Learn more about the effectiveness of policing crime hot spots, or neighborhoods. Changes in these concentrated crime hot spots account for such changes over time.

Criminal activity is not uniformly distributed, but is rather highly concentrated in small areas, such as individual addresses, streets, and commercial districts. As such, if a strategy is designed to impact concentrated crime in hot spots, its impact should be measured in such areas. Arthur Acolin (University of Washington) are examining these diverse and concentrated crime hot spots in small areas.

Learn more about Arthur Acolin

Meet the CINA Scholar Summer Interns

Isaiah Hall

Isaiah Hall is a senior at George Mason University, majoring in Psychology. He is interested in all things related to intelligence and national security. When asked to reflect on the CINA Scholar OSPP internship, Hall said: “The experience was invaluable. It confirmed my strong interest in all things related to intelligence, criminal investigations, and intelligence analysis techniques. In addition to scholarly pursuits, Hall also serves as a Police Department volunteer and is an active member of his church’s leadership team. He is passionate about community engagement and the importance of understanding how different DHS components work together, especially in policy making, revealing the policy gaps to make sure we’re doing everything we can to protect the community and its privacy rights.

Jay Suarez

Jay Suarez is a junior at George Mason University majoring in Psychology. His academic interests include criminology, and he aspires to be a special agent or a future director of the FBI. When asked to reflect on the CINA Scholar summer internship, Jay said: “Their enthusiasm, engagement, and most importantly, research-based findings helped our group with the project. The summer project focus was to protect the community and its privacy rights. Both CINA Scholars grew from the collaborative experience, agreeing that the hardest part of the project was actually finding the specific data they needed—which was not easy to get from the public sector,” Hall added.

The CINA Center proudly supported three projects this year through the DHS Summer Scholars Program. The CINA Center is dedicated to supporting the next generation of students in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, and homeland security.

The CINA Scholars were able to work both independently and on a project team to examine social and behavioral science research, specifically focused on the use of location data for law enforcement purposes while also understanding how different DHS components work together, especially in policy making, revealing the policy gaps to make sure we’re doing everything we can to protect the community and its privacy rights. As I have watched our Summer Research Teams and MSI week participants over the years, I am hopeful that we will continue to see the development of new ideas and projects as we work to make the world a safer place.

Meet more CINA Scholars

Pathways to Privacy: Identifying and Protecting Sensitive Information.

Suarez and his research team worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Intelligence and Analysis to develop a methodology for identifying and protecting sensitive information. The project was awarded a research grant from the DHS Summer Intern Program.

Meet the Team

Dr. Marie Skubak Tillyer: "Open Source Data and Predictive Modeling for High-Density Crime Areas" - Thursday, November 11, 2021

Dr. Skubak Tillyer is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is also a member of the Nation’s Criminal Justice Academy (NCJA) and a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Science (ACJS). Her research interests include criminal justice policy and crime prevention, with a focus on the use of technology in criminal justice. Dr. Tillyer is a leader in the field of criminal justice and has received numerous awards for her work.

The Distinguished Speaker Series was organized by Dr. Skubak Tillyer, with support from the National Association of Criminal Justice Professors (NACP) and the National Association of Criminal Justice Educators (NACE). The series is sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The series is designed to bring together criminal justice professionals from across the nation to discuss the latest research and developments in the field.

Watch the below interview with Dr. Skubak Tillyer as she covers the fundamentals of cryptocurrencies, transactions, and blockchain technologies, and how this relates to crime. Dr. Skubak Tillyer discusses how blockchain technology can be used to detect and prevent criminal activity.