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Contents of this Month's Update

Criminologist and George Mason University professor and CINA Science Committee member, Arthur Acolin (right), explains the importance of combining economic development and crime reduction:

Learn more about the effectiveness of policing crime hot spots, strategies for economic development and crime reduction, and complementary datasets to gain a deeper understanding of crime hotspots and inform policies.

Criminal activity is not uniformly distributed, but is rather highly concentrated in small areas, such as individual addresses, streets, and neighborhoods. This concentration can have a dramatic impact on city-level crime trends, so it is very important to understand and address crime hotspots.

In addition to scholarly pursuits, Hall also serves as a Police Chief for the Fairfax County Police Department. He shares the experience of leading and managing a team of nearly 1,500 officers and professionals, and highlights the value of training and education:

"The experience was invaluable. It added an entirely different dimension to my academic knowledge. From a research point of view, it was very helpful..." - Hall

Hall’s background in police science and criminal justice Research, Law and Society, with a minor in Intelligence Studies, and experience in academic research and police work make him uniquely qualified to lead this initiative.

Isaiah Hall
Criminology, Law and Society, with a minor in Intelligence Studies

The summer project focus was to protect the community and its privacy rights. Both CINA and the Office of Science and Privacy Protection (OSPP) worked to identify and mitigate risks associated with the use of cell phone data and privacy issues.

In partnership with CINA and OSPP, the CINA Scholars researched and developed a new methodology to protect privacy while allowing law enforcement agencies to access cell phone data. The methodology was designed to be adaptive and scalable to different domains, from national security to local law enforcement.

"The experience was invaluable. It added an entirely different dimension to my academic knowledge. From a research point of view, it was very helpful," said Isaiah Hall, who worked on the project. "I learned a lot about the challenges of a pandemic lockdown, but also about the power of collaboration and teamwork."

Dr. Marie Tillyer, a Professor of Psychology from the University of Texas at San Antonio, highlighted the importance of collaboration with government agencies and industry partners:

"The collaboration with DHS and our community of stakeholders was crucial to the success of this project. These researchers are a valuable addition to our academic network, providing skills, viewpoints, ideas, and solutions which serve to make us stronger, deeper, and more capable."

The CINA Center proudly supported three projects this year through the DHS Summer Research Experience for Scientists, with a focus on protecting the community and its privacy rights. The research projects were led by leading scholars and industry partners, and involved student and faculty researchers from George Mason University and other institutions.

The CINA Center hosts a distinguished speaker series to bring together experts and leaders in the field of crime and security. The next event in the series will be held on November 11, featuring a presentation by Diana Dolliver from the University of Texas at San Antonio. The event is open to the public and will focus on the fundamentals of cryptocurrencies, transactions, and blockchain technologies, and how this knowledge can be used to facilitate criminal activity.

The event will take place at 12:00 p.m. on November 11, and is free to attend. Register now to secure your spot.

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Distinguished Speaker Series:

"Gang Crime: The Role of Social Networks in Gun Violence"

Event Details:

Date: November 11
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Location: Online

Register Now

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