From my desk

On August 24, 2020, CINA’s Director of Communications and Development, Louise Shelley, was invited to discuss human trafficking at the Museum of Crime and Punishment in Washington, DC. The talk highlighted how criminal organizations circumvent the payment systems and how credit card transactions have increasingly become a conduit for money laundering.

The talk featured speakers including Dr. A. David Weisburd, a renowned criminologist and the director of Crime Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland, and Cecilia Torres, a professor of criminal justice and sociology at New Mexico University. Both speakers discussed human trafficking, including a case study about a sexual trafficking organization.

The Evolution of Human Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic

On August 4, 2020, we held our CINA Annual Meeting under these “new normal” conditions. 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 the CINA Summer Research Team, and supported three MSI Summer Research Teams, all while managing an online, virtual event/transaction service.

The Annual Meeting also served as a forum for networking and information sharing, as well as an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss challenges that CINA, DHS, and/or its federal partners addressed. The meeting was a success, with live Q&A sessions for each, an excellent keynote address from William Bryan and his team, and a discussion about human trafficking.

New Research

A promising alternative to policing high-crime streets

A promising alternative to policing high-crime streets is to perform data-driven crime analysis, use predictive policing, and create crime streets, according to Dr. A. David Weisburd, a renowned criminologist and the director of Crime Analysis and Research at the University of Maryland.

Weisburd discussed how data-driven crime analysis can help identify areas with high crime rates and allocate police resources accordingly. He also emphasized the importance of predictive policing, which involves using data to predict where crimes are likely to occur.

Virtual Event/ Finding Trafficking Networks in Online Commercial Sex Ads

On November 11, 2020, we will present virtually on four lessons learned about finding trafficking networks in online commercial sex ads. The event will be held from 12:00pm to 1:30pm.

Meet the Eastern New Mexico University CINA Summer Research Team

Meet the Eastern New Mexico University CINA Summer Research Team. Eastern New Mexico University explored the connections between Mexican drug cartels and U.S.-based gangs and how the public perceives these criminal organizations.

New Research

Over a recent summer, a faculty-student research team from Eastern New Mexico University served as part of the CINA Summer Research Team and students were provided with research about human trafficking during a global pandemic.

News

The exploration of human trafficking during the COVID-19 pandemic is a priority for CINA.

CINA is seeking white papers presenting research ideas intended to increase research project agility and timeliness, continue a multi-year research agenda, and provide funding opportunities for the development of a new network of researchers.

You’re invited to submit articles, photos, videos, and story ideas to include in upcoming newsletters. Submit your ideas on our website contact form any time during the RFP open period (June 2020 – June 2021).