

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Incarceration Triggered by Pretrial Detention of the Poor

In August 2020, 600 defendants were detained on a bond of \$500 or less. In 2017, on average, this number was 933.



CCJ faculty awarded an additional \$2,000,000 from the MacArthur Foundation to expand the implementation of Prosecutorial Performance Indicators (PPIs).

New jurisdictions implementing the PPIs include: Philadelphia, PA; Portland, OR; Broward County, FL; New Orleans, LA; Orange/Osceola County, FL; and San Joaquin County, CA. With this new grant, the MacArthur Foundation has provided \$5.7 million in funding to CCJ faculty over the past four years.

Dr. Dunlea publishes qualitative research on colorblindness in prosecution

The study, published in *Criminology*, uses semi-structured interviews to explore how prosecutors think about race in criminal justice and what they believe their role should be in addressing racial disparities. Dr. Dunlea found that prosecutors embrace a colorblind approach to prosecution and use three race-neutral cultural scripts—*every case is unique*; *poverty and culture cause crime*; and *we only prosecute what the police bring to us*—to justify this approach. These results suggest that efforts to improve racial justice in case processing will be more effective if they are accompanied by broader prosecutorial culture changes.





Dr. Pires leads international team of researchers on study of wildlife poaching in Indonesia

High demand for parrots as pets, and their consequent removal from the wild, has significantly contributed to their severe decline worldwide. Using over two decades of data on the illegal parrot trade, Dr. Pires and researchers from Australia and Indonesia applied the criminological model, CRAAVED, to better understand poaching variation of Indonesian parrot species. The study, published in *Biological Conservation*, found both demand- and opportunity-based factors partially explain the illegal parrot trade in Indonesia.

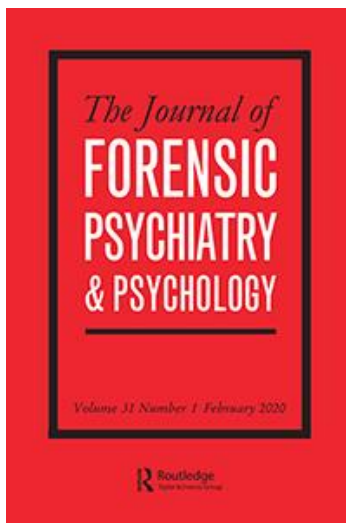
Dr. Kutateladze publishes research highlighting the socio-behavioral consequences of queer hate crime victimization

The study, published in *Justice Quarterly*, found that 23% of victims changed housing, 13% started avoiding queer venues/friends, and 35% started acting stereotypically “straight.” The study also addresses the pros and cons of adopting the intersectionality perspective in quantitative research and the three-stage venue-based sampling strategy used to recruit study participants.



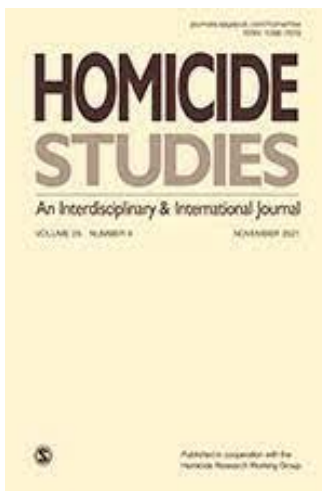
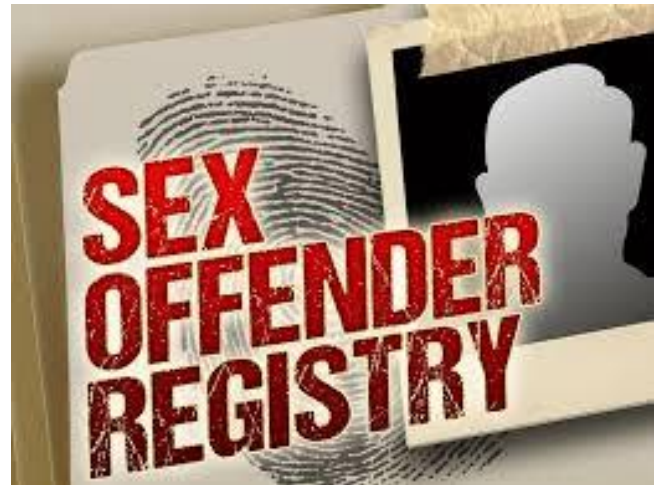
Dr. Flexon and Ph.D. candidate Teresa Encalada investigate the antecedents of secondary-like psychopathy

Little is known about the emergence of secondary-like psychopathy despite early theory describing possible antecedents to the condition. The study sought to evaluate these possible precursors among those resembling the secondary-like variant of psychopathy in a noninstitutionalized sample of youth. Findings indicated that social context variables (poverty and maternal education), authoritarian parenting practices, and parent-child attachment were implicated in later downstream secondary-like psychopathy in mid-adolescence.



Dr. Zgoba publishes meta-analysis on the (in)effectiveness of sex offender registry and notification (SORN) laws

The study, published in the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, examines 25 years of Sex Offender Registration and Notification (SORN) evaluations and their effects on recidivism. Dr. Zgoba and her co-author synthesized results from 18 research articles including 474,640 formerly incarcerated individuals. The meta-analysis demonstrated that SORN does not have a significant impact on recidivism. This finding holds important policy implications given the extensive adoption and net-widening of penalties related to SORN.



Ph.D. Candidate Caroline Comerford investigates the geographic mobility of homicide offenders in new study

Most offenders commit crime close to their residence, though literature on serial homicide and geographic mobility is scarce. To gain a better understanding of the geographic mobility patterns of serial homicide offenders, literature sources on serial homicide and geographic mobility were examined. While the findings of the study recognize the relevance of mobility functions in serial homicide investigations, gaps in the literature were evident regarding serial homicide geographic mobility.

Drs. Cruz, D'Alessio, and Stolzenberg examine the effect of air pollution on violent criminal behavior

The study, published in the *British Journal of Criminology*, examines the effect of carbon monoxide emissions on physical violence exhibited by offenders during the commission of a crime. Results show that while carbon monoxide emissions have little effect on the overall level of physical violence displayed by a criminal offender, both the offender's race and sex moderate the relationship between air pollution and victim injury. Specifically, as carbon monoxide levels rise in a city, both Black and male offenders are more likely to injure their victims physically.



Dr. Goddard publishes study calling attention to the limitations of using risk assessment instruments to predict recidivism

Risk assessments rely on information about past behavior (e.g., criminal history) and an understanding of offending (e.g., antisocial personality) that is thought to be neutral and reliable. Dr. Goddard, however, argues in his study, published in *Sustainability*, that risk assessment instruments inevitably mark some groups of people as a higher risk to violate rules, conditions, orders, or laws. Consequently, these instruments systematically disfavor disadvantage, and by inference, favor advantage, leading to the need for a radical shift in the taxonomy of classifying risk for future misconduct.



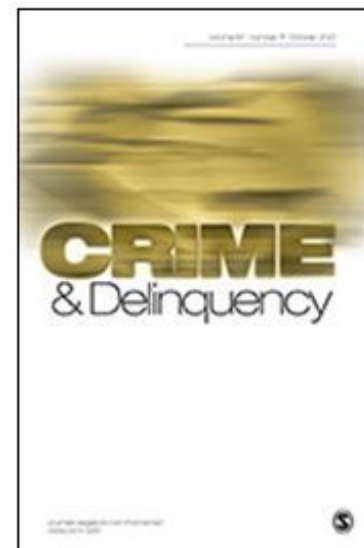
Drs. Ammons-Blanfort, D'Alessio, and Stolzenberg examine the effect of the racial diversity of a city's police department on Black firearm violence



The study, published in *Crime & Delinquency*, found that as the racial diversity of a city's police department increased, Black criminal offenders were less likely to use a firearm in a violent crime. In contrast, the racial diversity of a police department had no impact on the use of firearms by white offenders. The researchers concluded that hiring more Black police officers can serve as a pragmatic policy to help attenuate black firearm violence by amplifying Black citizens' trust in the police.

Dr. Liu leads study establishing a link between criminal case processing times and punitiveness in sentencing outcomes

To date, the role of case processing efficiency in determining punishment outcomes has garnered little attention in the criminological literature. Using recent data from a large Florida jurisdiction, the study, published in *Crime & Delinquency*, examined the influence of case screening and disposition timeliness on sentence outcomes in felony cases. Results showed that lengthier case processing time is associated with the assignment of lengthier custodial sentences.





CCJ faculty awarded \$760,000 grant from the Schusterman Foundation to support new Community-Prosecutor-Researcher Project

The two-year grant, led by CCJ senior fellow Melba Pearson, will serve to increase interactions and communications between local prosecutor's offices and the communities they serve. This will include a series of community "listening sessions" and the development of a blueprint for jurisdictions to utilize in the future to better connect with their local community organizations and residents.

Dr. Cohn leads study on scholarly influence within the fields of criminology and criminal justice

Dr. Cohn led a team of researchers investigating changes in scholarly influence in criminology and criminal justice over a 30-year period. The study, recently published in the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, found that the most-cited scholars in criminology journals focused on longitudinal/criminal career research and/or criminological theories. The most-cited scholars in criminal justice journals focused on these topics or on criminal justice issues such as rehabilitation and sentencing. It was also observed that an intergenerational transmission of influence from older to younger scholars occurred through mentoring.



Ph.D. candidate Raymond Partin investigates the link between teen sleep and arrest

In recent years, sleep quantity and quality has received increased scrutiny with respect to criminologically relevant outcomes. No attention, however, has been given to the possible relationship between sleep duration and the likelihood of arrest among teens. The study, published in *Crime & Delinquency*, analyzed data collected from 50,000 youth in Florida in 2018. The results showed that severe sleep deficiencies (i.e., getting four or five hours of sleep at night) are associated with a greater likelihood of arrest, whereas minor deficiencies in sleep and excess sleep is not.





CCJ faculty awarded \$200,000 by Microsoft to implement the Prosecutorial Performance Indicators in jurisdictions across Colorado

The funded project entitled, “Implementing Prosecutorial Performance Indicators in Colorado: Developing a Statewide Model of Reform,” represents the first time that the PPIs will be implemented across an entire state. The project is being conducted in coordination with faculty at Loyola University Chicago.

Dr. Guerette co-edits new book on human smuggling and drug trafficking

The book, titled *The evolution of Illicit Flows: Displacement and Convergence among Transnational Crime*, is co-edited with Drs. Ernesto U. Savona and Alberto Aziani of Transcrime. It focuses on the displacement and convergence of transnational crimes in North Africa and in the area of the Mediterranean Sea, providing empirical analysis of human smuggling and drug trafficking. It also discusses the displacement of crime due to the exploitation of asymmetries in legislation, law enforcement, and other geo-political vulnerabilities. The book is set to be released by Springer Publishers in early 2022.



Dr. Peacock investigates the factors associated with police legitimacy across Europe

The study examined the relative influence of procedural justice, effectiveness, and corruption in shaping police legitimacy across 26 European countries. The findings of the study, published in *Police Practice and Research*, revealed that corruption and procedural justice explained nearly equal portions of the variance of legitimacy across a subset of Europe’s most stable and prosperous democracies. A greater role for effectiveness among the transitioning states in Europe offers support for similar findings in the Global South. Europe-wide, procedural justice, police effectiveness, and corruption were three pillars contributing most of legitimacy’s explained variance.

Dr. Meldrum leads study on the causes of digital self-harm among Florida teens

Research on the causes of digital self-harm – the anonymous posting of hurtful or negative information about oneself on the internet and social media platforms – is in early stages of development. Using data collected in 2019 from nearly 10,000 FL students, Dr. Meldrum led a study that provides strong evidence that bullying victimization, and the subsequent negative emotions stemming from getting bullied, are important potential causes of digital self-harm. [The study](#) was recently published in *Deviant Behavior*.



OTHER RECENT FACULTY* AND PH.D. STUDENT** PUBLICATIONS

Pyrooz, D. C., Melde, C., Coffman, D. L., & Meldrum, R. C.* (2021). [Selection, stability, and spuriousness: Testing Gottfredson and Hirschi's propositions to reinterpret street gangs in self-control perspective.](#) *Criminology*, 59, 224-253.

Diaz, M.** (2021). [Exploring Multiple-Perpetrator Stalking: Victim Consequences of Solo and Multiple Stalkers.](#) *Victims & Offenders*. OnlineFirst.

Torres, C. E.**, D'Alessio, S. J.*, & Stolzenberg, L.* (2021). [The Replacements: The Effect of Incarcerating Drug Offenders on First-Time Drug Sales Offending.](#) *Crime & Delinquency*, 67(3), 449-471.

Cohn E. G.*, Coccia M., and Kakar S*. (2021). [The relationship between crime, immigration and socioeconomic factors.](#) *Rassegna Italiana di Criminologia*, XV, 3, 180-193.

Archer, R. J. L., and Flexon, J. L.* (2021). [Unstructured Socializing With Peers and Delinquency: The Role of Mediation Through the Lens of Akers' \(1998\) Social Structure Social Learning Theory of Crime and Deviance.](#) *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. OnlineFirst.

Guerette, R. T.*, Przeszlowski, K.**, Lee-Silcox, J.**, and Zgoba, K. M.* (2021). [Improving policing through better analysis: an empirical assessment of a crime analysis training and enhancement project within an urban police department.](#) *Police Practice and Research*, 22(4), 1425-1442.

Palmer, N. A., and Kutateladze, B. L.* (2021). [What Prosecutors and the Police Should Do About Underreporting of Anti-LGBTQ Hate Crime.](#) *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*. OnlineFirst.

Liu, L.*, and Visher, C. A. (2021). [Decomposition of the role of family in reentry: Family support, tension, Gender, and reentry outcomes.](#) *Crime & Delinquency*, 67(6-7), 970-996.

Peacock, R.* (2021). [Bayley's six critical elements of democratic policing: evaluating donor-assisted reform in Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine.](#) *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*. OnlineFirst.

Leimberg, A.**, & Lehmann, P. S. (2020). [Unstructured Socializing with Peers, Low Self-Control, and Substance Use.](#) *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. OnlineFirst.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice offers a Ph.D. in International Crime and Justice, a M.S. in Criminal Justice, a B.S. in Criminal Justice, and a B.S. in Crime Science. For additional information, please visit us online at ccj.fiu.edu.