Toryn r. sperry

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# Education

**University of Maryland, College Park** Expected Fall 2024

Ph.D. Candidate in *Criminology & Criminal Justice*

Dissertation: “Traversing the Rural/Urban Divide: How Community

Context Impacts Racialized Police Violence”

Committee: Dr. Lauren Porter (Chair), Dr. Rod Brunson, Dr. María Vélez,

Dr. Greg Midgette, Dr. Joseph Richardson

**University of Maryland, College Park**

M.A. *Criminology & Criminal Justice* Fall 2021

Thesis: “Racial Threat, Black Empowerment, and Civilians Killed by Police:

An Analysis of the Largest US Cities in 2015”

Committee: Dr. María B. Vélez (Chair), Dr. Jim Lynch, Dr. Jean McGloin

**University of Oklahoma**

B.A. *Sociology* Fall 2017

Graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors

# Research Interests

Racial inequalities in the criminal justice system; community violence reduction; race and policing; evidence-based policing to make law enforcement more efficient and helpful to community well-being.

# Manuscripts in Progress

**Sperry, T**. & Donohue, F. Racial Threat, Black Empowerment, and Civilians Killed by Police: An analysis of the 100 largest US Cities in 2015.

Porter, L., **Sperry, T**., Midgette, G., Hitchens, B., Spreen, T. L., & Reuter, P. “These Kids Have Nowhere to Go”: Examining Recreation Center Closings and Crime in Baltimore City.

# Research Projects in Progress

**Sperry, Toryn** & Sarah Silberman. Understanding the Relationship Between Pro-Violent Social Media Interactions and Youth Violence in DC and Maryland.

**Sperry, Toryn**, Demar Lewis, & Brooklynn Hitchens. Impacts of Police Corruption and Municipal Divestment on Baltimore Residents’ Perceptions of Contemporary Policing.

Bianca Bersani & **Toryn Sperry**. Challenges, Consequences, and Interrogations of Jurisdictional Policing Issues at the DC and Prince George’s County Border.

Bianca Bersani, Emily Glazener, **Toryn Sperry**, Frank Donohue, & Erika Feeney. Annapolis Police Department Optimal Staffing and Police Workload Analysis.

Porter, Lauren, Meghan Kozlowski, & **Toryn Sperry**. In the Eyes of the 911 Caller: Investigating Racial Disparities in the Identification and Reporting of Behavioral Health Crises.

Porter, Lauren & **Toryn Sperry**. Calling the Police: Resident Perceptions and Willingness to Request Police Assistance.

# Research Experience

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Lauren Porter, *University of Maryland* Summer 2024

Systematic social observation and field interviews at

Baltimore parks to assess accessibility and resident perceptions

of park safety

Dr. Bianca Bersani, *University of Maryland* Fall 2023 – Present

Annapolis Police Department Workload Analysis

Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center

Dr. Peter Reuter (PI), *University of Maryland* Spring 2022 – Present

Assistance for project, “Assessing Public Attitudes Toward ‘Defund

the Police’ and the Function of the Baltimore Police Department”

including conducting interviews and qualitative data cleaning/coding

Dr. Greg Midgette & Dr. Lauren Porter, *University of Maryland* Summer 2021

Grant-funded evaluation of Baltimore Police Department’s Swift,

Certain, and Fair (SCF) program implementation for violent offenders

Dr. Rachel Ellis, *University of Maryland* Summer 2021

Assisted with revisions to book manuscript, “In This Place Called

Prison: Religion and the Social World of Incarcerated Women”

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

Dr. Meredith Worthen, *University of Oklahoma* Fall 2017

Assisted with literature review on attitudes toward transgender

service members and perspectives on LGBT individuals

Dr. Jennifer Holland, *University of Oklahoma* Fall 2016

Assisted with literature review of changes in religious attitudes

on abortion and women’s rights from 1970-2005

# Teaching Experience

**Instructor**, University of Maryland (Planned) Summer 2024

*CCJS 454: Contemporary Criminological Theory*

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland Spring 2024

*CCJS 342: Corrections*

Supervisor: Dr. Lauren Porter

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland Fall 2021 – Spring 2022

*CCJS 418e: Applications of Data Science in Criminology*

Supervisor: Dr. Zubin Jelveh

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland Fall 2021

*CCJS 604: Policy Analysis Project*

Supervisor: Dr. Lester Andrist

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland Fall 2021

*CCJS 632: Making Sense of Criminal Justice Methods & Statistics*

Supervisor: Dr. Lauren Porter

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Maryland Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

*CCJS 100: Introduction to Criminal Justice*

Supervisor: Dr. Justine Madoo

**Athletic Tutor**, University of Oklahoma Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Tutored athletes in social science courses

**Teaching Assistant**, University of Oklahoma Fall 2015 – Fall 2017

*UCOL 1002: Gateway to College Learning, Sociology Focus*

# Conference Presentations

**Sperry, Toryn.** 2024. “Traversing the Urban/Rural Divide: How Community Context Impacts Racialized Police Violence. American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

**Sperry, Toryn** & Sarah Silberman. 2024. “Understanding the Relationship Between Pro-Violent Social Media Interactions and Violence in DC and Maryland.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

**Sperry, Toryn**. 2023. “Place and Police Killings: A Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Disparities in Fatal Police Encounters.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Porter, Lauren, **Toryn Sperry**, Greg Midgette, Brooklynn Hitchens, Thomas L. Spreen, & Peter Reuter. 2023. “Recreation Centers and Crime: A Mixed Methods Study of Closures in Baltimore City.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

**Sperry, Toryn**. 2021. “Racial Threat, Black Political Empowerment, and Black Civilians Killed by Police.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, Chicago, IL.

**Sperry, Toryn**. 2017. “The Effects of Race on Juvenile Arrest.” Oklahoma Sociological Association Conference, Norman, OK.

# Invited Talks and Workshops

2023. “Police Community Relations in Baltimore: A Qualitative Exploration of Attitudes, Experiences, and Perceptions of Black Residents,” Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Maryland.

# Professional Experience

**Researcher** August 2023 - present

*Maryland Crime Research & Innovation Center*

Quantitative, qualitative, and geospatial analyses of Annapolis Police

departmental demands to develop plan for optimal officer staffing,

deployment, response times, and effectiveness under budget constraints

**Embedded Analyst** August 2023 - present

*Prince George’s County Police Department*

Analyzing geospatial crime patterns to create comprehensive plan

for community safety

**Research Consultant** January 2023 - present

*Choice Research Associates*

Data cleaning and geo-spatial analyses for Salisbury Police

Department to assess extent of racially disparate policing practices

**Program Manager** January 2023 – May 2023

*Violence Reduction Center*

Managed Boston Practicum, including working with stakeholders

to develop violence reduction plan for the City of Boston

Assembled database of homicides and shootings across US cities

Managed social media and website design/content

**Professional Development & Engagement Intern** May 2022 – August 2022

*International Association of Chiefs of Police*

Drafted and reviewed model policies for law enforcement

Designed and edited training course for LEADS Scholars curriculum

**Research/Data Intern** May 2020 – December 2020

*Crime & Justice Institute*

Reviewed Milwaukee Police Department’s body cam footage

and data analysis to assess compliance with settlement agreement

**Editor-in-Chief** August 2016 – December 2017

*Crimson Quarterly Magazine*

Hired and supervised staff of writers and editors, produced

content for four magazine issues, and created/managed budget

# Professional Service & Affiliations

**Panel Chair**

“Race, Police Violence, and Perceptions of the Police” panel at the 2021 American Society of Criminology Meeting in Chicago, IL

**Manuscript Reviewer**:

*Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*

**Memberships:**

American Society of Criminology

International Association of Chiefs of Police

# Academic Service & Affiliations

**Paternoster Memorial Lecture Representative**, UMD CCJS 2024 – 2025

**Kimchi Memorial Awards Committee Representative**, UMD CCJS 2024 – 2025

**Graduate Student Ambassador**, UMD CCJS 2020 –2023

**Graduate Student Mentor**, UMD CCJS 2020 – Present

**Graduate Student Mentorship Coordinator**, UMD CCJS 2020 – 2022

**Member: Academic Writing Group**, UMD CCJS 2021 –2023

**Member: Racial Competency Working Group** 2021 –Present

# Honors and Awards

Dr. Anat Kimchi Memorial Graduate Award 2024

University of Maryland Summer Research Fellowship 2023

Faculty-Student Research Award 2022

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant 2021 & 2023

Columbia Scholastic Press Association First Place Feature Story 2017

Gridiron Journalism Scholarship 2015-2016

# Skills

**Computer Programs**: Stata, Excel, ArcGIS

**Qualitative Analysis:** Interviewing, transcribing, coding, NVIVO