

TORYN (TORRI) SPERRY

TSPERRY@UMD.EDU

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park May 2025

Ph.D. *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*

December 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*

December 2017

Graduated Summa Cum Laude with honors

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Evidence-based policing; community violence reduction; police-community relations; racial inequality the criminal justice system

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Artigiani, E., Bianca Bersani, Jocelyn Evens, Ebonie Massey, **Torri Sperry**, and Pritesh Jain. 2025. *Assessing the Impact of Local COAP Programs on Illicit Substance Use and Misuse: Maryland Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Programs (COAP) Multi-Site Evaluation*. Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center.

Bersani, Bianca, Emily Glazener, **Torri Sperry**, Frank Donohue, and Erika Feeney. 2024. *Annapolis Police Department: Comprehensive Workload Analysis 2022-2023*. Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center.

Zafft, Katie, Joanna Abaroa-Ellison, **Torri Sperry**, and Amy Farrell. September 2020. *City of Milwaukee Settlement Agreement: Analysis of 2019 Traffic Stops, Field Interviews, No-action Encounters, and Frisks*. Crime and Justice Institute.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Sperry, Torri & Frank Donohue. Black Empowerment, Policy Comprehensiveness, and Civilians Killed by Police.

Sperry, Torri & Erika Feeney. “Nobody Wanted to be the Next Derek Chauvin”: Police Perspectives on the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Sperry, Torri & Frank Donohue. Rhetoric vs. Reality: Voices from the Beat on the Promise and Pitfalls of Reform.

Porter, Lauren, **Torri Sperry**, Codey Carr, Greg Midgette, & Brooklynn Hitchens. “These Kids Have Nowhere to Go”: Examining Recreation Center Closings and Crime in Baltimore City.

Hitchens, Brooklynn., Demar Lewis, **Torri Sperry**, & Brian Wade. “This Stuff Go Higher Rank”: How Racialized Governance, Municipal Corruption, and Policing Shape Visions of Safety in Baltimore.

Porter, Lauren, Meghan Kozerra, & **Torri Sperry**. In the Eye of the Beholder: Differences in Perceptions and Responses to Behavioral Health Crises based on Race.

RESEARCH GRANT PARTICIPATION

“Policing the Line: Challenges and Opportunities at the PG-DC Border.”

2025 – 2026

Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (*under review*).

ROLE: Co-PI with Bianca Bersani

“Implementation and Evaluation of Jacob’s Ladder Mentoring Program (JLMP).”

2025 – 2026

Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (*under review*).

ROLE: Co-PI with Bianca Bersani

“Strengthening Officer Retention Through Body-Worn Camera Analytics”

2025 – 2027

Department of Justice: COPS (*under review*)

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Kiminori Nakamura and Shuvra Bhattacharyya

“Student Embedded Analyst Program with the Baltimore Police Department.”

2025 – 2026

Baltimore Police Department.

Total Grant: \$Variable

ROLE: Supervisor of Analysts

“Student Embedded Analyst Program with the Prince George’s County Police Department.”

2025 – 2026

Prince George’s County Police Department and University of Maryland.

Total Grant: \$Variable

ROLE: Supervisor of Analysts

“Unpacking Law Enforcement (Mis)interpretations and Consequences of Social Media Content in the DMV.”

2024 – 2026

The Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction.

Total Grant: \$3,000

ROLE: Co-PI with Sarah Silberman

“Development of Quantifiable Safety Indicators Scorecard (HB1018) and Landscape Analysis of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Framework in Maryland.”

2024 – 2026

Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

Total Grant: \$778,509

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigator: Bianca Bersani

“A Randomized Controlled Trial of Co-response for Mental Health Calls for Service to the Police in Fort Collins, CO.”

2024 – 2026

National Institute of Justice.

Total Grant: \$649,464

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Lauren Porter and Clair Uding

“Assessing the Impact of Local COAP Programs on Illicit Substance Use and Misuse: Maryland COAP Multi-Site Evaluation.”

2024 – 2025

Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

Total Grant: \$399,891

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Bianca Bersani and Erin Artigiani

“Annapolis Police Department Workload Study: Determining Optimal Officer Staffing, Deployment, Response Times, and Effectiveness Under Budget Constraints.”

2023 – 2024

Annapolis Police Department.

Total Grant: \$81,939

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigator: Bianca Bersani

“Improving Park Safety and Building Healthier Communities: An in-depth Comparison of Crime-Hot and Crime-Cold Parks in Urban Baltimore.”

Healthy Places Seed Grant.

Total Grant: \$30,000

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Lauren Porter, Chester Harvey, Bianca Bersani, and Elaine Doherty

“Improving Baltimore Policing and Police Community Relationships.”

2021 – 2023

Arnold Ventures.

Total Grant: \$369,832

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Brooklynn Hitchens, Peter Reuter, Greg Midgette, Thomas Spreen, and Lauren Porter

“In the Eyes of the 911 Caller: Investigating Racial Disparities in the Identification and Reporting of Behavioral Health Crises.”

2021 – 2022

UMD Faculty-Student Research Award.

Total Grant: \$10,000

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigator: Lauren Porter

“Evaluation of a Swift, Certain, and Fair Community Corrections Intervention Among a High-risk Group in Baltimore.”

2020 – 2022

Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Total Grant: \$197,731

ROLE: Research Assistant; Principal Investigators: Greg Midgette and Lauren Porter

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Maryland Summer 2025
CCJS 418K: Police-Community Relations

Instructor, University of Maryland Summer 2025
CCJS 370: Race, Crime & Criminal Justice

Instructor, University of Maryland Winter 2025
CCJS 418K: Police-Community Relations

Instructor, University of Maryland 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
Tutored athletes in social science courses

Fall 2017 – Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant, University of Oklahoma
UCOL 1002: Gateway to College Learning, Sociology Focus

Fall 2015 – Fall 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sperry, Torri. “Black Lives Matter Protests Across the Urban-Rural Divide.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, Washington, DC.

Sperry, Torri & Bianca Bersani. “Policing the Line: Challenges and Opportunities at Jurisdictional Borders.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Porter, Lauren, **Torri Sperry**, Greg Midgette, Brooklynn Hitchens, Thomas Spreen, & Peter Reuter. 2025. “‘These Kids Have Nowhere to Go’: Examining Recreation Center Closings and Crime in Baltimore City.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Bersani, Bianca, **Torri Sperry**, & Emily Glazener. 2025. “Measuring Police Workload in a Mid-Sized Jurisdiction: Lessons Learned and Opportunities for Enhancing Data-Driven Strategies.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

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

Sperry, Torri & 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.

Feeney, Erika, **Torri Sperry**, Frank Donohue, & Emily Glazener. 2024. “Understaffed and Overwhelmed: Analyzing Officer Workload and Well-being in a Medium Sized Police Precinct.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Porter, Lauren, Meghan Kozerra, & **Torri Sperry.** 2024. “Differences in Identifying and Responding to Behavioral Health Incidents based on Race.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Placzowski, Madisen, Greg Midgette, Lauren Porter, & **Torri Sperry.** “Access to Emergency Services and Survivability of Gunshot Wounds.” American Society of Criminology Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

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

Sperry, Torri. 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

Research Director January 2025 - Present
Maryland Crime Research & Innovation Center

Researcher August 2023 – January 2025
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:
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Society of Criminology
International Association of Chiefs of Police

ACADEMIC SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Doctoral Fellow	2025 - Present
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 – 2025
Graduate Student Mentorship Coordinator, UMD CCJS	2020 – 2022
Member: Academic Writing Group, UMD CCJS	2021 – 2023
Member: Racial Competency Working Group	2021 – 2023

HONORS AND AWARDS

ASC Gene Carte Student Paper Award (Second Place)	2025
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

SKILLS

Computer Programs: Stata, Excel, ArcGIS, R, RTM

Qualitative Analysis: Interviewing, transcribing, coding, NVIVO