



# Western Association of Criminal Justice

## *Wednesday, October 11*

**11:00am-4:30pm**                      **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY DESK**                      **Riverfront A**

**12:00pm**                                      **AFTERNOON REFRESHMENTS**                      **Riverfront A**

*Sponsored by: The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences [ACJS]*

**12:30pm - 1:00pm**                      **OPENING REMARKS**                      **Riverfront A**

*Taryn VanderPyl, WACJ President*

*Shaun Gann, 2024 WACJ President*

**1:00pm-2:00pm**                                      **EVENT # 1**                                      **Riverfront A**

**WORKSHOP: Navigating the Realities: The Influence of the Criminal Justice System on Law Enforcement Personnel and Their Families**

*Facilitator: Roxie Supplee, Central Oregon Community College*

*Facilitator: Erick Supplee, Bend Police Department*

Join us in this immersive workshop as we delve beyond theoretical realms into the lived experiences of law enforcement professionals and their families. Explore the intricate web of challenges and hazards that confront officers in today's policing landscape. Through personal narratives and thought-provoking discussions, this session offers a profound examination of the impact of the criminal justice system on those who serve within it. Gain insights from the instructor's firsthand account of a critical incident—an officer-involved shooting—that will serve as a compelling backdrop for comprehensive exploration and learning. This workshop bridges academia with the real-world complexities of law enforcement.

**2:10pm-3:10pm**                                      **EVENT # 2**                                      **Riverfront A**

**PAPER PRESENTATIONS: Procedural Justice and the Police**

*Chair: Christina Shellabarger, Washington State University*

**Driving Fairness: Examining the Equity of Procedural Justice on Traffic Stops**

*Christina Shellabarger, Washington State University*

*Brittany Solensten, Washington State University*

*David Makin, Washington State University*

*Dale Willits, Washington State University*

Procedural justice is crucial for fostering trust in law enforcement. Assessing its application through traffic stops is particularly valuable as these encounters constitute the most frequent type of police-citizen interactions. This study analyzed the application of procedural justice in law enforcement by examining body-worn camera footage of 556 traffic stops to assess how



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individual and situational factors influence police use of procedural justice. Results demonstrated that factors like demographics have limited impact on police behavior. These findings offer nuanced insights into the interplay between demographics, procedural justice, and police interactions. Limitations and avenues for future research are also discussed.

## **We Are All Africans! The Role of Procedural Justice in Citizens' Trust in The Police in Africa**

*Michael K. Dzordzormenyoh, Kent State University*

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the factors influencing citizens' trust in the police in Africa. Using the AfroBarometer round 8 survey, the current study assesses the effect of procedural justice and other variables on trust in the police.

## **Emotion Dysregulation in Police Contacts: Assessing for Behavioral Cues**

*Kasi Chatburn, Washington State University*

*David Makin, Washington State University*

Contact between officers and individuals demonstrating cognitive impairment (IDCIs) have increased in frequency and intensity, often involving use-of-force. Detecting this impairment and responding accordingly remains a high priority for agencies seeking to improve interactions. Applying the Clinician-Rated Dimensions of Psychosis Symptom Severity (CRDPSS) to a sample of 446 police-public interactions, this research applies systematic Social Event Modeling (SSEM) documenting observational cues, the duration of those cues, and how officers responding to those cues. Results indicate co-occurring cues, dispatch-initiated calls, and contacts involving cues of depression have a higher likelihood of emotion dysregulation and increasing levels of intensity.

**3:20pm-4:30pm**

**EVENT # 3**

**Riverfront A**

## **WORKSHOP: To Do or Not to Do: Recommendations for Writing Federal Grant Proposals**

*Facilitator: Shaun Gann, Justice Information Resource Network*

*Facilitator: Jessica Wells, Boise State University*

This roundtable will provide tips and recommendations to consider when writing grant proposals for agencies within the DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (i.e., BJA, BJS, NIJ, OJJDP, OVC, and SMART) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). The discussants will cover all aspects of the grant-writing process (e.g., identifying partners, creating a budget, the project narrative, and required appendices). The latter part of the panel will be reserved for audience questions.



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**4:30pm - 5:30pm**

**EVENT # 4**

**Pavilion**

**SET UP FOR STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION & JUDGING OF STUDENT  
POSTERS**

*Only presenting Students and Judges in the room at this time please.*

## **EVENT # 5**

# **President's Reception, Student Poster Competition & Awards**

**5:30pm  
Pavilion**



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## STUDENT POSTERS

### **Effects of Crime: How Witnessing Violent Crime May Result in Mental Decline**

*Jacob Silva, St. Mary's University*

*Colton Daniels, St. Mary's University*

Fear of crime and perceived neighborhood disorder are important to research due to their association with mental disorders like PTSD. Research has identified linkages between victimization with fear of crime and perceived neighborhood disorder; exploration of how members of the community respond to violent crime occurring is warranted. Results come from the Nashville Stress and Health Study (n = 1,252), which ascertained the stress and health status of individuals from Davidson County. This study added to the current literature by exploring the relationship between witnessing violent crime with fear of crime, perceived neighborhood disorder, and PTSD.

### **Variables That Impact Life or Death: Examining Suicide and Suicide Attempts in A Local County Jail**

*Max Shuman, Weber State University*

*McKenzie Wood, Weber State University*

Suicide of incarcerated individuals remains an ongoing threat in correctional institutions. While best practices and suicide prevention efforts remain at the forefront of corrections, many institutions still suffer from inmates who self-harm, attempt to end their lives, or die by suicide. The current research analyzes data from a local correctional facility to determine the incidence and prevalence of suicide and suicide attempts among incarcerated individuals between the years 2011-2023. Additionally, it examines common risk factors, religiosity, gang involvement, military veteran status and homelessness in conjunction with suicidal behaviors.

### **Themes of Opioid Laws**

*Amalia Rubio Gonzalez, Heritage University*

*Vikki Carpenter, Heritage University*

The U.S. is in an opioid epidemic. Citizens are regularly subjected to news stories related to how opioids have torn families apart. This crisis shows no signs of slowing with the creation of new synthetic opioids providing a more dangerous product, potentially escalating mortality and morbidity rates. As this public health crisis plays out, officials are scrambling to create laws, policy, and programs to try to ease this social and health crisis. Using content analysis, this research looks for themes within the laws in 25 randomly selected states attained using Justia Justice search engine. Themes will be analyzed and discussed.



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## **On Traffic Stops and Constitutional Policing: Examining Colorism and Language-Based Disparities**

*Josephine Famularo, Washington State University*

Traffic stops are the most common form of interaction between the police and public. Body-Worn Camera (BWC) footage now allows researchers to focus on the nature of these interactions and evaluate if, or to what extent, there is differential treatment within these stops. This research applies Systematic Social Event Modeling (SSEM) to a random sample of traffic stops from a mid-sized police agency in Washington state in order to investigate the relationship between the escalation of traffic stops and the color and English proficiency of the driver being stopped. Results reveal variability depending on individual circumstances.

## **The Association of Race and Communication Patterns Among Law Enforcement Interactions with Cognitively Impaired Civilians**

*Theresa Harbert, Washington State University*

The last two decades have witnessed an increase in awareness and urgency toward improving police interactions among persons with mental illnesses (PMIs). Embedded within this response are efforts to improve empathy, active listening, and responsive referrals to resources. Survey and interview-based research documents issues and challenges from the perspectives of the individual, officer, and family members, though absent from this research is research examining the nature of these interactions. This research uses 105 randomly sampled videos of police body-worn camera (BWC) footage to examine dimensions of interpersonal communication (i.e., tone, intensity, pace) within contacts involving a person exhibiting observational cues associated with cognitive impairment. These outcomes are examined to determine to what extent individual and situational factors influence the interaction. Results suggest variability in the frequency and nature of effective interpersonal communication within these contacts, variability in the presence of observational cues associated with cognitive impairment, and referral for services.

## **A Comparative Analysis of Violent Crime and Homicide Rates in Spokane**

*Christian Kitts, Gonzaga University*

Investigating Spokane's recent history of violent crime and homicide rates reveals a complex pattern of fluctuations. This study examines crime rates in Spokane before, during, and after the Covid-19 pandemic, comparing them to Washington state and national averages. Notably, there has been a substantial rise in homicide rates. Through comprehensive data analysis, we seek to elucidate the factors contributing to these fluctuations, shedding light on the underlying causes behind the notable increase in homicide rates in recent years. Our findings may provide valuable insights into the dynamics of violent crime in Spokane and help inform future crime prevention strategies.