

CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH & POLICY



Welcoming Note: The Value of Community Partnerships

BY BRYANNA FOX

Looking back at the last two years of the USF Center for Justice Research & Policy, it struck me that there is not a single research project, event, or endeavor, that we have supported that did not reflect our commitment to community partnership and engagement. Justice research is inherently community driven, as the justice system is empowered by, and comprised entirely of, the community. The police, prosecutors, defense attorneys, correctional officers, service providers, judges, and of course, members of the public who experience and seek to prevent crime, are the real-world components of the justice system without which it does not exist. Therefore, conducting research without these partnerships, to us, is akin to studying oceanography in the desert!

We are proud of our diverse partnerships and high impact community engagement, particularly as our research aims to improve the lives and work of our partners and those that they serve. As our newly released book, *The Routledge Handbook of Evidence-Based Practices*, shows, we seek to provide the best scientific guidance on the most pressing issues in the justice system, through the insight and collaboration from renowned scholars and practitioners alike. Additionally, we worked alongside agencies throughout the Tampa Bay region on projects aiming to reduce crime, improve outcomes for at-risk individuals, and promote a safer community.



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Research Showcase

On October 19th, 2023, the Center for Justice Research & Policy (CJRP) hosted its very first research showcase. This attracted a wide range of audience from students, academics, and administrators of the University of South Florida to representatives of the City of Tampa Mayor’s office. Members of the CJRP presented their research through poster and oral presentations. Select research themes included the influence of offender demographics on jury decision-making and factors influencing employer willingness to hire individuals with incarceration records.



An award and recognition ceremony was held to celebrate the extinguished works of center members. Paul Lusczynski, a retired police captain of the Tampa Police Department and member of the CJRP Team, received the Impact Award in recognition of his decades of service in combatting violent crimes using evidence-based methods. Dr. Chae M. Jaynes, Associate Professor of Criminology at USF and member of the CJRP Leadership Team, received CJRP Seed Funding for her proposed research studying incentive factors that may address low rates of law enforcement officer retention, which are problematic across the nation.



“Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.





Lecture Highlight - Dr. Daniel Nagin



CJRP had the privilege of hosting Professor Daniel Nagin from Carnegie Mellon University on January 29th, 2024. Dr. Nagin is known for his research on crime policy and deterrence. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology and has been honored with awards like the Stockholm Prize in Criminology (2014). In his talk at CJRP, Professor Nagin presented his current research on bystander-guardianship intervention for criminal behaviors. Specifically Professor Nagin used an innovative experimental design to look at how much personal cost individuals are willing to sacrifice to take actions for public security. Stay tuned for this study will soon be published!

Throughout this academic year, we have enjoyed a series of guest lectures from distinguished scholars across the Criminology and Psychology Department of USF.



- Smarter Uses of Longitudinal Data to Inform Policy-----Tom Loughran, Ph.D.
- Legal Socialization and Police - Community Relations-----Richard Moule, Ph.D.
- Trends in the Use of the Death Penalty Across the U.S. -----Dwayne Smith, Ph.D.
- Social Construction of Victimhood and Implications for Victim Help-Seeking----Rachel Powers, Ph.D.
- Labor Market Decision-Making: Perspective of CJ System-Related Actors -----Chae Jaynes, Ph.D.
- Young Killers: The Challenge of Juvenile Homicide-----Kathleen Heid, Ph.D.
- Evaluation of An Attempt to Reduce Traffic Stop Racial Disparities-----Travis Carter, Ph.D.





Center for Justice Research and Policy Book Release

On February 15th 2024, Dr. Fox and Dr. Verona, alongside 81 collaborating scholars and practitioners who are leading experts on criminological policy, practice, and research, launched the “Routledge Handbook of Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Practices”. The handbook delves into the most pressing matters in the criminal justice system, focusing on the empirical research and resulting evidence-based practices to address crime prevention, predictors of crime, juvenile justice, policing, the courts, corrections, and policy change.

The book launch event, held in the USF Charles William Young Hall auditorium, and featured some of the book’s contributors as panelists, including Dr. Michael Baglivio, Dr. Chae Jaynes, Dr. Joan Reid, Dr. Christine Ruva, Dr. Mateus Santos, Ali Shakoor, Lexi Gill, and Emily Torres. Dr. Verona kicked off the event by recalling how the idea of the book started. “We thought it would be really good to have a physical manifestation of the goals we had in mind. So, that is when we started working on the idea of the book, in which the contribution was not just from us two, but also from other people who come from different areas and have the expertise in them.”

“We want this book to be used, and not just read”

EDELYN VERONA



The co-authors’ goal was to have the most core information put in a way that everyone could understand. “One thing we always hear is ‘we know that you are back there doing this research but we can’t see it; and if we did, we don’t have time to read it; and if we did have time to read it, we may not understand it,’” Dr. Fox explained. “So we thought that we needed to be able to get the most reliable information on any given topic, get it succinctly put in a writing that anybody can access, and make sure that there are clear bullet points.”

They hope the book, which is one of the few ones that addresses all the different levels of the criminal justice system, is used by people to not only understand matters such as drug policies and crime prevention, but also as textbooks in classrooms, as a way to have a good understanding from the research perspective.





Awards & Recognitions

CJRP's consistent effort in producing high quality research and engaging in community partnership has not gone unnoticed. In the past year, members of CJRP has also received numerous awards and recognitions, both at the university level and nationally. We want to celebrate the achievement of these individuals:

- Dr. Sylvia Carra Clinical Research Fellowship (\$2,500)-----Alora McCarthy
- Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research Award-----Alora McCarthy
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship-----Kendall Smith
- Presidential Fellowship Travel Grant (\$1,000)-----Haomin Ivy Chen
- Stephen and Phillip Deibler Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)-----Kendall Smith

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Honorary Pet Corner:

Rory, Nimitz, Pepper from Alora McCarthy who will go on to clinical internship this year.
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