The project team is continuing their research in a second phase exploring additional factors that may further explain the variations in crime hotspots.

A CINA research team led by Marie Tillyer (UTSA) has published two new articles based on results from the first phase of a project examining patterns in crime hotspots in major U.S. cities. The team's recent work discusses the influence of environmental factors on crime patterns and the importance of considering both macro-level and micro-level factors in hotspot analysis.

The team proposed building a database of counterfeiting cases and related information, which we believe we can use to improve our understanding of the factors driving counterfeiting activities. The CINA Center partnered with George Mason University's Homeland Security Institute to sponsor a special $10,000 prize to fund follow-up research by the winning team of the Recap: "Bring Down Counterfeiting 2022" Policy Hackathon.

The event challenged teams from U.S. and international academic institutions, companies, and other affiliations to develop innovative ideas to improve public-private collaborations against the industry-wide global challenge of counterfeiting. The CINA sponsored a special $10,000 prize to fund follow-up research by the winning team of the Recap: "Bring Down Counterfeiting 2022" Policy Hackathon.

Second place and $15,000 went to the "A-Capp Team" from George Mason University, which proposed building a database of counterfeiting cases and related information. The team demonstrated a strong understanding of the complexities of counterfeiting and the need for a comprehensive approach to tackling the problem.

The team's research focused on developing a database that could be used to track and analyze counterfeiting activities, with the goal of improving criminal investigative processes. The database would include information on the types of counterfeit goods, the locations of counterfeit operations, and the individuals involved in the production and distribution of counterfeit products.

The CINA team is expanding our outreach efforts to the academic and industry communities. We are offering four new opportunities while also searching to build upon our Workforce Development and Training efforts. See below for details and links to apply.

CINA 2022 Annual RFP
CINA's 2022 Annual RFP will open in mid-December and will invite proposals that address main challenges and opportunities in a variety of fields, including Counterterrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption, Criminal Network Analysis, and Dynamic Patterns of Place-based Improvements for Public Safety.

We had a very productive summer with our interns and our MSI partners, and we recently had our annual CINA Annual Meeting 2022. The event included a CINA Project Showcase that allowed attendees to meet with CINA researchers and learn more about CINA projects, DHS student internships, or would like to provide input to CINA's RFP.

To learn more about possible hackathon event collaborations and/or research project ideation and problem solving partnership opportunities, email cina@gmu.edu.

We are also expanding our Workforce Development and Training efforts. The CINA Education and Workforce Development Lead will grow and manage the DHS education and workforce development activities of the center. These activities will help educate and train the current and future homeland security workforce in science and engineering professions to enhance the capabilities and effectiveness of the homeland security community.

The end of the calendar year is a natural time to reflect on the year just passed. I know we're not quite there yet, but despite the old adage 'the winter is coming,' the CINA team is continuing to make progress with several projects and is working on transitioning still more. The projects are advancing the state of the art and improving criminal investigative processes for the benefit of the homeland security community.

The event included a CINA Project Showcase that allowed attendees to meet with CINA researchers and learn more about their research. The event also featured a recap of the Recap: "Bring Down Counterfeiting 2022" Policy Hackathon, where teams presented their ideas for improving public-private collaboration against the industry-wide global challenge of counterfeiting.
Wednesday, December 7: “Working with Law Enforcement and Brands to Hold Bad Actors Accountable and Protect Consumers” with Joe Wheatley
Join us on Wednesday, December 7 for the upcoming virtual CINA Distinguished Speaker Series event featuring Joe Wheatley, Senior Corporate Counsel of the Amazon Counterfeit Crimes Unit. The presentation will highlight “Working with Law Enforcement and Brands to Hold Bad Actors Accountable and Protect Consumers.”

Register Now

Event Recap: Arun Ross - “Privacy in the Era of Automated Face Recognition”
In case you missed it, watch Arun Ross, Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Michigan State University and the Director of the i-PRoBe Lab discuss privacy implications of automated face recognition (AFR) technology. Ross describes the auxiliary information that can be extracted from face images and the ability to link disparate face images using AFR, thereby divulging the identity of individuals in applications where anonymity is expected.

Watch the presentation

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