

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Dr. Peacock funded to reimagine policing in former Soviet Republics

The US Department of Justice has provided more than \$200,000 in funding for Dr. Peacock to serve as a Strategic Reform Advisor in developing new law enforcement assistance programs. Most recently, US Embassy Yerevan asked the DOJ to contribute Dr. Peacock to an advisory team responding to the new reformist government of Armenia's decision to defund their existing law enforcement structures and establish a new police under a civilian Ministry of Home Affairs. Dr. Peacock drafted the Ministry of Justice's police recruitment standards, a basic training program, and the statement of work for the project office that the Department of State funded to support the stand up of Armenia's new national police in 2021.

Dr. Guerette receives funding for "real time" crime center within Miami Police Department

Dr. Guerette received \$300,000 in funding from the US Bureau of Justice Assistance to develop a “real time” crime center capability within the Miami Police Department. The project is taking place over three years and employs students from the International Crime and Justice doctoral program at FIU.



Dr. Salas and Ana Carazo lead work in Costa Rica to strengthen judicial responses to organized crime



Previously funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Dr. Salas and Ana Carazo led an effort to strengthen Costa Rica's capacity to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. This \$2,500,000 grant involved, among other things, a reorganization of the Prosecutor's Office and a law draft for the establishment of a specialized jurisdiction to try organized crime cases. After the enactment of the specialized jurisdiction law, in 2019, a second award for \$536,000 was received to prepare Costa Rica's judicial branch to operate the special jurisdiction. CAJ completed a needs assessment, developed a tailored program that addresses training needs and includes the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime, money laundering, corruption, human trafficking, and other organized crime activities, and is currently implementing it.

FIU and Loyola University Chicago receive \$2,000,000 in new funding from the MacArthur Foundation to implement Prosecutorial Performance Indicators

In partnership with prosecutorial offices from Chicago, Milwaukee, Tampa, Jacksonville, Philadelphia, and Charleston, FIU and Loyola University at Chicago have developed 55 measures of prosecutorial success and implementation guides. These resources will help prosecutors manage their offices, measure performance over time, ensure the fairness of their decisions, and increase transparency.

Speedy Contacts with Victims

Days to First Contact with Victim



Dr. Richardson awarded \$120,000 Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to help reduce violent crime in Jacksonville

The partnership aims to address violence in Jacksonville, FL, by using data to strengthen the State Attorney's Office's (SAO's) Targeted Prosecution Unit and implement a robust community engagement plan. Over the two-year grant, Dr. Richardson will work with the SAO to develop performance indicators, enhance internal and external reporting mechanisms, train attorneys to use data, and turn the SAO's case management system into an analytical tool.

Dr. Kutateladze and Ana Carazo complete National Institute of Justice grant on anti-LGBTQ hate crimes

With \$500,000 in funding from the NIJ, FIU researchers interviewed 400 hate crime victims in Miami, reviewed prosecutorial files, and interviewed practitioners to examine the prevalence and nature of hate crimes, barriers to crime reporting, and post-victimization consequences. Nine out of 10 victims said that they were targeted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; only 15% of incidents were reported to the police. Friends' encouragement to report crime was the strongest predictor of hate crime reporting.



Ph.D. candidate Sara McFann and Dr. Pires publish systematic review on wildlife crime research

Wildlife crime is an emerging topic of study within criminology and criminal justice (CCJ). In this study, Ph.D. candidate Sara McFann and Dr. Pires provided the first-ever systematic review of the state of wildlife crime research by CCJ scholars. The purpose was to describe and better understand how the study of wildlife crime has evolved over time and where opportunities for expansion exist. Findings of the study, published in *Deviant Behavior*, show that quantitative studies are rare, with a majority being conceptual or theoretical in nature.

Drs. Flexon, Stolzenberg, and D'Alessio examine the effect of cannabis laws on opioid use

The study, published in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*, examined the link between medical marijuana laws (MMLs) and opioid use. Drs. Flexon, Stolzenberg, and D'Alessio found that opioid use is lower among individuals who reside in states that have legalized medical marijuana, suggesting that MMLs may serve to attenuate the consequences of opioid overreliance.



Dr. Peacock coordinates FIU's role in overseeing the development of cybersecurity studies in Ukraine

USAID is providing up to \$1,800,000 for FIU's Emerging Preeminent Program Cybersecurity@FIU to assist in developing curriculum and faculty in more than 12 new cybersecurity graduate degree programs in Ukraine. In cooperation with the School of Computing and Information Sciences, the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance and Security, Dr. Peacock has developed three summer pedagogy training programs that will focus on experiential learning against real cyber threats in a global network of training labs.

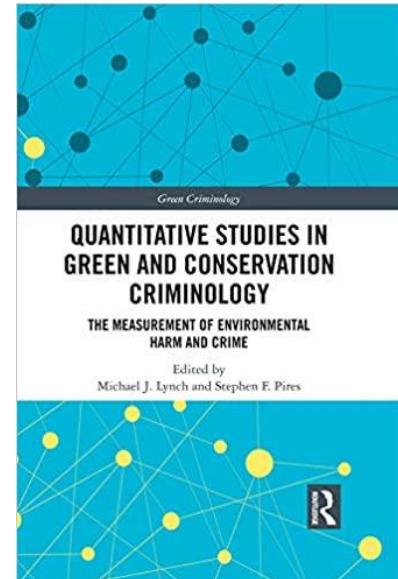


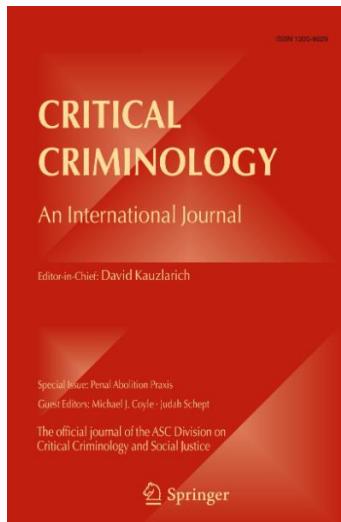
Drs. Cohn and Kakar publish systematic review of the effect of red light cameras (RLCs) on car crashes

The results of the systematic review indicate that RLCs are associated with a reduction in crash outcomes, although this varies by type of crash, and suggest a reduction in red light violations. RLCs are associated with a 20% decrease in total injury crashes, a 24% decrease in right angle crashes, and a 29% decrease in right angle injury crashes. Conversely, RLCs are associated with a 19% increase in rear end crashes. There was also some evidence that RLCs were associated with a large reduction in crashes due to red light violations.

Dr. Pires co-authors edited volume on green and conservation criminology

Limited attention has been directed toward quantitative analyses of relevant environmental crime, law and justice concerns. To address the gap, this edited collection features contributions that undertake empirical quantitative studies of green/conservation crime and justice issues by both conservation and green criminologists. The collection highlights the shared concerns of these groups within important forms of ecological crime and victimization and illustrates the ways in which these approaches can be undertaken using quantitative methods.





Dr. Goddard serves as editor for a special issue of the international journal *Critical Criminology*

The articles in the special issue examine what appear to be less punitive iterations of juvenile justice policy and practice. Written by scholars working in Canada, the UK and the US, the authors use their empirical findings and theoretical insights to sketch a more detailed and elaborate picture of the range of controls over young people in the present moment. The papers also assess how recent shifts in juvenile justice might align or diverge from broader visions of social justice.

Dr. Zgoba wins the 2020 “Outstanding Article Award” from the Southern Criminal Justice Association

The study, entitled “Assessing the impact of restrictive housing on inmate post-release criminal behavior,” was led by Dr. Zgoba. She and her colleagues found robust evidence that inmates placed in restrictive housing, also known as administrative segregation, were more likely to recidivate after release than inmates not placed in restrictive housing. The study was published in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.



Ph.D. graduate Erik Cruz leads study linking labor market conditions to frequency of terrorist incidents

Dr. Cruz, along with Drs. Stolzenberg and D'Alessio, used six years of data (2011–2016) drawn from the Global Terrorism Database and other sources for 127 countries to conduct the study. A strong, negative relationship between labor force participation and the frequency of terrorist incidents across countries was observed. The study was published in the journal *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.

Dr. Meldrum and Ph.D. candidate Sadhika Soor find adverse childhood events reduce self-control among teens

Based on an analysis of data collected on youth from both Michigan and Florida, the study found that exposure to a greater variety of adverse experiences in childhood leads to lower levels of self-control. This was particularly true when the adverse experiences related to maltreatment. For the study, published in *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Dr. Meldrum worked with Ph.D. candidate Sadhika Soor and researchers from Florida State University, Wayne State University, and Eastern Michigan University.



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

Liu, L.* (2020). [Parole, neighborhood and reentry outcomes: A contextualized analysis](#). *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. OnlineFirst.

Meldrum, R.*, Stemen, D., & **Kutateladze, B. L.*** (2020). [Progressive and traditional orientations to prosecution: An empirical assessment in four prosecutorial offices](#). *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. OnlineFirst.

Richardson, R.* & Kutateladze, B. L.* (2020). [Tempering expectations: A qualitative study of prosecutorial reform](#). *Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency*. OnlineFirst.

Cruz, E., D'Alessio, S. J.* & Stolzenberg, L.*** (2020). [The effect of maximum daily temperature on outdoor violence](#). *Crime & Delinquency*. OnlineFirst.

Arndt, M., Stolzenberg, L.* & D'Alessio, S. J.*** (2020). [The effects of race and physical evidence on the likelihood of arrest for homicide](#). *Race and Justice*. OnlineFirst.

Zgoba, K. M.* & Cowan, D. (2020). [Sexual offense legislation across the pond: A review of community sentiment toward the United Kingdom's implementation of Sarah's law](#). *Sexual Abuse*, 32, 476-496.

Torres, C., D'Alessio, S. J.* & Stolzenberg, L.*** (2020). [The effect of social, verbal, physical, and cyberbullying victimization on academic performance](#). *Victims & Offenders*, 15, 1-21.

Myers, R., Goddard, T.* & Davidtz, J. (2020). [Reconnecting youth: Beyond individualized programs and risks](#). *Youth Justice*. OnlineFirst.

Partin, R. D., Stojakovic, N.**, Alqahtani, M.****, Meldrum, R. C.* & Pires, S. F.* (2019). [Low self-control and environmental harm: A theoretical perspective and empirical test](#). *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. OnlineFirst.

Kutateladze, B. L.* & Leimberg, A.** (2019). [The influence of type of defense counsel on prosecutorial and judicial decision making in domestic violence cases](#). *Crime & Delinquency*, 65, 1623-1647.

Guerette, R. T.*, Lee-Silcox, J. & Przeszlowski, K.**** (2019). [From research partner to embedded criminologist: A synthesized taxonomy and reflections from the field](#). *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*. 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.