



Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting

**September 14 to 18
Fort Lauderdale Beach, FL**

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



Welcome from your SCJA President

Dear SCJA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to Fort Lauderdale and the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association! On behalf of the SCJA Executive Board, I am delighted to welcome you to this year's conference and to thank you for your continued membership and support of the Association.

We are especially pleased to gather this year at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort. Fort Lauderdale provides a wonderful setting for our meeting, with great restaurants, entertainment, and, of course, the Atlantic Ocean just outside our doors. I hope you will find time during the conference to enjoy the area. The beach is literally just across the skywalk!

This year's response to the conference has been tremendous. We completely filled our hotel room block, and that strong attendance is reflected in an exceptionally full program featuring research from scholars, students, and practitioners from across the South and well beyond it. Our theme, "Justice in Transition: Innovation, Equity, and Community," is represented throughout the program in work examining both longstanding questions and emerging challenges facing criminal justice research, policy, education, and practice.

I want to offer a special thank you to Dr. Ben Stickle, your next SCJA President and our 2026 Program Chair, for the tremendous amount of work he put into building and organizing this year's program. Conference programs of this size do not simply come together on their own, and Ben has devoted countless hours to coordinating submissions, organizing sessions, communicating with participants, and helping us put together an outstanding meeting. The result is a packed program featuring approximately 127 individual presentations, seven formal roundtables, and 38 posters, in addition to our student-focused sessions, awards luncheon, and other special programming. I am deeply grateful to Ben for everything he has done to make this meeting possible.

I encourage you to take advantage of everything the meeting has to offer. In addition to the panels, roundtables, and poster presentations, we have several events designed for students and early-career scholars, including conversations about graduate education, preparing for the academic job market, and academic and non-academic career opportunities. Our Wednesday poster session alone features 14 faculty-led and 24 student-led posters, providing another terrific opportunity to see new work and engage with our members.

I also want to express SCJA's sincere appreciation to all our meeting sponsors. Their support makes a tremendous difference in what we are able to provide our members, and we are genuinely grateful for their investment in SCJA and in the success of this meeting. I especially want to recognize our Presidential Sponsor, Florida Atlantic University; our Gold Sponsors, Florida International University and the University of Kentucky; and our Silver Sponsors, American University, Virginia Tech, and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

And a very special shoutout goes to Springer, publisher of the American Journal of Criminal Justice (AJCJ), SCJA's highly ranked flagship journal. Springer has been an important partner of the Association, and we appreciate their continued support of both AJCJ and our annual meeting.

You will find all our sponsors recognized throughout the program, and many will have tables in our exhibitor area. I strongly encourage you to stop by, visit with their representatives, learn more about what they are doing, and, most importantly, thank them for supporting SCJA.

Fundraising for a local nonprofit is also a long-standing SCJA tradition. This year, our raffle will support Women in Distress of Broward County (WID), Broward County's full-service domestic violence center, which provides emergency shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and other services for survivors and their families. Raffle drawings will be held during each of our receptions, and all proceeds from ticket sales, along with an additional contribution from SCJA, will be donated to WID. Please buy some tickets, win some great prizes, and help us support an organization doing important work in our host community.

SCJA has always been about the relationships that develop around the formal conference program. We have three receptions planned this year: Tuesday evening's Presidential Reception, sponsored by Florida Atlantic University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Wednesday evening's Springer Reception; and Thursday evening's Participants Reception, sponsored by Florida International University's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. I hope you will join us for all three and use these opportunities to reconnect with longtime colleagues and make some new connections along the way.

I also hope everyone will attend our Awards Luncheon and Keynote Address on Thursday. The luncheon is one of my favorite SCJA traditions because it gives us an opportunity to come together as an Association, recognize the accomplishments and contributions of our colleagues and students, and celebrate the people who make SCJA such a strong professional community. The luncheon is sponsored by the University of Kentucky's Criminal Justice Programs in the College of Social Work.

Finally, thank you. Thank you for presenting your work, serving as chairs and discussants, mentoring students, supporting our events, and, most importantly, for choosing to be a member of SCJA. An association like ours is only as strong as the people who continue to invest their time, energy, and ideas in it. I am grateful that you have chosen to spend part of your week with us in Fort Lauderdale.

I hope you have a productive conference, make some new connections, reconnect with old friends, and find some time to enjoy the beach.

Welcome to Fort Lauderdale and welcome to SCJA 2026!

Shaun Thomas

Shaun Thomas
President, Southern Criminal Justice Association

SOUTHERN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

Leadership

President	Shaun Thomas, University of Arkansas
First Vice President	Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State University
Second Vice President	Jim Hawdon, Virginia Tech
Immediate Past President	Julie Baldwin, American University
Directors at Large	Sheri Jenkins Keenan, Alabama A&M Andrew Denney, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga Sarah Harper, Texas A&M University-San Antonio McKenzie Jossie, Louisiana State University
Treasurer	Molly Buchanan, Northeastern University
Secretariat	Andy Hansen, Western Carolina University
Webmaster	John Eassey, American University
ACJS Region Rep	Francis Boateng, The University of Mississippi
AJCJ Editor	J.C. Barnes, University of Cincinnati

PAST SCJA PRESIDENTS

2024	Julie Baldwin	2006	Brandon Applegate	1988	Damon Camp
2023	Kathrine Johnson	2005	Peter Wood	1987	Mittie Southerland
2022	Kent R. Kerley	2004	Gordon Crews	1986	Ronald Vogel
2021	Cathy Marcum	2003	Matthew Robinson	1985	Michael Braswell
2020	Bryan Miller	2002	Richard Tewksbury	1984	Tom Barker
2019	Wesley Jennings	2001	Joseph Sanborn, Jr.	1983	Chester Quarles
2018	John Stogner	2000	Elizabeth Grossi	1982	Robert Bagby
2017	Marv Krohn	1999	John Smykla	1981	Ken Venters
2016	Sean Madden	1998	Ronald Hunter	1980	Reed Adams
2015	J. Heith Copes	1997	Elizabeth McConnell	1979	Gene Stephens
2014	Greg Dunaway	1996	Terry Edwards	1978	Robert Fancher
2013	Holly Miller	1995	Laura Moriarty	1977	Neil Chamelein
2012	David May	1994	Joseph Auten	1976	Frank Semberger
2011	Angela Crews	1993	Jeffery Rush	1975	Robert Barrow
2010	Brian Payne	1992	Charles Fields	1974	Richter Moore, Jr.
2009	Elizabeth Mustaine	1991	Michael Blankenship	1973	John Truitt
2008	J. Mitch Miller	1990	Kenneth Ayers, Jr.	1972	William Mathias
2007	Alexis Miller	1989	Reid Montgomery, Jr.		

STUDENT EVENTS

Wednesday, September 16

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. in Las Olas I-II-III

Chat About Graduate Education: Getting in and Making it Through! (M.A., MS, and PhD)

Come for a *FREE BREAKFAST* and meet with leaders in graduate education for guidance and tips on applying and getting through a graduate program.

Hosts:

- Abigail Novak, University of Mississippi – Associate Professor & Graduate Program Director
- Carl Reeds, University of Arkansas – Assistant Professor
- Jodi Lane, University of Florida – Professor & Associate Chair
- Natalie Todak, University of Alabama at Birmingham – Associate Professor
- Timothy Brown, San Diego State University – Associate Professor

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Las Olas I-II-III

Preparing for the Academic Job Market: Round Table for Future Faculty

Hosts:

- Bryan Miller, Clemson University – Associate Dean for Research & Professor
- Holly Ventura, University of North Florida – Professor & Graduate Director
- McKenzie Jossie, Louisiana State University – Assistant Professor
- Shaun L. Gabbidon, Penn State Harrisburg – Distinguished Professor
- Tom Smith, University of Mississippi – Assistant Professor

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm in Las Olas I-II-III

Employment Chat (Academic, Non-Academic).

Hosts:

- Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State University – Professor
- John Boman, American University – Research Professor
- Julie Baldwin, American University – Research Professor
- Justin Smith, Loss Prevention Research Council – Researcher
- Matthew Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University – Associate Professor

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

Presidential Sponsor

Florida Atlantic University

Gold Sponsors

Florida International University

University of Kentucky

Silver Sponsors

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

American University

Virginia Tech

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Loss Prevention Research Council

Carolina Academic Press

Abbott Laboratories

Sponsors

Eastern Kentucky University

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University of Central Florida

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School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Amplifying Tech Innovations
Pursuing Bold Research
Inspiring Positive Change



fau.edu/sw-cj/research

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Research Faculty

**Ryan Meldrum, Ph.D., Director**

Adolescent development, juvenile delinquency, health criminology, digital deviance

Bruce Arneklev, Ph.D.

Criminology/deviance, social stratification, quantitative methods, theory

Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Ph.D.

Policy and program evaluation, corrections, reentry/reintegration

Nicholas Buker, Ph.D.

Police management, juvenile justice, leadership

Gabriel Cesar, Ph.D.

Criminological theory, qualitative methods/analysis, law, policy, justice

Adam Dobrin, Ph.D.

Policing/volunteer policing, violence, crime data, juvenile justice

Michelle Eliasson, Ph. D.

Victimology, policing; qualitative methodology, ideal victim theory

Wendy Guastaferro, Ph.D.

Behavioral health and interventions, drug courts, program evaluation

Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D.

Social media misuse, cybercrime, school climate and safety, youth mental health and well-being

Dawn Rothe, Ph.D.

State crime, corporate crime, inequality

Dennis Sarpong, Ph.D.

Policing, public opinion, immigration and crime, criminological theory

Lincoln Sloas, Ph.D.

Community corrections, problem-solving courts, substance abuse disorder treatment

Diana Sun, Ph.D.

Criminological theory, white-collar crime, macro-level patterns of crime



**School of Criminology
and Criminal Justice**

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**BUILD YOUR EARNING POTENTIAL WITH UK'S FULLY ONLINE,
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UK's online MSCJ offers flexible coursework that can be completed in 2 semesters, no GRE requirement, and access to UK's Online Graduate Tuition Cap – helping you move forward without putting life or career on pause.



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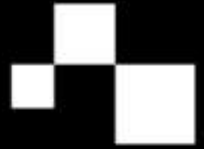


SCAN HERE TO APPLY

**APPLICATION DEADLINE
DECEMBER 11TH, 2026**

**COME SEE US AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
KENTUCKY BOOTH TO LEARN MORE!**





LEAD THE FUTURE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TOGETHER,
WE CREATE
CHANGE
THAT LASTS.

Join a growing academic community
committed to innovation, student
success and impact.

NOW HIRING



**Director of Undergraduate
Studies in Criminal Justice**
Assistant, Associate, or Professor



**Assistant Professor in
Criminal Justice**



**Lecturer in
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**Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Graduate Faculty

Ellen Cohn **University of Cambridge** | Weather and Crime | Citation Analysis | Intimate Partner Violence | History of the Criminal Justice System

José Miguel Cruz **Vanderbilt University** | Transnational Gangs | Police in International Contexts | Criminal Governance

Stewart J. D'Alessio **Florida State University** | Terrorism | Race and Crime | Criminal Sentencing | Criminal Justice Policy

Jamie L. Flexon **University of Albany, SUNY** | Juvenile Delinquency | Minorities and Crime | Law and Social Control | Criminal Justice Policy | Capital Punishment | Psychopathy

Tim Goddard **University of California, Irvine** | Issues of Social Justice in Crime Policy | Risk Factor Prevention Paradigm | Youth Offending Prevention | Voluntary Community-based Organizations

Rob Guerette **Rutgers University-Newark** | Situational Crime Prevention | Problem and Community-Oriented Policing | Transnational Crime | Program and Policy Evaluation

Suman Kakar **University of Florida** | Juvenile Delinquency | Minorities and Crime | Violence in Families | Violence in Schools | Youth Gangs | Policing | Crime Prevention Program Evaluation

Besiki Luka Kutateladze **CUNY Graduate Center** | Performance Indicators | Prosecution | Racial Justice | Equality and Rule of Law

Bradley O'Guinn **University of Cincinnati** | Police Organizations | Law Enforcement Recruitment and Retention | Police Crime Prevention and Performance Measures

Stephen Pires **Rutgers University-Newark** | Situational Crime Prevention | Crime Mapping | Conservation Criminology | Wildlife Crime | Kidnapping for Ransom | International Crime

Lisa Stolzenberg **Florida State University** | Crime Analysis | Prosecutor Discretion | Criminal Sentencing | Law and Policy Impact Analysis | Quantitative Analysis

Daniel Trovato **Northeastern University** | School Discipline | Violence | Life Course Criminology | Statistical and Computational Methods

Kristen Zgoba **Rutgers University-Newark** | Violence | Sexual Offense Legislation | Corrections | Criminal Justice Policy



Graduate Programs Offered:

Available as **Hybrid** or **Fully Remote!**

M.S. in Criminal Justice

Joint Degree Partnerships

- Master of Public Administration
- Juris Doctor

Ph.D. in International Crime & Justice

M.S. en route option available

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**Criminology and
Criminal Justice**

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



**FORWARD-THINKING
DRIVES REAL
GLOBAL IMPACT**

As an **R1** institution based in Miami, Florida, students and faculty are inspired by this global gateway city. Considered the *first and only* Doctoral Program in **International Crime and Justice** in the United States, the curriculum offers a rigorous set of courses to equip students to produce original research that generates insights into criminology issues and their international nexus. The program provides students with comprehensive training in theory, research methods, and statistical analysis.

International Experts in Criminology

- Corrections & Recidivism
- Human Trafficking
- Terrorism & Gangs
- Policing & Crime Science
- Prosecutorial Decision Making
- Situational Crime Prevention
- Social Justice Policy & Initiatives
- Violent & Sexual Offender Legislation

Department Highlights:

- **Only APSIA-affiliated** ICJ PhD program.
- **Ranked 13th** (out of 45) in Faculty Authorship.
- **Ranked 15th** in Publication Productivity.
- **\$19 million** awarded for research.
- Average H-index: **23.69**.
- **187.3 citations** per faculty/year.
- **3.36 publications** per faculty/year.
- **1.37 publications** w/ grad. students/year.
- 2027 editorial home for *Homicide Studies* journal.

Graduate Programs Offered: Available in **Hybrid** or **Fully Remote**!

M.S. in Criminal Justice (36 credits)

- Joint Degree Partnerships
 - Master of Public Administration (60 credits)
 - Juris Doctor (114 credits)

Ph.D. in International Crime & Justice (75 credits)

- M.S. en route option available



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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Monday, September 14, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	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
6:00-8:00	Presidential Reception Sponsored by Florida Atlantic University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice	Sky Terrace
Wednesday, September 16, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:30-10:30	Student Event #1: Graduate Education: Getting in and Making it Through! (M.A., MS, & Ph.D.) <i>Breakfast Included</i>	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
12:30-2:00	AJCJ Editorial Board Meeting	Sawgrass
1:15-2:15	Student Event #3: 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 & Keynote Address Sponsored by the 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
6:00-8:00	Participants Reception Sponsored by Florida International University, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice	S3 (Sun Surf Sand) 505 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304
Friday, September 18, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
9:00-11:00	SCJA Executive Board Meeting	Sawgrass
9:30-10:45	Panels & Roundtables	Himmarshee, Las Olas IV, V, & VI

RAFFLE PROCEEDS DONATED TO Women In Distress of Broward County, Inc.



Women in Distress of Broward County (WID) is the only nationally accredited, state-certified, full-service domestic violence center serving Broward County. Founded in 1974, WID has grown from a four-bedroom refuge into one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive domestic violence agencies. Through intervention, education, and advocacy, WID empowers survivors and their families to reclaim control of their lives, rebuild after abuse, and create safer futures.

SCJA is proud to support WID as the charitable partner for our 2026 Annual Meeting. All proceeds from our conference raffle, along with an additional contribution from SCJA, will be donated to WID in support of its mission to stop domestic violence and abuse for everyone.

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

State-Level Patterns in Missing Persons Case Resolution: An Analysis of National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) Data, 2015–2024

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 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
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

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

11:00 – 12:15 Himmarshee

Panel: Local Jails

Chair: Kimberly Dodson, University of Houston-Clear Lake

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

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

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

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

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom IV

Panel: Mental Health in Criminal Justice

Chair: Jenny Beatty, Troy University

Improving Effective Advocacy of Defendants with Mental Illness
Paul Gormley, Lynn University

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

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

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

Online Communities: Social Disorganization and Social Control in Virtual Communities

James Hawdon, Virginia Tech

1:00 – 2:15 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Challenges of Collecting Data on Crime, Victimization, & 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, Univ. 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, Univ. 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

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, Kennesaw State University

Heather L. Scheuerman, James Madison

University

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

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

Prosecutorial Philosophy and Racial Disparities in Prison Admissions

Carl Reeds, University of Arkansas

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

With Guest, 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 – 8:00 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

8:30 – 10:30 Las Olas I-II-III

Student Event #1: *Breakfast and Chat about Graduate Education: Getting in and Making it Through! (M.A., MS, and Ph.D.)*

Hosts:

- Abigail Novak, University of Mississippi
- Carl Reeds, University of Arkansas
- Jodi Lane, University of Florida
- Natalie Todak, University of Alabama at Birmingham
- Timothy Brown, San Diego State University

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: Andrew Novak, George Mason University

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

9:30 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

Panel: Universities and Campus Safety

Chair: Rakibul Hasan, University of South Florida

*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 Job

Market: A Roundtable for Future Faculty

Hosts:

- Bryan Miller, Clemson University
- Holly Ventura, University of North Florida
- McKenzie Jossie, Louisiana State University
- Shaun L. Gabbidon, Penn State Harrisburg
- Tom Smith, University of Mississippi

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

*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)*

Kevin Buckler, University of Houston-
Downtown

*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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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, UC Irvine
Amanda Connella, UC Irvine
Domingo Delgado, UC Irvine

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

12:30 – 2:00 Sawgrass

AJCJ Editorial Board Meeting

1:15 – 2:15 Las Olas I-II-III

Student Event #3: Employment Chat (Academic & Non-Academic)

Hosts:

- Ben Stickle, Middle Tennessee State University
- John Boman, American University
- Julie Baldwin, American University
- Justin Smith, Loss Prevention Research Council
- Matthew Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University

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, Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Michelle McLeese, Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Brenda Rowe, Univ. of Southern Mississippi
Zoe Robinson, Univ. 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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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

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
Brian Graves, Florida Atlantic University

Trauma, Coercion, and Justice: Predictors of Recidivism in Youth with Mental Health Diagnoses
Lola Grosjean-Leventhal, FIU

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

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, LPRC

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

Amelia Wiercioch, University of Central Florida

Sara Lucak, University of Central Florida

Christina Burton, Loss Prevention Research Council

4:00 – 6:00 Las Olas Foyer

Poster Session

– Faculty Led 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

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

F6: *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

F7: *The Impact of Incarceration on Maternal-Child Bonding*

George Frogg , Austin Peay State University

F8: *Risk Typologies of Justice-Involved Veterans in a Veteran Treatment Court*

Mandi Muse, American University
Jamie Vaske, American University

F9: *Evaluating the Impact of Generative AI Integration on Coursework Success and Unassisted Exam Outcomes*

Halil Akbas, Troy 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 Sharaievska, 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

F14: *Integrating Jail-based Case Management into Offender Treatment: An Empirical Examination of the Jasper County (MO) Treatment Court*

J. Mitchell Miller, University of North Florida
Holly Ventura, University of North Florida
Kyle McLean, Clemson University
Bryan L. Miller, Clemson University

– Student Led Posters –

S1: *Expanding the Police Toolkit: Insights from a Mid-Sized Municipal Police Department*

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

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 US 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

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: *Access to Books in Appalachian Prisons*

Kaytlin Hoxie, East Tennessee State University

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

S11: *Sexual Harassment in Virtual Reality*
Delaney Chopp, Florida Atlantic University

S12: *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

S13: *Autism, Deafness, I/DD & Victimization*
Kirsten Brown, Florida Atlantic University
Michelle Eliasson, Florida Atlantic University

S14: *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

S15: *Trampled Grasslands: The Development of Human Trafficking Laws in Mongolia*
Franco Loyola, Florida Atlantic University

S16: *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

S17: *Different, Not Deviant: Barriers Autistic Communities Face*
Hassana Arbubakrr, American University

S18: *A Study on the Perception of Fear of Crime Among UL Lafayette Students*
Rakibul Hasan, University of South Florida

S19: *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

S20: *Human Trafficking Education in Hotspot Areas*
Tyrese Rushton, Tiffin University

S21: *Women's Chemical Endangerment Cases in AL Surrounding Dobbs v. Jackson*
Shelby Vaughn, The University of Alabama

S22: *Public opinion on the effectiveness of forensic science*
Mia Scalia, Florida Atlantic University
Lincoln Sloas, Florida Atlantic University
Patrick McLaughlin, Florida Atlantic University

S23: *Noem v. Vazquez Perdomo and Plenary Authority: A Look at What Is Happening to US Citizens*
Jose Solis, Florida Atlantic University

S24: *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



Springer

Thursday, September 17, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 Las Olas Foyer

Coffee

8:30 – 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, 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
Jessica Huff, University of Cincinnati
Bradley O'Guinn, Florida International University

P. Trey Bussey, University of Cincinnati
Brenna Dunlap, University of Cincinnati

Thursday, September 17, 2026

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

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 US.

Elizabeth Wright, Middle Tennessee State University

Rachel Dimonda, Bridgewater State University

Thursday, September 17, 2026

12:30 – 2:30 Las Olas I-II-III

Awards Luncheon & Keynote Address

Sponsored by
University of Kentucky Criminal Justice
Program 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 Adopted 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

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

Thursday, September 17, 2026

3:00 – 4:30 Las Olas Ballroom V

VACJE Annual Meeting & Keynote Speaker

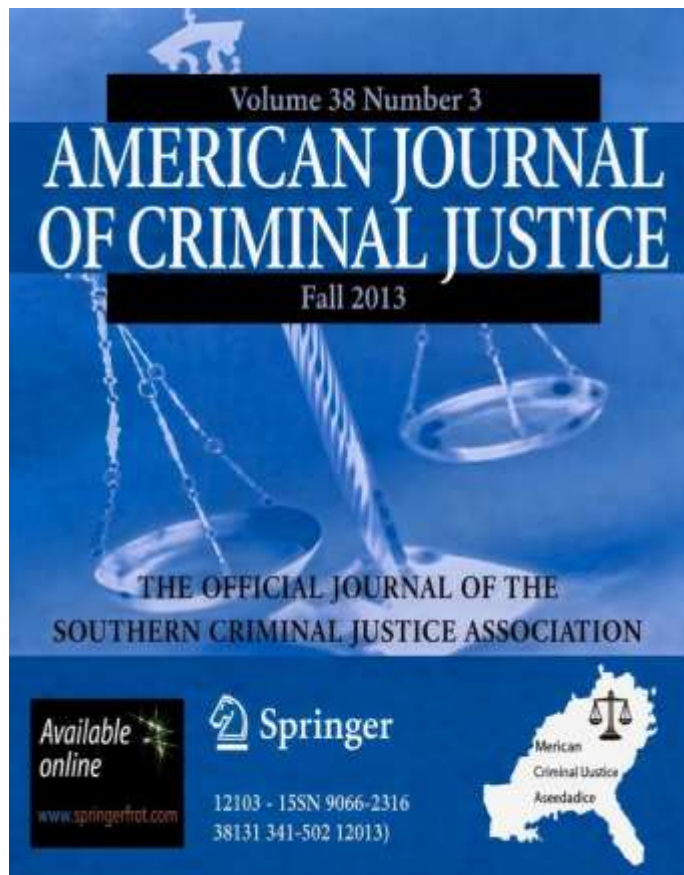
Everyone is welcome to attend the Virginia Association of Criminal Justice Educators (VACJE) Annual Business Meeting and Keynote Presentation.

This year's keynote speaker is Edward W. Greenberg, PhD. He is an expert software engineer and 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 socio-political impact in the public sphere and because its programming is layered atop legacy technological infrastructure. Tracing examples in criminal justice, this presentation will evaluate challenges and solution-making in this evolving space.

6:00 – 8:00 S3 (Sun Surf Sand) 505 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL

Participants Reception

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Friday, September 18, 2026

9:00 – 11:00 Sawgrass

SCJA Executive Board Meeting

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

Michelle Eliasson, Florida Atlantic University

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 – 10:45 Las Olas Ballroom VI

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

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

See y'all in Louisville!



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James Hawdon, 1st VP and Program Chair
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Awards Luncheon

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Johanna Thomas

Justice in Transition:

What Happens When Courts, Communities, and Behavioral Health Work Together

Thursday, September 17, 2026 - 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm.



Johanna Thomas, Ph.D., LCSW, is Director and Professor in the School of Social Work at the University of Arkansas. Trained in both social work and criminal justice, her interdisciplinary research and applied scholarship is at the intersection of behavioral health, criminal justice, healthcare, and community systems. Her work focuses on behavioral health crisis services, serious mental illness and substance use disorders, program implementation and evaluation, and community-based responses for vulnerable populations. Across this work, Dr. Thomas has built a career around translating research into practical solutions for courts, treatment providers, healthcare organizations, government agencies, universities, and the communities they serve.

Dr. Thomas has led major federal, state, and foundation initiatives supporting community mental health clinics, statewide behavioral health crisis systems, assisted outpatient treatment, drug courts, veterans' and family treatment courts, diversion programs, mobile behavioral health services, and rural healthcare access. Her work reflects a central reality facing contemporary justice systems: courts, law enforcement, and corrections cannot address complex behavioral health and social needs alone. Effective responses increasingly depend on partnerships that connect justice agencies with mental health and substance use providers, healthcare systems, universities, nonprofits, and local communities. Dr. Thomas works with diverse community partners to secure external funding that expands services, builds organizational capacity, supports innovation, and evaluates whether new approaches are producing meaningful results. Her work is especially attentive to rural and underserved communities, where limited treatment capacity, workforce shortages, transportation barriers, and geographic isolation often leave the justice system responding to needs that extend far beyond the courtroom.

SCJA Awards

Educator of the Year

Dr. Jodi Lane, University of Florida



Jodi Lane is a Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law at the University of Florida. She earned her Ph.D. in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine, in 1998. She worked briefly for RAND Corporation before joining the faculty at UF in August 1999. She has published over 100 research products, including 58 peer-reviewed articles, 2 books, and 2 edited books. Her work focuses on reactions to crime, including 1) perceptions and attitudes among the public and people involved in crime and 2) policymaker and practitioner policies and practices. Specifically, she studies perceived risk and fear of crime and conducts evaluation research focused on justice programs, primarily those related to courts and corrections. Since 2020, she, Elizabeth Hartsell, and McKenzie Jossie, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, have conducted research on the Marion County (FL) Diversion Drug Court. From 2022-2025, she was Trustee at Large for the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. She recently ended her co-editorship of the American Society of Criminology Division on Corrections and Sentencing (DCS) Handbook Series. In November 2025, the DCS honored her with its Lifetime Achievement Award. Since she has been at UF, she has chaired 11 doctoral students to completion and served on numerous other doctoral committees. Most of these students remain active researchers and contribute to the profession through service, including service to SCJA, which makes her very proud.

Outstanding Professional

Special Agent David Alexander, FDLE



Special Agent David Alexander of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is a practitioner who remains engaged in day-to-day investigative and operational work, applying both traditional policing skills and contemporary intelligence-driven methods. One of Special Agent Alexander's most significant contributions has been his leadership in addressing organized retail crime, a threat that is costing communities and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars annually. He has led efforts to use intelligence-led approaches that target the organized networks behind these crimes. He has worked to coordinate local, state, and federal partners, and these efforts have produced tangible outcomes. Special Agent Alexander is committed to bridging research and practice, and he actively works with researchers to ensure that academic studies and data-driven insights shape concrete tools, tactics, and training that frontline officers and investigators can use. This practitioner-scholar mindset has strengthened both the quality of investigations and the broader evidence-based culture within Florida's criminal justice community. In addition to his operational and research contributions, Special Agent Alexander is widely respected for his professionalism, integrity, and willingness to mentor others.

SCJA Awards

Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate

Adams Howard, Clemson University



Adams Howard is a master's student in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice at Clemson University. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from Clemson University in May 2026 and is now pursuing a master's degree (M.S.) in Social Science. During her time as an undergraduate student, she was actively involved in the Drugs and Crime Research lab and contributed to several major projects funded by the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Justice, and the Department of Homeland Security. As a research assistant for the lab, she studied law enforcement deflection, substance use, and illicit drug networks. Her research interests are policing, incarceration, criminological theory, and substance use disorder. She also has an assistantship with the Center for Public Safety Research at Clemson.

Outstanding Master's Student

Addison Midkiff, Clemson University



Addison Midkiff is a second-year graduate student at Clemson University pursuing a Master of Science degree in Social Science. She earned her dual Bachelor of Science degrees in

Sociology, with a concentration in Criminology, from Virginia Tech in 2025. At Clemson, she serves as a Graduate Research Assistant in the Clemson Drugs and Crime Research Lab. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked as an undergraduate researcher at Virginia Tech, where she developed early research skills and conducted research on scam victimization for publication. Currently, her research interests include race and crime, victimology, policing, drug use and deflection, and gender/sexual based violence. Addison is also a member of Alpha Phi Sigma, the national Criminal Justice Society, and Alpha Kappa Delta, the international Sociology Honor Society.

Outstanding Doctoral Student

Amelia Wiercioch, University of Central Florida



Amelia Wiercioch is a doctoral candidate (A.B.D) in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Her research interests include police accountability, police culture, and criminal justice theory. Amelia earned dual B.A.s in Psychology and Philosophy from Duke University, after which she received an M.A. in Ethics and Applied Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Since joining UCF in 2023, Amelia has published six peer-reviewed journal articles, two of which she is the lead author, in outlets such as *Police Quarterly* and *Deviant Behavior*. Her commitment to translational research is demonstrated through her contribution to six technical reports, five of which were produced as part of her assistantship with the Loss Prevention Research Council. Amelia's original research project, "What makes a 'good' police officer? A quantitative analysis of police perspectives," earned her second place at

SCJA Awards

UCF's College of Community Innovation and Education Research Impact Showcase in Spring 2026. Her dissertation extends this research, employing both quantitative and qualitative methods to explore the craft of policing. Amelia is also dedicated to leadership and service, as illustrated by her tenure as a doctoral student ambassador for the criminal justice department and as President of UCF's Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association. In these roles, she contributed to recruitment efforts, led fundraisers for the department and the broader community, and organized student events such as K-9 demonstrations and court tours.

AJCJ Paper of the Year

Bryan Holmes, Florida State University

Crimmigration in the wake of Title 42's Summary Expulsions. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 50(4), 616-640.



Bryan Holmes is an assistant professor at the Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 112 South Copeland Street, Tallahassee, FL, e-mail (bholmes4@fsu.edu), phone (850-645-5058). His research focuses on variation in sentencing and punishment across social, community, and temporal contexts, as well as their intersections. His research has appeared in criminological and sociological journals such as *Justice Quarterly*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, and *Social Problems*.

Student & Untenured Faculty Travel Award

Samuel Agboola, The University of Mississippi
Olaniran Akintunde, Florida International University
Clayton Drummond, Western Carolina University
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Shelby Gilbreath, University of Mississippi
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Aaron Sivilay, University of Central Florida
Kaitlyn Stearns, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Megan Trafford, University of Kentucky
Shelby Vaughn, The University of Alabama
Trinity Velez, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Maryann White, Georgia Gwinnett College
Heidi Williams, Virginia Tech

Awards Committee Members

We extend our appreciation to all members who served on the Awards Committees.

James Hawdon, 2nd VP, Virginia Tech

Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award

Abby Novak, University of Mississippi
Jamie Flexon, Florida International University
Robert Perdue, Virginia Tech

Outstanding Master's Student Award

Ashley Reichelmann, Virginia Tech
Ellen Cohn, Florida International University
Amanda Cook-Cox, Mississippi State University

Outstanding Doctoral Student Award

Matthew Costello, Clemson University
William Moreto, University of Central Florida
Megan Richardson, University of Miami

Outstanding Educator Award

John Stogner, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Bryan Miller, Clemson University
James Hawdon, Virginia Tech

SCJA Awards

Outstanding Professional Award

John Sloan, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Brenda Vose, University of North Florida
Stacey Clifton, Radford University

Outstanding Student Poster Award

Kristina Lopez, University of North Florida
Sarah Harper, Texas A&M University – San Antonio
Stacie St. Louis, American University

Student and Untenured Faculty Travel Awards

Richard Stringer, Kennesaw State University
McKenzie Jossie, Louisiana State University
Shelly McGrath, University of Alabama at Birmingham

AJCL Paper Award

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David Pyrooz, University of Colorado Boulder
Brenda Vose, University of North Florida



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2015 Cathy Marcum
2014 J. Heith Copes
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2018 Arthur L. Hunter, Jr.
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Tom Barker Outstanding Undergraduate Student

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CONGRATS JULIE BALDWIN!



Julie Baldwin, a Research Professor in SPA's Department of Justice, Law, Criminology and Security, and the immediate past president of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, has been named American University's Interim Vice Provost for Research and Innovation.

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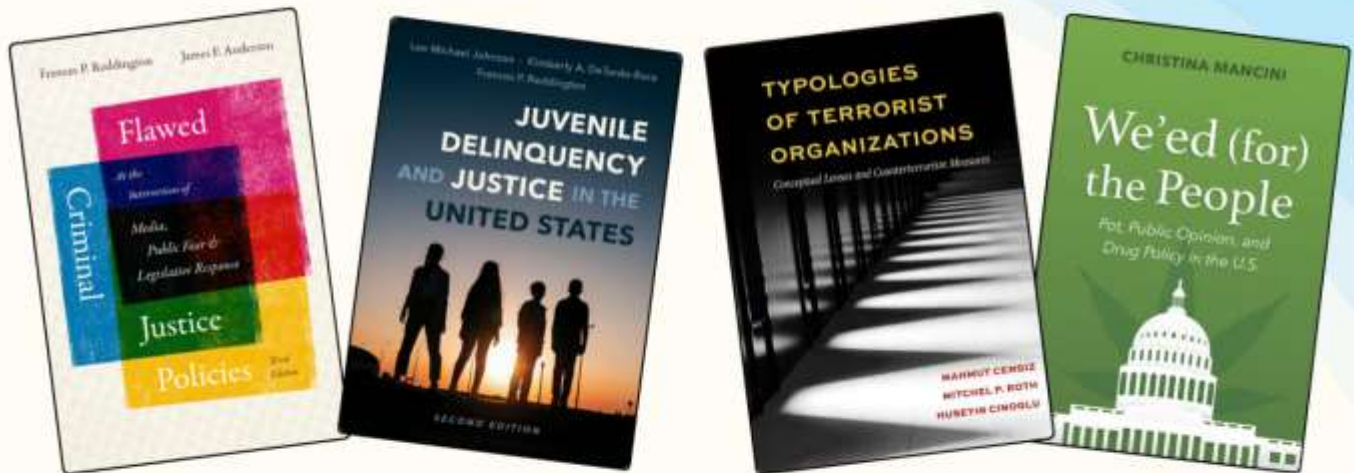


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