

Police Reform

**Criminal Justice Association of Georgia
Annual Conference
October 5 - 6, 2023**



CJAG Executive Board:

John (Stu) Batchelder, President
Jason Armstrong, Vice-President/President-Elect
Gary Killam, Treasurer
Lorna L. Alvarez-Rivera, Information Officer
Valerie Cochran, Assistant Information Officer
Karen Wheel-Carter, Immediate Past President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Criminal Justice Association of Georgia's executive board wishes to thank the many individuals and groups who assisted in planning and implementing this year's conference. Without their collective support, the CJAG conference would not have been possible.

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 (board meeting)

7:00 PM	CJAG Executive Board Meeting
---------	------------------------------

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Room A Hoag Student Center

9:00 - 9:10 AM	President and Conference Host Welcome and setting the context of the conference	POST Training Session
9:10 - 9:20 AM	Welcome, Conference Chair, Jason Armstrong	
9:20 - 9:30 AM	Break	
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Thursday Session 1: Law Enforcement and the Police	
11:00 - 11:10 AM	Break	
11:10 AM - 12:30 PM	Thursday Session 2: Criminal Justice Education	
12:30 - 1:45 PM	Lunch	
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Thursday Session 3: Courts and the Law	
3:30 - 3:40 PM	Break	
3:40 - 4:40 PM	Keynote Address, Thaddeus Johnson	
7:00 PM	CJAG Social Event	

Friday, October 6, 2023

Room A Hoag Student Center

9:00 - 10:30 AM	Friday Session 1: Offenders and The Correctional System
10:30 - 10:40 AM	Break
10:40 AM - 12:00 PM	Friday Session 2: Criminal Justice Research
12:00 – 1:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 - 2:30 PM	CJAG General Membership Meeting
2:30 - 2:40 PM	Break
2:40 - 4:10 PM	Friday Session 3: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Conference Venue Information:

All conference rooms have presentation media for PowerPoint or video presentations.

Thursday, October 5, 2023

9:00 – 9:10 AM

President and Conference Host Welcome and setting the context of the conference

9:10 – 9:20 AM

Jason Armstrong

9:20 – 9:30 AM

Break

9:30 – 12:30 PM POST Training Session

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Session 1: Law Enforcement and the Police

Facilitator: Cynthia Atwood

- No-knock warrant: Human life versus evidence protection: Jim Mayua; Albany State University
- Under the Pressure: Jordan Martin; Albany State University
- How Law Enforcement Officers View the Effectiveness of Auxiliary or Reserved Officers: Lakesha Boone; Albany State University
- Is the current corruption crisis in the Georgia Prison System predictive of future challenges in policing? Cynthia Atwood; College of Coastal Georgia.
- The 911 Dispatcher: Successful Mediation Caller Demands and Effective Policing: Pamela Hill Nolan; Saint Leo University and Butch Newkirk; University of North Georgia

11:00 – 11:10 AM

Break

11:10 AM – 12:30 PM

Session 2: Criminal Justice Education

Facilitator: Butch Beach

- Where Teachers Choose to Teach and Why? Melissa Harrell; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- A Student's Perception of Academic Dishonesty on Campus: Luisa M. Diaz-Kope; University of North Georgia, Matilda Foster; University of North Georgia and Gail Spatt, Georgia Tech
- Major Influencers in the Recruits Choice of Agency in Georgia: Butch Beach; Point University, Rudy K. Prine; Valdosta State University, and Michael Wilkie; Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
- Preventing Gun Violence in Schools through Environmental Design: Thomas Hochschild, Jr and Lorna L. Alvarez-Rivera; Valdosta State University

12:30 - 1:45 PM

Lunch

2:00 - 3:30 PM

Session 3: Courts and the Law

Facilitator: Valerie Cochran

- Illegal searches during proctored exams: Valerie Cochran; University of North Georgia
- Mobile Eye Witness: Cellebrite and Law Enforcement: Hope Kellum and Bryson R. Payne; University of North Georgia
- Evaluating the Impact of Speed Zone Cameras in School Zones: A Case Study in Albany, Georgia: Kizzie Donaldson-Richard and Jason Armstrong; Albany State University
- Supreme Court Updates: Michael Shapiro; Georgia State University
- Effects of Laws, Policies, and Rehabilitation Programs on African American Male Juvenile Recidivism in Southwest Georgia: Kezzie Donaldson-Richard; Albany State University

3:30 - 3:40 PM

Break

3:40 – 4:40

Keynote Address, Dr. Thaddeus Johnson

7:00 PM

CJAG Social Event

Friday, October 6, 2023

9:00-10:30 AM

Session 1: Offenders and the Correctional System

Facilitator: Jason Armstrong

- Barriers to Reentry: Mental Health in Jail Settings: Beverly Reece; Kennesaw State University
- The History of Challenges Associated with Inmate Self-development Programs: John Stuart Batchelder and Butch Newkirk; University of North Georgia
- Criminal profiling + luck in capturing serial killers: Police Work & the Community Working Together: Pamela Brown and Jason Armstrong; Albany State University
- Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Restorative Justice Practice: Shani Wilfred; Valdosta State University, Jewrell Rivers; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and L'Tyra Williams; Valdosta State University
- Acworth, Georgia Killers: Stan Crowder; Kennesaw State University
- We need you: Sex offenders' need for social support post-incarceration: Nayab Hakim; Clayton State University

10:30 - 10:40 AM

Break

10:40 AM - 12:00 PM

Session 2: Criminal Justice Research

Facilitator: Michael Shapiro

- Racial and Gender Disparities in the Sex Trafficking Industry: Alyia Leemook; University of North Georgia
- Analyzing the War on Drugs and its Effectiveness as a Global Campaign: Katie Colwell; University of North Georgia
- Cyberattacks: The Effects of the United States Safety with the influence of Artificial Intelligence: Hannah Hollingsworth; University of North Georgia
- Developing and Validating an Online Neighborhood Network Efficacy Scale: MariTere Molinet; Georgia State University
- Child Maltreatment and other Childhood Factors as a significant cause of Juvenile Delinquency: Destiny Gabriel; University of North Georgia

12:00 - 1:30 PM

Lunch Break

1:30 - 2:30 PM

CJAG General Membership Meeting

2:30 - 2:40 PM

Break

2:40 - 4:10 PM

Session 3: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Facilitator: Jon Stuart Batchelder

- Chatbots, ChatGPT and Academia: Michael B. Shapiro; Georgia State University
- Georgia Fentanyl Deaths: Racial Disparity and Unequal Treatment: Jon Stuart Batchelder and Jon Hager; University of North Georgia
- Examining Spikes and Long Trends in American Homicides: Brent Paterline; University of North Georgia
- Criminalized Women's Negotiations of Domination and Agency and the Methods that Illuminate Them: Denise Woodall; University of North Georgia
- Undocumented Immigration and Crime Rates: Isabelle Cosby; University of North Georgia

Program Abstracts

Thursday October 5th 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Session 1: Law Enforcement and the Police

Facilitator: Cynthia Atwood

- **No-knock warrant: Human life versus evidence protection: Jim Mayua; Albany State University**

A no-knock warrant is a search warrant that authorizes law enforcement officers to enter certain premises without first knocking and announcing their presence or purpose prior to entering the premises. It is estimated that in the early 1980s, law enforcement utilized no-knock or “quick-knock” warrants about 1,500 times per year. Proponents of no-knock raids argue they minimize the opportunity a suspect may have to harm a police officer, evade arrest, or destroy evidence, all while promoting public safety. However, when officers are not required to knock and announce their presence, botched raids often occur, resulting in serious bodily injury and death for both civilians and law enforcement. In the Breonna Taylor case, her boyfriend Kenneth Walker shot an officer, unaware that those breaking into the apartment were police. Attempted murder charges against Walker were soon by prosecutors given the conflict created by the search. Conversely, four of the officers involved in the raid were charged with federal crimes. This paper argues that although they can be useful in situations that call for it, drug-related offenses alone do not call for it, and using no-knock or quick knock warrants in solely drug-related offenses lowers the value of human life. Thus, the balance between deaths of innocent people and the destruction of the evidence should be highlighted. In addition, no-knock conflicts with the right to self-defense, your-ground laws, and the castle doctrine. As a result, there is a need to place the lives of human beings above the acquisition of drug evidence.

- **Under the Pressure: Jordan Martin; Albany State University**

This study sets out to examine the factors associated with police job performance and mental health. Media portrayals, positive, negative, and mixed, have been shown to impact police differentially, giving rise to some cases of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This effect is not limited to operational or frontline police, as research shows a variety of public-safety workers, such as police-call handlers, experience similar challenges. Collectively, they can result in negative effects on officer physical health, mental health, and even substance use. This study also examines a number of non-organizational factors, to include socio-demographic, family interference with work, insufficient staff, the risk of infectious diseases, overcrowding, and working with high-risk prisoners. We offer suggestions for ameliorating these conditions toward finding effective interventions.

- **How Law Enforcement Officers View the Effectiveness of Auxiliary or Reserved Officers: Lakesha Boone and Robert Ausby; Albany State University**

About 86% of police agencies reported in 2021 that they have a shortage in police officers. The Police Executive Research Forum reported that there were nearly 50% more resignations and 20% more officers retiring in 2022 than in 2019. These alarming findings should cause agencies to search for solutions to these growing police shortages. Some police agencies have begun to hire reserve or auxiliary officers to enhance service without providing any negative consequences to agency funding or personnel. While there is substantial literature to support the usefulness of the reserve and auxiliary programs, none of the literature reviewed has explored how law enforcement officers view reserve or auxiliary officers' effectiveness within their organizations. That is the focus of this study.

- **Is the current corruption crisis in the Georgia Prison System predictive of future challenges in policing? Cynthia Atwood; College of Coastal Georgia.**

Departments and agencies across the spectrum of the field of criminal justice are experiencing challenges with the recruitment and retainment of qualified applicants. The well-publicized issues of concern within the Georgia Prison System reflect similar challenges across the nation within this important component of the criminal justice system. Systemic problems associated with corrections such as low pay, high turnover, and poor working conditions proceeded a crisis of corruption. Studies indicate corrections agencies appeared to receive more than enough applications/resumes but were disappointed in the quality of the applicants.

Is this crisis instructive for the policing component of the criminal justice system? Recent challenges with recruitment and retention of police officers across our communities, states, and nation present concerns that quality applicants will opt for careers outside the field of criminal justice. This study examines recent relevant research and the additional study required to identify viable solutions to recruitment and retention challenges in an effort to avoid a similar crisis of corruption within law enforcement and policing.

- **The 911 Dispatcher: Successful Mediation Caller Demands and Effective Policing; Pamela Hill Nolan; Saint Leo University and Butch Newkirk; University of North Georgia**

E-911 Dispatchers make up the backbone of public safety. The career of an E-911 dispatcher is one of extreme stress and unhealthy work environments. Negative stressors, harsh working conditions, lack of recognition, and lack of resources all lead to ineffective mediation of caller demands and effective policing. Unprepared E-911 dispatchers are a substantial public safety concern. This is an overview of a quantitative study regarding the successful mediation of caller demands by the E-911 dispatcher and the direct correlation between mediation and effective policing. The E-911 dispatcher career is one of extreme stress and unhealthy work environments. In most cases, one single E-911 dispatcher will answer calls for EMS, EMA, Fire, Police, and other calls such as school alarms, weather alerts, and general community outreach inquiries all while monitoring officer safety during traffic stops and answering all other radio traffic. Currently, there is a high turnover rate due to job-specific stressors such as PTSD, lack of training and cross-training, low morale, lack of resources, and improper job classification. The certification of an E-911 Dispatcher in Georgia is inadequate as well as continuing education requirements. Without proper training, the rate of successful mediation of caller demands will be low, which contributes to ineffective policing.

Thursday, October 5th 11:10 AM – 12:30 PM

Session 2: Criminal Justice Education

Facilitator: Butch Beach

- **Where Teachers Choose to Teach and Why? Melissa Harrell; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**

The purpose of this research study is to identify why K-12 public school teachers in the rural South Georgia opt to teach in the public schools and ultimately why they remain as teachers in these rural schools. The research project is currently underway in the instrument design and testing stage. The Literature Review, to be presented at the conference, determines retaining teachers is a problem in all districts, but especially difficult in rural areas. This project focuses on the positive aspects of why teachers select to teach in rural South Georgia and why they remain as teachers in rural South Georgia. The literature review will be presented, followed by an analysis and description of the population of the study, and finally the instrument to be administered.

- **A Student's Perception of Academic Dishonesty on Campus: Luisa M. Diaz-Kope; University of North Georgia, Matilda Foster; University of North Georgia and Gail Spatt, Georgia Tech**

Universities use honor codes to help guide students on academic integrity. These codes are intended to help students understand what is considered unacceptable behavior. Students also look to their faculty to help guide them on what is expected of them when completing academic tasks. However, the line between what is and is not acceptable behavior is becoming blurry due to changing culture and technology. This study explores a college student's perceptions of how seriously students and faculty take academic integrity on a college campus.

- **Major Influencers in the Recruits Choice of Agency in Georgia: Butch Beach; Point University, Rudy K. Prine; Valdosta State University, and Michael Wilkie; Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police**

Many police agencies in Georgia are having difficulties in recruiting and retaining qualified candidates for careers in law enforcement. This project is a survey of law enforcement cadets undergoing POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) certification. Thus, they are a sample of successful recruiting efforts. Candidates responded to a variety of questions related to the decision-making process that lead to their employment with Georgia law enforcement agencies.

- **Preventing Gun Violence in Schools through Environmental Design: Thomas Hochschild Jr and Lorna Alvarez-Rivera; Valdosta State University**

K-12 schools should be havens where children learn academic and social skills in a safe and nurturing environment free from fear of gun violence. However, in recent years we have seen an increase in the number of shootings taking place in public, private and parochial K-12 schools around the United States. The authors outline Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) approaches to fortifying K-12 focusing on 1) territorial reinforcement, 2) natural access control, 3) natural surveillance, 4) activity support, and 5) maintenance. While no single CPTED strategy can completely eliminate the possibility of a school shooting, a combination of the following strategies provides a layering effect that can significantly reduce the possibility of such an event taking place.

Thursday, October 5th 2:00-3:30 PM

Session 3: Courts and the Law

Facilitator: Valerie Cochran

- **Illegal searches during proctored exams: Valerie Cochran; University of North Georgia**

Online proctoring of exams originated well before the covid-19 pandemic but the use of these procedures increased exponentially as universities, in particular, struggled to maintain academic integrity and continue to provide courses for students isolated at home. Online proctoring can be done through a variety of means and technologies. Many third-party services, however, require students to submit to a room scan prior to the start of the exam. A recent decision by the District Court in the Northern District of Ohio found the blanket room scan procedure to be unconstitutional.

Institutions of higher learning that continue to require or allow room scans of a student's study space without reasonable, particularized suspicion of cheating fail to take seriously the concerns raised in the recent District Court ruling.

A survey of Georgia institutions shows many continue to use remote proctoring solutions that require every student to submit to a room scan. Further review shows many institutions also continue to have policies in place the District Court discussed in the opinion as potentially problematic.

For example, some institutions leave whether to require a room scan up to the individual professor, while other institutions do not mention room scans in their policies and procedures but use proctoring services that require room scans. The University of System of Georgia itself requires an online proctored exam for each eCore course and does not provide guidance on the use of room scans. Further, the use of online proctoring for entrance tests such as Accuplacer faces the same risks. While the District Court's decision from Ohio is not binding on Georgia, instructors and university administrators should understand the current case law in order to make the best choices for their courses until another decision comes down that clarifies the rules regarding room scans during remote proctoring sessions.

- **Mobile Eye Witness: Cellebrite and Law Enforcement: Hope Kellum and Bryson R. Payne; University of North Georgia**

Over the years, cybercrime has become more prevalent in criminal cases all over the world. Even in your average criminal case, the concept of digital forensics can become vital in collecting evidence that leads to a conviction. Criminals are becoming tech savvy making it harder for law enforcement to keep up with new types of technology used; but the good news is there is technology being created and evolving to push the boundaries of older tools to collect evidence, meaning there are ways to collect evidence digitally. With the creation of these new technological tools comes new ways for law enforcement to collect information they never would have had access to before. Law enforcement and tech companies continue to find new innovative ways to collect such evidence and improve forensic technology. Tools like Cellebrite help collect data from devices such as mobile phones, bringing in a multitude of potentially incriminating evidence. The fact is that criminals are also not always smart enough to erase any digital footprints they have made. When law enforcement is investigating a criminal or civil case, it is important to collect every facet of information and analyze the data to enter into evidence. With the new technological advancements come new challenges for law enforcement, but the use of Cellebrite by law enforcement agencies has been crucial to enabling the collection of information stored in smart devices. This research will give insight into just how important it is to have tools like Cellebrite for digital forensics in criminal and civil investigations. Cellebrite's advanced features allow law enforcement to extract all types of digital data and lead to a more effective way of organizing the important data needed to have a successful investigation, arrest, and conviction.

- **Evaluating the Impact of Speed Zone Cameras in School Zones: A Case Study in Albany, Georgia: Kizzie Donaldson-Richard and Jason Armstrong; Albany State University**

In the face of a persistent shortage of law enforcement officers, exacerbated by the post-pandemic era, the demand for comprehensive police services remains unabated. To address this deficit, police and municipal leaders have increasingly turned to technology, such as speed zone cameras, to supplement law enforcement efforts. Unlike human officers, electronic devices are not subject to breaks, illness, vacations, or career changes, and can operate continuously.

In Albany, Georgia, the city has implemented a speed zone camera program in selected school zones. This initiative aims to encourage motorists to reduce speed in school zones, thereby mitigating the risk of serious or fatal accidents involving children. The proposed research will explore the impact of this safety measure in three distinct phases:

1. **Phase One:** An investigation into the planning, design, implementation, and transparency of the speed zone camera program in Albany. This phase will culminate in the first published paper.
2. **Phase Two:** A quantitative analysis of data provided by the City of Albany, focusing on the number of citations issued to assess whether the program's goals have been achieved. This phase will result in the second published paper.
3. **Phase Three:** A qualitative study involving interviews with a random sample of Albany citizens to gauge their perceptions of the speed zone camera program. This phase will lead to the third published paper.

By employing a multifaceted approach, this research will provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of technological interventions in law enforcement, specifically within the context of school zone safety. The findings may offer valuable insights for other municipalities considering similar strategies to offset understaffed law enforcement agencies

- **Supreme Court Updates: Michael Shapiro; Georgia State University**

Each year the Supreme Court of the United States decides approximately eighty cases. Nearly one-third of these cases relate to criminal law, criminal procedure, or immigration. Since 2012, Michael Shapiro of Georgia State University and Peter Fenton of Kennesaw State University have provided an update of important criminal justice and immigration decisions from the recent Supreme Court term. This year's presentation will include cases such as *Cruz v. Arizona*, where the Court held a successive petition for a Writ of Habeas Corpus in a death penalty case was permissible to challenge the trial judge's ruling that the jury could not hear of the alternative sentence of life without the possibility of parole; *Reed v. Goertz*, addressing the statute of limitations in post-conviction challenges; and *Smith v. United States*, holding that the Constitutional protection against double jeopardy when a trial has been held in an improper venue does not preclude a retrial

- **Effects of Laws, Policies, and Rehabilitation Programs on African American Male Juvenile Recidivism in Southwest Georgia: Kizzie Donaldson-Richard; Albany State University**

Georgia's juvenile justice system needs to be revisited as it relates to the laws, policies, and rehabilitation programs offered to ex-offenders, especially given the difficulties faced by African American males and their documented rates of recidivism (Boggs & Worthy, 2015, 2016, 2017), defined as three or more arrests within 3 years after release. The primary purpose of the juvenile justice system is to rehabilitate youthful offenders and to ensure that recidivism does not occur. However, this study presented evidence of issues that have caused a high rate of recidivism among African American male juveniles in Southwest Georgia. Based on the analysis of participant responses, this research sought to offer recommendations for redesigning current programs and sentencing guidelines that reflect how rehabilitation programs may be modified so that they are effective for reducing the recidivism rates of African American male juveniles. Data suggest that previously prescribed sanctions of corrective behavior, rehabilitation programs, and what some see as lenient sentencing have served to escalate African American juvenile recidivism rates in Dougherty and Tift Counties. The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the perceptions and current guidelines of Georgia's laws, policies, and rehabilitation programs with a representative sample population from Dougherty and Tift Counties. Studying the lived experiences of these participants provided new insights that suggested changes to current programs and guidelines that could reduce the number of recidivist cases among African American male juveniles. The research questions specifically examined the impact of the 2013 Juvenile Reform Act (Ga. HB-242) on the lived experiences of African American male juvenile ex-offenders, who were over the age of 18 but less than 40, when seeking employment, education, and housing after incarceration. The implications of this research are far reaching and could be used to position social change that will help revamp laws, policies, and rehabilitation programs that may reduce recidivism rates of African American male juvenile offenders in Dougherty and Tift Counties.

Friday, October 6th 9:00 -10:30 AM
Session 1: Offenders and the Correctional System
Facilitator: Jason Armstrong

- **Barriers to Reentry: Mental Health in Jail Settings: Briell Hudson, Beverly Reece and Tanja Link; Kennesaw State University**

Research suggests that individuals reentering the community after incarceration often have greater mental health needs than the general population (Begun et al., 2016; Bronson & Berzofsky, 2017; Hicks et al., 2022). Those with mental health issues continue to be overrepresented in the criminal justice system, in part due to the deinstitutionalization of mental health services (Harding & Roman, 2017; Malik et al., 2019); thus, these individuals often are left without appropriate and consistent treatment. The current study focuses on reentry needs among an incarcerated jail population (N = 333) involved in an innovative reentry program in a large jail in the Southeastern United States. We find that mental illness ranks as one of the top self-reported barriers to reentry among those involved in the program, even after controlling for other important barriers (e.g., housing, transportation, employment). In addition, this need impacts self-perceptions of being able to stay out of trouble with the law upon release from jail, and past research has demonstrated that such perceptions tend to mirror reoffending trajectories. Important policy implications surrounding mental health needs and access to treatment among reentering jail populations are discussed.

- **The History of Challenges Associated with Inmate Self-development Programs: John Stuart Batchelder and Butch Newkirk; University of North Georgia**

This paper reviews the history of prison education, labor, and rehabilitation programs, and the reasons for their limited success. Three periods are covered: (1) The early years of the penitentiary from 1778 to 1880; (2) the slow demise of prison labor that began around 1890 and continued to decrease until around 1940, at which time it became virtually non-existent until the 1970s; and (3) the revival of rehabilitation programs, which occurred from the 1970s through the 1980s. Obstacles inmate education include corruption among prison officials that led to mistreatment of inmates, opposition from organized labor, inept state management schemes, and the persistent influence on penal policy of what is known as the principle of less eligibility.

- **Criminal profiling + luck in capturing serial killers: Police Work & the Community Working Together: Pamela Brown and Jason Armstrong; Albany State University**

While criminal profiling is a very useful tool in the realm of capturing some of the most heinous criminal serial killers, sometimes the offender is captured by a surprise event. For example, Ted Bundy was finally captured due to a stolen vehicle, stolen plates, and speeding in Pensacola, Florida. Wayne Williams was detained when officers on a stake out near the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta heard the "splash." David Berkowitz was located due to a tip from a late-night dog walker, Cecilia Davis, and parking tickets on his car. Richard Ramirez was chased down by an angry group of neighbors in East L.A. In the end, it is often a combination of the offender profile, good detective work, follow-up police work, citizen reporting, and some "luck" that assists in capturing some of the most wanted criminals - serial killers.

- **Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and Restorative Justice Practice: Shani Wilfred; Valdosta State University, Jewrell Rivers; Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and L'Tyra Williams; Valdosta State University**

The purpose of the research study is to take a deeper look into how faith-based organizations implement restorative justice into their practices. This is a mixed methods study incorporating both quantitative and qualitative methodology. This is an exploratory study in which the researchers will present preliminary results from two phases of data collection and analysis. For Phase One, faith-based organizations were selected from the IRS Exempt Organizations Business Master File Extract (EO BMF) as the identified sampling frame. Faith-based organizations were surveyed regarding their perceptions about the relevance of restorative justice in their practice. Statistical analysis was conducted for Phase One. For Phase Two, participants in the focus groups were selected from survey participants who agreed to be contacted for follow-up and a convenience sample of individuals from faith-based organizations known by the researcher. Focus groups explored the perceptions held by faith-based organizations regarding restorative justice. Focus group responses were transcribed, and a thematic data analysis was conducted.

- **Acworth, Georgia Killers: Stan Crowder; Kennesaw State University**

Austin Lanz and Matthew Lanz, brothers from Acworth, Georgia, are killers. Austin Lanz killed a Pentagon Police Officer and Matthew Lanz is awaiting trial for killing a firefighter and his wife. What is the cause or link that lead to two Cobb County, Georgia men to become killers. This presentation will reveal the initial research gathered by the author to examine two killers that lived within a few miles of Kennesaw State University.

- **We need you: Sex offenders' need for social support post-incarceration: Nayab Hakim; Clayton State University**

A number of factors play a key role in effectively reducing the rates of recidivism including the type of punishment received and the rehabilitation programs offered by correctional institutions. Nevertheless, research has consistently found that reintegration/reentry to society post incarceration is one of the most significant predictors of whether or not an offender will recidivate. This is especially true for offenders who have spent lengthy prison sentences. Sex offenders are one group of offenders that experience a grave lack of social support post-incarceration. The absence of social support serves as an impediment to the successful reentry of sex offenders. Thus, the current study examines sex offenders' accounts in order to shed light on their need for a social support system.

Friday, October 6th 10:30 – 11:50 AM
Session 2: Criminal Justice Research
Facilitator: Michael Shapiro

- **Racial and Gender Disparities in the Sex Trafficking Industry: Alyia Leemook; University of North Georgia**

Anti-Human trafficking efforts began in the U.S with the "Trafficking Victims Protections Act" of 2000. Since that time the effort has grown to include offenses for forced labor, sex trafficking and document withholding. The sentences associated with these offenses range from 20 years to life, and include protections for trafficked victims. Globally, there are 24.9 million victims of human trafficking. Included in this paper is a discussion about the so-called "jezebel stereotypes" that have negatively impacted black girls with sexual victimization. We conclude with a discussion on efforts to address sex trafficking and how it disproportionately harms black people in what amounts to the criminalization of poverty.

- **Analyzing the War on Drugs and its Effectiveness as a Global Campaign: Katie Colwell; University of North Georgia**

In the United States, policies on drug availability are controlled at the Federal level, with each state making revisions to suit its population. Our domestic policies have met criticism from various sources. This article examines policies from different countries in order to see what improvements might be made to our own centrally controlled regulations. This article first reviews the flaws in our approach, as viewed by a highly critical and doubtful public. To be sure, the U.S. drug war is a costly campaign that has, to date, not borne fruit. We have not reduced the amount of drugs available, not reduced the users of drugs, have not curtailed the drug kingpins from their profitable enterprise, nor have we affected market demand or prices of drugs. The efforts of Presidents, G. H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and G. W. Bush in their use of the military to stem drugs was a failed effort as well. The recommendations from this comparison leads us to conclude that changing our focus, from criminalization to regulation while also helping to stabilize other countries, would increase the effectiveness of our efforts to stem this scourge.

- **Cyberattacks: The Effects of the United States Safety with the influence of Artificial Intelligence: Hannah Hollingsworth; University of North Georgia**

The critical infrastructure of the United States is becoming more vulnerable to the lack of safety measures in the Cyberworld. Although Cyber Attacks on the United States are becoming less predictable and becoming more innovated, Artificial Intelligence could have the protection against them. This paper examines the importance of knowing the effects of Artificial Intelligence on the United States security. It will explain the emerging threat of Artificial Intelligence on the cyberworld, nuclear centrifuges, air defense and electrical grids. It will explain how certain applications have demonstrated the intentional negative use of Artificial Intelligence and set a layout that will provide new insight of its threats to the United States. It will conclude a with an explanation of the danger of the Artificial Intelligence in relation to the United States Military technology.

- **Developing and Validating an Online Neighborhood Network Efficacy Scale: MariTere Molinet; Georgia State University**

Online neighborhood networks (ONNs) provide community residents with the opportunity to interact and discuss neighborhood issues without ever having to meet. In traditional neighborhoods, collective efficacy has been found to be a mediator in other individual and neighborhood-level outcomes such as fear of crime and violence. Recent work suggests that collective efficacy may be harnessed online, yet there is a dearth of evidence to explain how online neighborhood network efficacy should be defined, operationalized, and whether it is distinct from offline collective efficacy. Furthermore, no formal instrument has been developed to explain and measure online neighborhood network efficacy.

This research develops a new instrument to accurately measure online neighborhood network efficacy. Through an exploratory factor analysis and a confirmatory factor analysis I determine a factor structure, conceptualize, and validate an instrument that addresses the latent construct of online neighborhood network efficacy. The findings suggest that the factors of security and efficiency to communicate neighborhood threats are salient to ONN users and covary with social cohesion yet only social cohesion and security emerge as interrelated dimensions of ONN efficacy while efficiency serves as a functional dimension and support for the latent construct.

- **Child Maltreatment and other Childhood Factors as a significant cause of Juvenile Delinquency: Destiny Gabriel; University of North Georgia**

Violence, crime, and juvenile crime have become the number one concern in the U.S. after health care and welfare reform. Juvenile crime has been frequently associated with low-income family status, drug abuse, poverty, unemployment, and family violence. Researchers who have examined different types of maltreatment, such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, and emotional neglect, have found a link to subsequent delinquent offending. The aim of this study is to expand upon adverse treatment within a child's home life as the leading cause of juvenile delinquency. Additional factors associated with delinquency include demographics and other specific family interactions. Additionally, we examine the emergence, causes, and preventive measures, in order to provide suggestions for reducing this crisis.

Friday, October 6th 2:40-4:10 pm
Session 3: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
Facilitator: Jon Stuart Batchelder

- **Chatbots, ChatGPT and Academia: Michael B. Shapiro; Georgia State University**

The use of artificial intelligence has gained notoriety since OpenAI's release of ChatGPT in November of 2022. What is ChatGPT and how does its usage relate to academia? What are some of the benefits of using artificial intelligence, and what are some of the potential consequences? With this new technology seemingly moving at light speed, it is time for academicians to learn the terminology and determine whether to prohibit, guide or simply allow the usage of artificial intelligence without constraint in their courses. Presentation by Michael Shapiro of Georgia State University.

- **Georgia Fentanyl Deaths: Racial Disparity and Unequal Treatment: Jon Stuart Batchelder and Jon Hager; University of North Georgia**

This paper reviews the history of racial and ethnic differences among drug overdose deaths in Georgia from 2018 to 2023. Specifically, the analysis is on deaths among fentanyl-only users. Nationally, data reflects wide disparities in risk-factors between Caucasians and members of racial minority groups, this study is specific to Atlanta, Georgia. In the general U. S. population, non-Hispanic Black opioid overdose deaths showed a 38% increase from 2018 to 2019, while the rates for other race and ethnicity groups held steady or decreased. This study investigates how predominant this widening disparity is among Atlanta drug-users in overdose deaths that had resulted from fentanyl use alone. Our findings punctuate the necessity for community-based interventions that address these disparities.

- **Examining Spikes and Long Trends in American Homicides: Brent Paterline; University of North Georgia**

This paper will assess homicide data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Vital Statistics System. These two measures in combination produce a comprehensive understanding of homicide by providing information on the nature, trends, and patterns of homicide in the United States. The paper will examine long-term trends in homicide in the United States as well as the dramatic rise of homicides during the 2020-2021 Covid pandemic. The paper will examine three explanations for the spike of homicide during the pandemic: (1) the stress and anxiety produced by the pandemic, (2) the reduction of proactive policing during the pandemic, and (3) the sharp rise of unemployment during the pandemic.

- **Criminalized Women’s Negotiations of Domination and Agency and the Methods that Illuminate Them: Denise Woodall; University of North Georgia**

Technicalities of method in qualitative research on criminalized women can serve to distort, or illuminate, how they internalize, or resist, harmful and pathologizing narratives of domination. Feminist re-readings of six interviews and three focus groups from three different previously completed studies were conducted (N=14). This analysis compared methodological details (setting, intimacy, and type of interview) which illustrated that despite methodological limitations in the field, invoking another person’s feminist gaze, note-taking, and looking for the surprising in final data analysis can make oppression and agency more visible. In this case, I found that participants negotiate two systems of oppressions: Gender and carceral status. Results are relevant for informing feminist methodological processes and products that are attentive to the ways in which women negotiate being a woman and a criminal.

- **Undocumented Immigration and Crime Rates: Isabelle Cosby; University of North Georgia.**

The U. S. border with Mexico has witnessed a heavy influx of undocumented immigrants who intend to establish themselves in the United States in honest vocations. Along with these well-intending individuals are several hardened criminals, associated with drug cartels, who intend to further a criminal enterprise. The problem for our criminal justice system is accelerating crime-rates. The increased rates of drug and human trafficking create a public safety concern at the hands of the Mexican drug cartels, who are now working in concert with American gang-members. The research findings establish a statistically significant relationship between the influx of undocumented immigrants and the crime rates in Southern border states. The paper concludes with information on how the United States and its respective law enforcement agencies can better protect the nation’s borders from this threat.

Index

Author:	Institution	Page
Alvarez-Rivera, L.	Valdosta State University	1, 4, 11
Armstrong, J.	Albany State University	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 16, 17, 18
Atwood, C.	University of North Georgia	4, 8, 9
Batchelder, J.	University of North Georgia	1, 6, 7, 17, 22
Beach, B.	Point University	4, 10, 11
Boone, L.	Albany State University	4, 9
Brown, P.	Albany State University	6, 18
Cochran, V.	University of North Georgia	1, 5, 17
Colwell, K.	University of North Georgia	7, 20
Cosby, I	University of North Georgia	8, 23
Crowder, S.	Kennesaw State University	6, 18
Diaz-Kope, L. M.	University of North Georgia	4, 11
Donaldson-Richard, K.	Albany State University	5, 14, 16
Foster, M.	University of North. Georgia	4, 11
Gabriel, D.	University of North Georgia	7, 21
Hager, J.	University of North Georgia	8, 22
Hakim, N.	Clayton State University	6, 19
Harrell, M	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural college	4, 10
Hochschild Jr., T.	Valdosta State University	4, 11
Hollingsworth, H.	University of North Georgia	7, 20
Johnson, T.	Georgia State University	2, 5
Kellum, H.	University of North Georgia	5, 13

Killam, G.	Kennesaw State University	1
Leemook, A.	University of North Georgia	7, 19
Mayua, J.	Albany State University	4, 8
Molinet, M.	Georgia State College	7, 21
Newkirk, B.	University of North Georgia	4, 6, 10, 17
Nolan, P. H.	University of North Georgia	4, 10
Paterline, B.	University of North Georgia	7, 22
Payne, B. R.	University of North Georgia	5, 13
Prine, R. K.	Valdosta State University	4, 11
Reece, B.	Kennesaw State University	6, 17
Rivers, J.	Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College	6, 18
Shapiro, M.	Georgia State University	5, 7, 15, 19, 22
Spatt, G.	Georgia Tech	4, 11
Wheel-Carter, K.	Georgia State University, Perimeter College	1
Wilfred, S.	Valdosta State University	6, 18
Wilkie, M.	Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police	4, 11
Williams, L.	Valdosta State University	6, 18
Woodall, D.	University of North Georgia	7, 23