Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Jones

One of the CINA center's metrics for success is the transition of our research into operational impact. As we progress through our fourth year of operation, we have three projects preparing to enter transition activities and a portfolio of other projects in various stages of maturity that will drive future transition activities.

This engine of innovation and future impact is no accident, but rather the product of a center conceived with a clear purpose and strategic, thoughtful decisions over the first three years of our operation. Those thoughtful decisions rely on a deep understanding of the DHS problem space from our many interactions with DHS components, scientific and domain expertise provided by our advisory board members, and the active participation of the academic research community.

In 2019, CINA received 47 submissions to our annual RFP, and we have received eight submissions in the first three months of our rolling Open RFP. As we prepare to release our next annual RFP in December 2020, we want to say thank you to all who continue to help us understand the Department's needs and to see over the horizon, and to all who contribute their expertise, effort, and great ideas to craft solutions to these important problems and challenges.

Trinity Washington researchers receive guidance on summer project from FLETC

CINA Scholars / Photo by: Ron Aira/Creative Services/George Mason University

The CINA MSI Summer Research team from Trinity Washington University in Washington, DC recently presented an overview of their research project on the dynamics of high crime areas during the August 2020 CINA Annual Meeting.

Vernon Scott, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, and his team of researchers from Trinity Washington University receive guidance from Dr. Devon Johnson, George Mason University Associate Professor in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society along with researchers at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) about possible directions and data acquisition.

"We focused on examining variables that may contribute to negative interactions between law enforcement officers and citizens," Scott said of the project, still in its formative stages.

Learn more about the research

CINA Welcomes 2021-21 Open RFP White Paper Submissions

CINA continues to welcome white paper submissions 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 rolling RFP provides opportunity for submissions to be accepted at any time during the RFP open period (June 2020 – June 2021). Learn how to submit your proposal.

Understanding False Confessions and Guilty Pleas of the Mentally Ill

Prominent false confession researcher and CINA Science Committee Member, **Allison Redlich**, recently headlined the American Psychological Association and University of Ohio sponsored conference on False Confessions, sharing her expertise on the

mentally ill.

In her presentation at the El Paso, Texas conference billed as a virtual Who's Who in the field, Redlich, a Professor of Criminology, Law and Society at George Mason University, discussed some of the reasons the mentally ill plead guilty to crimes for which they are innocent. In addition, she discussed their stays in jail tended to be longer than that of other people, since few cared enough about them to bail them out. Read more about the research.

Session Recap: Beyond 9/11- "Homeland Security and Transnational Crime" Panel Discussion

Did you miss the September panel "Beyond 9/11-Homeland Security and Transnational Crime" co-sponsored by CINA, TraCCC and NCITE?

Listen to the full discussion of leading experts providing strategic lessons and crucial recommendations for the future of homeland security.

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 present 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 Now

Session Recap: "Finding Trafficking Networks in Online Commercial Sex Ads"

Did you miss the last Distinguished Speaker Series? Watch speaker **Crysta Price's** full talk about human trafficking networks. View the presentation here.

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

Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA)
4400 University Drive, MS2A1
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Phone: 703-993-4409

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