

DRAFT PROGRAM

**Southern Criminal Justice Association
2026 Conference**

**Justice in Transition: Innovation, Equity, and
Community**

**The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort
Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

September 15 to 18, 2026

SEND CORRECTIONS TO:

SCJA2026@gmail.com by 8/15/26

**Southern Criminal Justice Association
2026 Annual Meeting – Fort Lauderdale**

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Monday, September 14, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
6:00pm-8:00pm	Registration	Las Olas Foyer
Tuesday, September 15, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:30-10:30	Coffee	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-5:00	Registration	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-5:00	Organization Exhibits	Las Olas Foyer
9:30-11:30	SCJA Executive Board Meeting	Sawgrass
9:30-4:00	Panels & Roundtables	Himmarshee, Las Olas IV, V, & VI
4:00-5:00	SCJA General Business Meeting & ACJS Presidential Message	Las Olas I-II-III
5:00-6:00	SCJA Presidential Address	Las Olas I-II-III
6:00-8:30	Presidential Reception Sponsored by Florida Atlantic University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice	Sky Terrace
Wednesday, September 16, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:15-10:30	Student Event #1: Graduate Education: Getting in and Making it Through! (MA, MS, and Ph.D.) Breakfast is Included	Las Olas I-II-III
8:30-10:30	Coffee	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-5:00	Registration	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-5:00	Organization Exhibits	Las Olas Foyer
9:30-4:00	Panels & Roundtables	Himmarshee, Las Olas IV, V, & VI
11:00-12:00	Student Event #2: Preparing for the Academic Job Market: A Roundtable for Future Faculty	Las Olas I-II-III
12:15-1:15	Student Event #3: Student Lunch	Las Olas I-II-III
12:30-2:00	AJCJ Editorial Board Meeting	Sawgrass
1:15-2:15	Student Event #4: Employment Chat	Las Olas I-II-III
2:30-3:45	Poster Set-up	Las Olas Foyer
4:00-6:00	Poster Session	Las Olas Foyer
6:00-8:00	Springer Reception Sponsored by Springer	Sky Terrace

Thursday, September 17, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:30-10:30	Coffee	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-12:00	Registration	Las Olas Foyer
8:30-3:30	Organization Exhibits	Las Olas Foyer
9:30-4:15	Panels & Roundtables	Himmarshee, Las Olas IV, V, & VI
12:30-2:30	Awards Luncheon & Keynotes Address Sponsored by University of Kentucky Criminal Justice Programs at the College of Social Work	Las Olas I-II-III
3:00-4:30	Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators Annual Meeting and Keynote	Las Olas Ballroom V
6:00-9:00	Participants Reception Sponsored by Florida International University, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice	The Beach
Friday, September 15, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
9:30-11:00	SCJA Executive Board Meeting	Sawgrass
9:30-10:45	Panels & Roundtables	Himmarshee, Las Olas IV, V, & VI

Monday, September 14, 2026

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Las Olas Foyer

Registration

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 Las Olas Foyer

Coffee

8:30 – 5:00 Las Olas Foyer

Registration

8:30 – 5:00 Las Olas Foyer

Organization Exhibits

9:30 – 11:30 Sawgrass

SCJA Executive Board Meeting

9:30 – 10:45 Himmarshee

Panel: Investigations & Gun Violence

Chair: Megan Richardson, University of Miami

Does Database Integration Matter? Examining Time-to-Resolution in Missing Persons Cases Using NamUs Data

Maryann White, Georgia Gwinnett College

Impact of Criminal Investigation on Conviction Rate: A Study of District Lahore

Saima Noor, University of Lahore

Mapping Urban Gun Violence: A Geospatial Analysis of Shooting Incidents and Neighborhood Risk in New York City

Harun Or Rashid, Florida International University

Faith and Firearms: The Influence of Religious Beliefs on Attitudes Toward Gun Ownership Rights

Soheil Sabriseilabi, Troy University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Roundtable: Human Trafficking and Corrections: Challenges, Responses, and Opportunities for Reform

Chair: Catherine Burton, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

Discussants:

Gordon Crews, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

Jennifer Lemanski, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

Garris Crews, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Drug Policy

Chair: Logan Ledford, East Tennessee State University

The Racialized Legalization Paradox: Community Benefit, Community Harm, and Conditional Support for Marijuana Reform
Yorkow Oppon-Acquah, Illinois College

A Critical Assessment of The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana and Violent Crime in Illinois: A Routine Activity Theory Perspective
Anthony Achor, Florida International University

Bud on the Ballot: A County-Level Analysis of Citizen Support for Cannabis Legalization
Amelia Jennings, University of Central Florida

Bradley Edwards, East Tennessee State University

Dustin Osborne, East Tennessee State University

Logan Ledford, East Tennessee State University

Jennifer Pealer, East Tennessee State University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Theoretical Advances in Life-Course and Biosocial Criminology

Chair: Nerissa James, Florida International University

Twin Bonds: Why Criminologists Should Doubt Twin Studies

Thomas Mowen, University of Kentucky

Ryan Schroeder, Indiana State University

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Samantha Boch, Nationwide Children's Hospital

Are Bullies simply a Subcategory of Life-Course-Persistent Offenders?

Robert Rogers, Middle Tennessee State University

Glenn Zuern, Albany State University

Pandemic Induced Strain: A General Strain Theory Approach

Nerissa James, Florida International University

Jamie Flexon, Florida International University

Criminal Justice Involvement and Biological Aging: Understanding the Causal Pathways

Francesco DiRienzo, University of South Carolina

J.C. Barnes, University of Cincinnati

Tom Moglovkin, University of Cincinnati

Roderick Pearson, Georgia Southern University

Kristonn Stubbs, University of Cincinnati

Hexuan Liu, University of Cincinnati

11:00 – 12:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Local Jails

Chair: Laura Lutgen-Nieves, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Health Needs of Jailed Populations: Findings from a Midsize Jail in the Midwest

Laura Lutgen-Nieves, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Victor St. John, Ohio State University

Pamela Valera, Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Time-to-Death: How Institutional Conditions and Context Shape Mortality in Local Jails

Eliza Jackson, American University

The Closeted Captive: A Qualitative Study of Concealed Sexual Orientation and Criminal Legal Involvement Among Incarcerated Men

Kimberly Dodson, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Behind Bars and Beyond Awareness: Public Knowledge of the Rights of People Incarcerated

Alexander Burton, The University of Texas at Dallas

Amanda Graham, Texas State University

Cheryl Jonson, Xavier University

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Adolescent Risk Behaviors

Chair: Ryan Meldrum, Florida Atlantic University

Adolescents' Gun Carrying in Context: A Comparative Analysis of White, Black, and Hispanic Youth

Samuel Agboola, The University of Mississippi

The School to Psychiatric Hold Pipeline: Outcomes of Police Interactions with Transgender Youth

Jordan Grasso, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Caro Mooney, University of California, Irvine

Are The Predictors of School Delinquency Different for Boys and Girls? Examining Individual, Peer, And School Risk Factors.

Natasha Pusch, Texas Tech University

Exploring Predictors of Teen Willingness to Get into a Car with an Inebriated Driver

Ryan Meldrum, Florida Atlantic University

Jaylee Beltran, Florida Atlantic University

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Artificial Intelligence

Chair: Omobolanle Fenny, University of Alabama

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Due Process Issues for Criminal Justice with AI & Emerging Technologies

Joseph Ingles, Lynn University
Paul Gormley, Lynn University

The “AI-nization” of Justice: Algorithmic Justice or Digital Exclusion. An African Perspective

Omobolanle Fenny, University of Alabama

From Fear to Action: Examining How Concerns About AI-Powered Cyber Threats Shape Online Behavior

Godwin Egbe, University of Mississippi

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

1:00 – 2:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Police Recruitment and Retention

Chair: Frederick Williams Jr., Kentucky State University

Fixing Law Enforcement’s Attraction Problem

Nicole Cain, American Public University System

Identifying the “Fit”: Predictors of Recommendation and Resignation in State Police Academies

Frederick Williams Jr., Kentucky State University

Examining the School Resource Officer Role: Training, TRIAD Implementation, and Job Satisfaction in Contemporary School Policing

Sheri Jenkins Keenan, Alabama A&M University
Patrick Schmucker, Huntingdon College

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Mental Health in Criminal Justice

Chair: Katy Hancock, Murray State

Improving Effective Advocacy of Defendants with Mental Illness

Paul Gormley, Lynn University

“Weak” or “Wellness?”: Mental Health Stigma Among Law Enforcement

Stacey Clifton, Radford University
Katy Hancock, Murray State

Issues in Criminal Justice and Mental Health

Tanya White, Southern University at New Orleans
Ellen Wertlieb, Center for Community Justice

Prison Misconduct and Mental Illness: Understanding the Adaptation of Male Violent Offenders

Jenny Beatty, Troy University

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Digital Crime & Online Communities

Chair: James Hawdon, Virginia Tech

The Grok shock: Notes on an AI image-based abuse scandal

Paul Bleakley, University of Kentucky
Maurice St Matthews, University of New Haven
Elliot Gamelin, University of New Haven

Online Communities: Social Disorganization and Social Control in Virtual Communities

James Hawdon, Virginia Tech

Does Engaging Preventive Measures Reduce Harm? Examining Distress Among Repeat Identity Theft Victims

Susan Quinn, Georgia Gwinnett College

The Gates-Up-or-Down: A Circuit Court Analysis of CFAA Authorization Post-Van Buren

Simone Knott, Florida International University

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Panel: Challenges of Collecting Data on Crime, Victimization, and Fear in Mississippi

Chair: David May, Eastern Kentucky University

Challenges of Implementing the Cardiff Model of Violence Prevention in a Rural State

David May, Eastern Kentucky University

Charles Scheer, University of Southern Mississippi

Wesley G. Jennings, University of Mississippi

Jonathan Shepherd, Cardiff University

Challenges of Collecting Crime Victimization Data in 2025

David May, Eastern Kentucky University

Stacy Haynes, Mississippi State University

Chandleigh Barton, Mississippi State University

Challenges of Collecting, Coding, and Using Open Source Data about Crime

Megan Stubbs-Richardson, University of Miami

Lauren Etheredge, Mississippi State University

Hannah Gjerde, Mississippi State University

Chris Lightsey, Mississippi State University

David C. May, Eastern Kentucky University

2:30 – 3:45 Himmarshee

Panel: Reform & Racialized Control in CJ

Chair: Shelby Gilbreath, University of Mississippi

Crackdown: How the Crack Epidemic Waged War on Black America

Haley Hamm, University of West Georgia

Governing Through Care: The Hidden Punitive Logic of Juvenile Justice Reform

John Brent, Eastern Kentucky University

Youth DV Exposure & Young Adult Victimization: Examining Developmental Pathways

Shelby Gilbreath, University of Mississippi

Structural Inequality, Algorithmic Risk, and Juvenile Sentencing: Rethinking Rehabilitation Through Neighborhood Context and Predictive Tools

Olaniran Akintunde, Florida International University

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Desistance, Pathways, and Coercion/Social Support Theories

Chair: Beverly Reece, Kennesaw State University

Neurodevelopmental Risk and Desistance Among Serious Adolescent Offenders

Beverly Reece, Kennesaw State University

Beyond Variable-Centered Analysis: A Methodological Critique and Person-Centered Alternative for Understanding Women's Pathways to Crime

Eugenie Jackson, Northpointe, Inc.

Tim Brennan, Northpoint Inc. (retired)

Hannah Capper, Northpointe Inc.

Differential Coercion and Social Support: A Scoping Review

Carolina Medolla, Florida Atlantic University

Gabriel Cesar, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida Atlantic University

Diana Sun, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida Atlantic University

In the Eye of the Beholder: Observations of Identity Verification of At-Risk Youth Participants in a Juvenile Justice Diversion Program

Shelley Keith, University of Memphis

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Heather Scheuerman, James Madison
University

*Prosecutorial Philosophy and Racial
Disparities in Prison Admissions*
Carl Reeds, University of Arkansas

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Innovations in Justice Assessment, Institutions, and Education

Chair: John Mayer, Blue Mountain Christian
University

*Race, Risk, and Sentencing in Juvenile Justice:
A Structural Equation Modeling Analysis of
Mediation and Contextual Effects in the Ohio
Youth Assessment System*

Olaniran Akintunde, Florida International
University

*The Justice Propulsion Lab: Reimagining
Violence, Justice, and Civic Formation in the
South*

Alexander Sumner, Justice Propulsion Lab
Specialist at Fisk University

*Public Prosecution Under Strain: A Workforce
Capacity Analysis of Ghana's Office of the
Attorney-General*

Selasi Kuwornu, Florida International
University

*How to Supercharge Your Existing Criminal
Justice Major*

John Mayer, Blue Mountain Christian
University

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Racial Disparities

Chair: Farhan Tambirul Hoque, University of
South Florida

*From Initial Charge to Final Disposition:
Exploring Racial Disparities in Stalking Case
Outcomes*

Sara Lucak, University of Central Florida
Geldy Nunez, University of Central Florida
Matt Nobles, University of Central Florida

*Justice Unequal: The Role of Policing and
Systemic Disparities in Disproportionate
Minority Contact*

Farhan Tambirul Hoque, University of
South Florida

4:00 – 5:00 Las Olas I-II-III

SCJA General Business Meeting

ACJS Presidential Message

David Myers, President of the Academy of
Criminal Justice Sciences and University of
New Haven

5:00 – 6:00 Las Olas I-II-III

SCJA Presidential Address

Shaun Thomas, Professor and Director of the
Center for Social Research, University of
Arkansas

6:00 – 8:30 Sky Terrace

Presidential Reception

Sponsored by
Florida Atlantic University, School
of Criminology and Criminal
Justice

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 Las Olas Foyer

Coffee

8:30 – 5:00 Las Olas Foyer

Registration

8:30 – 5:00 Las Olas Foyer

Organization Exhibits

8:15 – 10:30 Las Olas I-II-III

Student Event #1: Graduate Education: Getting in and Making it Through! (MA, MS, and Ph.D.) Breakfast is Included

Discussants:

- Shaun Thomas, University of Arkansas
- TBD

9:30 – 10:45 Himmarshee

Panel: Hate Crime

Chair: Paul Bleakley, University of Kentucky

Is there a Victim-Offender Overlap for Adolescent Hate Crime?

Allison Kurpiel, University of South Carolina
Hunter Boehme, University of South Carolina
Sohee Jung, University of South Carolina

Generating and Labeling Hate Speech Data to Support Hate Crime Research

Adi Singh, Mississippi State University
Elnur Adl Zarabi, Texas A&M
Megan Richardson, University of Miami
Ji Taoran, Texas A&M

Toxic Intersections: Gendered Hate and Political and Racial Hostility on Twitter

Megan Stubbs-Richardson, University of Miami
Sierra Nelson, Mississippi State University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Reentry, Probation, Family Impact

Chair: Andrew Denney, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Recidivism Reduction Initiative: Navigating Year-One Issues in a County Misdemeanor Probation Program

Andrew Denney, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Emma Lengyel, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

“It Makes Me Feel More Comfortable Going Back to Society”: Insights from Horizon Prison Initiative Participants

Megan Trafford, University of Kentucky
Sarah Lazzari, Oregon Department of Corrections
Madeline Moore, Heidelberg University

“Branch out as far as possible”: Advice for young children navigating parental incarceration

Heidi Williams, Virginia Tech

What a GAL! Interviews with Guardians Ad Litem in Western North Carolina

Tasha Youstin, Western Carolina University
Karen Mason, Western Carolina University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Innovations in CJ Pedagogy

Chair:

Teaching Comparative Criminology: The Benefits of Using Concepts and Ideal Types Instead of Model Countries

Andrew Novak, George Mason University

Crime Problematicity: Examining Resident Assessments of Local Crime Problems by Comparing Three Statistical Models.

Colin Larter, Iowa State University
Kyle Burgason, Iowa State University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Universities and Campus Safety

Chair: Rakibul Hasan, University of South Florida

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

*A Study on the Perception of Fear of Crime
Among UL Lafayette Students*
Rakibul Hasan, University of South Florida

*Mean World Syndrome and College Student
Responses to Campus Safety Messaging*
Jennifer Lemanski, University of Texas Rio
Grande Valley
Gordon Crews, University of Texas Rio
Grande Valley
Garrison Crews, Crews & Associates, LLC

*Creating a Holistic Campus/Community Dating
and Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign*
Laura Finley, Barry University

11:00 – 12:00 Las Olas I-II-III

**Student Event #2: *Preparing for the
Academic Job Market: A Roundtable for
Future Faculty***

Discussants:

- TBD

11:00 – 12:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Police Training & Investigations

Chair: Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State
University

The Genius of Officer Oliver A. Cowan
Martin Greenberg, Virginia Association of
Criminal Justice Educators

It's Not About the Buyers . . . or is it
Jeff Rush, The University of South
Alabama

*Implementing Immersive Virtual Reality De-
Escalation Training: Lessons from the BJA
CRIT Initiative in Rutherford County,
Tennessee*

Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State
University
Michael Rodgers, Rutherford County
Sheriff's Office

Kyle Grisham, Rutherford County Sheriff's
Office

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

**Panel: Police Ethics, Misconduct, and
Institutional Responses**

Chair: Natalie Todak, University of Alabama at
Birmingham

*Contextualizing Police Agency Responses to
Whistleblowing with Institutional Theory*
Natalie Todak, University of Alabama at
Birmingham

*From Pressure to Drift: Understanding Ethical
Movement Within Institutions Through GDCT*
Tara Garrison, Virginia Union University

*Fairness Behind the Badge: Correlates of
Police Officers' Perceptions of Disciplinary
Procedures*

Nicholas Buker, Florida Atlantic University

Bad to the Bone-Criminal Cops
Tom Barker, Retired

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Media Representations of Crime

Chair: Megan Richardson, University of
Miami

*Who Makes the News? Demographic and Role-
Based Representation in Mississippi Crime
Coverage*

Megan Stubbs-Richardson, University of
Miami

Hannah Gjerde, Mississippi State University
Lauren Etheredge, Mississippi State
University

Chris Lightsey, Mississippi State University

*Beyond Dueling Banjos and "Squeal Like a
Pig": An Entry-Misreading-Crisis-Revelation
Model of Threat Perception and Misrecognition
in Deliverance (1972)*

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Kevin Buckler, University of Houston-
Downtown

Discussants:
• TBD

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Theory & Application in Place-Based / Environmental Criminology

Chair: Rob Guerrette, Florida International
University

Environmental Panopticism in Application

Rebecca Angela Ruiz, PhD Candidate
Amanda Connella, PhD Candidate
Domingo Delgado, PhD Candidate

Evaluating the Differential Associations Between Residential Vacancies and Gang Presence on Violence in Detroit, Michigan

Myah Havertong, Florida International
University
Stephen Pires, Florida International
University

Violence Upon Frontier, Beyond Anomie: Terroir, Ontological Aversion, and the Power of the Implicated Subject

James Pratt, Fisk University

An Empirical Test of Clarke and Newman's "Evil Done" Framework for Understanding Terrorist Incidents in Iran

Amirhossein Mazaheri, Florida International
university
Rob Guerrette, Florida International
University
Auzeen Shariati, George Mason University

12:15 – 1:00 Las Olas I-II-III

Student Event #3: Student Lunch

12:30 – 2:00 Sawgrass

AJCJ Editorial Board Meeting

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas I-II-III

Student Event #4: Employment Chat (Academic, Non-Academic)

1:00 – 2:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Experiential Learning in CJ

Chair: Kevin Buckler, University of Houston-
Downtown

Testing Cultivation and Desensitization: True Crime Media, Fear of Crime, and Punitive Criminal Justice Attitudes

Matthew Dolliver, University of Alabama
Anna Randle, The University of Alabama

Reel Justice: Teaching Criminal Justice Ethics Through Film and Moral Frameworks

Kevin Buckler, University of Houston-
Downtown

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Courts, Prosecutors, and Judicial Decision-Making

Chair: Annabelle Frazier, University of
Southern Mississippi

Prosecutors Experiences and Perceptions of High Workloads and Stress in an Urban Jurisdiction

Maria Arndt, John Jay College of Criminal
Justice, CUNY

When the State's Error Shields the Guilty: Wrongful Conviction, Statutes of Limitation, and the Impunity of the True Perpetrator

Bora Lee, Center for Empirical Legal
Research at Korean National Police
University

The Peril of Studying Jurors to Understand Juries: Evidence of Verdict Change and Related Jury Deliberation Effects in a Non-Capital, Criminal Case.

Annabelle Frazier, University of Southern
Mississippi
Michelle McLeese, University of Southern
Mississippi

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Brenda Rowe, University of Southern
Mississippi
Zoe Robinson, University of Southern
Mississippi

*Discernment Without a Degree: Preliminary
Findings from Interviews with Texas Justices of
the Peace*

Sarah Harper, Texas A&M University--San
Antonio
Jeff Bumgarner, Texas State University

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Substance Use and Intervention

Chair: Abigail Novak, University of
Mississippi

*Developing an Early Warning System for
Substance Use Issues*

Glenn Sterner, University of Kentucky
Qiushi Chen, The Pennsylvania State
University
Holly Nguyen, The Pennsylvania State
University
Joel Segel, The Pennsylvania State University

*Prenatal Substance Exposure at the Criminal
Justice System in the South*

Abigail Novak, University of Mississippi
Jordan Medrano, University of Mississippi
Abigail Dempsey, University of Mississippi
Thomas Bryan Smith, University of
Mississippi
Brian Boutwell, University of Mississippi
Colleen Gutman, University of Florida
Tess Lefmann, University of Mississippi

*Understanding the Difference between Public
Knowledge and Evidence-Based Findings on
Hot Spot Policing, Drug Courts, and Prisons*

Eva Damani, Florida Atlantic University
Lincoln Sloas, Florida Atlantic University
Sishi Wu, California State University, San
Bernardino

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Public Perceptions, Trust, and Community Relations with Police

Chair: Yu-sen Cheng, University of
Mississippi

*How Does The Public Perceive Volunteer
Police and Use of Tools: An Exploratory Study*

Lincoln Sloas, Florida Atlantic University
Adam Dobrin, Florida Atlantic University
Ross Wolf, University of Central Florida
Duha Mabchour, Florida Atlantic University

*Emergency Management Preparedness,
Organizational Capacity, and Community
Relations in Georgia Local Law Enforcement
Agencies*

Erica Russell, Middle Georgia State
University

*Does Trust in Police Mediate the Relationship
Between Social Capital and Perceived Safety?
Evidence from Taiwan*

Yu-sen Cheng, University of Mississippi
Hsiao-Ming Wang, University of Houston-
Downtown

*Police as barometers: Community sentiment
and police behavior*

Moriah Sharpe, American University
Ashley Schroeder, American University

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Foyer

Poster Set-up

Note: Student posters should be set up by 3:00

2:30 – 3:45 Himmarshee

Panel: Mental Health, Context, Risk, and Rehabilitation: Emerging Perspectives on Justice-Involved Youth and Young Adults

Chair: Tim Goddard, Florida International
University

*Depressive Symptom Trajectories and Gender
Differences among Criminal Justice-involved
Young Adults: A Multilevel Growth Curve
Model*

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Brian Graves, Florida Atlantic University

Trauma, Coercion, and Justice: Predictors of Recidivism in Youth with Mental Health Diagnoses

Lola Grosjean-Leventhal, Florida International University

Rehabilitating in Context: Rethinking Youth Justice Policy and Practice

Tim Goddard, Florida International University
Jennifer Davidtz, Nova Southeastern University

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: From Sea to Street to Courtroom: Geospatial Methods in Crime and Justice Research

Chair: Stephen Pires, Florida International University

Slope, Hilliness, and Vehicle-Related Crime: Does Terrain Matter?

Emilie Christiansen, Florida International University

When Wildfires Suppress Crime: A Spatial Analysis of Post-Wildfire Trends in Los Angeles

Dylan Spencer, Georgia Southern University
Noah D. Cohen, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Nate Connealy, University of Tampa

Shadow Signals at Sea: Spatial Patterns of FoC Dark Vessels and Maritime Crime Risk in West Africa

Stephen Pires, Florida International University
Emilie Christiansen, Florida International University
M. Dylan Spencer, Georgia Southern University

Does Location Matter? Exploring Socioeconomic and Spatial Dynamics of Plea Bargaining in Colombia

Eduardo Mendoza Montoya, Florida International University
Selasi Kuwornu, Florida International University

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

Roundtable: Choosing the Right Method of Course Delivery: A Discussion of Faculty Experiences Across Face-to-Face, Hybrid, Asynchronous Online, and Blendflex Modalities

Chair: Brenda Vose, University of North Florida

Discussants:

Kristina Lopez, University of North Florida
Denise Nation, Winston-Salem State University
Holly Ventura, University of North Florida

2:30 – 3:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Understanding and Addressing Retail Crime: Perspectives from Offenders, Victims, and Technology

Chair: Justin Smith, Loss Prevention Research Council

Through Their Eyes: Shoplifter Perceptions of Loss Prevention Technologies

Justin Smith, Loss Prevention Research Council
Sara Lucak, University of Central Florida

Behind Closed Doors: Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Freedom Go Controlled Access Solution in Retail Restrooms

Justin Smith, Loss Prevention Research Council

The Influence of Organizations on Fear of Victimization: Insights from the Voice of the Victim Initiative

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Amelia Wiercioch, University of Central
Florida
Sara Lucak, University of Central Florida
Christina Burton, Loss Prevention Research
Council

Jamie Vaske, American University

F7: *The Impact of Incarceration on Maternal-
Child Bonding*
George Froggé, Austin Peay State University

4:00 – 6:00 Las Olas Foyer

Poster Session

– Faculty Lead Posters –

F1: *Lessons Learned from a Mixed Methods
Evaluation of a Jail-Based Co-Occurring
Disorders Treatment Program*

Holly Ventura, University of North Florida
J. Mitchell Miller, University of North
Florida
Kristina Lopez, University of North Florida

F2: *The influence of demographic, situational,
psychological, and motivational factors in
lone-wolf domestic terrorism attacks*

Alexandra Slemaker, University of Nevada,
Las Vegas
Jacob Erickson, University of Nevada, Las
Vegas

F3: *Antecedents of Street Code Adherence and
the Conditioning Effect of Race and Gender*

Jacob Erickson, UNLV
Alexandra Slemaker, UNLV

F4: *Adverse Childhood Experiences and
Marijuana Use During Covid-19*

Jason Nicholson, University of West Georgia
George E. Higgins, University of Louisville

F5: *The Costs of Toughness: Perceptions of
Victimization, Toxic Masculinity, and Help-
Seeking*

Laisa Abreu Rivera, Florida Atlantic
University
Michelle Eliasson, Florida Atlantic
University

F6: *Risk Typologies of Justice-Involved
Veterans in a Veteran Treatment Court*
Mandi Muse, American University

F8: *Evaluating the Impact of Generative AI
Integration on Coursework Success and
Unassisted Exam Outcomes*

Halil Akbas, Troy University

F9: *Too Pretty to Punish? Attractiveness Bias
and Crime Perception in the Social Media Era*

Elizabeth Perkins, Morehead State University
Christie Budner, Morehead State University
Abby Lewis, Morehead State University

F10: *Measuring Antisocial Attitudes among
Justice-Involved Veterans*

John Boman, American University
Jamie Vaske, American University
Julie Marie Baldwin, American University

F11: *Perceived Benefits vs. Trust in Police:
Modeling the Distinct Drivers of Support for
Police Use of AI and Demand for Oversight*
Sinyong Choi, Kennesaw State University

F12: *Mental & Behavioral Health Resources in
Rural Areas: Practitioners' Perspective*

Iryna Sharaievskaya, Clemson University
Mitch Miller, University of North Florida
Brenda Vose, University of North Florida

F13: *The Impact of Government Efforts to
Reduce Crime on Public Trust in the Police*
Veronica Ahadzie, Winthrop University

– Student Led Posters –

S1: *Expanding the Police Toolkit: Officer
Perceptions of Embedded Police Social
Workers*

Kimberly Przeszlowski, Quinnipiac
University
Mary Lech, Quinnipiac University
Kali Kapilotis, Quinnipiac University

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

S2: Beliefs Born of Adversity: Childhood Trauma, Deviant Beliefs, and Delinquency

Jordan Medrano, The University of Mississippi

S3: Depression and Hopelessness: A Twin Study of Substance Use

Heaven Rodrigue, University of Mississippi

S4: Agency Size, Type, and the Adoption of Accountability Policies: A National Analysis of U.S. Law Enforcement Agencies

Kenneth Lomenzo, Ole Miss

S5: Police Perspectives on the Code of Silence: A Qualitative Meta-Synthesis

Anna Elliott, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Natalie Todak, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Heith Copes, University of Alabama at Birmingham

S6: States of Emergency & the Geographic Impact of Militarized Policing

Harvey Schoonover, Florida International University

S7: Exploring the Experiences of Criminology and Criminal Justice Doctoral Students in the United States

Sophie Riley, Georgia Southern University

Dragana Derlic, Georgia Southern University

Ashley Lockwood, Georgia Southern University

S8: Gendered Consequences of Violence: How Youth Victimization Shapes Fatalistic Beliefs Differently by Gender

Kaitlyn Stearns, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Lindsay Leban, University of Alabama at Birmingham

S9: Consuming the Creator, Criminalizing the Work: A Comparative Analysis of Public Stigma Relating to Sex Work

Emma Dotson, Dalton State College

Bella Mendez, Dalton State College

S10: Stress, Strength, and Self-Efficacy: Predictors of Police Use-of-Force Attitudes

Aaron Sivilay, University of Central Florida

Ben Cohn, University of Central Florida

Christopher Marier, University of Central Florida

S11: Autism, Deafness, I/DD & Victimization

Kirsten Brown, Florida Atlantic University

Michelle Eliasson, Florida Atlantic University

S12: Access to Books in Appalachian Prisons

Kaytlin Hoxie, East Tennessee State University

S13: Caught in the Crossfire: Victim-Offender Overlap and the Life-course of Gun Violence Offenders

Trinity Velez, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Jeffery Walker, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Tara Warner, University of Alabama at Birmingham

S14: Trampled Grasslands: The Development of Human Trafficking Laws in Mongolia

Franco Loyola, Florida Atlantic University

S15: Resources or Readiness? Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and Pre-Arrest Diversion

Adams Howard, Clemson University

Emily Suiter, Clemson University

Kyle McLean, Clemson University

Bryan Miller, Clemson University

S16: Different, Not Deviant: Barriers Autistic Communities Face

Hassana Arbubakrr, American University

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

S17: Recidivism Reduction Initiative: A First-Year Evaluation of a County Misdemeanor Probation Program

Emma Lengyel, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Andrew Denney, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

S18: Who Says “Yes” to Deflection: Officer Demographic Influences on Drug Deflection Program Referrals

Addison Midkiff, Clemson University

Bryan Miller, Clemson University

Kyle McLean, Clemson University

S19: The Color of Counsel: Defense Attorney Race and Criminal Case Outcomes

Ada Cruz, University of Florida

S20: Sexual Harassment in Virtual Reality

Delaney Chopp, Florida Atlantic University

S21: A Study on the Perception of Fear of Crime Among UL Lafayette Students

Rakibul Hasan, University of South Florida

S22: Human Trafficking Education in Hotspot Areas

Tyrese Rushton, Tiffin University

S23: Women’s Chemical Endangerment Cases in AL Surrounding Dobbs v. Jackson

Shelby Vaughn, The University of Alabama

S24: Public opinion on the effectiveness of forensic science

Mia Scalia, Florida Atlantic University

Lincoln Sloas, Florida Atlantic University

Patrick McLaughlin, Florida Atlantic University

S25: Noem v. Vazquez Perdomo and Plenary Authority: A Look at What Is Happening to U.S. Citizens

Jose Solis, Student

S26: Organizational Commitment, Agency Climate, and Probation Officers’ Openness to Technology-Based Solutions: An Exploratory Study

Alennys Taveras, University of Central Florida

Jill Viglione, University of Central Florida

Michael Caudy, University of Central Florida

6:00 – 8:00 Sky Terrace

Springer Reception

Sponsored by
Springer

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 Las Olas Foyer

Coffee

8:00 – 12:00 Las Olas Foyer

Registration

8:30 – 3:30 Las Olas Foyer

Organization Exhibits

9:30 – 10:45 Himmarshee

Panel: Homelessness and Incarcerated Experiences

Chair: Tonia Jackson, St. Thomas University

Beyond the Streets: Understanding Chronic Homelessness Through a Criminal Justice Lens

Tonia Jackson, St. Thomas University
Abdy Javadzadeh, St Thomas University
Nerissa James, Florida International University

Fatal Violence Against Homeless People in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) During and After COVID Pandemic

Rafael Mazoni, PUC Minas (Brazil) and João Pinheiro Foundation (Brazil)
Vitor Gonçalves, Texas A&M
Alexandre Diniz, PUC Minas (Brazil)
Paulo Carvalho, PUC Minas (Brazil)

Georgia Prisons: A Comparative Analysis of Public Perception Versus Lived Experiences of the Incarcerated

Brett Amazon, Georgia State University
Jack Power, Georgia State University
Mallory Myers, Georgia State University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Roundtable: Recent Developments in Criminal Justice

Chair: Martin Greenberg, Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators

Discussants:

Mai Mills, University of West Georgia
Joseph Sorgini, Researcher

Tanya White, Southern University at New Orleans

Edward Greenberg, Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators

Ellen Wertlieb, Center for Community Justice

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

Panel: Advancing Youth Justice: Family Structure, Institutional Experiences, Resilience, and Professional Preparation

Chair: Nicole McKenna, University of Kentucky

Single-Parent Households and Juvenile Justice Involvement: Separating Structure from Disadvantage

Vitoria De Francisco Lopes, University of Kentucky

Predictors of Disciplinary Infractions in Juvenile Confinement Facilities

Nicole McKenna, University of Kentucky
Jackie Duron, University of Kentucky

From Risk to Resilience: Reframing Justice-Involved Youth Through a Multisystemic Lens

Jackie Duron, University of Kentucky
Nicole McKenna, University of Kentucky

Collaborative, Transdisciplinary, and Participatory Teaching Approaches and Strategies for the Teacher-Scholar Model: A Use Case at the University of Kentucky

Carlyn Kimiecik, University of Kentucky
Nicole McKenna, University of Kentucky

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Addressing the Police Staffing Crisis: Evidence from Ohio Law Enforcement Agencies

Chair: Bradley O'Guinn, Florida International University

Recruitment and Retention in Ohio Law Enforcement Agencies: A Statewide Assessment

Cory Haberman, University of Cincinnati

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Jessica Huff, University of Cincinnati
Bradley O'Guinn, Florida International University
P. Trey Bussey, University of Cincinnati
Brenna Dunlap, University of Cincinnati

*What Drives Officer Turnover Intentions?
Evidence From Ohio Law Enforcement Officers*
Bradley O'Guinn, Florida International University

Cory Haberman, University of Cincinnati
Jessica Huff, University of Cincinnati
P. Trey Bussey, University of Cincinnati
Brenna Dunlap, University of Cincinnati

*The Limits of Retention Bonuses: Experimental
Evidence from Ohio Law Enforcement Agencies*
Jessica Huff, University of Cincinnati
Cory Haberman, University of Cincinnati
Bradley O'Guinn, Florida International University
P. Trey Bussey, University of Cincinnati
Brenna Dunlap, University of Cincinnati

11:00 – 12:15 Himmarshee

Innovations in Rehabilitation and Reentry: Perspectives from Researchers, Practitioners, and Individuals with Lived Experience

Chair: Tim Goddard, Florida International University

*Formerly Incarcerated Peoples' Perceptions
and Utilization of the Process, Services, and
Provisions of a Multi-Agency Reentry Court*
Christina Bellasalma, Florida International University

*Driving Change in Corrections: A Case Study
of a Veteran Rehabilitation Program*
Wendy Dressler, The GEO Group
Derrick D. Schofield, The GEO Group
Rick Glau, The GEO Group
Jessica Rich, The GEO Group
Tim Goddard, Florida International University

*From Incarceration to Reintegration:
Practitioner Insights from Case Managers with
Lived Experience*

Tim Goddard, Florida International University

Raul Lopez, Continuum of Care Program

Rashod Wiggins, Continuum of Care Program

Wendy Dressler, The GEO Group

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Roundtable: The Role of Digital Forensics in Modern Criminal Investigations

Chair: Olivia McDonald, North Carolina A&T State University

Discussants:

Carla Malinda, North Carolina A&T State University

Carla Coates, North Carolina A&T State University

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom V

Roundtable: Spanning Disciplinary Boundaries: Opportunities and Challenges in Community-Engaged and Participatory Research in Criminal Justice

Chair: Nicole McKenna, University of Kentucky

Discussants:

Carlyn Kimiecik, University of Kentucky

Stephanie Quiring, University of Kentucky

Megan Trafford, University of Kentucky

11:00 – 12:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Victimization

Chair: Andy Hansen, Western Carolina University

*Hidden Victimization: Emergency Department
Data as an Alternative Measure of Violence*

Suman Kakar, Florida International University

Sanjeev Sirpal, Université de Montréal

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Exploring Victim Services in America's Conviction Integrity Units

Andy Hansen, Western Carolina University

Transmission of Disease as a Form of Sexual Violence: Victim Impact and the Difficulties in Pursuing Justice

Michelle Protas, Embry-Riddle
Aeronautical University.

Place Matters: Crime Victim Compensation Programs Across the U.S.

Elizabeth Wright, Middle Tennessee State
University
Rachel Dimonda, Bridgewater State
University

12:30 – 2:30 Las Olas I-II-III

Awards Luncheon & Keynote Address

Sponsored by
University of Kentucky Criminal
Justice Programs at the College of
Social Work

3:00 – 4:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Policing Culture

Chair: Kyle McLean, Clemson University

Challenging the Consensus through Applied Policing and Technology Research

Ian Adams, University of South Carolina
Scott Mourtgos, University of South Carolina
Kyle McLean, Clemson University
Hunter Boehme, University of South Carolina
Marc Olson, University of South Carolina
Alexis Fabila, University of South Carolina
Paige Vaughn, University of South Carolina
Geoffrey Alpert, University of South Carolina

Dark Humor as Coping in Policing: A Systematic Review

Geldy Nunez, University of Central Florida
Nicholas Paul, University of Central Florida

William Moreto, University of Central
Florida

Law Enforcement Views on Police Social Workers Within Recently Adopting Agencies

Kyler Nielson, Western Carolina University

3:00 – 4:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Racial Threat, Profiling & Perception

Chair: Shaun Gabbidon, Penn State University

Consumer Racial Profiling in Criminology: Two Decades of Empirical Research

Shaun Gabbidon, Penn State University

Immigrant Threat and Judicial Decision- Making: An Examination of Perceived Cultural and Criminal Threat of Immigrants and Sentencing Outcomes

Melanie Holland, Kennesaw State University
Richard Stringer, Kennesaw State University

Did DEI in CJ Just DIE?

Richard Kania, LindRich Associates,
Consulting

3:00 – 4:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Ideology, Stereotypes, and Political Influences on Criminal Justice

Chair: Victoria Collins, University of
Kentucky

The Spectacle of Rural Fighting Matches: Appalachian Stereotypes of Masculinity for Capitalist Exploitation

Victoria Collins, University of Kentucky
Stephanie Quiring, University of Kentucky

Death Penalty Abolition as Peacemaking

Clayton B. Drummond, Western Carolina
University

Thin Blue Lines and Thick Party Lines: Partisanship, Not Police Behavior, Drives Reform Preferences

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Christopher Marier, University of Central
Florida
Scott Mourtgos, University of South Carolina

*The First Forty Weeks: Indicators of
Pronatalism & Self Optimization Within the
Second Trump Administration*

Elizabeth Carlisle, American University

3:00 – 4:30 Las Olas Ballroom V **VACJE Annual Meeting & Keynote Speaker**

Everyone is welcome to attend the Virginia
Association of Criminal Justice Educators
(VACJE) Annual Business Meeting and
Keynote Presentation.

This year's keynote speaker is Edward W.
Greenberg, PhD. He is an expert software
engineer who is the co-editor of Virginia's
Criminal Justice System (Carolina Academic

Press, Summer 2026). The title of his
presentation is "Case Studies of Humans and
Justice in the Age of Machines." Dr. Greenberg
will focus on AI issues. AI is a human concern,
both in terms of its social-political impact in
the public sphere and the fact that its
programming is layered atop a legacy
technological infrastructure. Tracing examples
related to criminal justice, this presentation will
evaluate challenges and solution-making in this
developing space.

6:00 – 9:00 The Beach **Participants Reception**

Sponsored by
Florida International University,
Department of Criminology and
Criminal Justice

Friday, September 18, 2027

9:00 – 11:00 Sawgrass

SCJA Executive Board Meeting

Michelle Eliasson, Florida Atlantic
University

9:30 – 10:45 Himmarshee

**Roundtable: The Role of Prison Visitation
and Institutional Programming in Shaping
Reentry, Post-Release Outcomes, and
Community Safety**

Chair: Anna Leimberg, Austin Peay State
University

Discussants:

Frank Ferdik, Austin Peay State University
George Frogg , Austin Peay State University
James Prescott, Austin Peay State University

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Human Trafficking & Exploitation

Chair: Breana Frazier, Florida International
University

*Examining Commercial Sexual Exploitation in
the United States*

Breana Frazier, Florida International
University

*The Wealth Paradox of Exploitation: A
Structural Analysis of Labor Trafficking
Drivers in High-GDP European Nations*

Ellen Cohn, Florida International University
Suman Kakar, Florida International
University

*Examining Police Officers' Perceptions of
Female Victims of Sex Trafficking in the United
States Using a Vignette Approach*

Annmarie Singh, Florida International
University

*Human Trafficking and Immersive
Technologies: A Scoping Review of VR and XR
Applications*

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom V

**Roundtable: Developing Leadership
Through Criminal Justice Education: A
Review of Current Approaches**

Chair: Damon Camp, Georgia State University

Discussants:

Dean Dabney, Kennesaw State University
Damon Camp, Georgia State University

9:30 – 11:00 Starbucks Coffee (Lobby)

Coffee & Networking Session

Join colleagues for an informal wrap-up and
networking gathering as we reflect on this
year's conference theme, *Justice in Transition:
Innovation, Equity, and Community*. Share
session highlights, discuss key takeaways,
exchange ideas for future collaborations, and
provide feedback to help shape the 2027
meeting in Louisville.

Participants are welcome to purchase their own
coffee, pastries, sandwiches, or other items
from the on-site Starbucks. This optional
session provides a valuable opportunity for
continued professional engagement following
Thursday's events. All registered attendees are
invited.

**Thank you for joining us this year
to celebrate all our amazing
scholars and their research.**

**We hope to see you in Louisville in
2027**
