

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Zgoba awarded a multi-year Community Oriented Policing Services ([COPS](#)) grant by the U.S. Department of Justice

Along with Dr. Laura Salerno, Dr. Zgoba will examine trauma and stress among correctional officers in New Jersey. Specifically, they will implement an evidence-supported correctional officer wellness training curriculum that prioritizes trauma, stress and suicide risk, a peer-to-peer mentor support program, and a family outreach program. Five hundred officers will participate in the multi-year study.

Dr. Meldrum co-authors study published in a special issue of the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*

The study used one-of-a-kind data from the Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) to investigate the intersection between race/ethnicity, gender, and school suspension. Leveraging detailed information on student race and ethnicity, Dr. Meldrum and his co-author, Dr. Peter Lehmann, found that youth who identify as Black, Haitian, West Indian/Caribbean, Dominican, and Puerto Rican are most likely to be suspended from school. [The study](#) appears in a special issue of *JRCD* focused on centering race in the study of crime and criminal justice.





Dr. Kutateladze and Senior Fellow Melba Pearson awarded grant from the National Institute of Justice to improve the prosecution of hate crimes

The goal of the [multi-year, multi-jurisdiction project](#) is to develop effective hate crime investigation and prosecution strategies. To achieve this goal, the research team will, among other things, assess the process for flagging and prosecuting hate crimes and explore the role of external and internal factors enabling or hindering hate crime detection, investigation, and prosecution. The work will also seek to identify system challenges and opportunities for reform.

Dr. Pires co-edits special issue on Wildlife Crime in the journal *Animals*

The [special issue](#), *Wildlife Crime: Issues and Promising Solutions*, was co-edited by Dr. Pires and Dr. George Olah. The volume of work contributes to understanding how the illicit wildlife trade operates and provides viable solutions to mitigate threats to protected wildlife. Topics covered in the special issue range from genetics in wildlife forensics, conservation crime science, and methodological tools to better understand violations in wildlife trade.



Dr. Liu leads study published in *Justice Quarterly* calling attention to the victimization experiences of citizens returning to the community after release from prison

Using longitudinal data, Dr. Liu and her co-authors examined the prevalence, triggers, and impact of victimization among returning citizens with specific attention given to mental health outcomes. The results of the study underscore an alarmingly high rate of victimization against returning citizens. Risky neighborhood and family environments were found to be significant predictors of victimization, with negative consequences for mental health. The full study can be accessed [here](#).



Dr. Flexon leads study on youth access to handguns in Miami

[The study](#), published in *Crime & Delinquency*, considers whether youth perceptions of easy access to handguns is associated with the concentration of stolen handguns in areas surrounding schools, as well as other individual-level characteristics of the social environment of youth. Results showed that while the concentration of stolen handguns was not associated with perceptions of the ability to access a handgun, things such as dangerous neighborhood conditions and living with someone who has a serious substance use problem were positively associated with perceptions of the ability to easily access a handgun.



Ph.D. student Madhuri Sharma leads study on the effect of indigent defense attorneys on criminal justice outcomes

Using meta-analysis methods, the study estimates the impact of public defenders and assigned counsel on the severity of imposed legal sanctions at several criminal justice decision points. The findings indicate that public defenders and assigned counsel are often just as successful overall as private attorneys at representing their clients' interests. Madhuri published [the study](#) with Drs. Stolzenberg and D'Alessio in the *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Dr. Peacock leads efforts to increase cybersecurity training in Ukraine

Dr. Peacock directs the higher education component of [USAID's Cybersecurity for Critical Infrastructure in Ukraine program](#). FIU leads a coalition of cybersecurity programs in U.S. universities supporting Ukrainian higher education institutions committed to converting their coursework and degree programs to advance the key knowledge, skills, and abilities outlined in the Ukrainian framework in line with the US National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE). The project has delivered training and simulation-based learning to both Ukrainian cybersecurity instructors and university students.



Ph.D. student Kimberly Przeslowski and Dr. Guerette lead study on real-time crime centers (RTCCs) within police agencies

[The study](#), published in *The Police Journal: Theory, Practice, and Principles*, appraised the nature of RTCCs through a national survey of 44 police agencies. Findings revealed that (1) RTCCs have recently begun to diffuse rapidly but are still in an early innovation/adoption phase, (2) there is no single model of their use, (3) most procure a wide variety of technologies and information sources, and (4) most allow for information to be shared with partners in real-time.



Dr. Hyman Gregory leads study on the techniques police investigators use when interviewing crime witnesses

The study surveyed 177 U.S. law enforcement investigators about their witness interviewing experience and training, including academy and field training, and practices such as types of questions asked during witness interviews, and their recording and documentation practices. The results of [the study](#), published in *Psychology, Crime, and Law*, suggest that although U.S. police interviewers have implemented some best practice techniques, there are still considerable training needs as evidenced by the self-reported practices of police investigator participants.



Center for the Administration of Justice awarded funding to evaluate the GREAT program in Central America

Dr. Meldrum and Ana Carazo, along with Dr. Jose Miguel Cruz, have been awarded funding from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) to assess the effectiveness of the [Gang Resistance Education and Training \(GREAT\) program](#) in multiple Central American countries. The three-year grant is co-led with researchers from Notre Dame and will assess whether youth who completed the GREAT curriculum are less likely to have gang affiliations and to be involved in delinquency as compared to youth who have not gone through the GREAT curriculum.





Drs. Kutateladze and Liu publish study on the link between a prosecutor's race and racial disparities in defendant outcomes

[The study](#), published in *Justice Quarterly*, analyzed data from a large prosecutorial office and found that in cases disposed of by Black prosecutors, Black and Latino/defendants were significantly more likely to receive custodial plea offers than similarly situated White and Asian defendants. The researchers concluded that this pattern of findings provides support for internalized racism theory.

Recent Ph.D. graduate Dr. Maria Arndt publishes study in *Criminal Justice Review*

Using interview and administrative data from a Florida jurisdiction, [the study](#) examined prosecutorial attitudes about case elimination mechanisms—declination, dismissal, and diversion—for driving with suspended license (DWSL) cases. The study also evaluated the extent to which prosecutors' views about handling DWSL cases and racial disparities in the legal system are reflective of case processing outcomes. Dr. Arndt recently joined the faculty of the John Jay College of Criminology and Criminal Justice in New York.



Ph.D. candidate Raymond Partin leads study investigating the link between poor self-control and cybercrime victimization

[The study](#), published in *Crime & Delinquency*, utilized data collected from several hundred young adults. The findings of the study showed that participants who are lower in self-control are more likely to engage in variety of risky behaviors online, which in turn increases one's vulnerability to experience cybercrime victimization.



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

Farrington, D. P., Cohn, E. G.*, & Skinner, G. (2022). [Changes in the Most Cited Scholars in Five International Journals Between 2006 and 2020](#). *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 17(2), 193-212.

Kakar, S.* (2022). [Urban settings and Human trafficking—a crossroads of the perfect storm for crime perpetration and ideal environment for crime prevention](#). *Urban Crime. An International Journal*, 3(1), 8-32.

Kutateladze, B. L.*, Dunlea, R. R., Liu, L.*, & Arndt, M.** (2022). [A test of the bifurcation hypothesis in prosecutorial diversion](#). *Criminology & Public Policy*, 21(2):359-378.

D'Alessio, S. J.*, Stolzenberg, L.*, Guerette, R. T.*, & Zgoba, K. M.* (2022). [The Effect of Self-Defense Laws on Firearm Use Among Criminal Offenders](#). *Crime & Delinquency*, 00111287221077629.

Alqahtani, M.**, D'Alessio, S. J.*, & Stolzenberg, L*. (2022). [The Effect of Capital Punishment on Terrorism in Saudi Arabia](#). *Scholars International Journal of Law, Crime, and Justice*, 5(3), 108-117.

Meldrum, R. C.*, Stults, B. J., Hay, C., Kernsmith, P. D., & Smith-Darden, J. P. (2022). [Adverse Childhood Experiences, Developmental Differences in Impulse Control and Sensation Seeking, and Delinquency: A Prospective Multi-Cohort Study](#). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 82, 101993.

Liu, L.*, Visher, C. A., & O'Connell, D. J. (2022). [Late-bloomers Among US Offenders: A Test Using a 30-Year Longitudinal Study](#). *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 1-24.

Fava, N. M., Meldrum, R. C.*, Villar, M. G., Zucker, R. A., & Trucco, E. M. (2022). [Adverse childhood experiences, sleep problems, low self-control, and adolescent delinquency: A longitudinal serial mediation analysis](#). *Development and Psychopathology*, 1-10.

Liu, L.* (2022). [Racialized Employment Outcomes During Reentry: A Test of Competing Explanations](#). *Crime & Delinquency*, 00111287221107575.

Peacock, R. P.*, Ivkovich, S. K., Wu, Y., Sun, I., Vinogradac, V. P., & Vinogradac, M. (2022). [Can individualism/collectivism paradigm explain disparate roles for intermediaries in an organizational justice model of police compliance with agency rules?](#). *Policing: An International Journal*.

Shariati, A., & Guerette, R. T*. (2022). [Findings from a natural experiment on the impact of covid-19 residential quarantines on domestic violence patterns in New Orleans](#). *Journal of Family Violence*, 1-12.

Petrossian, G. A., Pires, S. F.*, Sosnowski, M., Venu, P., & Olah, G. (2022). [Threats of Longline Fishing to Global Albatross Diversity](#). *Animals*, 12(7), 887.

Partin, R. D.** Hare, M., Meldrum, R. C.*, & Trucco, E. M. (2022). [Sleep problems and self-control: An examination of reciprocal effects across childhood and adolescence](#). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 101975.

Patchin, J. W., Hinduja, S., & Meldrum, R. C.* (2022). [Digital self-harm and suicidality among adolescents](#). *Child and adolescent mental health*.

The Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) at Florida International University 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. CCJ is part of the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, which is a member of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA). For additional information, please visit us online at ccj.fiu.edu and sipa.fiu.edu.