

MICHAELA E. BENSON-GOLDSMITH

Victimology & Victim Studies Research Lab
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UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice
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Omaha, NE 68182

EDUCATION

- 2025 **Ph.D.**, Criminology/Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE
Dissertation: “Restorative Justice in U.S. School District Discipline Policies: Associations with School Discipline Outcomes.”
- 2021 **M.S.**, Criminology/Criminal Justice, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
Thesis: “Use of Force Under Scrutiny: Impacts of Body-Worn Cameras on Types of Force Used by Police”
- 2019 **B.S.**, Criminology and Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude*, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
- Forensic Child Psychology Certificate

EMPLOYMENT

- 2025-present *Research Associate*, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 2024-2025 *Research Specialist*, Juvenile Justice Institute, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 2021-2023 *Graduate Research Assistant*, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 2018-2022 *Program Monitoring & Data Coordinator*, Child Advocacy Center, Springfield, MO
- 2019-2021 *Graduate Research Assistant*, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

AREAS OF INTEREST

Policy Evaluation	Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice
Child Victimization	Violence/Trauma & Mental Health
Victim Services & Re-Traumatization	Data Management & Analytics

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Richards, T.N., **Benson-Goldsmith, M.**, Branscum, C., Campbell, B., Nix, J., & Wright, E. (2026) What predicts testing a sexual assault kit? Findings from the Minnesota sexual assault kit initiative project. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 105(102686). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2026.102686>
2. Branscum, C., Milner, E., & **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (2026). Technology-Facilitated Violence: How VAWA (2022) Confronts the Rise of Nonconsensual Pornography. *Violence Against Women* (forthcoming).

3. Richards, T., **Benson-Goldsmith, M.**, Branscum, C., Nix, J., Wright, E., & Campbell, B. (2026). Victim Notification and Re-Engagement in the Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. *Crime & Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287261425611>
4. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.**, Campbell, B., Richards, T., & Nix, J. (2025). ViCAP usage and viability for sexual assault investigations: Findings from a survey of SAKI sites. *Police Practice & Research*, 26(1), 110-118. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2024.2414321>
5. Richards, T.N., Branscum, C., **Goldsmith, M.**, & Ali, A. (2024). Examining institutional-level factors and campus climate on sexual misconduct reporting to Title IX coordinators and in Annual Security Reports. *Victims & Offenders*, 19(7), 1301-1319. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2024.2351008>
6. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.**, Gildea, B., Richards, T.N., Roley-Roberts, M., Greenberg, P., & Hobbs, A. (2024). An exploratory analysis of domestic and intimate partner violence victimization among persons experiencing eviction. *Violence Against Women*, 31(5), 1104-1125. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778012231225231>

CHAPTERS, TECHNICAL REPORTS, & RESEARCH BRIEFS

1. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (2026). Sexual Assault Kits. In J. P. Stamatel (Eds.), *The Sage encyclopedia of crime and gender*. Forthcoming for SAGE Publications, Inc.
2. Richards, T.N., Nix, J., **Benson-Goldsmith, M.**, Wright, E., Branscum, C., & Campbell, B. (2026). The Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: Lessons for law enforcement practice. *Applied Police Briefings*, 3(1), 11-13. <https://doi.org/10.22215/apb.v3i1.5759>
3. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.**, Hobbs, A., & Hall, F. (2024). *Juvenile justice institute 2024 annual report: County and program-specific evaluations for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022*. Juvenile Justice Institute. Submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission, June 28, 2024.
4. Richards, T.N., Branscum, C., Nix, J., Wright, E., **Goldsmith, M.E.**, & Campbell, B. (2023). *Minnesota sexual assault kit research project: Final report*. Submitted to Office of Justice Programs, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, December 22, 2023.
5. **Goldsmith, M.E.**, Richards, T.N., Roley-Roberts, M., Greenberg, P., Gildea, B., & Hobbs, A. (May 2023). *The prevalence and context of out of home care among children whose parents have experienced eviction: Preliminary findings*. Foster Care Review Office Quarterly Special Report.
6. **Goldsmith, M. E.**, Kulig, T. C., & Richards, T. N. (May 2023). *OPD-UNO collaboration for the prevention and intervention of human trafficking against children in Omaha*. University of Nebraska at Omaha. Final report submitted to Omaha Police Department's Special Victims Unit, May 12, 2023.
7. **Goldsmith, M.E.**, Gildea, B., Roley-Roberts, M., Greenberg, P., Richards, T.N., & Hobbs, A. (2022). *A descriptive analysis of domestic and intimate partner violence victimization and evictions in Omaha, Nebraska* [Research brief]. University of Nebraska at Omaha.
8. Richards, T.N., **Goldsmith, M.E.**, & Branscum, C.C. (2022). *Examining Biennial Data on Reports of Sexual Misconduct to Title IX Coordinators, Clery and VAWA Crime Reports, and*

Campus Climate Survey Data for Maryland Institutions of Higher Education: AY 2018-2020.
Submitted to the Maryland Higher Education Commission, April 25, 2022.

9. Richards, T.N., Branscum, C., Nix, J., Wright, E., **Goldsmith, M.E.**, & Campbell, B. (2022). *Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Project interim report: A retrospective review of previously untested sexual assault kits in Anoka County, MN.* Submitted to Office of Justice Programs, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, January 13, 2022.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (expected 2026). Restorative Justice in Discipline Policies: Results from a Content Analysis of U.S. School District Policies. Intended for *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.
2. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.**, Gildea, B., Richards, T.N., Roley-Roberts, M., Greenberg, P., Hobbs, A., & Gross, M. (expected 2026). Experiences with out-of-home care among children whose parents have experienced eviction. Intended for *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
3. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.**, Milner, E.K., & Richards, T.N. (expected 2026). Victim notification reactions and notification outcomes in a sexual assault kit initiative project. Intended for *Journal of Criminal Psychology*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

1. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (expected 2027). Restorative Justice Discipline Policies and School Discipline Outcomes. Intended for *Youth Violence & Juvenile Justice*.
2. **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** & Richards, T.N. (expected 2027). Restorative Justice in School District Discipline Policies Addressing Bullying and Harassment in Schools. Intended for *Law and Human Behavior*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: EXTERNAL FUNDING

2026-2030	Missing and Anti-Trafficking Youth Services (MATYS) Program Evaluation at Project Harmony <i>Role:</i> Co-Investigator (PI, Drs. Teresa Kulig and Tara Richards) <i>Funding Agency:</i> Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs <i>Amount:</i> \$2,000,000
2025-2027	An Outcome Assessment of Seattle's Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) <i>Role:</i> Research Associate (PI, Dr. Tara Richards) <i>Funding Agency:</i> Office on Violence Against Women, 15JOVW-24-GG-01527-MUMU <i>Amount:</i> \$499,646
2025-2028	A National Review of Multidisciplinary Teams addressing Child Sexual Exploitation <i>Role:</i> Research Associate (PI, Dr. Teresa Kulig) <i>Funding Agency:</i> National Institute of Justice, 15PNIJ-24-GG-01653-MUMU <i>Amount:</i> \$1,499,977
2024-2025	Evidence-based Nebraska <i>Role:</i> Co-Primary Investigator (PI, Dr. Anne Hobbs)

Funding Agency: Nebraska Crime Commission, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 43-2404.02, CC-25-742
Amount: \$289,900

Evidence-based Nebraska
Role: Co-Investigator (PI, Dr. Anne Hobbs)

2024
Funding Agency: Nebraska Crime Commission, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 43-2404.02, CC-24-737
Amount: \$289,900

2023
UNO Gender and Sexuality Resource Center project to support new programming and resources to prevent and serve student victims of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.
Role: Research Assistant (PI, Dr. Tara Richards)
Funding Agency: OVW Campus Grant

2020-2023
Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Research Project
Role: Research Assistant (PI, Dr. Tara Richards)
Funding Agency: National Institute of Justice, Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Sexual Assault, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence, NIJ 2019-MU-MU-0095
Amount: \$657,488

2022-2023
OPD-UNO Collaboration for the Prevention and Intervention of Human Trafficking against Children in Omaha
Role: Project Coordinator (PI, Dr. Teresa Kulig; Co-I, Dr. Tara Richards)
Funding Agency: Great Plains IDeA Community-Engaged Research Pilot Project Award, National Institutes of Health, General Medical Sciences, U54 GM115458
Amount: \$35,637

2020-2023
Examining the Intersection of Domestic Violence, Eviction, and Racial Disparities in Omaha: Toward Trauma-Informed Systems of Care
Role: Research Assistant (PI, Dr. Anne Hobbs; Co-I, Dr. Tara Richards)
Funding Agency: Great Plains IDeA-CTR Network, National Institutes of Health
Amount: \$25,000

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE: INTERNAL FUNDING

2024-2025
Restorative Justice Policies in School Districts: Impacts on the Use of Exclusionary Discipline in Schools
Role: Principal Investigator (Faculty Mentor, Dr. Tara Richards)
Funding Agency: University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA)
Amount: \$5,000

2022-2023
Negative Emotionality and Strain: A GST Approach to Intimate Partner Violence
Role: Principal Investigator (Faculty Mentors, Dr. Tara Richards, Dr. Todd Armstrong)
Funding Agency: University of Nebraska at Omaha GRACA
Amount: \$5,000

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (2025, May). *Understanding School District Discipline Policies Incorporating Restorative Justice*. Presented to the Nebraska Restorative Practices Community of Practice.
- 2023 Bussey, T. & **Benson-Goldsmith, M.** (2023, December). *Youth Emergency Services: Breaking the Cycle to Reduce the Overrepresentation of Black & Minority Youths in the Juvenile Justice System*. Presented at Race, Crime, and Injustice Service-Learning Event.
- *This presentation won against 4 others, awarding Y.E.S. \$1,000 from the UNO Community Engagement office.*
- 2023 **Goldsmith, M.,** Kulig, T., & Richards, T. (2023, March). *OPD and UNO Collaboration for the Prevention and Intervention of Human Trafficking against Children in Omaha*. Results Presented to Collaboration Partners in the Omaha Police Department's Child Special Victims Unit.
- 2022 Greenberg, P., **Goldsmith, M.,** Gildea, B., Roley-Roberts, M., Richards, T., Hobbs, A., Timilsina, G., Martin, N., & Bradley, M. (2022, June). *Domestic Violence and Eviction Summit*. Presented at the Domestic Violence and Eviction Summit at the Highlander. Omaha, NE.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.** (2025, November). *Restorative Justice in School District Discipline Policies Addressing Bullying and Harassment in Schools* [Panel]. Presented at the 79th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Washington D.C.
- 2025 Richards, T., **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.,** Nix, J., Campbell, B.A., & Wright, E. (2025, November). *Predictors, processes, and outcomes of victim notification in the Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Initiative* [Panel]. Presented at the 79th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Washington D.C.
- 2025 **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.** (2025, September). *Restorative Justice in Discipline Policies: Results from a Content Analysis of U.S. School District Policies* [Panel]. Presented at the 2025 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2024 **Benson-Goldsmith, M.E.** (2024, November). *Impacts of Restorative Justice Policies on the Use of Exclusionary Discipline in Schools* [Panel]. Presented at the 78th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.
- 2024 **Goldsmith, M.E.,** Richards, T.N., Roley-Roberts, M., Greenberg, P., Gildea, B., & Hobbs, A. (2024, March). *Foster care experiences among children of evicted adults* [Panel]. Presented at the 61st annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Goldsmith, M.,** Richards, T., Campbell, B., Nix, J., & Wright, E. (2023, November). *ViCAP Usage and Viability for Sexual Assault Investigations: Findings from a Survey of SAKI Sites* [Panel]. Presented at the 77th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 **Goldsmith, M.,** Kulig, T., & Richards, T. (2023, September). *OPD and UNO Collaboration for the Prevention and Intervention of Human Trafficking against*

Children in Omaha [Poster]. Presented at the 2023 Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

- *This poster was awarded MCJA's 2023 Graduate Student Poster Award*

2022 **Goldsmith, M.**, Armstrong, T., Richards, T., Boisvert, D., Wells, J., & Lewis, R. (2022, November). *Negative Emotionality, Strain, and Intimate Partner Violence Perpetration: A General Strain Theory Approach to IPV* [Panel]. Presented at the 76th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.

2022 Richards, T., **Goldsmith, M.**, Branscum, C., Wright, E., Nix, J., Campbell, B. (2022, November). *Assessing the Impact and Feasibility of the SAKI and ViCAP Partnership* [Panel]. Presented at the 76th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.

2021 **Goldsmith, M.**, Kyle, M., White, D., Schafer, J. (2021, November). *Exploring the Force Continuum Through a New Lens: The Impact of BWCs* [Panel]. Presented at the 75th annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL.

2018 **Goldsmith, M.**, Dickey, J., Lehman, P., & Zimmerman, D. (2018, May). *The Impact of Haven Training on Victim Blaming in a Rape Scenario* [Poster]. Presented at the Missouri State College of Health and Human Services Annual Research Symposium.

2017 Oberdeick, K., Zimmerman, D., & **Goldsmith, M.** (2017, May). *Examining the Impact of the Haven Training on Perceptions of Rape* [Poster]. Presented at the Missouri State College of Health and Human Services Annual Research Symposium.

HONORS & AWARDS

2024 Graduate Studies Student Conference Presentation Travel Funding (Award for \$500)

2024 Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Victimology Section 2024 Outstanding Graduate Student (Award for \$150)

2024-2025 Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA) (Grant Award for \$5,000)

2023 Midwest Criminal Justice Association (MCJA) 2023 Graduate Student Poster Award Winner (Award for \$150)

2023 Graduate Studies Student Conference Presentation Travel Funding (Award for \$500)

2023 ORCA Student Conference Travel Funding (Award for \$500)

2022 Graduate Studies Student Conference Presentation Travel Funding (Award for \$500)

2022-2023 Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA) (Grant Award for \$5,000)

2021 Graduate Studies Student Conference Presentation Travel Funding (Award for \$500)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha/Lincoln (2025 – present)

UNO CRCJ 8080 Seminar in Juvenile Justice (graduate, online program tune up) Spring 2026

UNO CRCJ 4410-001 Victimology (undergraduate, in person) Spring 2026

UNO CRCJ 3350-001 Criminology (undergraduate, in person) Fall 2025

UNO CRCJ 4410 Victimology (undergraduate, online program tune up) Fall 2025

Per Course Faculty, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Missouri State University (2023 – 24)

MSU CRM 220-897/899 Criminology (undergraduate, online) Spring 2024

MSU CRM 220-898 Criminology (undergraduate, online) Fall 2023

Graduate Assistant, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha (2021 – 23)

UNL CRIM 440-800 Domestic Violence (undergraduate, online) Summer 2025

UNL CRIM 442-700 Child Abuse and Neglect (undergraduate, online) Summer 2023

Teaching Assistant, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Missouri State University (2019 – 21)

MSU CRM 250 Policing (undergraduate, online) [TA]

MSU CRM 314 Forensic Science (undergraduate, online) [TA]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2026-present	Treasurer, Heartland Juvenile Services Association, Omaha, NE
2024-present	Board Member, Heartland Juvenile Services Association, Omaha, NE
Dec. 2025	Peer Reviewer, Child & Family Social Work
Oct. 2025	Peer Reviewer, SSM – Qualitative Research in Health
July 2025	Peer Reviewer, Personality Science
July 2025	Steering Committee, Nebraska Victim Assistance Academy, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
May 2025	Student Marshall, Graduate College, Spring 2025 Commencement, University of Nebraska at Omaha, NE
March 2025	Representative, Victimology & Victim Studies Research Lab and Juvenile Justice Institute at the UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice prospective graduate students event, Omaha, NE
Feb. 2025	Peer Reviewer, Victims & Offenders
Aug. 2024	Peer Reviewer, Violence Against Women
March 2024	Representative, Juvenile Justice Institute at the UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice prospective graduate students event, Omaha, NE
Sept. 2023	Representative, Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab at the UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice Freshman Open House, Omaha, NE
June 2023	Peer Reviewer, Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment
March 2023	Host, Nebraska Victim Advocacy Forum. Nebraska Board of Parole and UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Omaha, NE
2022-2023	Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Criminology/Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska Omaha, Omaha, NE
2019-2021	Co-Editor, Department of Criminology/Criminal Justice Annual Newsletter, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

May-June 25	Improving the Accessibility of Your Canvas Course, 1e [online course]; UNO Office of Digital Learning
April-Nov. 24	Evergreen Data Visualization Academy [online course]; Evergreen Data
Nov 23-Feb 24	Foundations of Teaching Online, 4e [online course]; UNO Office of Digital Learning
Aug.-Dec. 23	Multi-Level Modeling and Time Series Analysis Course [audited course]; UNO School of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Dr. Hamilton
May-Sept. 21	Google Data Analytics Specialization [online course]; Coursera - Credential ID: RG8VJFDUNCJN
May 2024 <i>Expires May 27</i>	Social and Behavioral Research Course [training]; CITI Program - Credential ID: 61418977
Aug.-Oct. 21	LC101 JavaScript & Java Web Development Course [online course]; Launch Code - Certificate of Achievement
May-Aug. 18	Child Advocate Internship; Child Advocacy Center, Springfield, MO

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2023- <i>Present</i>	Midwestern Criminal Justice Association
2019- <i>Present</i>	American Society of Criminology (ASC) <i>Member</i> , Division of Development/Life-Course Criminology <i>Member</i> , Division of Critical Criminology & Social Justice <i>Member</i> , Division of Victimology
2019- <i>Present</i>	Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) <i>Member</i> , Victimology Section <i>Member</i> , Restorative and Community Justice <i>Member</i> , Juvenile Justice Section <i>Member</i> , Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship