

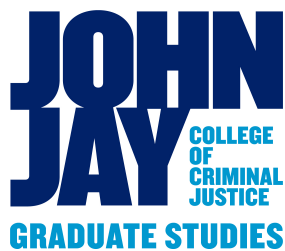
# JOHN JAY

**COLLEGE  
OF  
CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE**

## **GRADUATE STUDIES**

**FRIDAY  
MAY 7, 2021  
8:30 AM -  
1:00 PM**

1ST ANNUAL GRADUATE RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUM



Our annual symposium seeks to provide some answers and explore the processes, actions, challenges, and outcomes of learning, teaching, and training in social agencies. Our goal is to offer a worldwide connection among educators, students, researchers, and practitioners from a wide range of academic fields who are interested in exploring and contributing to our understanding of leadership of social agencies in a globalized world.

**PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE:** Karol V. Mason

**PROVOST OF THE COLLEGE:** Dr. Yi Li

**GRADUATE STUDIES DEAN:** Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote

**FACULTY ASSOCIATE DEAN:** Dr. Maria J. D'Agostino

**SYMPOSIUM CO- CHAIRS:**

Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote & Dr. Maria J. D'Agostino

**ORGANIZED BY**

**GRADUATE STUDIES**

**SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE**

Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote, Dr. Maria J. D'Agostino, Dr. Diana Falkenbach, Dr. Gabrielle Salfati, Mindy Bockstein, Anna Austenfeld, Tirza Ben Ari (MSRG), John Engle (MSRG), Ruby Orth (MSRG) & Mia Wajnrajch (MSRG)

**PROCEEDINGS EDITORS AND COMPILERS:**

Vanessa Diez, Angel Rivera & Jose Rivera

## Graduate Studies Symposium Welcome

**Dr Yi Li**, Provost, Dr. Li brings more than three decades of higher education leadership, including award-winning research, scholarship and a proven track record for increasing gender and ethnic diversity in STEM programs and launching innovative student success programs. He grew up in China during the Cultural Revolution, when public K-12 education was largely in disarray and teaching was considered “suspect.” Being fortunate enough to test into Xi’an Jiaotong University, he earned his degree in Mathematics, and developed a deep appreciation for education, equality, and optimism. Dr. Li went on to receive his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and did his postdoc at the University of Chicago. Prior to arriving at John Jay College, Dr. Li was the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at California State University, Northridge, where he also served as Professor in the Department of Mathematics. At CSUN Dr. Li made diversity and inclusion one of his top priorities, recruiting, mentoring and retaining faculty and staff committed to building a supportive community for all people. Dr. Li also served as Dean in the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State University since 2011; professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Iowa; associate professor at the University of Rochester; and L.E. Dickson instructor at the University of Chicago. Dr. Li fully understands the transformative power of higher education and is deeply committed to the social mobility of underrepresented people. At John Jay he hopes to empower the faculty and execute smart strategic plans for the betterment of the entire College community.

**Dr Elsa-Sofia Morote**, Graduate Studies Dean, Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote, is well-known for her commitment to expanding student opportunity and catalyzing academic innovation. She has more than 25 years’ senior-level experience instructing, motivating and researching at the university-level. She is an experienced and successful professor at graduate schools in colleges and universities in the states of New York and Pennsylvania, overseas and online. Dr. Morote has more than 10 years in higher education leadership roles, which involved accreditation processes, program assessment, and community involvement among other tasks. She holds two master's degrees - a MPA in Public Administration, and M.Sc. in Finance (Carnegie Mellon University, 1996. She also possesses two doctoral degrees: Doctor of Education Ed.D. (concentration in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pittsburgh, 2001 and Ph.D. in Business (concentration in Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Dr. Morote was a senior postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, 2001-2003 completing research in electronic tutoring systems. She is an international scholar with over 20 awards and recognitions from several countries to include: Best Case Study at a Conference (IBEC-India, 2010, Best Research Paper (Emerald Literati Award for Excellence, USA, 2013 and Best Experimental Research Paper (International conference in Management and Education Innovation –Paris, France, 2014. To review her complete CV please go to [internationalprofessor.com](http://internationalprofessor.com).

## Symposium Committee Members

**Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote, Dean of Graduate Studies,** Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote, Dean of Graduate Studies, is well-known for her commitment to expanding student opportunity and catalyzing academic innovation. She has more than 25 years' senior-level experience instructing, motivating and researching at the university-level. She is an experienced and successful professor at graduate schools in colleges and universities in the states of New York and Pennsylvania, overseas and online. Dr. Morote has more than 10 years in higher education leadership roles, which involved accreditation processes, program assessment, and community involvement among other tasks. She holds two master's degrees - a MPA in Public Administration, and M.Sc. in Finance (Carnegie Mellon University, 1996). She also possesses two doctoral degrees: Doctor of Education Ed.D. (concentration in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pittsburgh, 2001) and Ph.D. in Business (concentration in Innovation & Entrepreneurship). Dr. Morote was a senior postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, 2001-2003) completing research in electronic tutoring systems. She is an international scholar with over 20 awards and recognitions from several countries to include: Best Case Study at a Conference (IBEC-India, 2010), Best Research Paper (Emerald Literati Award for Excellence, USA, 2013) and Best Experimental Research Paper (International conference in Management and Education Innovation –Paris, France, 2014).

**Dr. Maria J. D Agostino, Faculty Associate Dean,** is a Professor of public administration in the Department of Public Management at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY and co-director of Women in the Public Sector at John Jay College. Dr. D'Agostino's recent research has focused on women in public administration including two co-edited books, *Governing in A Global World* (2018) and *Women and Public Administration: Theory and Practice* (2011). Her work appears in *The Review of Public Personnel Administration* and *American Review of Public Administration*. She received 2019 American Society of Public Administration LGBT Advocacy Action Section Award for her co-authored publication, *Inclusive Work Practices: Turnover Intentions Among LGBT Employees of the U.S Federal Government*. She has collaborated as a guest editor for the *Women and Public Administration* symposium published in *Administration and Society* and is the co-editor of a forthcoming symposium, *#MeToo in Academia: Understanding and Addressing Pervasive Problems*, *Public Administration Review*. Most recently she initiated a partnership with the New York City Gender Equity Commission. Maria J. D'Agostino is the co-recipient of the 2018-19 Inaugural Presidential Student-Faculty Research Collaboration Award examining gender equity in municipalities. She is also the recipient of the Section for Women in Public Administration Rita Mae Kelly Distinguished Research Award, the Faculty Mid-Career Research Award. She serves as the American Society of Public Administration District II National Representative.

**Dr. Diana Falkenbach,** is a tenured Associate Professor in the Psychology Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Director of the M.A. program in Forensic Psychology. She completed her doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of South Florida. She holds an M.S. in Counseling from Georgia State University and a B.A. in Psychology from Emory University. Prior to joining the John Jay Faculty, she completed her internship at Bellevue Hospital Center and Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center, where she conducted testing, forensic evaluations, and therapy with violent mentally ill offenders. Dr. Falkenbach is a clinical researcher focusing on psychopathy and related behaviors. She is interested in understanding the etiology of psychopathy and violence, as well as the development and evaluation of assessment instruments. While these areas of research are commonly studied in adult males, Dr. Falkenbach pursues research on psychopathic traits and predictors of violence in women, juveniles, various multicultural groups and noncriminal populations. Her recent focus is on successful adaptations of psychopathic traits and considering if heroes and criminal psychopaths may be twigs off of the same genetic branch (Lykken, 1995). She is working on several research projects considering psychopathic traits in police, FBI and corporate samples.

**Dr Gabrielle Salfati**, is the Director of the Investigative Psychology Research Unit (IPRU). She is part of the first group of people who emerged within the new field of Investigative Psychology, and was instrumental in its development as an international research field on the empirical analysis of violent criminal behaviour, in particular the advancement of the science of offender profiling and linking serial crimes. Her main areas of expertise relate to the methodology of research in offender profiling and linking serial crimes, specifically with a focus on interpersonal violence and victimization patterns in homicide and violent sexual crimes. This work is being developed within an international framework through collaboration with law enforcement agencies internationally. She has presented and published widely both nationally and internationally on her work, and provides training to law enforcement, crime analysts, clinicians, and other criminal justice professionals internationally.

**Mindy Bockstein**, is an accomplished and innovative government and external relations executive with broad experience in multiple branches of state and local government. She has served as executive staff to two Governors, Attorney General of NYS, NYS Assembly Corrections Committee Chair, and the NYC Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene. Currently, a senior administrator at the City University of New York. Over 20 years of distinguished public service accomplishments in numerous subject domains. She has proven track record in improving operations in small and medium-size agencies. And is considered an expert in research and program development and leading and developing advocacy campaigns, engaging stakeholders and volunteers, raising awareness through media and communications and negotiating and enacting policy in the legislative and regulatory arenas.

**Anna Austenfeld**,

**Tirza Ben Ari (MSRG)**, is an international student from Israel, entering her second year in the Forensic Psychology M.A. Program. She received her B.A. from Bar-Ilan University, where she majored in Psychology and minored in Criminology. Tirza is on the dual thesis-externship track and is currently working on her thesis with Dr. Schlesinger, examining crime scene behaviors of homicidal offenders. Additionally, she is a member of Dr. Kassir's Lab, which specializes in false confession and other psychology and law subjects. She is also a teaching fellow for Dr. Schlesinger's courses. Tirza plans to apply for Ph.D. programs this upcoming fall. She is excited to meet the incoming class and will be happy to answer any questions students might have, small big or in between, and share her experience from John Jay!

**John Engle (MSRG)**, is a domestic student from Columbus, Ohio, entering his final year in the M.A. Forensic Psychology Program. He received his B.S. from the Ohio State University, where he graduated with honors distinction and completed a thesis involving self-control. Since his undergraduate degree was completed, he worked as a Case Manager for one year, coauthored a manuscript involving the DSM-5 Section III operationalization of psychopathy, and currently volunteers with the Samaritans of New York on the suicide hotline. John is currently on the thesis track but is hoping to find an externship. He is completing his thesis with Dr. Falkenbach where he is investigating the presence of psychopathic traits in members of the Emergency Service Unit and comparing their scores with normative samples and other members of law enforcement. John will be applying to doctoral programs following graduation and will likely continue to follow his interests in psychopathy. John is a good resource for students with questions about scholarships, doctoral applications or who have or would like to establish a mindfulness practice. He looks forward to meeting new students and is excited to help them pursue their academic and professional goals.

**Ruby Orth (MSRG)**, is a first-year student in the Forensic Psychology M.A. program at John Jay. Originally from coastal Maryland, she graduated from Salisbury University with a B.A. in Psychology. During her undergrad, she was awarded the University Student Academic Research Award and Fulton Student Research Grant for her studies on sexual perpetrator empathy which was later published in *Violence and Gender* as well as *Modern Psychological Studies*. Ruby's research interests include the risk assessment of juvenile sex offenders, reducing the school to prison pipeline, and treatment for non-offending pedophiles. She is a part of Dr. Elizabeth Jeglic's lab, working on a project concerning sexually violent predator's experiences with civil commitment. She plans on applying to Ph.D. programs in Clinical Psychology with a focus in forensics. She is looking forward to creating an environment of support and collaboration with the incoming class and is happy to answer any questions students may have.

**Mia Wajnrajch (MSRG)**, is entering her final year of the M.A. Forensic Psychology Program. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in both Psychology and Criminology with a minor in Community Health from Hofstra University, where she was also involved in two research publications. Mia is currently a Forensic Casework Intern at The Forensic Panel, where she gets to review and edit forensic assessment reports, conduct litigation-support investigative research, and assist on academic research publications. She is also currently completing her externship at Mercy Medical Center, administering CBT and providing therapy for patients in an inpatient psychiatric unit who suffer from severe mental illness. Pre-corona, Mia was also a research assistant in Dr. Kovera's Legal Decision Making and Witness Behavior Lab. Her research interests include severe mental illnesses, and psychopathy. Mia is looking forward to sharing her experience in the program and keeping students motivated. She is happy to answer any questions students might have about the program!

**Keynote**

Theresa Salo  
Deputy Commissioner  
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Office of Justice Research and Performance

**Bio**

Terry Salo is Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Justice Research and Performance for the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Terry has long promoted the use of research and data to generate evidence. For more than 30 years, she has analyzed the trends in New York's justice system, which included assessing the impact of changes to the Rockefeller drug laws, juvenile justice reform, and changes to the bail statutes. She has been with DCJS since 2003, and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University at Albany.

## Workshop Facilitator

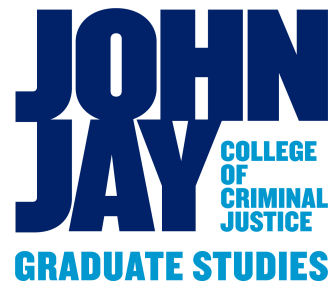
Emiliya Zhivotovskaya, MAPP, MCC, ERYT  
CEO and Founder: The Flourishing Center  
Creator of: Certification in Applied Positive Psychology (CAPP)



### **Bio**

Emiliya Zhivotovskaya is a leading voice in the world of positive psychology and the science of flourishing. She is the CEO and founder of The Flourishing Center, and creator of the acclaimed Certification in Applied Positive Psychology (CAPP) program that's been offered in 13 cities across the U.S., Canada and online worldwide ([www.GetCertifiedinPP.com](http://www.GetCertifiedinPP.com)), which has trained over 1,400 practitioners to date across 38 countries. She is the creator the Bounce Back Better (B3) Resilience Program, Applied Positive Psychology Coaching Certification, Flourishing Skills Group (FSG) Program and co-creator of the Positive Education Certification (PEC) Program. Emiliya is one of the first 60 people in the world to hold a Master's Degree from the University of Pennsylvania in Positive Psychology and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Mind-Body Medicine from Saybrook University, where she also an adjunct faculty member. Emiliya is one of only 800 people in the world to hold a Master Certified Coach (MCC) credential with the International Coaching Federation (ICF), and holds over a dozen certifications in modalities ranging from coaching to yoga, Reiki, intenSati, Thai massage, biofeedback, motivational interviewing and more. She refers to herself as a pra-cademic-prenuer emphasizing her work as a practitioner, academic and entrepreneur, empowering others to apply research in a sustainable way that drives individuals, organizations and communities to thrive. Prior to her work in the science of wellbeing, Emiliya was a professional party entertainer. She educates in a way that entertains and enables people to connect to each other. She integrates these tools into a unique approach to resilience, vitality and mind-body health, inspiring and empowering others to craft a life of thriving.





## 1st Annual Virtual Graduate Research Symposium Schedule

Friday, May 7, 2021

8:30 AM - 09:00 AM	<p><u>Opening Ceremony:</u></p> <p>Welcome: Dr. Yi Li, Provost Dr. Elsa-Sofia Morote, Symposium Co-Chair</p>
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Keynote Address by Dr. Theresa Salo Keynote</b>
<b>9:30 AM - 10:30 AM</b>	<b>Panel One: Identifying Public Policy Solutions to Public Sector Problems</b> MODERATOR: Prof. Daniel Feldman, Department of Public Management
	Role of Contentious Food Policies in State Development, State Legitimacy, and the Welfare State. <b>Presenter:</b> Arlinda Xhuveli
	Identifying Causes of & Countering Accountability-Avoidance in US Administrative Agencies. <b>Presenter:</b> Priti Bali-Kahn
	The Determination of Human Shedding Propensity Based on STR Results. <b>Presenter:</b> Genevieve Trapani
	Diplomacy Lab Project: Review of Alternatives to Incarceration Efforts in Non-Francophone Africa. <b>Presenter:</b> Anne Fatooh
<b>10:45 AM - 11:45 AM</b>	<b>Panel Two: Solutions &amp; Perspectives: Prisons, Incarcerated Populations and Drug Cartels</b> MODERATOR: Dr. Gohar Petrossian, Department of Criminal Justice
	Mexican Drug Cartels: Are they Terrorists or Not? <b>Presenter:</b> Judith Vargas
	Prison Labor in U.S. State Prison, 1974-2016: New Slavery or Enforced Idleness. <b>Presenters:</b> Eric Seligman & Geert Dhondt
	The Educational Success and Well-Being for Children of Incarcerated Parents. <b>Presenter:</b> Abigail Ramos
	Drug Trafficking and Advanced Technology. <b>Presenter:</b> Katelyn Ferguson
<b>9:30 AM - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Poster Presentations - Presentations in Gallery</b>

	Albanian Women's Relationship Experiences with Their Partners. <b>Presenter:</b> Arjanita Elezaj
	Evaluating the 2019 New York State Bail Reform on Quality of Life Offenses in New York City. <b>Presenter:</b> Nodira Pirmukhamedova
	Corruption in the Western Hemisphere. <b>Presenter:</b> Tatiana Vasquez
	Construction of Reliable and Valid Surveys. <b>Presenter:</b> Beomsoo Kim
	The Reproducibility of Individual DNA deposits Detected with Diamond Dye. <b>Presenters:</b> Natalee Small-Davidson, Xiao Chen, Tebah Browne, Nick Petraco & Mechthild Prinz
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>"Why am I here?" Fun-filled Play with Life's Most Challenging Question</b> <b>Facilitator: Emiliya Zhivotovskaya</b>
	Come to this exciting 1-hour student-focused workshop that will be filled with a variety of fun-filled playful exercises to help you uncover your life's purpose, and using this to help you with the exciting new step as you prepare to graduate and take the next step – deciding your place in the world and the impact you want to have. Connecting deeply to your future work is key to staying resilient, especially during times of adversity, and key to allow you to flourish and live your best life

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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## **PANEL ONE: IDENTIFYING PUBLIC POLICY SOLUTIONS TO PUBLIC SECTOR PROBLEMS**

**9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**

**MODERATOR: Professor Daniel Feldman**

**Daniel Feldman, Department of Public Administration**, teaches Oversight & Investigation, Ethics & Accountability, and Administrative Law. In 2019 the MPA faculty elected him as Program Director for its Inspection & Oversight track. He was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1980, and served as a member of the Legislature from 1981 through 1998, writing over 140 state laws, including New York's Megan's Law and Organized Crime Control Act. As Correction Committee chair for twelve years, he led some of the first efforts to repeal the Rockefeller drug laws. For six years thereafter, as a senior member of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's staff, he exposed HUD's 203k mortgage loan guarantee scandal and led the investigation of UnumProvident's disability insurance scam. Until his full-time appointment at John Jay, he worked as Special Counsel for Law & Policy to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. His current research involves government oversight, administrative theory, and legal philosophy.

### **Presenters:**

**Arlinda Xhuveli, Graduate Student Presenter:** is in her last semester in the International Crime and Justice Master's program and pursuing the Transnational Organized Crime Advanced Certificate program at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She graduated in May 2019 from John Jay College with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Minor in Political Science.

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**Priti Bali-Kahn, Graduate Student Presenter:** is a researcher at base, social sciences & market, and started her career working on NIH funded projects at 19. She has two Bachelor's Degrees - in Forensic Psychology & Financial Forensics & Fraud Examination from the Jay. She is a natural team player, now using that skill to upgrade her understanding of Internal Audit function in government agencies. Priti also designs and sews her own clothes, and even attempted launching her own label until it got too hard to do - and she realized fashion was not where she wanted to focus her resources. Instead, Priti diverted her attention to her "adopted home" to which she immigrated in 1988 as a school-girl. She now uses her passion and motivation to work on how best the US government can serve all it's citizen's needs - and is pursuing an MPA-IO at the Jay to that end. Priti Bali-Kahn is a fervent New Yorker, shaped by the style and workings of the city. She hopes to use this knowledge to create a fairer, and more equitable, New York City & US of A.

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**Genevieve Trapani, Graduate Student Presenter:** Genevieve Trapani is a second-year student in the Forensic Science M.S. program. She has a B.S. in Chemistry with an emphasis in Forensics from the University at Albany. Most recently, Genevieve has worked as an Adjunct Instructor at John Jay College and an Analyst in an environmental laboratory.

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**Anne Fatooh, Graduate Student Presenter,** is an ICJ M.A. Spring 2021 graduate at John Jay College. Originally from San Francisco, Anne attended Manhattan College in 2015 and graduated with a degree in International Studies with minors in French and Political Science. She then began the ICJ program shortly after in 2019. Her career goals include federal law enforcement, international diplomacy and the Foreign Service.

## **Role of Contentious Food Policies in State Development, State Legitimacy, and the Welfare State**

*Author & Presenter*

**Arlinda Xhuveli**

First-----While there is a well-established literature on food riots, where consumers riot over the price of food, there is less work that has been done to understand the dynamics under which farmers, the producers of food, also protest for their own economic security. This project seeks to create a global database of farmer protests in order to understand how these protests are different and similar to food riots, and to contribute to literatures on welfare, state legitimacy and the relationship between protest and policy. This project is at the data-gathering stage and I plan to present an initial analysis of the trends I have uncovered in my research.

Second-----Despite global consensus on the need to divert non-violent drug offenders to treatment, there are patchwork efforts around the globe to ensure this occurring. This panel will feature the results of a global mapping project of Alternatives to Incarceration (ATIs) for Substance Use Disordered Offenders (SUDs), conducted as part of a U.S. State Department Diplomacy Lab project. Using the available literature and Internet resources, we compiled information on all UN member states regarding the legal provisions for ATIs, the consideration for ATIs in national drug control strategy, ATIs currently in place or being considered for implementation, public opinion of ATIs for SUDs, and the availability of evidence-based treatment, using a standardized data gathering instrument. Across world regions we found a number of barriers to the use of ATIs for SUDs: legal punitiveness, stigmatization of drug users, lack of drug treatment capacity, and cultural and religious barriers. We analyze these barriers and propose policy solutions.

# **Identifying Causes of & Countering Accountability-Avoidance in US Administrative Agencies**

*Author & Presenter*

**Priti Bali-Kahn**

In accounting, audit, and public administration, financial and non-financial measures are used to understand the Internal Control Environment of an organization. These are based on COSO's Five Elements of Internal Control Framework, which inform us Tone at the Top can help accountants, auditors, and other oversight providers, understand the risk of fraud and non-approved conduct within an organization. Based on this framework, the main hypothesis of this thesis is: Campaign contributions to primary/secondary legislative bodies, led to Displacement of low-income residents of New York City from 1990-2020. Through initial regression analysis of publicly available data, campaign contributions from the Finance/Insurance/Real Estate industries could be linked causally to various levels of affordable housing crisis in NYC. Furthermore, these continued contributions led to more than harmful legislation, they led to accountability avoidance in the administrative agencies mandated with protecting New York City's affordable housing.

## **Does Participation in Extracurricular Activities Impact Student Achievement?**

*Author & Presenter*

**Genevieve Trapani**

Trace DNA evidence is often discovered at various crime scenes after being deposited by a person of interest. Passive transfer of one's DNA is influenced by their shedding propensity, or probability of depositing a detectable amount of DNA through touch. The primary purpose of this project was to determine the shedding propensities of individuals in a general community using STR profiles acquired from skin samples. The ability to detect complete STR profiles varied among different sampling locations. As expected, unwashed fingers showed a higher prevalence of mixtures than washed fingers. Accordingly, shedding propensity was determined based on the STR profile quality from washed finger samples only. Three individuals were high shedders (10.7%), 18 individuals were intermediate shedders (64.3%), and seven individuals were low shedders (25.0%). No significant trends were seen based on biological sex or hand dominance. Out of the 112 finger sample sets, 52.7% were consistently high-quality profiles, 10.7% were consistently low-quality profiles, and 14.3% were inconsistent.

## **Diplomacy Lab Project: Review of Alternatives to Incarceration Efforts in Non-Francophone Africa**

*Author & Presenter*

**Anne Fatooh**

The United States and many other countries around the world have faced the growing challenge of prison overcrowding, high recidivism rates and increased disease transmission while incarcerated. For persons with substance use disorders especially, evidence has shown that incarceration is not effective in the long-term for curbing such issues. Through participation in the Diplomacy Lab Project 2010304 “Review of Alternatives to Incarceration Efforts Worldwide,” students in region-specific teams researched alternatives to incarceration for persons involved in the criminal justice system with substance use disorders, culminating in a global report. This segment of the research project includes the state of current legislation pertaining to developing alternatives to incarceration and whether they allow for alternatives, the national drug control strategy of each respective country, the nature of the drug treatment community, the types of alternatives currently in operation as well as those under consideration and lastly, an analysis of various barriers to the development of alternatives to incarceration in 28 African countries. Findings were included in an analysis memorandum and presented to staff of the Drug Demand Reduction Section, Office of Global Policy and Programs, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.



## **PANEL TWO: SOLUTIONS & PERSPECTIVES: PRISONS, INCARCERATION AND CARTELS**

**10:45 AM - 11:45 AM**

**Moderator: Dr. Gohar Petrossian**

**Dr. Gohar Petrossian, Department of Criminal Justice**, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, and the Director of the International Crime and Justice Masters Program at John Jay College. Her research interests include crimes against wildlife, with a particular interest in Illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing; spatial and temporal analysis of crime and GIS mapping; environmental criminology and opportunity theories; and crime prevention. She is the author of the book *Last Fish Swimming: The Global Crime of Illegal Fishing* (Global Crime and Justice Series. ABC-CLIO, LLC, Praeger Imprint), published in 2019.

### **Presenters**

**Judith Vargas, Graduate Student Presenter**, was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. She came to the United States when she was eight years old. At the moment, she is completing her Master's Degree in International Crime and Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

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**Eric Seligman, Graduate Student Presenter**, Eric Seligman is a graduate student in economics at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/City University of New York, where he studies the economic functions of imprisonment in the U.S. He previously coordinated John Jay's college-in-prison program, the Prison-to-College Pipeline.

**Geert Dhondt, Graduate Student Presenter**, Geert Dhondt's teaching and research focuses on the economics of crime and justice. He is particularly interested in the relationship between race in the post-segregation era, the logic of neo-liberal capitalism, and the criminal justice system. The National Institute of Justice awarded Geert a grant to study the empirical relationship between prison cycling and crime rates. Geert received a distinguished service award in 2012 and a distinguished teaching award in 2015 at John Jay College, City University of New York where he is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Economics Department.

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**Abigail Ramos, Graduate Student Presenter**, is a dual-degree student receiving her MPA and J.D. from the CUNY system. She is a first-generation student and a zealous advocate for worker's rights, criminal justice reform, and immigration. Abigail is currently a Tow Policy and Advocacy Fellow with the Institute for Justice and Opportunity. She is placed at the Osborne Association where she develops and facilitates workshops for the Youth Action Council.

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**Katelyn Ferguson, Graduate Student Presenter**, is currently finishing the International Crime and Justice MA. She has also pursued an advanced certificate in transnational organized crime, and second in terrorism studies. She has worked with Doctor Jana Arsovska on this research project, and Doctor Yuliya Zabyelina on the Corruption Analysis in the Western Hemisphere research project.

## **Mexican Drug Cartels: Are they Terrorists or Not?**

*Author & Presenter*

**Judith Vargas**

The recent scope of violence in Mexico has caused many scholars and government officials wanting to refer to Mexican drug cartels as terrorists. However, there are critical differences between Mexican drug cartels and terrorist organizations. The purpose of my research paper is to identify the pros and cons regarding this topic. I will explain the reason why Mexican drug cartels should and should not be designated as a terrorist organizations. I will compare how Mexican cartels such as the Los Zetas cartel are involved in terrorist activities and how terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah are involved in organized crime activities. Finally, I will summarize the challenges of designating Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations and the possible solutions.

## **Prison Labor in U.S. State Prisons, 1974 -2016: New Slavery or Enforced Idleness?**

*Authors & Presenters*

**Eric Seligman & Geert Dhondt**

Much has been made of the legality of forced prison labor in assessments of mass incarceration, but the amount and type of work done by prisoners since prison populations began to explode in the 1970s is notably understudied. In this paper, we use prisoner survey data from 1974 to 2016 to track these facts of prison labor in the U.S. throughout the prison boom and into the modern era. In short, levels of idleness in prisons vis-à-vis labor steadily grow such that by 2004 the majority of prisoners do not work or work up to ten hours per week, and by 2016, nearly 40% of prisoners do not work and an estimated additional 25% work ten hours or less per week. While declines in job-holding are consistently so as a matter of percentage, they also become declines in absolute terms after 2004, a remarkable fact given the continually rising prison population (albeit at slower rates). As for type of work, incarcerated workers primarily perform the non-market domestic chores required to reproduce prisons and prisoners rather than the production of goods and services for state correctional industries or private enterprise, the former consistently comprising about three times as many work assignments as the latter throughout the period in study. These findings have important implications for economic understandings of mass incarceration. They suggest a gradual decline in correctional commitments to rehabilitation through labor and an ascension of a modern imprisonment qua mere segregation and containment. They also indicate a relative absence of private corporations among the determinants of the contours of modern prison labor, which is less a program of captive labor exploitation than that of a carceral workfare, or, work obligations to the state in exchange for the carceral welfare of prison room and board.

# **The Educational Success and Well-being for Children of Incarcerated Parents**

*Author & Presenter*

**Abigail Ramos**

As the incarcerated population continues to grow exponentially in the United States, youth, specifically from New York City, will face their K- 12 public school years without a parent. The separation of a parent for the child has destabilizing effects, including economic insecurity, family instability, and mental health issues. Among the difficulties students come up against, their educational success and wellbeing is often overlooked or unknown to educators. Studies have revealed that once educators learn about a parent's incarceration, they lower their educational expectations for their students. How then, can schools provide students with a well- resourced and informed environment for them to gain academic success? By conducting a content analysis, this paper puts forth policy recommendations for the City's Department of Education on how to not only maintain a student's privacy about their parent's incarceration but also the necessary components for a student's academic achievement.

## **Drug Trafficking and Advanced Technology**

*Author & Presenter*

**Katelyn Ferguson**

*Advisor*

**Dr. Jana Arsovska**

This research study (led by Dr. Jana Arsovska, Dr. Melanie Knieps and Dr. Maria Helen-Maras) examines the use of advanced technology, including Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), by drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). Due to lucrative profits, DTOs, in general, remain opportunistic; they seek out new routes and strategies to produce, smuggle, and distribute drugs; they also exploit new manufacturing and communication technologies, recruit vulnerable individuals into the work of trafficking, and find ways to launder the proceedings. The exploitation of new technologies is particularly relevant in our modern world, as technological advancements continue to occur at a rapid pace. This project studies how DTOs have utilized advanced technologies at the various stages of the drug trafficking process (e.g., growing/cultivating, manufacturing, trafficking/transporting, and wholesale/retail) as well as for the purpose of communication. This poster presentation will focus specifically on the use of technology during the transport stage and for the purpose of communication throughout the different stages of the DT process. The research done for this poster presentation is based on systematic review of the literature. This research is connected to a larger research project on drug/fentanyl trafficking and Darknet sites funded by the NIJ (Dr. Maria Helen-Maras, Dr. Jana Arsovska, Dr. Adam Wandt, Dr. Melanie Knieps and Kenji Logie).

## POSTERS

### 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**Arjanita Elezaj, Graduate Student Presenter**, is a community activist with 30+ years of professional experience on program development and community capacity building. Her area of expertise includes women's rights, geriatric care, and nonprofit leadership. As a public speaker and through her charitable work she continues to work with all Albanian American organizations based in New York to empower people and build community healthy relationships.

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**Nodira Pirmu hamedova, Graduate Student Presenter**, Twelve years ago, Nodira had a lifetime opportunity to study in the United States. The educational pathway started with English language courses. During these years, the opportunity progressed into the three CUNY higher education diplomas with one more on its way. Her research interests are bail reform, public safety, community policing, and public opinion on police use of force. When Nodira is not doing research, she can be found traveling around different communities and learning new languages and customs.

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**Tatiana Vasquez, Graduate Student Presenter**, is in her last semester in the ICJ MA and Advanced Certificate in Criminal Investigation programs. She graduated in 2019 with a bachelor's degree in Criminology from John Jay College, but decided to continue her education in efforts to prepare herself for the professional world.

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**Beomsoo Kim, Graduate Student Presenter**, graduated from John Jay undergraduate college with Bachelor of Arts in International Criminal Justice. Beomsoo is now attending graduate school at John Jay College and completing a Master of Arts in International Crime and Justice and working as a research assistant.

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**Natalee Small-Davidson, Graduate Student Presenter**, Natalee is a final year graduate student, enrolled in the Master of Science in Forensic science program, specializing in Molecular Biology. She has a background in Biotechnology and is currently employed in a Molecular Infectious Disease Medical Laboratory. Natalee has worked on many projects over the course of her study at John Jay College under the supervision of thesis advisor and mentor Mechthild Prinz. She is currently part of a project sponsored by the National Institute of Justice which is centered around using DNA trace evidence to determine Individual Shedder Status. Her focus on this project was on Detecting DNA deposits from fingerprints using Diamond™ Nucleic Acid Dye.

## **Albanian Women s Relationship Experiences with Their Partners**

*Author & Presenter*

**Arjanita Elezaj**

It is estimated that approximately 1 in 3 women experience partner violence at some point in their life (WHO, 2017). The prevalence and type of partner violence that Albanian women may experience in the US is unknown but previous research may suggest that they may have similar experiences of the physical and emotional proponents of domestic violence. This study uses mixed methods to understand the Albanian women's intimate partner relationships in the US. We primarily use survey research design and utilize the CCB measure which is a Checklist of Controlling Behaviors an 84-item domestic violence assessment instrument that can be used to address multiple levels of violence and coercive control in violent relationships. This study utilizes participatory action research (PAR) methods and community based participatory research (CBPR) model to engage the community. Participants' narratives will also be collected to generate theory relevant to the Albanian cultural norms and traditions.

# **Evaluating the 2019 New York State Bail Reform on Quality of Life Offenses in New York City**

*Author & Presenter*

**Nodira Pirmukhamedova**

The 2019 New York State Bail Reform Act limited the application of cash bail and pretrial detention by eliminating cash bail for misdemeanor crimes. While some New York City (NYC) residents favored the bail reform, others resented it. The prevalent beliefs were that proposed bail reform endangers communities and allows for more Quality of Life (QOL) misdemeanor crimes. This study aims to objectively determine whether the total number of QOL misdemeanor complaints in NYC increased after the 2019 NYS Bail Reform Act promulgation. Specifically, this study will compare the frequency of nine QOL misdemeanor such as aggravated harassment, assault, criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal trespass, making graffiti, menacing, motor property damage, petit larceny, and sexual abuse complaints before and after the 2019 NYS Bail Reform. The study has three main hypotheses: (1) each of the nine QOL misdemeanor offenses subject to the 2019 NYS Bail Reform will increase in NYC; (2) the total number of QOL misdemeanor complaints after the passage of the 2019 NYS Bail Reform will increase in NYC; and (3) the total number of QOL complaints in Brooklyn and Manhattan, compared to other NYC Boroughs, will increase after the passage of the 2019 NYS Bail Reform



## **Corruption in the Western Hemisphere**

*Author & Presenter*

**Tatiana Vasquez**

The Western Hemisphere Regional Transnational Crime Assessment and Analysis seeks to assess corruption and the impact of corruption control interventions in Central America, South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. In an effort to accomplish this, researchers are implementing various analyses in regards to corruption. They are analyzing, for example, corruption in pan-American countries and looking at, for instance, distinguishing features or unique forms of corruption. They are also analyzing three conventions: the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (IACC), the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. These conventions report on and assess their member states' implementation of measures that aim to tackle corruption. Thus, they provide a detailed overview of efforts against corruption on the part of pan-American governments as well as the progression of these efforts and any necessary recommendations in published reports. Alongside the analysis of the aforementioned reports, researchers are looking at trends in anti-corruption law and policy. In this way, this project aims to produce an informative report on corruption in the Western Hemisphere.

## **Construction of Reliable and Valid Surveys**

*Author & Presenter*

**Beomsoo Kim**

The survey is a quantitative research method that had strength in reliability and weakness in validity. It is because usually survey questions are standardized in similar questions which is consistent. But it does not mean surveys always have reliability and always do not have validity. Depend on how to right questions for the survey, reliability could be reduced by causing bias, and validity can be rise by giving more than yes or no questions. I found this outcome based on my experience working as a research assistant.

As a research assistant, I created surveys to explore what the professor wanted to research about. To do this, with the professor's advice, I reviewed 6 surveys from 4 institutions. While reviewing, comparing, and checking each question, I analyzed how can we increase the reliability and validity of the survey. The poster I am going to make will be about how can we construct a reliable and valid survey.

## **The Reproducibility of Individual DNA deposits Detected with Diamond Dye**

*Authors & Presenters*

**Natalee Small-Davidson, Xiao Chen, Tebah Browne, Nick Petraco**

*Mentor:*

**Mechthild Prinz**

Contact traces are an important part of DNA casework in all crime laboratories and with optimized recovery, detection, and interpretation methods many samples now lead to positive associations to a person of interest. The probative value of these associations and the possibility of passive transfer need to be considered carefully. It has long been established that there is individual variation in how much DNA is left behind when touching an item and at least one scientific study on passive DNA transfer after a handshake concluded that it was “the relative shedding ability” of the two volunteers that had the largest effect on whose DNA was detected (1). In 2018 Kanokwongnuwut et al. (2) published an elegant method for testing shedding variability. This study aimed at reproducing their DNA staining/cell counting approach.

Volunteers (n=26) were asked to deposit a left ring finger print on a clean glass slide, then wash their hands and after waiting for 30 minutes while not touching anything, deposit a right ring finger print. Three sets of samples were collected over three consecutive weeks. Prints were stained with 20x Diamond™ Dye (Promega, Madison, WI) and read at the FITC filter setting (495nm excitation and 550nm emission) on a Nikon Eclipse E600 fluorescent microscope. Signal counts were scored at 100x magnification for three different 0.5x0.5mm squares and normalized to 1mm<sup>2</sup> for accurate comparison. Statistical analysis included one-way random effects model, two way fixed effect, and Pearson correlation testing.

The cell staining method worked well and gave clear signals. Signal density for prints collected prior to hand washing was often very high, which made counting difficult. This was not a problem for washed hands with lower cell nuclei counts. Cell counts showed high variability across donors (n=24, outlier removed) as well as across collection events. Overall, washed hands had significantly lower cell counts than unwashed hands. The data did not show a significant difference between male and female cell counts. The reproducibility in individuals for separate collection events was low for unwashed hands, where we only saw one positive Pearson correlation. The data are more reproducible for washed hands. This is not unexpected, since sample collection after hand washing is more controlled than without. Washed hands showed a wide range of cell counts and a high variance between individuals which does reflect differences in shedding propensity, but as also stated by (2) the distribution seemed to be continuous.

Cell count based shedding propensity assessment is somewhat reproducible and could add value to DNA evidence interpretation where passive transfer scenarios could be involved. More work connecting DNA results for washed and unwashed hands to cell count data is needed.