



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion

Annotated Bibliography of Recent Research and Publications by Faculty and Staff of the UNO College of Public Affairs and Community Service

2022

[How do foundations support \(anti-\)racism? A critical race theory perspective on philanthropy and racial equity](#)

Contact: Angela Eikenberry, Ph.D., School of Public Administration

This research explores how philanthropic foundations responded to the killing of George Floyd and subsequent Black Lives Matter protests through a critical race theory perspective. Using qualitative content analysis of online statements, the study analyzed messages foundations conveyed about racism and anti-racism and what commitments they made to address racial equity. The findings suggest half of foundations communicated racist ideas through assimilationist and non-racist messages, and half expressed anti-racist ideas by addressing systematic racism. Further, corporate, rather than family or community foundations, conveyed more racist messages and committed to providing funds rather than adjusting organizational orientation to address racial inequity. Published in *Journal of Philanthropy and Marketing*, February 2022

[Do body-worn cameras reduce disparities in police behavior in minority communities? Evidence of nuanced influences across Black and Hispanic neighborhoods.](#)

Contact: Jessica Huff, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The adoption of body-worn cameras (BWCs) is often promoted in response to contentious police use of force incidents involving minority civilians. BWCs are expected to improve policing outcomes by enhancing accountability, although researchers have yet to determine whether BWCs can reduce racial/ethnic disparities. I examine whether BWCs mitigate the influence of neighborhood racial/ethnic context on arrests and use of

force in 900,000+ police–civilian contacts in Phoenix. Arrests were significantly more likely to occur in Hispanic and Black neighborhoods before and after BWC deployment, even accounting for situational, officer, and neighborhood characteristics. When BWCs were activated in Black neighborhoods, the odds of arrest decreased by 38%. However, BWCs did not moderate the influence of neighborhood percentage of Hispanic on arrest. The neighborhood racial/ethnic context was not associated with the use of force pre- or post-BWC deployment. Published in *Criminology & Public Policy*, August 2022

An Updated Examination of the Predictors of Running Away from Foster Care in the United States and Trends Over Ten Years (2010-2019)

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

This study uses the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System data to assess the runaway status of 597,911 children who were involved in foster care in 2019. Longitudinal trend analyses utilize AFCARS data from 2010 to 2019. Findings show that girls, African American children, and older children are at increased risk of running away from foster care. Prevention and intervention efforts regarding running from care must focus on the needs of African American and Hispanic children, especially girls, as well as children with substance use or behavior problems. Published in *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

Title IX and Yellow Zone Behavior: An Introduction to the Special Issue

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Investigations or not, yellow-zone behaviors reported to Title IX offices are problematic in the eyes of the complainant and many others in the campus community. Yet, unless a policy violation is established via an investigation, most of these yellow-zone behaviors go unaddressed by the institution. This introduction describes six original articles which explore the nature and extent of yellow-zone behavior, how yellow-zone behavior is damaging to both individuals and institutions of higher education, and policies/practices that institutions may consider to better prevent and address incidents. Published in *Feminist Criminology*.

Catholics and Capital Punishment: Do Pope Francis’s Teachings Matter in Policy Preferences?

Contact: Leah Butler, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

In the United States, Catholics make up about one in five Americans. It is unclear whether their religious affiliation shapes Catholics’ views on public policy issues, ranging from the legality of abortion to criminal justice practices. Capital punishment is especially salient, given that Pope Francis announced in 2018 — as official Catholic Church teaching — that the death penalty is “inadmissible” under all circumstances. Based on two national surveys, the current project explores Catholics’ support for state executions before (2017) and after (2019) the Pope’s momentous change in the church’s Catechism. Published in *Punishment & Society*.

Nebraska's Women in STEM

Contact: Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Center for Public Affairs Research

A large and vibrant science, technology, engineering, and math workforce has a range of benefits for the economic and social well-being of communities; yet women continue to be underrepresented in these occupations. Through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with women working in STEM occupations and residing in Nebraska, six key findings emerged as central to the experiences of women working in STEM in Nebraska.

The Benefits and Costs of a Child Allowance

Contact: Laurel Sariscsany, Ph.D., Grace Abbott School of Social Work

This article conducts a benefit-cost analysis of a child allowance. Through a systematic literature review of the highest quality evidence on the causal effects of cash and near-cash transfers, this article produces core estimates on the benefits and costs per child and per adult of increasing household income by \$1000, which can be used for any cash or near-cash program that increases household income. Published by *Journal of Benefit-Cost Analysis* 1-28

A Review of Data on Demographics, Workforce, and Housing in North Omaha and South Omaha for the LB 1024 Coordination Plan

Contact: Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Center for Public Affairs Research

At the request of Olsson, UNO's Center for Public Affairs Research prepared a review of data on demographics, workforce, and housing in North Omaha and South Omaha for the LB 1024 Coordination Plan. LB 1024 was introduced by Nebraska State Senators in response to the social and economic challenges caused by COVID-19 and the disproportionate negative impacts felt in the high concentration communities of color in North and South Omaha. The bill called for coordinated and community engaged approach to appropriating funds for economic recovery in these communities.

2021

Rape Prevention and Education 2021: Principles-Focused Evaluation Measurement Tools

Contact: Daniel Kreuzberg, Support and Training for The Evaluation of Programs

Throughout 2020, sexual violence preventionists across Nebraska came together to identify prevention principles for Nebraska Rape Prevention Programs. Preventionists

identified and agreed upon eight prevention principles using principles-focused evaluation. This report discusses the principles and evaluation tools.

Gender-Responsive Budgeting: A Budget Reform to Address Gender Inequity

Contact: John Bartle, Ph.D., College of Public Affairs and Community Service

In recognition of gender inequities, more than 80 countries have applied a gender perspective to their budget process, initiatives referred to as gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). Research on GRB initiatives has focused on whether they reduce gender inequities. However, if it is to have a lasting effect, GRB must reform the budget process and become integral to government administrative routines. We examine the experiences of several countries with GRB initiatives and identify the key factors explaining implementation success or failure. We find that these factors are similar to those that explain the success of earlier budget reforms focused on efficiency and effectiveness. While the equity objective of GRB differentiates it from other budget reforms, these factors provide the context for understanding GRB initiatives. Although gender parity is just one dimension of social equity, the success of GRB initiatives shows that governments can use their budgets to meet social equity objectives.

Published in *Public Administration*

Racial Attitude and Criminal Justice Policy

Contact: Leah Butler, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Empirical research on public policy preferences must attend to white people's animus toward Black people. For a quarter-century, studies have consistently found that Kinder and Sanders's four-item measure of "racial resentment" is a robust predictor of almost every social and criminal justice policy opinion. As the United States becomes a majority-minority nation, diverse in-group and out-group racial attitudes are likely to play a central role in policies — including within criminal justice — that the public endorses.

Published in *Crime and Justice: A Review of Research*.

Race, Ethnicity, Nativity, and Perceptions of Health Risk During the COVID-19 Pandemic in the U.S.

Contact: Thomas Jamieson, Ph.D., School of Public Administration

Previous research demonstrates that pandemics, including COVID-19, have disproportionate effects on communities of color, further exacerbating existing healthcare inequities. While increasing evidence points to the greater threat posed by COVID-19 to Latinx communities, less remains known about how identification as Latinx and migration status influence their perception of risk and harm. This study uses cross-sectional data from a large national probability sample to demonstrate a large positive association between ethnic identity and migration status and perceptions of harm from COVID-19 in the United States. Published in *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.

Decolonizing VAWA 2021: A Step in the Right Direction for Protecting Native American Women

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

This policy analysis examines the proposed Violence Against Women Act reauthorization, HR 1620, and provides three specific recommendations to better protect Native women: (1) allow tribes to write their own rape laws; (2) expand tribal jurisdiction to all VAWA crimes and stranger and acquaintance violence; and (3) enhance tribes' abilities to secure VAWA funds and resources. These recommendations are discussed in terms of existing literature and implications for Native people and Native communities. Published in *Feminist Criminology*.

Examining Incidents of Sexual Misconduct Reported to Title IX Coordinators: Results from New York's Institutions of Higher Education

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

This study uses 2018 data from incidents of sexual misconduct reported to Title IX coordinators at institutions of higher education in New York to examine the context, processes, and outcomes of reported incidents. Findings show that most incidents reported to Title IX coordinators did not prompt the IHE's conduct process. Other disciplinary sanctions were the favored response for responsible students. Suspensions and/or expulsions were rarely used. Published in *Journal of School Violence*.

Who Wears the MAGA Hat? Racial Beliefs and Faith in Trump

Contact: Leah Butler, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

On the basis of a 2019 YouGov survey of white respondents, the impact of racial beliefs on support for Donald Trump was explored. The analysis revealed that in addition to racial resentment, white nationalism — a desire to keep the United States white demographically and culturally — was strongly related to faith in Trump. Analyses based on a 2019 MTurk survey yielded similar results and also showed that white nationalism increased willingness to wear a MAGA hat. Future research on the political consequences of racial beliefs should focus on what white people think not only of Black people but also of themselves. Published in *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*.

Racial Sympathy and Support for Capital Punishment: A Case Study in Concept Transfer

Contact: Leah Butler, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Beliefs about race, especially racial resentment, are key predictors of public support for capital punishment and punitiveness generally. Drawing on a conceptual innovation by political scientist Jennifer Chudy, we explore the utility of transferring into criminology her construct of racial sympathy — or white people's concern about Black people's suffering. In all models, racial resentment has robust effects, increasing punitive

sentiments. Taken together, the results suggest that racial sympathy is a concept that can enrich criminologists' study of how racial beliefs shape crime policy preferences in the United States and beyond, especially those with disparate effects on Black people. Published in *Deviant Behavior*.

Community-informed Relationship Violence Intervention in a High-stress, Low-income Urban Context

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The objective of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of the House of Ruth Maryland's Gateway Project, a community-informed and oppression-sensitive relationship violence intervention program (RVIP; commonly labeled "batterer intervention"). This program is designed for a predominantly low-income, racial minority population residing in a high-stress urban context. The program adapts the traditional RVIP focus on power and control to address the life context of participants who experience systemic oppression, discrimination, economic distress, and community violence. In contrast to a carefully matched sample of program noncompleters, men who completed the intervention had lower overall involvement with the criminal justice system. Published in *Psychology of Violence*.

Factors Associated with Police Shooting Mortality: A Focus on Race and a Plea for More Comprehensive Data

Contact: Justin Nix, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

This study leverages data on fatal and injurious police shootings from four states — Florida, Texas, Colorado, and California — to examine the racial/ethnic composition of mortality in police shootings, while accounting for several demographic, situational, and ecological characteristics. Findings advance the state of knowledge on police shootings and reveal a critical need for better data on police uses of deadly force that do not result in death. Published in *PLoS One*.

Bridging the Gap": Improving Diversity and Inclusion in the U.S. Aviation Workforce

Contact: Rebecca Lutte, Ph.D. Aviation Institute

On Tuesday, July 20, 2021, the Subcommittee on Aviation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a hearing to discuss issues of diversity and inclusion in the aviation and aerospace industry workforce. Lutte testified at the hearing.

2020

Researching the Issues: Grow Her Wings

Contact: Rebecca Lutte, Ph.D., Aviation Institute

This podcast discusses the results of a study on the barriers and complexities facing women in the aviation community commissioned by the FAA Women Advisory Board and Lutte's own story of how she has worked in almost all aspects of the aviation industry.

"Bad Hombres" at the Southern US Border? White Nationalism and the Perceived Dangerousness of Immigrants

Contact: Teresa Kulig, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Based on a 2019 MTurk study of 465 white adults, the current study found that a clear majority of respondents rejected the stereotype of Southern immigrants as "bad hombres," judging them to be just as law-abiding as Americans. Importantly, however, the analysis revealed that two innovative measures — Hispanic resentment and white nationalism — were consistently related to perceptions of immigrants as criminogenic. Published in *Journal of Criminology*.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System in Nebraska

Contact: Center for Public Affairs Research

This brief describes what the data show regarding racial and ethnic differences in contacts and experiences with the criminal and juvenile justice systems in Nebraska from 2014 to 2019. Measuring the extent to which RED exist in the justice system is a first step toward identifying the ways to improve upon how well the system upholds the principle of equal treatment under the law.

Gender Equity in Budgeting

Contact: John Bartle, Ph.D., College of Public Affairs and Community Service

While gender-responsive budgeting has been successful in many places, it has failed to take hold in the United States. Only San Francisco and Fulton County, Georgia, attempted it, and neither were successful. Adopting GRB does not mean that governments create a separate budget for women and men. It means that governments explicitly consider potential gender impacts when designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating budget policies.

2019

Women in Aviation: A Workforce Report

Contact: Rebecca Lutte, Ph.D., Aviation Institute

This report provides a comprehensive view of the number of women in the aviation workforce in a variety of fields. The aviation industry is experiencing hiring challenges and facing a shortage of aviation personnel in many areas. Women in the aviation industry are a vital resource to help meet the growing workforce needs of the industry. This information will help identify gaps in employment and further identify opportunities for enhanced recruitment and outreach efforts. The research was conducted in coordination with Women in Aviation International and funded by the NASA Nebraska Space Grant.

Talking About Antisemitism in MPA Classrooms and Beyond

Contact: Jodi Benenson, Ph.D., School of Public Administration

On October 27, 2018, a gunman killed eleven people attending Shabbat services in the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For many — both Jews and non-Jews — this tragedy served as a wake-up call about the persistence of antisemitism in the United States today. MPA curricula and public affairs research have rarely addressed contemporary antisemitism, yet we argue for including conversations about antisemitism in MPA classrooms. This article serves as a resource for the public affairs teaching community so our colleagues can feel prepared and empowered to address antisemitism in their classrooms. Published in *Journal of Public Affairs Education*.

When Data Do Not Matter: Exploring Public Perceptions of Terrorism

Contact: Erin Kearns, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Public perceptions of terrorism are out of line with reality. How can perceptions be changed? Using a 4 × 2 experimental design with a national sample of American adults, we examine how the source of information and level of details provided impact views of terrorism. Sources, details, and individual-level factors — Islamophobia, trust in media, and trust in science — impact perceived accuracy of terrorism data. Many people updated their views on terrorism after reading factual information, yet only trust in science was related with this change. In short, people can be persuaded by factual information on terrorism, but it is less clear why they change beliefs. Published in *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.

Command-level Police Officers' Perceptions of the "War on Cops" and Depolicing

Contact: Justin Nix, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Results of a survey of 210 command-level police officers about the state of police-community relations in the two years following the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Published in 2018 in *Justice Quarterly*.

No Evidence of "Weaponized Title IX" Here: An Empirical Assessment of Sexual Misconduct Reporting, Case Processing, and Outcomes

Contact: Tara Richards, Ph.D., School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Little is known about actual incidents of gender-based violence reported by college students or the campus adjudication process or outcomes of reported cases. Data from annual security reports and Title IX coordinators was used to examine the context, processes, and outcomes of reported incidents of sexual misconduct at institutions of higher education in a Mid-Atlantic state. Results showed that annual security reports undercounted incidents of sexual misconduct. Few incidents reported to Title IX coordinators resulted in a formal Title IX complaint, and fewer still resulted in a finding of responsibility or suspension/expulsion of the responsible student. The primary outcome of reports were victim services, not perpetrator punishments. Significant variability within and between types of institutions was also uncovered. Findings suggest that better data collection as well as research on victim engagement in the Title IX complaint process and on sexual misconduct at institutions is needed.

Gender and Serious Youth Victimization: Assessing the Generality of Self-Control, Differential Association, and Social Bonding Theories.

Contact: Ryan Spohn, Ph.D. Nebraska Center for Justice Research

Criminologists have long questioned whether theories that have focused on male delinquency are equally applicable to female delinquency, a phenomenon termed “gender generalizability.” While a number of studies have used self-reports from offenders, criminologists have yet to extend this issue to crime victims. We test three criminological perspectives on male and female victimization using data obtained from the Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program in the United States.

2018

Greater Omaha Chamber: 2017 Diversity and Talent Inclusion Study Final Report

Contact: Craig Maher, Ph.D., School of Public Administration

The primary objective of this project was to hear from Black young professionals in Greater Omaha. The efforts to achieve an adequately sized sample of Black young professionals was generally successful. Findings are presented on the topics of retention, sense of community, lived environment, and workplace.

2017

CPACS Diversity Survey

Contact: Lyn Holley, Ph.D. Department of Gerontology

In March 2017, the CPACS Diversity conducted a survey to gather input from students about their experiences in regard to diversity, equity and inclusion in CPACS. A total of 133 students responded, with 40% identifying as students of color.

Factors Associated with Perceptions of Rape Events and Reporting of Rape among College and Non-College Women.

Contact: Ryan Spohn, Ph.D. Nebraska Center for Justice Research

The purpose of this paper is to examine factors impacting college and non-college women reporting sexual assault to police. The goal is to increase knowledge regarding differences in the rates of reporting and reasons for reporting across these two groups. The results suggest that significant work is needed to encourage women in college to view sexual assaults as worthy of reporting. Boosting victim awareness and access to services is paramount. Providing education and empowerment to student victims to inform their perceptions about the definition of rape is vital, as women perceiving sexual assault as rape are more likely to report the incident.

Rape and Mental Health Outcomes among Women: Examining the Moderating Effects of 'Healthy' Fear Levels.

Contact: Ryan Spohn, Ph.D. Nebraska Center for Justice Research

This study examined the mediating and moderating impact of fear of victimization on the relationships between forcible and vicarious rape on depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among college women. Findings suggest that there may be “healthy” levels of fear in the aftermath of victimization where having too little fear may leave women unnecessarily vulnerable to victimization, while having too much fear may lead to social isolation and withdrawal.

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