

Crime Victims' Institute

Executive Director: Mary Breaux, Ph.D.

July 2022



Our Mission

The mission of the Crime Victims' Institute is to :

- Conduct research to examine the impact of crime on victims of all ages in order to promote a better understanding of victimization
- Improve services to victims
- Assist victims of crime by giving them a voice
- Inform victim-related policymaking at the state and local levels.

Sam Houston
STATE UNIVERSITY

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Published by
The Crime Victims' Institute
College of Criminal Justice
Sam Houston State University

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Summer Research Projects

The Crime Victims' Institute (CVI) is excited to collaborate with a team of scholars to conduct research in various areas of victimization. All of the scholars are Sam Houston State University, College of Criminal Justice professors and students.

Dr. Peter Lehmann, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, with Dr. Andia Azimi will examine the link between youths' experiences with punitive school discipline in adolescence (e.g., out-of-school suspension, expulsion) and an increased risk of victimization in adulthood. Their analysis will assess whether this relationship is explained by (a) stable underlying personality traits, (b) the consequences of involvement in criminal activity via the "school-to-prison pipeline," or (c) long-term economic marginalization resulting from educational exclusion.

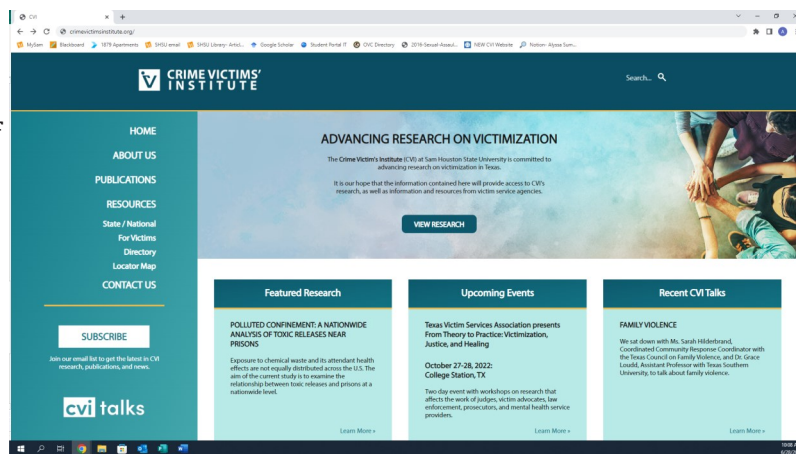
Dr. Elisa Toman is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research will examine linkages between "green" victimization and the prison construction boom of the 1970s through the 2000s. Due to their size and associated industry, prisons can impact the environmental conditions of their surrounding areas. In her study, Dr. Toman will examine the health status of communities that surround prisons before and after their construction.

Dr. Katie Ratajczak, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Victim Studies, and Anne Wingert, a PhD student in the Criminal Justice and Criminology program, recognize how trauma-informed care is a standard practice in health and victim service fields for working with individuals who have experienced trauma. A trauma-informed approach acknowledges the harm the individual has experienced, reduces future retraumatization, and empowers the individual. Their project identifies how trauma-informed care is used by different professionals who work with sexual assault survivors. They use interviews with advocates, healthcare workers, police, and Title IX professionals to examine their approach to work with survivors. Despite the distinct differences between their professional roles, they each are able to enact the principles of trauma-informed care in different ways.

Dr. Miltonette Craig, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, acknowledges intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health issue for female victims. Although IPV affects all groups of women, Black women face victimization at a disproportionately higher rate, and the effects of IPV are compounded when victims possess multiple marginalizing characteristics. The elevated risk of victimization for Black women has received broader media attention in recent years, and advocates contend that such media coverage must be comprehensive and accurate to effectively inform the public. Accordingly, this qualitative project examines news articles for their content in explaining the increased IPV risk faced by Black women.

New CVI Website

The CVI 's website has a new look! Head to our website <http://crimevictimsinstitute.org/> to see all of our publications, resources, and other information! Currently, our directory houses different resource information for survivors, but coming soon will be a locator map with all of the directory information!



Summer and Fall Events

The CVI participated in several conferences and events to learn more about the latest challenges, trends, and research regarding victimization. The Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, Texas hosted sessions on a variety of topics relating to victimization of women, girls, and members of the LGBTQ+ communities. Conference attendees included criminal justice and victim services professionals (law enforcement officers, victim service providers, prosecutors, attorneys, medical professionals, etc.). The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services hosted the 2022 Light the Way Summit: End Human Trafficking in Dallas, Texas. This conference invited attendees to learn more about how labor and sex trafficking affects children and young adults, as well as learn how to better respond and work with survivors. The CVI Graduate Assistants had the opportunity to meet practitioners who worked for Child Protective Services, victim service agencies, and law enforcement agencies across Texas. In June, the CVI attended PRIDE in Houston, Texas, along with the Department of Victim Studies at Sam Houston State University (SHSU), to inform participants about victimization that happens to members of the LGBTQ+ communities.

On October 27th and 28th, 2022, in College Station, Texas, the Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA) will host their 2022 research symposium titled From Theory to Practice: Victimization, Justice, and Healing. This two-day event provides an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to discuss trauma-informed and survivor-centered practices and responses in different settings and disciplines. Workshops are designed to inform victim advocates, law enforcement, members of the judicial process, and mental health service providers.¹ To learn more, visit <https://txvsa.wildapricot.org/>.

¹ Texas Victim Services Association. (2022). *TVSA symposium call for proposals 2022*. <https://txvsa.org/resources/Documents/SYMPOSIUM/TVSA%20Symposium%20Call%20for%20Proposals%202022.docx>

Look for upcoming publications, CVI Talks episodes, and fact sheets from the Crime Victims' Institute:

- Male Sexual Victimization on College Campuses by Dr. John Navarro and Christina Richardson
- Murder Victimization Fact Sheet
- Hispanic Victimization Fact Sheet
- Types of Advocacy Fact Sheet
- Terrorism Victimization Fact Sheet
- Physical Assault Victimization Fact Sheet
- Teen Dating Violence Victimization Fact Sheet

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Upcoming Events

**36th Annual National Organization
Of Parents of Murdered Children
Conference
St. Louis, MO**

July 21-24, 2022

**Preparing for a Forensic Interview of a
Child: What Criminal Justice Professionals
Need to Know
Online**

July 28, 2022

**National Organization for Victim
Assistance- 48th Annual Training
Event
Denver, CO**

August 1-4, 2022

**34th Annual Crimes Against Children
Conference
Dallas, TX**

August 8-11, 2022

**National Conference on Domestic
Violence
St. Louis, MO**

August 28-31, 2022

**27th San Diego International Summit
San Diego, CA**

August 28-31, 2022

**From Theory to Practice: Victimization
Justice, and Healing- Presented by the
Texas Victim Services Association
College Station, Texas**

October 27-28, 2022



Resources

- Texas Abuse Hotline (suspicions of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children, adults with disabilities, or people 65 years or older) 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative (revenge/ nonconsensual porn) 844-878-2274

