason University***Carmen Diaz***Kansas Sentencing
Commission*

Prosecutor-led diversion programs offer an alternative to formal court processing for individuals charged with low-level offenses. While diversion initiatives are common for low-level felony and misdemeanor offenses, less is known about efforts to divert traffic infractions from the justice system. This study describes and assesses two infraction diversion programs in one large and one moderate-sized Indiana jurisdiction between 2021 and 2023. Drawing on administrative case-level data, we use descriptive and regression methods to explore program participation and case outcomes. In addition to offering preliminary findings, the presentation concludes with a discussion of policy implications and future research considerations.

Identifying Predictors of Graduation and Recidivism: Findings from an Evaluation of the Milwaukee County Treatment and Alternatives Diversion (TAD) Program**Alyssa Sheeran***University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee***Tina Freiburger***University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee*

Diversion programs serve as alternatives to incarceration to provide treatment and appropriate services to individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health needs. As such, the Milwaukee County Treatment and Alternative Diversion (TAD) Program was conceived to serve moderate to high-risk individuals with an individualized treatment plan to encourage prosocial behaviors and reduce long-term recidivism. The current study provided an outcome evaluation for all participants admitted to TAD between 2017-2023. Specifically, this study examined the likelihood graduation from TAD, as well as post-program recidivism. Policy implications and future research are discussed throughout the paper.

Pretrial Risk Assessments and Factors Influencing Pretrial Failure and Noncompliance**Tina Freiburger***University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee***Joseph Kaberlein***University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee***Danielle Romain****Dagenhardt***University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee*

There has been a growth of using pretrial screening tools to inform pretrial release decisions. These screening tools are aimed at predicting risk for failure to appear and the commission of new crimes, and often have undergone validation. Yet whether and how judges take into account this information is less known. Using data from a smaller urban Midwestern county, the current study examines whether defendants with a pretrial risk score are more successful on pretrial release than those who did not receive a risk score. It also examines what additional factors predict pretrial failure and noncompliance. Implications of the findings will also be presented.

Understanding Public Perceptions of Prosecutors: A Review of Available Literature

Chandler Hulse
*Indiana University
Bloomington*
Eric Grommon
*Indiana University
Indianapolis*

Understanding how the general public perceives prosecutors remains limited. This project seeks to explore and synthesis qualitative and quantitative research on public perceptions of prosecutors within the United States. By examining themes such as legal accountability, courtroom fairness, prosecutor conduct, and plea bargaining, this project will offer insight into how the public views key courtroom actors. This work contributes to a broader understanding of courtroom actors and conversations of prosecutorial practices within the justice system.

Influence of Courtroom Personnel on Probation Revocation Outcomes

**Miriam Northcutt
Bohmert**
*Indiana University
Bloomington*
Eric Lowder
George Mason University
Eric Grommon
*Indiana University
Indianapolis*

This study examines decision-making in probation violations and revocations, using survey (n=32) and interview (n=25) data from courtroom and probation personnel. It investigates the information prioritized, alignment of decisions, and influence of actors. Findings reveal risk level as the key factor in revocation decisions. Regarding alignment, prosecutors and probation officers are closely aligned, while judges and defense attorneys share similar views. Probation officers are seen as influential, except by themselves, who view judges as most powerful. Judges and defense attorneys are most satisfied with outcomes. In this adversarial system, despite their recognized expertise, probation officers feel disempowered.

Panel 07

Thursday, September 25th
10:30 am – 11:45 am
Mondrian

Thematic Panel:

When Justice Confronts Cybercrime: May the Force Be with Us

Chair
Jennifer Peck
University of Central Florida

Framing Justice in a Digital Age: A Systematic Review of AI-Generated Pornography and Justice System Responses

Amelia G. Wiercioch
*University of Central
Florida*
Sara N. Lucak
*University of Central
Florida*
Jennifer Peck
*University of Central
Florida*

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) has transformed the production and dissemination of sexually explicit content, raising concerns for criminal justice systems worldwide. This systematic review examines the impact of AI-generated pornography on policing, court practices, and policy-related issues in the United States. Following PRISMA recommendations, this study used empirical research and news-related media from 2014-2025 to investigate the effects of AI-generated deepfakes and revenge pornography on justice system responses. Results highlight critical gaps in current knowledge, suggestions for future policy, and a more detailed understanding of the complex relationship between AI, crime, victimization, and the criminal justice system.

On the Digital Highway Crime Rides: Wanted Actual or Fake

Rylan Celajes

Bowling Green State University

Sara Svenson

Bowling Green State University

Charlotte Stephan

Bowling Green State University

Catherine Pape

Bowling Green State University

John Liederbach

Bowling Green State University

This qualitative study explores how criminal justice professionals are confronting an evolving range of AI-driven crimes, including deepfakes, synthetic voice fraud, and manipulated media. Drawing on focus group data, findings highlight how these cases are detected, what investigative techniques are used, and how practitioners distinguish between real and AI-generated content. Common tools and platforms used by offenders, the challenges of verifying evidence, and the patterns emerging in both offenders and victims were also identified. While exploratory, the responses may inform future training, improve digital forensics protocols, and enhance investigative readiness in response to the growing complexity of AI-enabled criminal behavior.

We're All in This Together: Navigating AI-Driven Criminal Cases

Alli Balog

Bowling Green State University

Aiden Kelly

Bowling Green State University

Ella Strum

Bowling Green State University

Melissa Burek

Bowling Green State University

This study explores how agencies navigate AI-driven criminal cases through interagency collaboration, prosecution, and legal interpretation. Focus groups with criminal justice professionals were conducted. Through our conversations, roles of joint task forces and jurisdictional complexities, shared experiences with legal ambiguity, pushback on categorizing certain AI behaviors as crimes, and how intent is assessed when artificial intelligence is part of the offense were revealed. Findings highlight critical gaps in existing statutes, offer guidance for legislative reform, and provide insight into how cross-agency efforts can improve response to the legal and procedural challenges of AI misuse.

Panel 08

Thursday, September 25th

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Lichtenstein

Mental Health, Crime, & Development: Trajectories of Well-being & Justice

Chair

Adam Watkins

Bowling Green State University

Has the Mental Health-Delinquency Relationship Changed Over Time? Evidence from YRBS and MTF

Adam Watkins

Bowling Green State University

This study examines whether the strength of the relationship between adolescent mental health and delinquency has changed over time (1991-2023) using two national surveys: the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the Monitoring the Future Survey. Prior research has documented rising rates of poor mental health among youth since the early 2010s, whereas rates of risky behavior continued to decline. While some scholars have addressed this "decoupling," most focus on drug use. This study instead explores whether time moderates the mental health-delinquency relationship using interpersonal and property crimes as the outcomes. The findings may have implications for mental health services.

Despair and Detention: Examining the Relationship Between Depression and Arrest

Rachel Van Etten
University of Cincinnati

While behavioral disorders have been shown to affect crime involvement, less is known about the relationship between mood disorders, such as depression, and crime. Furthermore, the relationships between mental health conditions and crime are complex and multifaceted. This paper uses a 5-year longitudinal data set of drug-involved offenders who were released from prison to study the relationship between self-reported major depression and arrest.

Criminal Convictions and Changes in Self-Esteem: The Transition from Adolescence to Early Adulthood

Logan Valenty
*Southern Illinois
University Carbondale*

This study examined the impact of criminal convictions on changes in self-esteem, which occurred during the transition from adolescence to early adulthood. A longitudinal research design was constructed using nationally representative data from The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health public-use sample. Self-esteem was repeatedly measured at Wave I (1994-1995) and Wave III (2001-2002). The respondents with criminal convictions were compared to those without criminal convictions. Using the regressor variable method, the OLS regression estimated changes in self-esteem. The results indicated that a criminal conviction and a secondary conviction caused decreases in self-esteem from adolescence to early adulthood.

Lunch Break

Thursday, September 25th
11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Student Poster Judging Session

Thursday, September 25th
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Marck [19th floor]

Attendance is restricted to judges and students participating in the *Student Poster Competition* (i.e., undergraduate, master's, & doctoral level). The room is available for poster **set-up** between **10:30 am and 1:00 pm** – MCJA volunteers on-site. The Judging session begins promptly at 1:15 pm.

To be considered for a *Student Poster Award*, attendance at **both** the judging session (Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm) and the open poster session (Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm) is mandatory.

Panel 09

Thursday, September 25th
1:15 pm – 2:30 am
Warhol 1

*Police Legitimacy & Reform: Public Perceptions,
Officer Mindsets, & Historical Context*

Chair
Sung Lee
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Police Legitimacy Though Procedural Justice: Examining the Dual Mediating Role of Institutional Trust and Obligation to Obey

Sung Lee
*Texas A&M University-
San Antonio*

The procedural justice theory of police legitimacy has been examined extensively by previous scholars; yet, further expansion of the legitimacy literature is warranted. Specifically, the current study examines the effects of institutional trust and obligation to obey as mediators between procedural justice and perceived legitimacy. The current study uses structural equation modeling (SEM) to test our hypotheses. Convenience sampling of South Korean university students (N = 2,188) was used to investigate our inquiry.

Establishing Evaluation Standards for Co-Responder Crisis Response Models

Haley Moon

*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

Clair Uding

University of Wyoming

Amid ongoing calls for police reform, co-responder models, where mental health professionals' partner with law enforcement to address behavioral health crises, have gained national attention. Despite their growing use, existing research highlights inconsistencies in program design and a lack of standardized evaluation methods. This study aimed to (1) assess the extent to which agencies with active or developing co-responder programs need effective evaluation tools and (2) identify measurable outcomes that define program success or failure. Using data from a prior national survey, researchers recruited U.S. police agencies with active or planned programs that previously consented to follow-up. A newly developed questionnaire was distributed to pilot metrics on co-responder program outcomes and gauge program progress over the last three years. Results provide critical information on the needs of departments utilizing co-responder models and support the development of a standardized, outcome-based evaluation tool.

How Warrior and Guardian Mindsets Shape Support for Police Reform

Trey Bussey

University of Cincinnati

Justin Nix

*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Kyle McLean

Clemson University

Jeff Rojek

Michigan State University

This study examines how officers' cultural orientations shape their support for police reform. Using survey data from officers in three U.S. agencies, it assesses how warrior (crime-fighting) and guardian (public service) mindsets influence attitudes toward reform policies and training programs. Results suggest that while most officers express support for training initiatives, views on broader reforms are more divided. Officers with stronger guardian orientations are significantly more supportive of both. These findings highlight the importance of individual cultural perspectives in understanding officer receptivity to reform—an especially salient topic amid ongoing shifts in national policing policy.

Racial Attitudes and Public Perceptions of Police Reform

Brenna Dunlap

University of Cincinnati

Trey Bussey

University of Cincinnati

Leah Butler

University of Cincinnati

While racial attitudes are known to influence views on policing, less is known about their effects on beliefs toward police reforms. Using data from a YouGov survey, this study analyzes support for reforms targeting officer-level behavior, agency-level policy, and police abolition among U.S. adults. Officer-level reforms received strong support, whereas support for agency-level initiatives was limited. Abolition received minimal endorsement. Whites' attitudes toward reforms and abolition are shaped by racial attitudes. These findings suggest that reforms targeting officer behavior may be more feasible. In contrast, reforms that alter agency-level policy may face public resistance, particularly among racially resentful Americans.

Chicago at the Crossroads: Police Reform, Civil Rights, and the Precursor to Presidential Assassination

Brandon Kooi

Aurora University

This presentation critically examines the police reform initiatives implemented by Superintendent O.W. Wilson during his tenure with the Chicago Police Department from 1960 to 1967. The analysis situates Wilson's reform agenda within the broader socio-political landscape of the era, including a review of the assassination plot against President John F. Kennedy in Chicago, which occurred three weeks prior to the Dallas tragedy. Additionally, the presentation explores Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s involvement in the 1966 Chicago Freedom Movement, assessing the intersection of civil rights activism and police leadership through the framework of Wilson's administrative strategies and supported by primary insights from Herman Goldstein.

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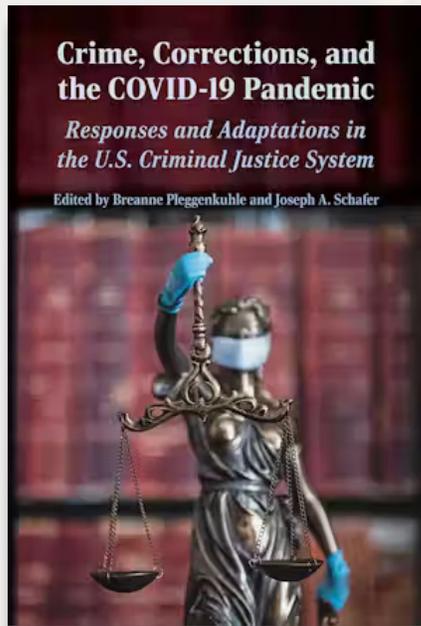
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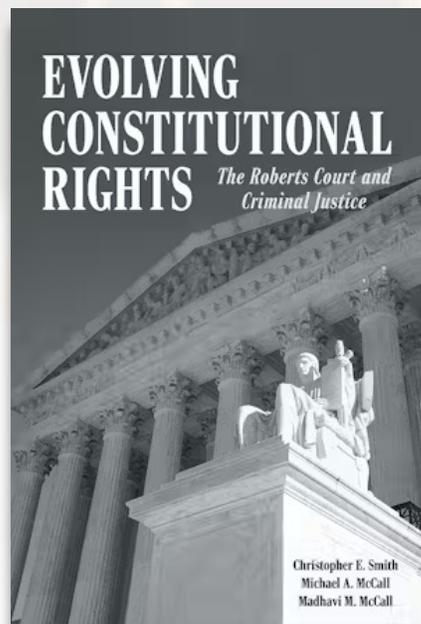


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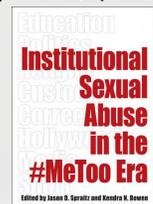
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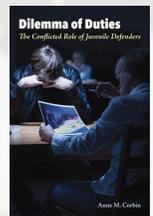
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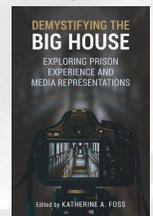
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Diverse Forms of Victimization: Unpacking Experiences, Trends, & Prevention**Chair**Matthew McGrath
University of Cincinnati

Fraud in the Buckeye State: A Geospatial and Temporal Analysis of Fraud Victimization Reports in Ohio, 2024**Matthew McGrath***University of Cincinnati***Cooper Maher***Michigan State University***Timothy Engle***University of Cincinnati***Joseph Nedelec***University of Cincinnati*

Fraud remains understudied from a geographic perspective, limiting opportunities for targeted prevention. Using 2024 data from the Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker (n = 3,219), this study analyzes spatial and temporal trends in fraud victimization across Ohio. Results reveal a disproportionate clustering of fraud near major metropolitan areas, with incident frequency peaking in January and total dollar losses highest in July. Online purchase scams were the most common and costly type of fraud. Findings highlight the need for geographically informed fraud prevention strategies and demonstrate the value of continued geospatial analysis to understand and address patterns in fraud victimization.

Sibling Violence Across the Life Course: Age Based Patterns of Abuse**Jessie Krienert***Illinois State University***Jeffrey Walsh***Illinois State University*

Sibling violence is a common yet understudied form of family aggression. Using over 595,000 incidents from 2019 to 2023 NIBRS data, this study examines how sibling assault characteristics differ by age and offender developmental stage. Bivariate and multinomial logistic regression analyses reveal distinct age-based patterns in victim demographics, co-residence, injury, and substance use. Child and teen offenders were more likely to assault younger siblings in shared households. In contrast, alcohol and drug use were more strongly associated with adult sibling offenders. Findings highlight the need to account for life-course stages and developmental context when addressing sibling violence and designing age-specific interventions.

When Sexting Goes Wrong: The Extent of Non-Consensual Sharing and Sextortion Among Teens**Justin Patchin***University of Wisconsin–
Eau Claire***Sameer Hinduja***Florida Atlantic University*

Sexting is a risky behavior in which many youth participate. Non-consensual sharing and sextortion are harms that can occur when sharing intimate content. The purpose of this study was to examine the extent of sexting and these deleterious outcomes. Using a national sample of 3,466 adolescents aged 13-17 in the United States, the current study explored the prevalence of sexting behaviors and related negative outcomes. Differences across age, race, gender, and sexual orientation were assessed. Findings demonstrate that a minority of teens are participating in sexting, but when they do, undesirable outcomes are common.

***Navigating Narratives: Representing Crime, Victimization,
& Safety in the Media & Online*****Chair**

Travis Milburn

Grand Valley State University

Public Criminology on a Rust Belt Radio Show: An Autoethnography**Travis Milburn**
*Grand Valley State
University*

This paper describes an autoethnographic project in public criminology. Specifically, the paper draws on monthly radio show appearances in 2024 and 2025 on a long-form local AM radio show that broadcasts to counties in two states in the Rust Belt of the United States. A range of crime and justice topics, driven by the interests of both the host and author/guest, were explored through one or two-hour live radio shows which included caller questions. The paper reflects upon the challenges and successes of the experience and advocates for expanded pursuit of public criminological avenues.

I Scream, You Scream, Actually, We Don't All Scream: Representations of Ideal Victims in Violent Films**Riah Engel**
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha***Colleen Kadleck**
*University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Media shapes public perceptions of victimhood, influencing who is seen as credible, sympathetic, or responsible (Bryant & Finklea, 2022), which in turn can affect legal outcomes and social responses. This study examines how victims and their behaviors are represented in violent film trailers. By comparing these portrayals to real-world crime victimization data and Christie's ideal victim framework, the analysis reveals how media often reinforces familiar stereotypes, revealing broader societal patterns in the perception of victims and responses to crime. Findings and implications are discussed.

Cranky Uncle Game Reduces Believability of Misinformation about Undocumented Citizens and Criminal Behavior**Lauren Flanagan**
*Loyola University Chicago***Trevor Rowe**
*Loyola University Chicago***Loretta Stalans**
*Loyola University Chicago***Eric Chan-Tin**
*Loyola University Chicago***Jeffery Huntsinger**
*Loyola University Chicago***Jennifer Forestal**
Loyola University Chicago

Over the past several years, misinformation has become increasingly prevalent and is now spreading more rapidly across social media platforms. This surge of widespread false information poses a serious threat to the public's understanding and trust in various domains and institutions, including health, science, and politics. As traditional fact-checking efforts and programs struggle to meet the need, it is important to invest in alternative methodologies, placing greater emphasis on educating individuals to identify misinformation. Our study examines whether an online game, Cranky Uncle, used to teach logical error fallacies associated with arguments to support misinformation (Cook et al., 2023) will reduce the believability of misinformation. In both the pretest and posttest, participants were asked questions about their support for misinformation and if they could recognize a logical fallacy presented to them. Overall, individuals who completed Cranky Uncle quizzes and learned how to recognize misinformation were able to better identify types of logical errors and two weeks after using Cranky Uncle found misinformation statements as less believable than those that did not receive any training.

'Check Your DMs': Online Disinhibition and Its Role in Digital Sex Worker Safety on Social Media**Maurice St Matthews**
*University of New Haven***Paul Bleakley**
University of Kentucky

Online platforms like OnlyFans provide people with platforms to engage with sex work in new configurations — both as a consumer and producer of adult content. For those who produce sexual content, the democratization of the market has led to increased competition and a need to self-promote on social media. We explore interpersonal contact between sex workers and other social media users, focusing on disinhibited behaviors that occur in these interactions. We find that platform choice can affect the level and type of risk experienced by sexual content creators, and discusses practical implications for sex worker safety online.

***Juvenile Justice Crossroads: Diversion, Detention,
& Developmental Futures*****Chair**

Rachel Feinstein

University of Oklahoma

Juvenile Diversion: Youth and Parent Perceptions**Rachel Feinstein**
*University of Oklahoma***Mark Magidson**
*University of Houston-
Downtown*

Juvenile diversion programs offer an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system for some youth offenders, and frequently demonstrate promising outcomes in terms of recidivism and high school graduation rates, among other benefits. The current study aims to identify perceptions of juvenile diversion and impacts of participating according to youth and their parents. Using in-depth interviews, this study examines participants' perceptions of fairness of the program, perceived benefits for the youth participants, challenges to participation for parents, and motivations for completing the requirements.

Stakeholder Views of a County-Level Juvenile Detention Center**Matthew Makarios**
*University of Northern
Iowa***Gayle Rhineberger**
*University of Northern
Iowa*

This paper presents the results of a contracted evaluation for a Midwestern juvenile detention center. The authors completed interviews with approximately 30 stakeholders identified by the contracting agency. Stakeholders were asked about their perceptions of the detention center regarding strengths and weaknesses, ways to improve, concerns they had about the detention center, and other related topics. Overall, stakeholders hold overwhelmingly positive perceptions of the center, praising the center for its dedication to taking a holistic, integrated approach to detention services.

Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Overview of the Process and an Ethical Analysis**Riley Conner**
*Purdue University
Northwest*

Trying juveniles as adults raises significant questions about the ethics of the process. The current presentation examines the process in which juveniles are tried as adults and the ethical dilemmas that can arise from the process. It overviews the different types of transfers or waivers and the differences in juvenile transfer laws. The ethical dilemma analyzes the process of trying juveniles as adults through the lenses of the ethical systems of utilitarianism and deontology, along with the psychosocial sciences. Findings indicate that both ethical systems and sciences would not support the process as ethical.

Legal and Extralegal Factors Determining Sentence Type and Length**Alyssa Sheeran**
*University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee*

The United States aspires to a fair criminal justice system with a focus on minimizing disparate impact of discretionary decision making at all stages of the justice system. The use of discretion in sentencing, however, can contribute to unwarranted disparities. Concern over potential disparities and what factors impact the sentencing decisions of judges highlight the importance of examining sentence outcomes. Using focal concerns framework as a theoretical underpinning, this study examined a sample of convicted individuals to determine the likelihood of being sentenced to either probation, jail, or prison, as well as the influence on sentence length decisions.

Rethinking Responses to Harm: From School Discipline to Gendered Victimization**Chair**Michaela Benson-Goldsmith
University of Nebraska at Omaha

A Study in Intersections: Exploring How Race, Gender, and Disability Influence Discipline Disparities**Charlotte Lee***Indiana University
Bloomington***Jennifer O'Neill***Indiana University
Bloomington*

Current literature finds that race, gender, and disability status are predictors of school discipline. However, few studies evaluate the interactional effects of these characteristics. The current study applies an intersectional framework to evaluate interactional effects between race, gender, and disability. Using data from the 2016 Minnesota Student Survey, we find that race, gender, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) status, and disability type each impact the likelihood of experiencing school discipline, as well as interact in meaningful ways. Additionally, the dataset creates a unique opportunity to compare discipline disparities using measures of school-recognized and self-reported disability.

Restorative Justice in Discipline Policies: Results from a Content Analysis of U.S. School District Policies**Michaela Benson-Goldsmith***University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

The current study sought to understand how U.S. school districts have implemented restorative justice (RJ) in policies to inform school discipline practices. School board policies and/or published student handbooks for the 2017-2018 school year were identified for 122 districts from 19 states. A content analysis of these records identified 37% referenced RJ in the discipline policies. Of these districts, 40% defined RJ, 64% allowed administrators to consider RJ, and 60% provided guidance on implementing an RJ discipline response. Themes and findings are discussed in relation to state-level RJ policy analyses and implications for improving policy-to-practice processes.

Defining Serial Domestic Violence Offenders in the United States**Elizabeth Donahue***Springfield Domestic
Violence Coalition***Allison Fernandez***University of the
Incarnate Word*

The U.S. lacks a consistent definition for a serial domestic violence offender (SDVO), hindering identification, research, and intervention. Current legal classifications, like "repeat offender," fail to capture the coercive control across multiple victims that defines serial offending. This study used a systematic qualitative meta-synthesis analysis of U.S. news archives (1995-2025) to understand how "serial" is applied. Findings show the media often uses the term for offenders exhibiting coercive control, escalating violence, and non-domestic criminality across multiple victims, often with ineffective criminal justice interactions. This reveals a gap between informal public understanding and formal legal definitions. The study proposes a working SDVO definition and emphasizes pattern-based risk assessment for improved victim safety and offender accountability.

Reframing Victimhood: Aligning Court Program Eligibility with Women's Perceptions of Trafficking**Jane Mahon***University of Cincinnati***Aaron Murnan***Ohio State University***Gwen England***Catch Court, Franklin
County (OH) Municipal
Court***Leah Butler***University of Cincinnati***Teresa Kulig***University of Nebraska at
Omaha*

Estimates indicate that 2 to 4 million women are involved in the sex trade in the U.S. While Sex Trafficking Specialty Court Programs (STSCPs) offer valuable support, participation remains low due to barriers to women not self-identifying as victims. This study, in partnership with STSCPs across Ohio, uses cross-sectional surveys with 70 women to explore their perceptions of trafficking, sex trade involvement, and self-identification before and after program entry. Findings aim to inform recruitment strategies by aligning program eligibility with how women view their own victimization, ultimately improving access to and engagement with these specialized court programs.



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Dr. Robert F. Borkenstein is the

inventor of the Breathalyzer. Dr. Borkenstein was a driving force in moving the department beyond a police training curriculum to one of discussing crime causation from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Dr. Coramae Richey Mann was

an early and influential voice in the field of gender, inequality, and race. Her work empowered and informed students and scholars to question racial inequality in the justice system.



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***Policing in Focus: Evidence from Body-Worn Cameras,
Legal Standards, & Recruit Training*****Chair**

Tad Hughes

University of Louisville

Finding the Right Balance: Toward a More Accurate Count and Understanding of Non-Fatal OIS**Michael Cavanaugh***University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

The major focus of the research in the area of officer involved shootings has been on fatalities. This data has primarily been compiled by news organizations and non-profits, with official data hard to come by. When official data has been used, the lack of uniformity across jurisdictions has produced analyses that have some holes. Currently, the focus on fatalities means that a sizable chunk (possibly upwards of 60%) of OIS is left out of the analyses. There have been efforts at providing estimates on the breakdowns of OIS, but the better efforts have lacked official data sources (See Ware et al., 2024). The current research utilizes official data to arrive at an estimate for the breakdown of fatal and non-fatal OIS injurious incidents. Differences between these two groups will be discussed as well as implications for OIS policy.

Body-Worn Cameras and Communication: An Analysis of Body Worn Camera Footage, Call Types, and Communication**Matthew Durham***Southern Illinois
University Carbondale***Daryl Kroner***Southern Illinois
University Carbondale*

Body-worn cameras (BWC) offer a unique perspective to interactions between police officers and citizens. Using 99 BWC clips that were rated on the Camera Rating Measures, four call type categories (Vehicle, Person, Property, Public Health/Wellbeing) were compared based on four subscales of Respect Active, Respect Passive, Respect Discourse, and Subject. ANOVAs revealed a statistically significant difference between the subscales Respect Active ($F = 2.996, p = 0.032$) and Discourse ($F = 3.346, p = 0.0202$). Differences were noted on the Respect Discourse subscale between Vehicle and Person call categories ($p = 0.0215$). Respect Active subscale was different between Vehicle and Person call categories ($p = 0.0263$). This research will give insight into communication between officers and citizens in specific call types.

Police Officers' Respectfulness and Its Impact on Citizens' Resistance during Police-Citizen Encounters**Adonis Ndusha***Southern Illinois
University Carbondale***Daryl Kroner***Southern Illinois
University Carbondale*

Understanding the dynamics of police-citizen encounters requires assessing the behaviors exhibited during interactions. This study examines how officers' respectfulness influences citizens' resistance. Using 112 BWC cases, respectfulness was measured via the Camera Rated Measures (CRM) instrument and Actor Consistency Index. Logistic regression revealed that officers' respectfulness had a positive but non-significant association with resistance. The findings partially support the hypotheses, highlighting the effects of subject race and sex. Contrary to expectations, respectfulness was not a significant predictor; however, the respectful mode raised resistance odds by 33%. Policy implications discussed emphasize the importance of understanding the perception and impact of respect.

Barnes v. Felix and the Moment of the Threat Doctrine: The Supreme Court Steps “Into the Fire”

Tad Hughes
University of Louisville

Recently the Supreme Court heard arguments in the case of *Barnes v. Felix* (2025). The Court is set to determine whether courts should apply the “moment of the threat” doctrine when evaluating an excessive force claim under the Fourth Amendment. The case centers around the reasonableness of the use of deadly force during a traffic stop. The “moment of the threat doctrine” determines the reasonableness of an officer’s actions based on the window in which they were under threat. This paper will review the facts of the case, the rationale of the decision, and the holding of the opinion. Relevant policy implications of the ruling will be discussed.

Police Use of Force: Examining Changes in Recruits’ Perceptions during the Training Academy

Christopher Donner
*Loyola University
Chicago*

This study examines the nature of use of force among police recruits in an effort to better understand their perceptions as they enter the profession. Data analyses are performed on a multi-agency sample of 730 U.S. police recruits. Specifically, analyses are conducted on pre- and post-academy panel data to assess changes in recruits’ perceptions of use of force over time as they begin their immersion into the police culture. Results demonstrate that recruits’ have more positive views on use of force by the end of the academy and that several individual and organizational factors impact recruits’ UOF attitudes over time.

Panel 15

Thursday, September 25th
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Mondrian

Drugs, Power, & Control: From Illicit Markets to Intervention Strategies

Chair
Travis Linnemann
Kansas State University

Fear, Hunger, and Courage: Organized Crime, Criminal Governance, and Illicit Opportunities in Mexico

Roger Guy
*State University of New
York at Oswego*
Piotr Chomczyński
University of Lodz

Felipe Calderón’s war on drugs (*guerra contra el narcotráfico*) destabilized a long-standing informal arrangement between the Mexican state and criminal organizations. Using 62 interviews with inmates convicted of organized crime, we discuss how the war on drugs inadvertently strengthened the influence of organized crime conditions where criminal governance and illicit work flourished. Our interviews suggest an economy of permissive criminality where; a) cartels garnered personnel for essential criminal activities; b) peripheral illicit opportunities thrived offering needed income to the economically marginalized; and c) participation in criminality was normalized and the moral or legal inhibitions toward unlawful activities were subverted.

Pharmaceutical Pacification: Racialized Superhumanization and Low-Intensity Social War

Travis Linnemann
Kansas State University
Corina Medley
Kansas State University

Connecting patterns of legal drug consumption and the policing of illicit drug markets, this paper aims to implicate both in a broad, sometimes imperceptible system of pacification. As deployed here, pacification describes a range material and ideological tools, techniques and practices used by the state to secure and reproduce capitalist social order. Using drugs to transform pained, depressed and exhausted subjects into contented consumers, and likewise, drug laws to police, punish or eliminate dangerous subjects altogether, pharmaceutical pacification offers an understanding of state power that transcends typical distinctions between legal/illegal, public/private and the violence of war and police. To elaborate our claims, we employ an object-centered analysis tracking the tangled social history of two closely related drugs—phencyclidine and ketamine—from their syntheses to their present uses by state agents and non-state entrepreneurs, demonstrating the ways pacification operates through the drug war and individual market relations simultaneously.

Data-Driven Deflection: Evaluating the Impact of Quick Response Teams on Overdose and Arrest Outcomes

Brandon Bledsoe
University of Cincinnati
Sarah Manchak
University of Cincinnati

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) are designed to provide substance users with peer support and assistance in obtaining treatment and other needed services. This study evaluates a QRT in a large Midwestern county using data on 844 clients. The study compares (1) people who had successful contact with the QRT to those without successful contact, and (2) people who declined QRT services and those who accepted services before and after the initial referring overdose. This study also examines whether increased QRT engagement is associated with greater reductions in arrests and overdoses post-referral. Implications for research and practice will be discussed.

Panel 16

Thursday, September 25th
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Lichtenstein

Advances in Criminology: Technology, Ethics, & Accountability

Chair
Shauntee James
Penn State Harrisburg

Evaluating the CPRA's Expanded Protections and Unresolved Legal Exposures from Re-Identification

Adam Eglinger
Penn State World
Campus

This paper examines the limitations of current data privacy legislation (specifically CPRA and HIPAA, as they are the gold standards for privacy) through a criminology lens. Drawing upon Robert Merton's strain theory, I argue that these laws, while intended to deter deviance, inadvertently create gaps that allow for violations and white-collar crime to continue, specifically within the digital marketing field. The research integrates personal insights from my work in digital marketing with case studies of non-compliance and misuse of personal data (PII). I will explore how data-driven strategies, such as those used in the Cambridge Analytica scandal, continue to be replicated today, which facilitate unethical targeting practices. My initial findings suggest that the legislation is insufficient to prevent deviance among corporate actors and lacks meaningful enforcement. This fosters an environment in which digital marketers can exploit data to vulnerable populations and allow them to continue discriminatory or privacy violations. The implications for criminology are twofold: (1) there is a need to expand our understanding of white-collar and cyber-crime in the digital advertising space, and (2) reforms must be informed with a criminological understanding of deviance and regulatory failure. This paper will contribute to ongoing discussions about crime prevention, regulation, and the evolving relationship between advertising and deviance in the digital world.

How the U.S. Legally Evades Accountability Under the Leahy Law in the Hamas-Israel War: A Policy Analysis

Hope Alexa Samuel
Penn State World
Campus

The Leahy Laws restrict U.S. military aid to foreign security forces implicated in gross human rights violations. However, the U.S. continues providing military assistance to Israel during the Hamas-Israel War, despite reports of violations against Palestinians. This policy analysis will (1) review the history and intent of the Leahy Laws, (2) examine the definition of "unit" within the community ecosystem of government actors and its implications for enforcement, (3) analyze how this ambiguity affects the law's effectiveness in curbing violations, and (4) offer policy recommendations to clarify and strengthen enforcement, ensuring the law's integrity and accountability.

Prison Population and Virtual Reality (VR)

Shaunty James

Penn State Harrisburg

Laura Cruz

Penn State Harrisburg

Sarah Kettell

Penn State Harrisburg

Norah Singh

Penn State Harrisburg

This study explores the impact of Virtual Reality (VR) on criminal justice education by assessing 62 undergraduates' cultural competence and attitudes towards prisoners before and after VR simulations of prison environments. Utilizing pre-and-post-test surveys, including a Cultural Humility Index and an Attitudes Towards Prisoners (ATP) survey, the research highlights significant enhancements in students' perceptions post-VR. The findings underscore VR's potential to improve educational outcomes and inform future teaching methodologies, advocating for its integration into criminal justice curricula to foster immersive research and learning experiences. This approach offers valuable insights into the transformative effects of VR on student attitudes and competencies.

Beyond Release: Examining the Impact of a Criminal Legal System Simulation on Perceptions of System-Impacted Individuals

Lily Bretl

*University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee*

Rebecca Konkol

*University of Wisconsin–
Milwaukee*

Shannon Ross

The Community

Carl Fields

The Community

This pilot project explores the impact of a criminal legal system simulation developed in partnership with a local organization ("The Community"). The immersive experience offered participants (i.e., students, faculty/staff, community members) first-hand insight into challenges faced by individuals navigating both immediate reentry and long-term supervision. Pre- and post-survey data (N=20) assessed shifts in perceptions, stigma, and beliefs about redeemability. Findings underscore the value of experiential learning in shaping public understanding of the criminal legal system and inform future community-engaged teaching strategies.

Ethical Decision-Making in Forensic Anthropology: Navigating Mass Fatality Responses

Miriam Spencer

*Maranatha Baptist
University*

Judith Leary

*Maranatha Baptist
University*

Forensic anthropologists face ethical challenges in mass fatality situations, requiring prioritized resource management for transparency, scientific accuracy, and family closure. Collaborative strategies, including masking protocols and provisional identification, enhance time management. Recovery guidelines and phased methods ensure smooth operations while considering victims' families' emotions. These methods, alongside Values-Based Analysis and Ethical Consultation frameworks, emphasize forensic anthropology's role in handling such cases. Balancing ethical considerations affects efficacy and compassion in the forensic process, critical for work integrity and family trust. Training and adherence to ethical standards are essential, with regular reassessment to adapt to forensic practice and societal expectations.

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, September 25th

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Marck [19th floor]

Attendance is restricted to Executive Board members

Break

Thursday, September 25th

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

ACJS Update – Dr. Stephanie Mizrahi (ACJS President)

Thursday, September 25th

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Warhol 1 & 2

Keynote Address – Drs. Justin Nix & Tara Richards
*Science Under Scrutiny: Strengthening Criminal Justice
Research Through Transparency and Local Engagement*

Thursday, September 25th
4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
Warhol 1 & 2

Criminal justice research is unfolding in a moment of uncertainty: universities are facing political scrutiny, federal funding streams remain unstable, and public trust in science is increasingly fragile. At the same time, partnerships with local agencies highlight both the promise and the complexity of conducting applied work that directly informs practice. Drawing on our experiences as mid-career scholars collaborating with agencies in Nebraska and across the United States, we reflect on the opportunities for and obstacles to producing research that is locally responsive yet methodologically rigorous. We argue that the field must now move beyond discussion to action by embracing open science practices – transparent articulation of assumptions and hypotheses, clear documentation of data-generating processes, and sharing of data and code whenever possible. These practices not only strengthen research credibility and safeguard against the erosion of federal data resources but also build trust with practitioners and communities. In an era when the legitimacy of science itself is contested, transparency and local engagement are not simply best practices – they are essential for ensuring the future resilience and relevance of criminal justice research.



Dr. Justin Nix is a Distinguished Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He also coordinates the Master of Arts degree program. He earned his PhD in Criminology & Criminal Justice from the University of South Carolina. His research interests include police legitimacy and officer decision-making. To date, Dr. Nix has authored or co-authored more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles on these topics, as well as several book chapters, research briefs, and op-eds. He has served as a consultant to the National Policing Institute, the COPS Office, and the Department of Homeland Security. In 2019, Dr. Nix was one of four early career researchers selected by the National Institute of Justice for its LEADS (Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science) Academics pilot program. He is also a member of the Crime and Justice Research Alliance's expert panel and frequently engages with local and national media on issues pertaining to policing and criminal justice.



Dr. Tara N. Richards is the David Scott Diamond Alumni Professor of Public Affairs and Community Service as well as a Distinguished Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She earned her PhD in Criminology from the University of South Florida. Her research and teaching focuses on prevention, intervention, and system responses to sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and child abuse and neglect. Her work has been published in outlets such as *Law & Human Behavior*, *Criminology & Public Policy*, and *Justice Quarterly*, and has been featured in The New York Times, Mother Jones, and The Boston Globe. She is an Associate Editor for the journal *Victims & Offenders* as well as a member of the editorial boards for the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Journal of Women and Criminal Justice*, and *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Additionally, Dr. Richards serves as the Co-Director of school's Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab ([VVSRL](#)) – a student-faculty research lab dedicated to researching crime victims and crime victimization, informing policy and practice, and helping shape prevention and intervention efforts. In this role, she has led/co-led numerous researcher-practitioner partnerships funded by the National Institute of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, and National Institutes of Health, among other funders. She also serves on the Douglas County (NE) Sexual Assault Response Team and Domestic Violence Community Response Team as well as Nebraska's State Standards Working Group for Domestic Violence Intervention Programs. She is the evaluator for Nebraska's Rape Prevention Education project and coordinates Nebraska's Victim Assistance Academy – the state's 40-hour training for victim advocates and allied professionals.

Welcome Reception
Sponsored by MCJA & Routledge

Thursday, September 25th
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Pre-Function Space

Featuring Chicago food classics



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA

SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PHD IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Earn your PhD in a dynamic, inclusive, people-centered environment with faculty who are national experts in their respective fields of interest. The PhD program at the University of Nebraska Omaha School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) emphasizes methodological competency, a strong statistical foundation, and hands-on research experience. The SCCJ is committed to developing students through original data collection and opportunities to work with faculty to publish in top tier journals.

FACULTY RESEARCH CONCENTRATIONS

Victimology and Victim Services, Policing, Corrections, Terrorism, Offender Decision Making, Theoretical Criminology

EXTERNAL FUNDING AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

The SCCJ has 35 externally funded projects totaling over \$12 million in support. Funding for these projects and from the University of Nebraska Omaha will support 8 to 10 Graduate Assistantships to be awarded to the Fall 2026 PhD student cohort. Graduate Assistantships include generous stipends, tuition remission, subsidized health coverage, and travel funding.

RECENT FACULTY MEDIA

Wall Street Journal, National Public Radio, CNN, U.S. News and World Report, New York Times, Washington Post, Scientific American, Huffington Post

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Victimology and Victim Studies
Research Lab
www.vvsrl.org

Violence Intervention and
Policing Research Lab
www.vipr.org

Advancing Research in
Corrections Lab
<https://arcorrectionslab.org/>

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FACULTY PROFILES



ZACH HAMILTON, Ph.D.

Dr. Hamilton is a Professor, Associate Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), and Co-Director of the Advancing Corrections Research (ARC) Lab. His research on both juvenile and adult assessments has led to the development of multiple risk and needs tools utilized in dozens of states. His pioneering work within the field received recognition from the American Society of Criminology in 2018.



ERIN KEARNS, Ph.D.

Dr. Kearns' is an Associate Professor and the Director of Prevention Research Initiatives for the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE). Her research seeks to understand the relationships among terrorism, media, law enforcement, and the public. Her work has been featured on numerous media outlets including CNN, The Economist, NPR, the Washington Post, and Vox.



TERESA KULIG, Ph.D.

Dr. Kulig is Elizabeth Reynolds & Beverly Reynolds Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Victimology and Victim Services Research Lab (VVSRL). Her research focuses on a range of victimology issues including the nature of human trafficking and child exploitation, testing theories of victimization, examining rape myth acceptance, and analyzing racial bias in laws named after crime victims.



JUSTIN NIX, Ph.D.

Dr. Nix is a UNO Distinguished Professor, SCCJ Master of Arts program coordinator, and Violence Intervention and Police Research (VIPR) Lab Co-Director. He is also an NIJ LEADS Academic and has collaborated with agencies across the US on research that seeks to improve public safety by identifying and better understanding the policies and practices that result in more fair, effective policing.



TARA RICHARDS, Ph.D.

Dr. Richards is a UNO Distinguished Professor, David Scott Diamond Professor, and Co-Director of the Victimology and Victim Services Research Lab (VVSRL). She is an internationally recognized gender-based violence scholar whose research on sexual assault, intimate partner violence and the role of gender in criminal justice system processes has been cited in news outlets such as BuzzFeed, the Chronicle of Higher Education, the Huffington Post, and on National Public Radio.

THE SCCJ CULTURE

When hiring the SCCJ focuses on bringing in top-flight scholars who are also great people. This effort has been paralleled in Graduate Student recruitment and admissions. Collectively, these efforts result in an amazing organizational culture where dedication to the craft is a by-product of the enthusiasm, expertise, and shared energy of colleagues, and an environment where successes are celebrated, not envied.

OMAHA

Omaha is a vibrant Midwestern city with over one million people in the Metropolitan area. It's no surprise to those that live there that this Midwestern gem was recently ranked as the number one [Best City to Move to](#) by Forbes.

The area around UNO includes affordable suburban-urban neighborhoods with concentrations of restaurants, retail, and residential including Dundee, Benson, and Aksarben Village. This surprising city is a

Registration

Friday, September 26th
8:00 am – 3:00 pm
Pre-Function Space

Coffee & Breakfast Snacks

8:00 am – 10:30 am
Pre-Function Space

Panel 17

Friday, September 26th
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Warhol 1

Chair

Eric Lambert
Indiana University Northwest

Thematic Panel:

Effects of Work Environment on Correctional Staff

Discussant

David White
Ferris State University

The Connection Between Organizational Justice and Trust Among Private Juvenile Correctional Staff

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

Nancy Hogan

Ferris State University

Shannon Barton

Indiana State University

Monica Solinas-

Saunders

Indiana University

Northwest

David White

Ferris State University

Organizational justice of being treated fairly by the employing organization is important for most people. It has been theorized that organizational fairness is linked to organizational trust. The current study examined the relationship between organizational justice views and organizational trust among staff at a private U.S. closed juvenile correctional facility. Specifically, the organizational justice dimensions were procedural justice (fairness of procedures to reach employee outcomes) and distributive justice (fairness of employee outcomes) and supervisor trust and management trust were the types of organizational trust. The results will be presented and discussed.

Examining the Association of Organizational Justice and Job Stress Among Staff at an Indian Prison

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

Hanif Qureshi

*Inspector General of
Police, Haryana, India*

Mia Abboud Holbrook

*University of Nevada,
Reno*

James Frank

University of Cincinnati

Organizational justice is important for employees and can provide a sense of positive feelings. If it perceived organizational justice is missing, it can result in psychological strain and negative feelings. The current study examined how procedural and distributive justice views, two major dimensions of organizational justice, were related to job stress among staff working at a prison in India. The results will be presented and discussed.

Using The Job Demand-Resources Model for Personal Efficacy U.S. Jail Staff

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

James Wells

*Eastern Kentucky
University*

Kevin Minor

*Eastern Kentucky
University*

Nancy Hogan

Ferris State University

Shannon Barton

Indiana State University

Monica Solinas-

Saunders

*Indiana University
Northwest*

David White

Ferris State University

Personal efficacy is feeling effective at work. The current study used the Job Demands-Resources Model to examine how workplace variables are related to personal efficacy among U.S. jail staff. The Job Demands-Resources models divides workplace variables into the groupings of job demands and job resources. For the current study, the job demands were role conflict and role ambiguity. The job resources were instrumental communication, department integration, and coworker support. The data for the study was from a Midwestern U.S. jail. The results will be presented and discussed.

Nigerian Prison

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

O. Oko Elechi

*Mississippi State Valley
University*

Smart Otu

*Alex Ekwueme Federal
University Ndufu-Alike,
Ebonyi State (Nigeria)*

Daniel Hall

Miami University

Shanon Gillette

Lewis University

Morris Jenkins

Lewis University

Huma Zia

Lewis University

The compliance aspect of organizational citizenship behaviors is important, especially for prisons. The current study examined how the organizational trust types of coworker trust, supervisor trust, and management trust were related to the compliance part of organizational citizenship behaviors. The data for this study came from officers working at a Southeast Nigerian prison. The results will be presented and discussed.

Organizational Justice and Life Satisfaction for U.S. Prison Staff

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

Stacy Haynes

*Mississippi State
University*

**Monica Solinas-
Saunders**

*Indiana University
Northwest*

Matthew Leone

*University of Nevada,
Reno*

David May

*Mississippi State
University*

Linda Keena

University of Mississippi

The current study proposes and tests a path model of how the dimensions of organizational justice are associated with the life satisfaction of prison staff. Life satisfaction is the overall satisfaction with life and is a key part of wellbeing. The data for the current study came from a U.S. prison. The results will be presented and discussed.

Panel 18

Friday, September 26th

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Warhol 2

Discretion, Disparity, & Outcomes in the Criminal Justice System

Chair

David Olson

Loyola University Chicago

Illinois' Abolition of Cash Bail and Pretrial Reforms: Evaluation Findings After Two Years of Implementation

David Olson

Loyola University Chicago

Don Stemen

Loyola University Chicago

Patrick Griffin

Loyola University Chicago

Leti Monreal

Loyola University Chicago

Loyola's Center for Criminal Justice has been conducting a process and impact evaluation of Illinois' Pretrial Fairness Act (PFA), which abolished cash bail and introduced a variety of reforms to the pretrial process. This presentation will highlight findings from this evaluation after two years of implementation. Using a pre- post-design across multiple sites, the presentation will describe how pretrial hearings, jail populations, and rates of failure to appear and new criminal activity have changed as a result of the PFA.

Punishing the Traveling Offender: The Influence of Residence-to-Crime and Disadvantage Distances on Case-Processing Outcomes for Firearm Offenses

Joshua Williams

*University of Minnesota,
Duluth*

Jaclyn Cwick

*Grand Valley State
University*

The current study examines the impact of social disorganization characteristics of offenders' home neighborhoods, as well as the distance between an offender's home and the offense location, both geographically and structurally, on several key case-processing decisions. Using HLM modeling and data from felony firearm arrests in St. Louis (2015–2018), we assess how residence-to-crime (RC) distance and "disadvantage distance" affect case refusal, bail, pretrial detention, and imprisonment decisions. Results suggest that "disadvantage distance" significantly contributes to higher bail amounts, longer pretrial detention stays, and increased sentence lengths.

Summarizing Inmate Climate in a Southern Prison System

Robert Lytle

*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

Molly Smith

*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

Katelin Matusevich

*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

Mary Parker

*University of Arkansas at
Little Rock*

Inmate living conditions and subcultures pose a significant concern for many correctional systems nationwide. Correctional systems have looked to various qualitative accounts and quantitative measures in existing research to understand inmate perceptions of their living conditions and environment. Our study contributes to this research tradition by summarizing twelve inmate climate measures from a large, statewide survey of correctional staff in a Southern state. In this presentation, we review the methodology and scale statistics system-wide. We conclude with a discussion of the project's contributions so far in its target state along with its implications for future research on correctional inmate environments.

Evaluating Reentry Program Services for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals: A Process Evaluation Approach

Zeshan Usmani

College of DuPage

This study presents a process evaluation of a community-based reentry program providing housing, workforce development, education, health services, and servant-leadership training for individuals transitioning from incarceration. Using document review and SWOT-based interviews and focus groups, the evaluation explored service delivery, stakeholder engagement, and systemic challenges. Findings revealed strengths in holistic support and collaboration, as well as gaps in staffing and access to wraparound services. The results highlight the importance of ongoing assessment and cross-sector collaboration to strengthen reentry services and promote long-term reintegration success.

Panel 19

Friday, September 26th

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Mondrian

Chair

Elisabeth Lyne

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Queer Identities, Victimization, & Justice System Responses

Polyvictimization and Disclosure

Lydia Forbes

Carroll University

Jennifer Huck

Carroll University

This study (n=175) uses data from a Qualtrics/Prolific survey to examine individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, or homosexual in relation to their stigmatization. Polyvictimization is a term that suggests individual who are marginalized by their identity become doubly marginalized when they are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Variables include internal stigmatization, external stigmatization, presence of violence in current relationships, and outness of their LG status. This study illustrates how polyvictimization relates to who people choose to disclose to about their intimate partner violence including psychological harm, physical violence, and sexual assaults.

Queerness on Trial: How Perceptions of Queer Identities Can Influence the Decision Between Life and Death

Jill Mitchell

*Indiana University
Bloomington*

Marla Sandys

*Indiana University
Bloomington*

When queerness arises in the context of a courtroom, it often becomes the central element on trial and can even sway the decision between life and death. Using interviews from the Capital Jury Project where the defendant or victim's sexuality and/or gender identity is mentioned, this project qualitatively examines how the jurors perceived, negotiated, and ultimately integrated those identities into their decision-making process. Informed by both criminological and queer theory, this project speaks to how jurors' decisions mirror cultural and political ideas surrounding queer identity in the public consciousness.

Mental Health Needs and Referrals for LGBTQ+/GNC Youth in the Juvenile Legal System

Elisabeth Lyne

*University of Missouri-
St. Louis*

Valerie Anderson

*University of Missouri-
St. Louis*

Prior research indicates that LGBTQ+/GNC youth in the juvenile legal system (JLS) face heightened risks of abuse, mental health challenges, and systemic neglect. Drawing on 3.5 years of administrative data from a Midwestern juvenile court (N = 936 cases), this study examines how the JLS responds to the mental health needs of LGBTQ+/GNC youth. Findings from the MAYSI screening tool reveal significantly higher rates of substance use, depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among LGBTQ+/GNC youth compared to their non-LGBTQ+/GNC peers. These results underscore the need for inclusive, responsive interventions tailored to the specific experiences of LGBTQ+/GNC youth within the JLS.

Panel 20

Friday, September 26th

9:00 am – 10:15 am

Lichtenstein

Roundtable:

*Mentoring Across Generations: Shaping Students,
Scholars, & Careers*

Moderator

Michael Seredycz
MacEwan University

Voices Behind Mentoring Students and Faculty

Michael Seredycz

MacEwan University

Frank White

*University of
North Dakota*

Martin Gottschalk

*University of Wisconsin-
Parkside*

Michael Meyer

*University of
North Dakota*

Scott Sasse

*University of
Nebraska at Omaha*

William Wakefield

*University of
Nebraska at Omaha*

Michael Flanigan

*University of
North Dakota*

The roundtable participants have over 200 years of mentoring at the post-secondary level within undergraduate, Master, and PhD programs. The panelists' insights will highlight the relationships and connections they have generated over their careers that have shaped research, teaching, and service in sociology and criminal justice.



Year in Review

The Center for Criminal Justice is the interdisciplinary home for criminal justice research in the College of Arts and Sciences at Loyola University Chicago. We collaborate with government and community partners on research, teaching, and service to inform and support criminal justice reform.

Knowledge

9 Reports, newsletters and other publications, including [The First Year of the Pretrial Fairness Act](#), which gave the public its first detailed and objective look at the way the new Illinois law abolishing cash bail was playing out across the state.

3 Data dashboards that make criminal justice data accessible to the public, including prosecutor dashboards in [Frederick County, MD](#) and the inter-agency [Cook County Criminal Justice Dashboard](#).

3 New website pages providing access to the Center's past and current research on [Women and the Criminal Justice System](#), [Institutional and Community Corrections](#), and [Supporting Successful Reentry](#), including products of our work with the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN).

32 Media citations, interviews, and accounts of our research in national outlets like [The Nation](#), [Axios](#), and [Pro Publica](#) and as well as closer to Loyola's home in the [Chicago Tribune](#), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#), [WBEZ](#), [WGN Chicago](#), and [NPR Illinois](#).

Research

\$1.3M New research funding secured in the last year, from the [Microsoft Justice Reform Initiative](#), the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), the [Joyce Foundation](#), and others, that expands our prosecutorial performance measurement, bail reform, reentry, and evaluation work.

6 New research projects launched, including a study of the characteristics of women incarcerated in Illinois and the factors driving their justice involvement; observation-based research on pretrial reform implementation in New York and Illinois, conducted with the [Data Collaborative for Justice](#) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; an evaluation of a restorative diversion approach to felony-level firearm possession offenses in Cook County; and the testing of a racial equity tool for prosecutors in Colorado.

1,200+ Incarcerated people in three Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) facilities who volunteered to participate in a gender violence survey of women and trans people conducted in collaboration with the [Women's Justice Institute](#).

Education

100+ Undergraduate and graduate students who have worked on applied research projects at CCJ in the ten years since we were founded. Many have gone on to positions in the criminal justice field and are applying what they've learned as student researchers to make the system better.

400+ Hours worked for local criminal justice nonprofits by Loyola students enrolled in CCJ's Prison Reform class. The class leverages partnerships with the [John Howard Association](#), the [Women's Justice Institute](#), the [Illinois Justice Project](#), and others to provide students with real-world learning experiences and connections.

5 Chicago Neighborhood Research Fellows hired to facilitate criminal justice research training and opportunities for Loyola students from Chicago and nearby communities impacted by violence.

3 Miscellaneous honors. In February, Governor Pritzker renewed Center Codirector Dave Olson's appointment as Chair of the [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority](#). Codirector Don Stemen was elected to membership in the [Council on Criminal Justice](#). And CCJ Research Professor Amanda Ward was recognized by the University in a "[Faculty Spotlight](#)" after receiving an award from the J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation.

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Don Stemen, PhD, Co-Director and Professor
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Panel 21Friday, September 26th

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Warhol 1

Chair

David White

*Ferris State University***Thematic Panel:*****Issues Facing Criminal Justice Employees*****Discussant**

Eric Lambert

Indiana University Northwest

Justice and Job Involvement Among U.S. Community Corrections Officers**Eric Lambert***Indiana University
Northwest***Matthew Leone***University of Nevada,
Reno***Monica Solinas-
Saunders***Indiana University
Northwest***David May***Mississippi State
University***Stacy Haynes***Mississippi State
University*

Wanting to be treated fairly by the employing organization is a major desire of people, and this is referred to as organizational justice. Organizational justice views may affect the level of job involvement. The current study examined how the dimensions of organizational justice were associated with the job involvement of community corrections officers. The data came from an agency wide survey of community corrections officers in a Western U.S. staff. The results will be presented and discussed.

Examining the Relationship with Workplace Job Demands and Job Resources with Management Trust, Supervisor Trust, and Coworker Trust Among Police Officers in India**Eric Lambert***Indiana University
Northwest***Hanif Qureshi***Inspector General of
Police, Haryana, India***James Frank***University of Cincinnati***Nancy Hogan***Ferris State University***Shannon Barton***Indiana State University***David White***Ferris State University***Robert Worley***Ferris State University***Vidisha Barua Worley***Lamar University*

Management trust, supervisor trust, and coworker trust are salient workplace variables for police officers and building these types of organizational trust is critical. The current study examined how the workplace demands of perceived dangerousness of the job, role ambiguity, role conflict, role overload, and the workplace resources of training views, instrumental communication, formalization, and input into decision-making were related to management trust, supervisor trust, and coworkers among police officers. The data is from a study of police officers in the Haryana State of India. The results will be presented and discussed.

Social Support and Police Officer Job Involvement: A Study Involving Officers in China

Eric Lambert

*Indiana University
Northwest*

Jianhong Liu

University of Macau

Shanhe Jiang

Wayne State University

David White

Ferris State University

Nancy Hogan

Ferris State University

Monica Solinas-

Saunders

Indiana University

Northwest

Zhan Tuo

University of Macau

Job involvement is an important work attitude, especially among police officers. Police officers are human beings, and human beings seek social support for their jobs. The current study examined how the types of social supports in terms of family/friends, coworkers, supervisor, and management were related to the job involvement for police officers in China. The results will be presented and discussed.

A Study of the Civil Liability Views of U.S. Police Officers

Daniel Hall

Miami University

Eric Lambert

Indiana University

Northwest

Shanon Gillette

Lewis University

Morris Jenkins

Lewis University

Yung Hyeock Lee

KonKuk University

Recently, there has been a greater social call for police officers and the agency to be civilly liable for their actions, as well as officers being criminally liable. The current presentation on the civil and criminal liability views of U.S. police officers. Data for this survey came from a recent survey of police officers in the U.S. Midwest. The results will be presented and discussed.

South Korean Police Officers Civil and Criminal Liability Views

Eric Lambert

Indiana University

Northwest

Yung Hyeock Lee

KonKuk University

Daniel Hall

Miami University

Shanon Gillette

Lewis University

Morris Jenkins

Lewis University

Police officers are expected to protect and serve society within given bounds. Most police officers follow the set boundaries for work actions, but sometimes there is harm or even criminal actions. In cases where boundaries are exceeded, either civil liability or criminal liability can occur. The current study explored the civil and criminal liability views of police officers in South Korea. Data for this survey came from a recent survey of police officers in South Korea. The results will be presented and discussed.

Panel 22**Friday, September 26th****10:30 am – 11:45 am**

Warhol 2

**Professional Development Roundtable:
*Be the Change You Want to See in Academia*****Moderator**

Melissa Burek

Bowling Green State University

Call Me Maybe: A Candid Talk on Leadership Roles in Professional Organizations**Melissa Burek**
*Bowling Green State
University***Jennifer Peck**
*University of Central
Florida***Breanne Pleggenkuhle**
*Southern Illinois
University Carbondale***Joseph Schafer**
*Arizona State University***Catherine Pape**
*Bowling Green State
University*

Voluntarily serving as officers in professional organizations can be both rewarding and challenging. This panel will feature candid reflections from individuals who have taken on these positions—how they got involved, what they anticipated, and the surprises along the way. We'll explore the personal and professional impacts, time commitments, and lessons learned, offering insight for those considering similar roles. We invite attendees to ask questions and share concerns during Q&A. Our goal is to demystify the process and inspire greater participation in organizational leadership by highlighting the value and growth such service can bring.

Panel 23**Friday, September 26th****10:30 am – 11:45 am**

Lichtenstein

**Roundtable:
*Enhancing Classroom Teaching with Real-World Experience
Students & Faculty*****Moderator**

Robert Hanson

Northern Michigan University

Using "War Stories " In Criminal Justice Lectures III**Robert Hanson**
*Northern Michigan
University***Nancy Hogan**
*Ferris State University***Dominic Lambardo**
*Indiana Institute of
Technology***Stan Stojkovic**
*University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee***David Kalinich**
*Florida Atlantic University***William Wakefield**
*University of
Nebraska at Omaha***Michael Barrett**
*Ashland Municipal Court
(OH)*

The roundtable discussion explores the value of incorporating "war stories" in lectures to enhance criminal justice education. These stories, drawn from participants' firsthand experience as professionals, researchers, and consultants, serve as powerful tools for connecting theory with real-world practice. Each participant will share a "war story" and reflect on its application in the classroom, fostering a robust conversation about the effectiveness of storytelling as a pedagogical strategy. We anticipate an engaging dialogue on how personal narratives can deepen students' understanding and critical thinking within the field of criminal justice.



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Panel 24

Friday, September 26th
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Warhol 1 & 2

Building, Keeping, & Losing the Force: Police Staffing Challenges & Solutions

Chair
Ermus St. Louis
Northeastern University

Building the Force: An Analysis of Police Recruitment Materials, 1995-2005

Amber Richey
*Indiana University
Bloomington*

American police currently face a recruitment crisis with departments losing more officers than they can recruit. While scholars have examined recruitment materials, no longitudinal analysis has been performed. This paper investigates recruitment materials from 1995 to 2005, a decade with several noteworthy legal, social, and political changes that should have influenced recruitment materials. This paper will analyze recruitment websites and newspaper advertisements from the largest department in each US census division using content analysis and topic modeling. This research explores how police recruitment materials have evolved over time through topics such as militarization, styles of policing, and diversity.

An Overview of the Ohio Law Enforcement Recruitment & Retention Study

Cory Haberman
University of Cincinnati

Jessica Huff
University of Cincinnati

Bradley O'Guinn
University of Cincinnati

Trey Bussey
University of Cincinnati

Brenna Dunlap
University of Cincinnati

Recruiting police officers has been a recent challenge for police agencies across the U.S. and internationally. This presentation overviews a comprehensive statewide assessment of police recruitment in Ohio undertaken by the University of Cincinnati's Institute of Crime Science. The presentation will give an overview of the on-going multi-method study (an assessment of statewide police staffing trends, statewide organization-level surveys, and officer-level surveys and interviews from fifteen agencies) and discuss key policy recommendations derived to date.

Attrition in the Ranks: The Role of Excessive Workload in Leaving the Police Department

Ermus St. Louis
Northeastern University

William McCarty
*University of Illinois
Chicago*

Tesia Mathew
*University of Illinois
Chicago*

Staffing challenges have plagued American police agencies for decades, with recurring periods of amplified and reduced intensity. Despite the negative implications for police departments and their communities, there is limited research on the factors that contribute to officers resigning or retiring. This study thus utilizes secondary analysis of administrative data from the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and assesses several measures related to job demands, including overtime hours and involvement in arrests, and trauma-based measures, like involvement in use of force incidents, sustaining an injury, or using a weapon, to determine if they relate to sworn personnel leaving the CPD.

Hirings, Firings, and Turnover in the Chicago Police Department: Examining Changes in Times of Tumult

William McCarty
*University of Illinois
Chicago*

Boris Marinets
*University of Illinois
Chicago*

Much attention has been paid to recent staffing levels of sworn personnel in the Chicago Police Department and how fluctuations in those numbers affect responsiveness to the public and progress on reform efforts. This study utilizes secondary analysis of years of administrative data from the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and assesses resignations, retirements, and hirings to understand temporal patterns around key events like the passage of the consent decree and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it examines demographic patterns around race and gender to understand the changing nature of sworn personnel in the CPD.

Thematic Panel:***Firearm Education for Kids by Law Enforcement*****Moderator**

Hannah Klein

Juvenile Justice Reform, State of Michigan

In a previous study, parents identified a number of potential educators and settings for children to learn about safe storage and practices for children and families. Using those results, the Klein Research Team has conducted additional research with first responders, child care centers, and families to develop programming to teach families of young children about safe storage and practices with firearms to deduce the risk of firearm injury and death for children.

Family Preferences for Safe Storage Education of Children**Julianna Henrichs**
Lewis University

In a previous study, parents identified a number of potential educators and settings for children to learn about safe firearm storage and practices for children and families. However, there has been little research done on the most effective ways to educate kids on safe storage. Through semi-structured interviews with preschool center directors, this study examined current preschool policies on firearm-related discussions, strategies for addressing gunplay, and opportunities for integrating firearm safety education into early childhood curricula. Our findings help preschools identify best practices for age-appropriate firearm safety discussions, effective parent engagement strategies, and the role of staff and external experts.

First Responder Preferences for Safe Storage Education**Jenna Hall**
Lewis University

There has been limited research done on the most effective ways to educate individuals on safe storage of firearms. This research gets the point of view from first responders in Chicagoland to hear about their preferences for education across multiple settings, including healthcare, educational, employee, and community-based outreach. First responders as a potential outlet for receiving education was also one of our primary focuses. Findings suggest the medium in which this education is being provided is of utmost importance when informing their children about firearm safety. From first responder perspectives, community engagement through events could also be an effective route. These findings can help shape safe storage education programming moving forward with support from those who are highlighted as key educators for safe storage in the community.

An Exploratory Investigation of Community Outreach by Law Enforcement in the Development of Firearm Education for Children**Hayley O'Leary**
Lewis University

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children ages 1-18, with a rise in deaths and injuries for children ages 0-5. Despite this, firearm safety education is rarely taught to preschoolers. Through interviews with law enforcement and preschool staff across Illinois we learned about current education programs and challenges. We also found that firearm safety is often not included in other safety education programs. Cultural factors and parent perceptions make it difficult for officers to build better relationships with children. These findings show the need for a developmentally-appropriate firearm safety program that can be used by law enforcement.

Developing Firearm Safety Education for Preschool-Aged Children

Angelina Dotts
Lewis University

Based on the research described by the previous presentations in the panel, this research sought to develop child friendly materials that could provide education about firearm safety. These materials included social stories, puppet shows, coloring pages, and other activities. Over the course of the summer, these materials were tested with both children and their families to determine what works and what does not work when it comes to educational materials around firearm safety for preschool aged children.

Panel 26

Friday, September 26th
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Lichtenstein

Thematic Panel:

*DePaul Student Research on Violence & Interventions:
Local, National, & Global Perspectives*

Chair
Kayla Freeman
DePaul University

Sexual Homicide: Exploring the Impact of Victim, Incident, and Police Organization Characteristics on Case Clearance

Keera Stelmak
DePaul University

Past research has illustrated the impact of case characteristics in homicides is vital in understanding justice outcomes and policy. However, research regarding sexual homicides remains limited, especially regarding how certain factors impact case clearances. Using the Criminal Events Perspective framework, our project investigated how crime and police organizational characteristics influence case clearance. This presentation will describe the patterns noted, including bivariate and multivariate findings related to how victim, incident, and police agency characteristics impact case clearances. Data limitations and potential policy implications specific to law enforcement practices and victim services will be discussed.

Interpersonal Victimization, Acceptance of Couples Violence, and Police Contact in the English-Speaking Caribbean

Amanda Operana
DePaul University

Interpersonal violence (IPV) is a global issue. In the English-speaking Caribbean, this problem is evident in high levels of violence against women and girls. Individuals' Acceptance of Couple's Violence (ACV) has been used to explore why some victims report to formal authorities as well as why geographic differences may exist in IPV and police responses. This study examines the association between IPV victimization, ACV, and police contact in the English-speaking Caribbean. Using nationally representative data from Grenada, Guyana, and St. Lucia, we use bivariate and multivariate analyses to explore correlates of IPV victimization and ACV by gender and police contact.

Violence Prevention Through a Community Orientated Approach

**Clev'anique
McClatchey-Edwards**
DePaul University
Greta Kezakimana
DePaul University

Most crime prevention literature focuses on criminal justice policies and practices while ignoring the important contribution of community centered approaches (Sharkey, Torrats-Espinosa and Takyar, 2017). Specifically, the literature ignores the work of community-based agencies that mitigate the immediate threats of interpersonal violence through conflict resolution and peaceful interventions. The purpose of this study is to explore the public safety initiatives within Chicago's 26th Ward. Through participant observation and structured interviews, the study investigates the planning, development and implementation of violence prevention strategies carried out by the community-based agencies and their outreach workers.

Evaluating DePaul's Inside-Out Program

Ariana Rosales
DePaul University
Elizabeth Gullixon
DePaul University

Prior research suggests Inside-Out programs are educational and transformative experiences for university and incarcerated students. While the research body on these programs has grown, most studies rely on qualitative methods and are conducted in prison settings. To address these gaps, we use a quasi-experimental research design with surveys collected before and after four jail-based Inside-Out classes and four traditional comparison classes to evaluate individual-level attitude changes in academic self-efficacy, flourishing, social support, and attitudes towards prison reform. The findings inform knowledge on experiential learning for diverse student populations.

Panel 27

Friday, September 26th
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm
Warhol 1 & 2

Criminal Justice Education: Innovations in Pedagogy, Assessment, & Program Excellence

Chair
William King
Boise State University

Creating a Sense of Engagement within Asynchronous Courses

Michael Seredycz
MacEwan University

This presentation examines the evidence of what works and what doesn't work when developing and implementing asynchronous courses. There is no universal approach to the pedagogy of instruction. However, findings offer more insight into validating student-centered and experiential learning techniques. This includes using and applying course materials, rubrics that ensure some use of artificial intelligence, and feedback loops for grading metrics.

Charting the Course: Learning Outcomes and Best Practices in Criminal Justice Programs

Andrea Krieg
Elmhurst University
Jessica Ziegler
Lourdes University
Maya Kosiarek
Elmhurst University

Over the past 50 years, numerous discussions have taken place regarding the content of undergraduate criminal justice curriculum. This study examines programmatic learning outcomes in criminal justice bachelor's degree programs throughout the State of Illinois. Using survey data and thematic analysis, we evaluated core learning objectives, including critical thinking, ethics, knowledge of the criminal justice system, research, and theory. Results indicate significant variations in outcomes across institutions, suggesting the need for continued conversations regarding best practices and the overall goals for students.

In Conclusion: Senior Courses in Criminal Justice

Jessica Ziegler
Lourdes University
Andrea Krieg
Elmhurst University
Maya Kosiarek
Elmhurst University

Culminating senior courses, often called senior capstone or senior seminar, provide students with an opportunity to reflect and apply what they have learned from major courses. To date there has been little research on the teaching practices and content of senior courses in criminal justice. The current study examines senior courses in criminal justice bachelor's degree programs throughout Illinois using data from surveys and in-depth interviews. Results indicate differences in the purpose of the course, course requirements, and teaching practices, suggesting a lack of consensus in the field. This study also examines programs without senior courses and barriers for implementation.

Using AI for Program Assessment

Kevin Whiteacre

University of Indianapolis

Much of the discussion around AI in higher education focuses on student-level performance, in particular: 1) preventing student AI use; 2) teaching student responsible/productive AI use; and/or 3) assessing student learning outcomes via AI grading/feedback. As an effective aggregator, however, AI can also be used to efficiently assess department-level outcomes. This presentation shares how one criminal justice department is using AI to assess achievement of its mission statement, curriculum, and alignment with the wider university's strategic statement. The results can inform revisions in curriculum, student learning, and mission alignment to improve student outcomes and employability.

Unpacking Rankings of Doctoral Programs in Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Influence of Faculty Productivity, Program Age, Size, and Region

William King

Boise State University

Lisa Growette-Bostaph

Boise State University

Doctoral programs in criminal justice and criminology are periodically rated and ranked by the U.S. News and World Reports (USNWR) reputation rankings. Rankings and ratings are important to programs and academic criminal justice writ large. We seek to better understand the factors that contribute to a program's USNWR reputation score. We calculate multivariate models using data on faculty publication productivity, program age, program size, and region of the U.S., to predict USNWR rankings in 2018 and 2021. We find programs' ranking are positively associated with program age and faculty publication productivity, and negatively related if located in the southern U.S.

Panel 28

Friday, September 26th

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Mondrian

Hidden Dynamics of Law Enforcement: Challenges, Well-being, & Systemic Issues

Chair

Don Kurtz

Kansas State University

The Dark Figure of Dispatch: 911 Calls That Never Reach Dispatch

Konstadina

Spanoudakis

University of Missouri-

St. Louis

Public safety dispatch centers handle diverse emergency and non-emergency calls, from domestic violence to mental health crises. While calls requiring police response are logged in Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, many non-dispatched calls aren't recorded, limiting understanding of their frequency and nature. This study analyzed 844 calls through systematic social observations in two U.S. counties, capturing nuanced interactions between callers and call takers, including demeanor and problem-solving efforts, that influence decision-making and outcomes. By examining both dispatched and non-dispatched calls, this research provides comprehensive insight into the breadth of problems addressed by dispatch center personnel.

The Importance of Psychological Capital Among Police Leaders

David White

Ferris State University

Joseph Schafer

Arizona State University

A wide-spread staffing crisis has caused a flurry of research on factors related to improving police officer retention, but most of these studies emphasize the operational and organizational factors that influence officers' perceptions of their work environment. Less attention has been paid to individual-level characteristics that may result in improved staying power. The current study explores the roles psychological capital (hope, self-efficacy, resilience, and optimism) plays in the reported levels of work engagement, affective organizational commitment, and job satisfaction among a sample of police leaders attending the FBI National Academy program in 2025. We discuss our preliminary findings, and the potential policy and research implications.

Trauma in Tech

Don Kurtz

Kansas State University

This paper explores the negative consequence of visual trauma exposure for officers working in Internet Crimes and Children Units (ICAC). Cybercrime investigations do not generally invoke thoughts of trauma, yet the nature of ICAC investigations often requires officers to view videos and pictures of sexual exploitation and violence. As such, officers can develop secondary traumatic stress reactions and coping skills to manage psychological distress. This paper explores STS reactions and officers' healthy and potentially maladaptive coping mechanisms.

A Qualitative Analysis of Gender Inequality in Southeast Missouri Law Enforcement Agencies

Madeline Whistler

Southeast Missouri State University

Christopher Bradley

Southeast Missouri State University

Does gender inequality impact the careers of female law enforcement officers in the Southeast Missouri region? Seven cis-gendered female law enforcement officers who were employed at local law enforcement agencies within the Southeast Missouri region were interviewed to answer this question. Four themes emerged from the analysis of the interview data: experiencing sexual exploitation and harassment, a lack of work-life balance, the presence of gender stereotypes, and patriarchal hierarchy and male dominance in the workplace. Findings suggest the experiences of female law enforcement officers are negatively impacted by the behavior and attitudes of their male coworkers and command staff.

Panel 29

Friday, September 26th

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Lichtenstein

Professional Development Roundtable:

Assistant Professors in Action: Adjusting & Academic Culture

Moderator

Audrey Hickert

University of Cincinnati

Thriving in Academia: An Early Career Faculty Panel

Eric Cooke

Bowling Green State University

Audrey Hickert

University of Cincinnati

Damon Petrich

Loyola University Chicago

Ermus St. Louis

Northeastern University

This panel offers a space to explore strategies for professional growth, work-life balance, and academic success. Early career faculty from public and private institutions will share insights on building research agendas, teaching and mentoring students, and engaging in service. The panel will discuss how they manage competing demands as well as the changing landscape in higher education. The session encourages dialogue among peers who wish to explore the challenges and opportunities of this career stage.

Break

Friday, September 26th

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Set-up for Student Poster Session

Friday, September 26th

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Escher & Mondrian

For students participating in the Poster Session (i.e., undergraduate, master's, & doctoral level), the rooms are available for poster **set-up around 4:00 pm**. Please see MCJA volunteers in the Pre-Function Space for assistance.

To be considered for a *Student Poster Award*, attendance at both the judging session (Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm) and the open poster session (Friday, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm) is mandatory.

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General Business Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Friday, September 26th

4:15 pm – 5:15 pm

Warhol 1 & 2

Open to all members – please join the Executive Board for updates (e.g., association, journal, 2025 – 2026 Executive Board announcements, sponsor recognition, etc.) and to help guide the future of MCJA.

2025 Awards presentation:

- *Journal of Crime and Justice* Outstanding Paper Award
- Practitioner Award
- Tom Castellano Award
- Student Travel Awards
- Student Paper Awards
- Student Poster Awards (i.e., undergraduate, Master's, & doctoral level)

Presidential Reception

Sponsored by MCJA

Friday, September 26th

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Pre-Function Space

Student Poster Session

Friday, September 26th

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Escher & Mondrian

Understanding Reentry Challenges: A Comprehensive Analysis of Post-Incarceration Experiences and Community Engagement in a Jail in Northern Illinois

Jessica Barrios
Lewis University

This study examines reentry barriers faced by formerly incarcerated individuals in a Northern Illinois jail. Survey data highlight challenges such as housing instability, transportation, substance abuse, and limited support systems. Respondents also expressed interest in GED programs, addiction treatment, and parenting classes. Community SWOT analyses identified local strengths and gaps in reentry support. With nearly 40% of Illinois releasees returning within three years, this research emphasizes the need for community-driven solutions to reduce recidivism and improve reintegration outcomes. Findings will inform future programming and policy development.

Guardian or Warrior? Methodological Considerations and Challenges Addressing the Occupational Identity with Conservation Officers

Michael Bomay
Western Michigan University

This methodological study will examine the Conservation Officers' ability to identify with the guardian or warrior perspective and how these beliefs may change over the occupational tenure. This research intends to better understand how these conflicting approaches towards the protection of natural resources can influence Conservation Officers' attitudes and behavior with calls of service in the field. Exploring the guardian and warrior mindset with Conservation Officers will also provide further research into an area that has been studied primarily with traditional law enforcement. This study will expand current theories and contribute to enriching the field of research.

Exploring Discrepancies in Juvenile Justice Legislation Across the United States

Sadie Brewer

*University of Nebraska
at Omaha*

The juvenile court system recognizes youth as developmentally different from adults—more susceptible to peer influence but also more responsive to rehabilitation. Still, many states allow transfers to adult court based on age or offense. Given the decentralized nature of U.S. justice policy, this study examined statutes from all 50 states and D.C. to identify minimum ages for discretionary and mandatory transfers. No major differences emerged by political affiliation, but regional trends were found. Midwestern states often set lower discretionary transfer ages, while Western states set higher mandatory ones. These findings suggest regional context matters and point to directions for future research.

Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Cold Case Triage Data

Alyssa Cullen

*Boise State
University*

**Lisa Growette-
Bostaph**

*Boise State
University*

William King

*Boise State
University*

The National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) aims to improve the criminal justice system response to sexual assaults and related crimes. Idaho State Police (ISP) is using SAKI grant money, in part, to investigate and prosecute cold case sexual assaults. This poster provides frequencies for cold case data from ISP. Frequencies are listed for case details, victim characteristics, evidence and lab information, and SAKI designations.

Innovating Justice: A Comparative Look at Domestic Violence Courts and Traditional Legal Responses

Arriana Dallmann

Aurora University

Martin Ortiz

Aurora University

Danica Lewis

Aurora University

Diana Francisco

Jimenez

Aurora University

This presentation explores the comparative effectiveness of Domestic Violence Courts (DVCs) versus traditional legal responses to intimate partner violence. Emphasizing therapeutic jurisprudence, DVCs integrate victim services, judicial monitoring, and tailored sanctions to reduce recidivism and promote offender accountability. Drawing on empirical studies, the presentation demonstrates that DVCs yield lower reoffense rates, faster case resolution, and enhanced victim safety. Highlighting programs like the Kane County Deferred Prosecution Program, it underscores how interdisciplinary collaboration and individualized justice can transform outcomes. Recommendations include expanding specialty courts and improving data collection to support broader implementation and refinement of these innovative judicial models.

Comparing Student Attitudes on Social Media Harassment: Criminal Justice and Non-Criminal Justice Majors

Jessica Esho

*Wayne State
University*

Social media has caused many people to become victims or perpetrators of cyber harassment. Using elements of Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson's routine activities theory, this project analyzes the relationship between studying criminal justice and engagement with cyber harassment on social media. College students at Wayne State University were surveyed on their social media and cyber harassment attitudes (N = 75). The data was then analyzed to view the relationship between criminal justice and non-criminal justice majors. Investigating the different majors' attitudes towards cyber harassment can give researchers a better understanding of how studying criminal justice influences one's digital footprint.

Federal Policing: Immigration

Natalia Gutierrez
Aurora University

Natalie Gonzalez
Aurora University

Parker Welty
Aurora University

Naszir Richard
Aurora University

The United States has a history of immigrants coming into the country. Over the decades, the federal government has been in charge of creating laws and policies to manage migration. Presidential and political climate influence how and what people think about undocumented immigrants. President Donald Trump has made claims that undocumented immigrants are criminals, drug and human traffickers. We explore how undocumented immigrants show the opposite and are less likely to commit crimes compared to United States citizens.

The Effect of True Crime and Crime Media on Perceptions of the Criminal Justice System

Anna Guzek
Purdue University

Northwest

Omeed Ilchi
Purdue University
Northwest

True crime and crime media are very prevalent in today's society. Despite how accurate they claim to be, they often present a dramatized or exaggerated view of the criminal justice system. This can lead to public misinformation about aspects of the criminal justice system. The current study examines how engaging with this content can affect perceptions of the system, using a sample of college students.

Navigating Identity Conflicts in Probation Supervision: Working Where You're From

Amos Malone
University of
Wisconsin-
Milwaukee

Probation officers supervising in the communities where they were raised face distinct identity conflicts shaped by overlapping personal and professional roles. This poster explores the emotional labor, boundary navigation, and cultural integration strategies officers employ when managing dual identities in familiar environments. Drawing from a comprehensive synthesis of qualitative studies, the project identifies three primary themes: identity duality, professional boundary maintenance, and community-based cultural competence. Findings highlight the nuanced ways officers reconcile loyalty to community with system accountability, revealing implications for supervision ethics, officer well-being, and policy reform. This work contributes to emerging literature on place-based supervision dynamics.

An Examination of the Correlates of Victim Service Provision for Sexual Assault Victim-Survivors: A Comparison Between Children and Adults

Katelyn McMahon
University of
Louisville

Utilizing victim services can often be helpful for victim-survivors of sexual assault, as they provide support and knowledge for victims. Additionally, victim-survivors of sexual assault can have specific needs compared to other crime victims (e.g., a forensic exam). Using the 2019 National Survey of Victim Service Providers, the current study examines three categories of potential predictors for serving an increased number of adult and child sexual assault victim-survivors: (1) staff and advocate accompaniment, (2) services provided, and (3) agency characteristics. Future research and policy implications will be discussed.

Shades of Discipline: How the Intersection of Skin Tone and Gender Shape the School-to-Prison Pipeline for Black Girls

Abigail Moore
Bowling Green State University

Samantha Kopf-Apple
Bowling Green State University

Autumn Rydarowicz
Bowling Green State University

This study builds on school-to-prison pipeline research by examining how skin tone and gender intersect to shape the criminalization of Black girls. Using data from Add Health, we use a series of causal mediation analyses to assess how skin tone influences school discipline and juvenile arrest. Findings show that darker-skinned youth—especially girls—are more likely to be suspended, which mediates their increased risk of arrest. While skin tone affects both boys and girls, the pathways diverge: girls often experience school punishment first, while boys experience more direct arrest. These results underscore how colorism shapes justice system exposure.

The Impact of Institutional Change on Correctional Officers Stress: A Case Study of Stateville Correctional Center's Closure

Norah Obinyan
Lewis University

This study explores the impact of correctional facility closures on staff well-being, emphasizing emotional and occupational stress during institutional transitions. Through qualitative Zoom interviews with officers from Stateville Correctional Center prior to its September 30, 2024 closure, key stressors emerged: downsizing, job displacement, and systemic change. Findings reveal heightened anxiety, uncertainty, and psychological strain, emphasizing the need for proactive policy interventions. This study advocates for comprehensive support systems, transitional planning, mental health resources, and employment protections to mitigate adverse effects. These insights aim to inform correctional policy and guide future closures with greater attention to staff resilience and institutional equity.

Theoretical Insights and Policy Implications for Gun Violence Prevention Among Urban Youth in Milwaukee

Ebenezer Omotosho
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Gun violence among urban youth remains a critical public health and social justice issue in the United States. General Strain Theory (GST) offers insight into how economic hardship, exposure to violence, discrimination, and limited opportunity generate emotional strain that can lead to violence, especially in disadvantaged communities like Milwaukee. This paper applies GST to examine how community-based programs address these stressors through mentorship, conflict resolution, and positive alternatives. It critiques punitive responses and advocates for preventative, community-driven strategies. Policy implications emphasize education, employment, and mental health support as vital tools for reducing strain and preventing youth gun violence.

Addressing Adolescent Dating Violence: Evaluating the Building Healthy Relationships Program in Rural Nebraska

Emilie Whitehouse
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Dating violence among adolescents is a significant concern. In response, 9 schools in rural Nebraska implemented the Building Healthy Relationships (BHR) program, based on the Safe Dates curriculum. From Fall 2023 to 2025, 405 adolescents (ages 13–19) participated in BHR; most were female (58.3%) and White (72.9%). A program evaluation used pre/post surveys to assess changes in knowledge of TDV, gender stereotypes, and confidence in bystander behaviors. Results showed positive shifts in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors, indicating the effectiveness of BHR. Further, there were notable gender differences across several outcomes. Implications for programming and future research will be discussed.

Beyond Numbers, a Qualitative Assessment of the Challenges of Reentry

Faustina Zielonka

*Michigan State
University*

Sheila Maxwell

*Michigan State
University*

While much work on offender rehabilitation has centered on incarcerated individuals, the larger population of offenders, estimated at 60% more nationwide, supervised through probation and community interventions, remains underexplored. This project provides a qualitative perspective on the challenges of reentry within probation and community corrections. Anonymized case notes from felony probationers who participated in the Second Chance program, administered by "Michigan Works!", were analyzed to identify challenges, types of interventions provided, and corresponding outcomes. The results showed that while some interventions were effective, probationers continued to face challenges. These findings suggest the need for more individualized approaches to support reentry.



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