NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Sciences
Engineering
Medicine

Crime Rates during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Workshop
SPEAKER
Biographical Sketches

Jeff Asher is a nationally recognized crime data analyst and co-founder of the data analytics firm AH Datalytics. As a public safety analyst with the New Orleans City Council, Jeff has pioneered data visualizations to provide the public with unique insights into the city's criminal justice system. Before launching AH Datalytics, Jeff served as a crime analyst for the City of New Orleans (2 years) and Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (3 years), and prior to that he worked as an analyst for the Central Intelligence Agency (5 years) and Department of Defense (1 year). Jeff's analyses have appeared nationally on data journalism website FiveThirtyEight, The New York Times, The Atlantic, and more. Jeff holds a MA from George Washington University and a BA from the University of Texas.

John H. Boman, IV, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University and the Director of the Center for Justice Research for the Office of the Ohio Attorney General. Dr. Boman is a criminologist who specializes in advanced quantitative methodologies including nested data analysis, structural and item response models, and measurement and construct validation techniques. With a policy-informed eye, his research focuses on the interplay between crime and social relationships (particularly friendships), opioid use and misuse, energy production, and development over the life-course. Originally from Atlanta, Dr. Boman attended Ohio University where he earned bachelor's degrees in History and Sociology-Criminology (2007). Since graduate school at the University of Florida (Ph.D., Criminology, 2013), Dr. Boman has authored or co-authored pieces in top criminology (e.g., *Criminology*), crime policy (e.g., *Criminology & Public Policy*), and general science journals (e.g., *Nature Human Behaviour*). He has also successfully secured extramural funding from various federal (e.g., National Science Foundation, Department of Justice, Department of Education) and state agencies (e.g., Office of the Ohio Attorney General). In his free time, Dr. Boman is a volunteer firefighter, and he enjoys working on his and his friends' home renovation projects.

Jillian B. Carr is an Associate Professor of Economics in the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University. She received her PhD from Texas A&M University. She focuses her research on the economics of crime and poverty. She has studied crime topics including gun violence and juvenile curfews, but much of her work is concentrated in the intersection of government assistance policy design and crime. In this space, she has examined the impacts of housing vouchers, food assistance (SNAP) and stimulus payments on various types of crime. Her research on domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic (with Lindsay Rose Bullinger and Analisa Packham)

highlights the differences between 911 calls to report domestic violence and the number of incidents of domestic violence in official police reports from Chicago, Illinois. They find that there is a large gulf between these numbers, suggesting that crime reporting changed in tandem with crime, itself, at this critical time.

Jens Ludwig is the Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy, director of the University of Chicago's Crime Lab, and codirector of the Education Lab. He is also co-director of the National Bureau of Economic Research working group on the economics of crime and an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. He has written extensively about gun violence prevention, predictive policy tools, early childhood interventions, and the role of social conditions in children's schooling outcomes. Through the Crime Lab, he partners with policymakers in Chicago, New York City, and across the country to use tools from social science, behavioral science, and computer science to identify effective (and cost-effective) ways to help prevent crime and violence.

George Mohler is the Daniel J. Fitzgerald Professor at Boston College Department of Computer Science. His research focuses on statistical and machine learning approaches to solving problems in urban and network data science, with applications to criminal justice and public health. Prior to joining Boston College, Mohler held faculty positions at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), Santa Clara University, and the University of California Los Angeles. Dr. Mohler holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California Santa Barbara and a B.S. in Mathematics from Indiana University Bloomington.

Amy Nivette is an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, Utrecht University and a Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement. Her research can be characterized by two overlapping avenues. One avenue takes a macro-level approach to understanding the causes and correlates of violence across countries, cities, and neighborhoods. She aims to explore the theoretical and empirical relationship between state institutions, social disorganization, and violence, especially homicide. The second avenue concerns the social, institutional, and developmental sources of attitudes towards the police and law over the life course. The scope of this research is internationally broad, with projects examining attitudes in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe.

Caterina Roman joined the faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice at Temple University in Fall 2008 after nearly two decades with the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. Dr. Roman has extensive experience studying the social ecology of neighborhoods, fear of crime, violence and gangs. She has been the PI or co-PI on over a dozen federally-funded evaluations of violence reduction programs. In addition to her evaluation portfolio, her body of grant-funded work includes studies that assess how the personal social networks of at risk youth and gang members influence delinquency, gun carrying, and gang membership. She recently completed a study to assess help seeking behavior and social support mechanisms used by African American men and women who have been victims of street violence. Her research often utilizes survey data combined with hard-to-access cross-systems data in an attempt to provide a broad and unique examination of the health of communities. She regularly publishes in both public health and criminology journals. She holds a PhD in sociology and justice, law, and society from American University.

Michael Sierra-Arévalo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin and serves on the City of Austin's Public Safety Commission. His research on policing, gun violence, gangs, and violence prevention has been published in a range of peer-review outlets, such as Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Criminology, Law & Society Review, Criminology & Public Policy, and Annual Review of Law and Social Science. This research and other writing have appeared in The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, NPR, Vox, Slate, GQ, and The New Republic. He is finishing his first book, The Danger Imperative: Violence, Death, and the Soul of Policing (Columbia University Press) which draws on interviews and ethnographic observations across three U.S. police departments to show how police culture and behavior center around violence and officer safety. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from Yale University and his B.A. in Sociology and Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

María B. Vélez is an Associate Professor at the University of Maryland. Her general interests are to understand how stratification along racial-ethnic, political, and economic lines shapes and is shaped by the uneven patterning of crime and justice outcomes. Key themes include investigating: the influence of political conditions on crime patterns across neighborhoods; the dynamic nature of crime; and the consequences of mass incarceration and other forms of criminal justice contact for minority political behavior and the wellbeing of democracy in the United States. She was a member of the Roundtable on Crime Trends in America for the National Academies' Committee on Law and Justice. She received her Ph.D. in sociology from Ohio State University.

Morgan C. Williams, Jr. is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Barnard College, Columbia University. Professor Williams' current research agenda addresses the economic consequences of crime and incarceration policy in the United States—with a particular focus on racial inequality. This research entertains questions ranging from the economic determinants of racial disparities in homicide and policing to understanding the impact of criminal history disclosure requirements on racial differences in labor market and recidivism outcomes. Professor Williams' research enjoys support from the Russell Sage Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Policies for Action Initiative. Professor Williams is a previous recipient of the New York University Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Predoctoral Fellowship, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Predoctoral Fellowship, and a U.S. Fulbright Scholar Award. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center, MPH from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, and is a proud graduate of Morehouse College.