Speaker bios

Joseph Constans is the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the Southeastern Louisiana Veterans Healthcare System, the PTSD Research Team Leader at the VA South Central Mental Illness, Research, and Clinical Center (MIRECC), and a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the Tulane University School of Medicine. His current research interests include identifying patient-centered approaches to reducing firearm violence and understanding the effects of trauma, including gun violence, on emotional and cognitive functioning. In particular, he is interested in studying attention, judgment, and memory biases in individuals with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and in examining the hypothesis that these biases help maintain pathological emotional responses to trauma.

Darnell F. Hawkins is professor emeritus of African American studies, sociology, and criminal justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he taught from 1987 to 2002. His research interests include race and ethnic relations, the sociology of law, criminology and criminal justice, and public health. Dr. Hawkins is a distinguished scholar who has led projects from the National Institute of Justice, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the MacArthur Foundation. Dr. Hawkins has been and continues to be a leading voice on violence among African Americans; his published work explores race and ethnic differences in criminal involvement and administration of justice; and the conceptual, theoretical, and policy intersection these phenomena share with public health approaches to violence prevention. He has edited four books on race, crime, and delinquency, and has a new authored book slated for release in 2016, examining the cultural diversity, ethnic spatial compression, and violence among African Americans. Dr. Hawkins received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and his J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Beth M. Huebner is a professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her principal research interests include the collateral consequences of incarceration, racial and gender disparities in the criminal justice system, and public policy. She is currently collaborating on a National Institute of Justice funded research project designed to study non-fatal gun assault in four cities. She has served as the research partner for the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiatives in St. Louis and Milwaukee. She is currently serving as co-principal investigator for the MacArthur Safety + Justice Challenge.

Dan Isom is General Manager of the Regional Justice Information System (REJIS). He is a former professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri-St. Louis as well as the retired Chief of Police for the Metropolitan Police Department-City of St. Louis. He received a Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, all from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He also holds a Master's in Public Administration from St. Louis University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, FBI National Executive Institute, and the Police Executive Forum Senior Management Institute. He has a variety of interests related to the management of police operations. The structural design of police departments from a political and community perspective, operational strategies for crime control, police officers' individual behavioral issues and professional cultural perspectives' influence on community-police relations, and police management are professional and research emphasis of Dr. Isom. Eisenhower Fellowships selected him as an U.S.A. Eisenhower Fellow in 2013 to study police education and training in Europe.

Charis E. Kubrin is Professor of Criminology, Law and Society and Sociology. Professor Kubrin’s research focuses on neighborhoods, race, and violence as central to social disorganization theory. A related line of research examines the intersection of music, culture and social identity, particularly as it applies to hip-hop and minority youth in disadvantaged communities. In 2005, Professor Kubrin received the Ruth Shonle Cavan Young Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology (a national award given to recognize outstanding scholarly contributions to the discipline of criminology) and the Morris Rosenberg Award for Recent Achievement from the District of Columbia Sociological Society (given to recognize outstanding sociological achievement during the past three years). In 2014, Professor Kubrin received the University of California, Irvine, School of Social Ecology, Dean’s Diversity Research Award (given to recognize excellence in research on diversity and inclusion) and the American Society of Criminology, Division on People of Color and Crime, Coramae Richey Mann Award (for outstanding contributions of scholarship on race/ethnicity, crime, and justice). In 2007, she was a visiting fellow at the Centre for Criminology at Oxford University.
Janet L. Lauritsen is Curators’ Distinguished Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Her research focuses on the causes and consequences of victimization, the social and historical contexts of crime and victimization, and quantitative research methodologies. Her current research analyzes how correlates of violent victimization such as gender, race and ethnicity, and poverty status have changed in the US over the past four decades. Her most recent publications cover topics on crime data and trends, gender inequality and violence against women, and the relationship between changing economic conditions and violent victimization. Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Institute of Justice. Dr. Lauritsen currently serves as Chair of the Panel on Modernizing the Nation’s Crime Statistics for the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academies of Science. She also serves on the Editorial Boards of Criminology and the Journal of Quantitative Criminology, and in 2013, was named Fellow of the American Society of Criminology.

Michael McCloskey is an Associate Professor in the Clinical Psychology program at Temple University. His research examines the interplay of cognitive-affective, psychosocial, and biologic processes involved in the development and maintenance of affect dysregulation, with an emphasis on its role in aggression. This includes the development of interventions to reduce violence among individuals with severe aggressive problems including those with Intermittent Explosive Disorder (IED). To this end, Dr. McCloskey is the director of the Mechanisms of Affect Dysregulation Clinical Research Laboratory (MADLAB). Dr. McCloskey is the author of numerous chapters and articles. His research has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. His current NIH-funded studies include the development of a cognitive-behavioral intervention for Intermittent Explosive Disorder.

John Nanney is an Assistant Clinical Professor and the Director of the Community Psychological Service (CPS) at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. His primary clinical and research interest is the development and implementation of psychotherapies to prevent urban community gun violence among those at highest risk. He is the co-developer of a Motivational Interviewing intervention to reduce gun violence risk factors among individuals hospitalized following gunshot injury. A current focus of his work is to better understand how changes in beliefs may link traumatic gun injury to future firearm violence. He is particularly interested in leveraging existing cognitive therapies for posttraumatic stress disorder and aggression to better address these specific changes. At CPS, he currently supervises cognitive-behavioral therapy for PTSD and aggression among parolees with a history of gang affiliation, trauma exposure, and violent behavior.

Andrew V. Papachristos is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Yale University, a faculty fellow at the Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course (CIQLE), and a faculty affiliate at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) at Yale University. His research focuses on social networks, neighborhoods, street gangs, and interpersonal violence. Most recently, Papachristos was awarded an NSF Early CAREER award to examine how violence spreads through high-risk social networks in four cities. He is also currently involved in the evaluation and implementation of several violence reduction strategies, most notably the Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Group Violence Reduction Strategy in Chicago. He is the 2012 recipient of the American Society of Criminology’s Ruth Cavan Young Scholar award given each year to the most outstanding scholar who was granted a Ph.D. within the previous 5 years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Rick Rosenfeld is the Thomas Jefferson Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, UMSL. Rick Rosenfeld's research interests include the social sources of violent crime, crime statistics, and crime control policy. His current research focuses on explaining U.S. crime trends. Dr. Rosenfeld served as President of the American Society of Criminology in 2010. In 2016, Professor Rosenfeld received the Thomas Jefferson Award from the University of Missouri in recognition of his years of work at the local and national level, incorporating scientific evidence to inform policy and practice. For the past six years, Professor Rosenfeld has been an “embedded” criminologist assisting the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Rachel Wamser-Nanney is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences at UMSL. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from UMSL in 2012. She completed her internship at Tulane University School of Medicine and then her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan, Trauma and Grief Center for Youth. Dr. Wamser-Nanney's research interests include a range of topics related to traumatic stress including: 1) gun violence, 2) development, implementation, and dissemination of trauma-focused interventions, 3) complex trauma, 4) co-occurring grief and trauma exposure, and 5) the cognitive and neurobiological phenotypes associated with trauma exposure. She has clinical expertise in treatments for trauma and grief-related disorders among infants, children, families, and adults.