Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Jim Jones

On August 4, 2020, we held our CINA Annual Meeting under these "new normal" circumstances - a virtual conference with over 100 attendees from government, industry, and academia, view-ahead video presentations from 15 different research teams complemented with live Q&A sessions for each, an excellent keynote address from William Bryan and updates from the CINA and OUP teams, and a look at the emerging challenge landscape from the CINA Science Committee.

The Annual Meeting reflected on the last 12 months during which we helped plan and execute the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched a running OpenRFP to increase research project agility and timeliness, continued a multi-COE project on cartel smuggling, moved our Distinguished Speaker Series and other events online, produced a white paper assessing the impact of the pandemic on criminal networks and investigations, and supported three MSI Summer Research Teams, all while managing a director transition and the effects of the pandemic.

My two big takeaways from this last year are (1) the only constant in life is (unexpected) change, and (2) a good organization and team sees the opportunities in such a dynamic environment, thinks creatively, and pivots quickly, and not only survives but thrives.



CINA Open RFP 20-21



CINA is seeking white papers presenting research ideas intended to address questions and challenges that CINA, DHS, and/or its federal partners are currently facing, or are expected to be facing in the near future. This is an open, rolling RFP. Submissions will be accepted at any time during the RFP open period (June 2020 – June 2021). **Check out our website for more information**.

NEWS

The Evolution of Human Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Council on Foreign Relations



Louise Shelley, CINA Science Committee Member, and the Omer L. and Nancy Hirst Endowed Chair at George Mason University Schar School of Policy and Government, and **Christina Bain**, provide research about human trafficking during a global pandemic.

Learn about the issue



A promising alternative to policing high-crime streets

David Weisburd, CINA Science Committee Member, explores research related to defunding the police and alternative ways to reduce crime.

Explore the research findings

CINA NETWORK

Meet the Eastern New Mexico University CINA Summer Research Team

Over a recent summer, a faculty-student research team from Eastern New Mexico University explored the connections between Mexican drug cartels and U.S.-based gangs and how the public perceives these criminal organizations.



Omar Camarillo, Ph.D., a professor of criminal justice and sociology, and students **Cecilia Torres** and **Xandra James** conducted this research as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Summer Research Team (SRT) Program for Minority Serving Institutions.

Meet the team



Virtual Event/ Finding Trafficking Networks in Online Commercial Sex Ads

Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm



Speaker **Crysta Price** discusses human trafficking, including a case walkthrough that describes how data analytics, AI, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies led to the dismantling of a large international sex trafficking organization. Register now.



Beyond 9/11- Homeland Security and TransnationalCrime Virtual Panel Discussion

Friday, September 18, 2020, 12:00pm- 1:30pm

What does it mean to “secure the homeland” in the twenty-first century? During this event, leading experts will provide strategic lessons and crucial recommendations for the future of homeland security. Register now.

Virtual Event/Transaction Laundering and the Facilitation of Cybercrime Through the Online Payment Ecosystem

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm





Speakers **Lilly Richardson** and **Jenny Mosbacher** discuss how credit card transactions have increasingly become a conduit for money laundering. The talk

highlights how criminal organizations circumvent the payments and banking ecosystem's risk and compliance controls by setting up fake online businesses and storefronts to covertly process payments for illegal activity. **Register now**.



Virtual Event/ Social Outlaws: What Network Data Tells Us About Gangs

Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Martin Bouchard will prsent virtually on four lessons learned about gangs and networks, formulated as testable empirical statements: 1) Gang boundaries are messy but best measured via networks; 2) Gang members routinely work and interact with non-members. For high stakes crime, members select their own; 3) Gang cohesion matters for survival. Smaller gangs benefit from outside alliances and larger gangs benefit from keeping ties within; 4) Social networks are the strongest predictors of gang violence. **Register today**.

Visit our website's digital archive to view more research and past events hosted by CINA.

You're invited to submit articles, photos, videos, and story ideas to include in upcoming newsletters. Submit your ideas on our website contact form.

Stay Connected

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