

ERIN M. KEARNS

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EDUCATION

- 2016 Ph.D.
American University, School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC
Fields: Criminology and Public Policy
Dissertation: [If You See Something, Do You Say Something?: The Role of Legitimacy and Trust in Policing Minority Communities in Counterterrorism](#)
Committee: Joseph K. Young (Chair), Edward R. Maguire, Thomas Zeitzoff, Gary LaFree (University of Maryland)
- 2012 M.A.
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York, NY
Major: Forensic Psychology
- 2005 B.A.
Miami University, Oxford, OH
Majors: Political Science and Psychology
Minor: European Area Studies

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-Present Assistant Professor
University of Alabama, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, Tuscaloosa, AL
- 2016-2017 Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Georgia State University, Global Studies Institute, Atlanta, GA

AWARDS

- 2016 Winner of the American Society of Criminology's Division of International Criminology Outstanding Student Paper Award
- 2015 Winner of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) Symposium Best Student Paper Award

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.** "Claims and Attributions: Why Take Credit for Terrorism?"
Forthcoming, *Terrorism & Political Violence*.
• 2016 ASC Division of International Criminology Outstanding Student Paper Award
• 2015 START Symposium Best Student Paper Award
- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.**, *Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. "When Data Don't Matter: Exploring Public

- Perceptions of Terrorism.” Forthcoming, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.
- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.**, *Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. “Why Do Some Terrorist Attacks Receive More Media Attention Than Others?” Forthcoming, *Justice Quarterly*.
- Select Media Coverage: *ABC Australia*, *Cato Institute*, *Foreign Policy*, *MSNBC with Ari Melber*, *NPR’s All Things Considered*, *NPR’s Hidden Brain Podcast*, *NPR’s Morning Edition*, *Reason*, *The Independent*, *The Washington Post*
- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.**, Asal, V., Walsh, J., Federico, C., & Lemieux, A. “Political Action as a Function of Political Grievances and Social Identity: An Experimental Approach.” Online first, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.
- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.** “Exploring Officer Views of Community Policing in Counterterrorism.” Online first, *Police Practice and Research*.
- 2018 **Kearns, E.M.** & Young, J.K. “If Torture is Wrong, What About 24?: Torture and the Hollywood Effect.” *Crime & Delinquency*, 64(12): 1568-1589.
- Media Coverage: *CNN*, *Pacific Standard*, *Vox*, *The Washington Post*
- 2017 Lemieux, A., **Kearns, E.M.**, Asal, V., & Walsh, J. “Support for Political Mobilization, Protest, and Terrorism in Egypt and Morocco: An Online Experimental Study.” *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, 10(2-3): 124-142.
- 2017 **Kearns, E.M.** “Why Are Some Police Officers More Supportive of Community Policing with Minorities than Others?” *Justice Quarterly*, 34(7): 1213-1245.
- 2015 **Kearns, E.M.** “The Study of Torture: Why It Persists, Why Perceptions of It Are Malleable, and Why It Is Difficult to Eradicate.” *Laws*, 5(1): 1-15.
- 2014 **Kearns, E.M.**, **Conlon, B.L., & Young, J.K. “Lying About Terrorism.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 37(5): 422-439.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2016 Young, J.K. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Empirical Challenges to Studying Terrorism and Homicide.” in *The Handbook on Homicide*, eds. Fiona Brookman, Edward R. Maguire, and Mike Maguire. Wiley-Blackwell.
- 2013 **Kearns, E.M.** & Young, J.K. “Military Tactics in Civil War.” in *The Routledge Companion to Civil War Studies*, eds. Edward Newman and Karl DeRouen. Routledge.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

Kearns, E.M. “If You See Something, Do You Say Something?: Using A Conjoint Experiment to Examine Why People Report Terrorism to Police.”

Kearns, E.M., Federico, C., Asal, V., Walsh, J., *Betus, A. & Lemieux, A. “Intergroup Images, Protest, and Terrorism.”

- Media Coverage: *The Trace*

Kearns, E.M., **Ashooh, E. & Lowery-Kinberg, B. “Perceptions of the Police: Defining Trust and Legitimacy of Police by Race.”

BOOK IN PROGRESS

Kearns, E.M. & Young, J.K. “Tortured Logic: Why Americans Support Torture in Counterterrorism.” In progress; Under advanced contract with *Columbia University Press*.

WORKING PAPERS

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

Kearns, E.M. “Why Are Some Crimes Reported to Police While Others Aren’t?”

Kearns, E.M. “Differentiating Between Legitimacy and Trust in Law Enforcement at the Institutional and Interpersonal Levels.”

Kearns, E.M. & Nix, Justin. “When do Policing Surveys Replicate?: A Review of Multi-Agency Studies.”

*Betus, A., **Kearns, E.M.** & Lemieux, A. “Why Are Some Terrorist Attacks Labeled as Such while Others Aren’t?”

Lowery-Kinberg, B., *Mellinger, H. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Unpacking the Black Box: How Interaction Style and Social Dominance Orientation Impact Perceptions of Police.”

Delehanty, Casey & **Kearns, E.M.** “Wait, There’s Torture in *Zootopia*?: Examining the Prevalence of Torture in Popular Movies.”

Dolliver, Matthew & **Kearns, E.M.** “Is it Terrorism: Public Perceptions, Media, and Labeling the Las Vegas Shooting.”

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

2015 “When to Claim: A Cross-National Study of Terrorist Attacks.” National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism Research Brief.

2015 “The Role of Law Enforcement in Fighting Terrorism.” in *Comprehensive Law Enforcement Review*, Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Consulting researcher and co-author.

2015 *Presidential Task Force on 21st Century Policing*. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Consulting researcher.

FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS

2018 Research Grants Committee (RGC) - \$3,000, University of Alabama

2018 College Academy for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (CARSCA) - \$4,327, University of Alabama

2015 Fellow, Peace & Violence Research Lab - \$4,000, American University

2015 Doctoral Research Award - \$4,994, American University

2014 Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Terrorism Research Award - \$5,000, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism

2014 Faculty Support Research Grant - \$10,000, American University

2013 School of Public Affairs Research Scholars Grant - \$5,000, American University

2012 Graduate Assistantship - fully funded for four years, American University

2004 Undergraduate Summer Scholars Grant - \$2,000, Miami University

MEDIA COVERAGE

Interviews

2018 [NPR’s All Things Considered, Code Switch segment](#), March 23.

2018 [Humanity in the Headlines](#), February 24.

2017 [Colorado Public Radio](#), November 9.

2017 [ABC Australia, Radio National](#), July 6.

2017 [NPR’s Morning Edition](#), June 20.

- 2017 [NPR's Hidden Brain](#) podcast with Shankar Vedantam, June 19.
 2017 [CBS/KCBS Radio San Francisco](#) with Susan Kennedy, March 19.
 2014 [CNN Newsroom with Brooke Baldwin](#), December 11.

Web-Based Publications

- 2017 **Kearns, E.M.**. "An Expert on Political Violence Explains why the NRA's Ads Matter," [The Trace](#), August 8.
 2017 **Kearns, E.M.**, Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. "Yes, the Media Do Underreport Some Terrorist Attacks, Just not the Ones Most People Think," [Washington Post](#), March 13.
 2017 **Kearns, E.M.**, "Torture Doesn't Work, So Why are We Still Discussing It?" [Political Violence at a Glance](#), February 2.
 2014 **Kearns, E.M.** & Young, J.K., "Dramatic Depictions of Torture Increase Support for It," [Washington Post](#), December 12.

Selected Media Mentions

- 2018 "Terror attacks by Muslims receive 357% more press attention, study finds," [The Guardian](#). July 20.
 2018 "America Inside Out with Katie Couric," [National Geographic](#). April 25.
 2018 "Threat of Far-right Terrorism is being Ignored by the Media, Analysts Suggest," [Newsweek](#). March 17.
 2017 "America has a Skewed Perception of What Qualifies as Terrorism," [Think Progress](#). October 4.
 2017 "The Rohingya Are the New Palestinians," [Foreign Policy](#). September 26.
 2017 "Study: Media overrepresents Muslims as terrorists," [MSNBC with Ari Melber](#), July 2.
 2017 "Non-Muslim attackers get a lot less media coverage than those who claim Islam," [Think Progress](#), June 19.
 2017 "GAO Weighs In On 'Countering Violent Extremism'," [Cato Institute](#), April 13.
 2017 "Do Muslims Commit Most U.S. Terrorist Attacks?," [Reason](#), March 24.
 2017 "News media do under-report some terror attacks - just not those involving Islamist extremists," [The Independent](#), March 13.
 2015 "Can Jack Bauer Convince You to Torture?," [Pacific Standard](#), Jan. 5.
 2014 "Torture is a culture. Releasing the Senate report is a way of fighting it," [Vox](#), Dec. 11.
 2014 "The Senate CIA report says enhanced interrogation doesn't work. But Hollywood thinks it does," [Washington Post](#), Dec. 10.
 2014 "'24' Makes People Support Torture, and Other Discoveries Political Scientists Made this Year," [Vox](#), Sept. 8.

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2015 Selected Participant, ACJS Inaugural Doctoral Student Summit
 2011 Reisenbach Scholarship, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (1 year, non-renewable)
 2005 Departmental Honors in Psychology, Miami University
 2001 Robert O'Brien Academic Scholarship, Miami University (4 years, renewed annually)

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 “Political Action as a Function of Grievance, Opportunity, Risk, and Identity: Experimental Approaches.” Presented at the Department of Homeland Security
- 2014 “Torture and the Hollywood Effect.” Presented for the DHS/START and SMA Technical Lecture Series

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels Organized

- 2018 “Media & Perceptions of Terrorism and Counterterrorism.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 “Predicting Terrorism and Terrorist Behaviors.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Papers Presented (selected)

- 2018 “How Media, Threats, and Fear Impact Support for Torture in Counterterrorism” (with Joseph K. Young) American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 “Can Expert Opinion Change Public Perception of Torture?” (with Joseph K. Young) American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 “When Data Don’t Matter: Exploring Public Perceptions of Terrorism” (with Allison Betus & Tony Lemieux) International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2017 “What are Legitimacy and Trust?: Why Do People View these Concepts Differently.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 “If You See Something, Do You Say Something?: Why People Report Terrorism Activity.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2017 “What Makes You Big: Why Some Insurgency Organizations Are Larger Than Others.” International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2016 “Using Experimental Research to Study the Dynamics of Radicalization.” (with Tony Lemieux and Victor Asal) National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) Annual Symposium, Washington, DC.
- 2016 “See Something, Say Something: The Role of Legitimacy and Trust in Reporting Crimes and Potential Terrorism among Minority Communities.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 “If You See Something, Do You Say Something?: Informing Police about Crime and Terrorism in Minority Communities.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2015 “When to Claim: A Cross-National Study of Claimed vs. Unclaimed Terrorist Attacks.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Why are Most Terrorist Attacks Not Claimed?” Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA) Annual Conference, Andrews Air Force Base.
- 2015 “When to Claim Terrorism?” National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) Annual Symposium, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Who, What and Where: How Ethnicity, Type, and Location Impact Perceptions of Torture.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL.
- 2014 “The Hollywood Effect: How Dramatic Depictions of Torture Affect Support or Opposition.” (with Joseph K. Young) American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting,

- San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 “If Torture is Wrong, What About 24?: Torture and the Hollywood Effect.” (with Joseph K. Young) American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- 2012 “Comparative Analysis of Behavioral Patterns in Single Versus Serial Rapists.” (with C. Gabrielle Salfati) American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Linking Serial Rapes: Methodological Issues on Examining Patterns of Change.” (with C. Gabrielle Salfati and John P. Jarvis) Biennial John Jay College International Conference, New York, NY.
- 2011 “Serial Rape: The Relationship Between Geographic Patterns, Crime Location, Offender Characteristics, and Offender-Victim Interaction.” (with C. Gabrielle Salfati and John P. Jarvis) Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2011 “Serial Rape: A Comparison of Euclidean and Manhattan Measurement of Distance by Crime Location Type.” Roundtable discussion, 13th Annual Conference of the International Academy of Investigative Psychology, San Francisco, CA.

Conference Grants

- 2014 Greenberg Professional Development Conference Grant - \$300, American University
- 2012 Greenberg Professional Development Conference Grant - \$300, American University
- 2005 Student Research Grant - \$500, American Psychological Society Student Caucus

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses Taught

- Media & Crime*, University of Alabama (Spring 2018, in person)
- Policing Terrorism*, American University (Summer 2017, online)
- Experimenting in Terrorism*, American University (Summer 2017, online)
- Terrorism in the 21st Century*, American University (Summer 2015 & 2016, online)
- The Problem of Torture in Counterterrorism*, American University (Summer 2014, 2015 & 2016, online)

* denotes course that I developed

Undergraduate Courses Taught

- Homeland Security, University of Alabama (Fall 2018, in person)
- The Problem of Torture in Counterterrorism*, University of Alabama (Summer 2018, in person)
- Terrorism, University of Alabama (Fall 2017 & 2018, in person)
- Statistics, University of Alabama (Fall 2017 & 2018, Spring 2019, in person)
- Introduction to Criminology, American University (Fall 2014, hybrid; Fall 2015, Spring 2016 & 2017, online)
- Criminology, Marymount University (Spring 2016, online)
- Introduction to Counterintelligence, Marymount University (Fall 2013-2015, in person)
- Introduction to Justice Research, American University (Spring 2015, in person)
- Applied Research Methods, Marymount University (Spring 2014 & 2015, in person)

National Student Leadership Conference Courses

- Fundamentals of Law, Georgetown University (Summer 2016)

Teaching Assistant

- Domestic Terrorism, American University (Spring 2014, graduate)
- Terrorism and Counterterrorism, American University (Fall 2012 & 2013, undergraduate)
- Statistics, American University (Spring 2013, graduate)
- Research Methods, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (Fall 2011, graduate)

Teaching Grants

- 2014 Online Course Development Grant - \$3,000, American University
2013 Greenberg Teaching Conference Grant - \$450, American University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Police Foundation

2015-2016 Consulting Researcher

Department of Justice

2014-2015 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Consulting Researcher

American University

2015-2016 Fellow, Peace & Violence Research Lab
2012-2016 Research Assistant to Joseph K. Young
2014-2015 NSF, Strengthening Sociolegal Research
Research Assistant to Jon B. Gould
2014 Department of Justice, Policing Protests
Research Assistant to Edward R. Maguire

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

2010-2012 FBI Behavioral Science Unit
Research Assistant to C. Gabrielle Salfati
2011-2012 Academy of Critical Incident Analysis
Research Assistant to Ned Benton
2010-2011 Research Assistant to Margaret Bull Kovera
2010-2011 Research Assistant to Joshua W. Clegg
2010-2011 Research Assistant to Steven D. Penrod

Miami University

2003-2005 Research Assistant to Amy L. Brown
2002-2003 Research Assistant to Gary Stasser

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

2005-2010

Kroll Ontrack/TrialGraphix
Trial Services Consultant

SERVICE

Service to Profession

- Editorial Board Member:
 - *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* - October 2018 - present
 - *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* - November 2018 - present
- Ad Hoc Grant Reviewer: *National Institute of Justice*
- Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer: *American Behavioral Scientist*; *American Political Science Review*; *Communication Research*; *Conflict Management and Peace Science*; *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*; *International Security*; *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*; *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*; *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*; *Migration Letters*; *Perspectives on Terrorism*; *Political Psychology*; *Sociological Quarterly*; *Terrorism and Political Violence*
- Ad Hoc Book Proposal Reviewer: *Oxford University Press*
- Committee Member:
 - ASC, Division of International Criminology, Student Paper Competition (2018)
 - ASC, Division of Terrorism and Bias Crimes, Student Paper Competition (2018)
 - ASC, Division of Experimental Criminology, Social Media & Events (2016)

Service to University

- Faculty Mentor, Tide Together, University of Alabama (2018)
- Judge for Crimson Classic Mock Trial Tournament, University of Alabama (2018)
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) Student Representative, American University (2014-2016)
- Judge for SPA Undergraduate Research Symposium, American University (2013, 2014)
- Greenberg PhD Seminars for Effective Teaching, Selected Participant, American University (2012-2014)
- Psi Chi, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (2011-2012)
- Master's Student Research Group, Mentor, John College of Criminal Justice (2011-2012)
- Cheryl Williams Award, Selection Committee, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (2011)

Service to Department

- Graduate Committee, University of Alabama (2017 - present)
- Colloquium Committee, University of Alabama (2017 - present)
- Diversity Committee, University of Alabama (2017 - 2018)
- Terrorism and Security Policy Search Committee, American University (2013, 2014)

Student Advising

Masters

- Carol Ann Sharo — Chair, University of Alabama (in progress)
- Epiphany Storey — Committee Member, University of Alabama (in progress)

Undergraduate

- Mary Shupard — Chair, University of Alabama (in progress)
- Emma Ashooh— Co-Chair, American University (2016; under review for publication)
- Josh Eisenberg— Chair, American University (2016)
- Erin Connolly & Lorrin Melanson — Chair, American University (2015; ASC poster)
- John Driscoll, Chris Tonelli, Greg Schaefer & Felicia Sych — Chair, American University (2015; ASC poster)
- Holly Wenger — Co-Chair, Marymount University (2015)
- Brendan Conlon — Co-Chair, American University (2013; published in peer-reviewed journal)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

- 2015 ICPSR (Time-Series Analyses, Bayesian Analyses, R, and Qualitative Methods)
- 2014 Stata (Estimating Average Treatment Effects)
- 2014 American University (Certification to teach online and hybrid courses)
- 2011 Summer School on Crime, Law and Psychology, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2011 U.S Department of Justice, FBI, Behavioral Science Unit, Certificate of Research in Violent Behavior

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- American Sociological Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Society of Criminology
 - Division of Experimental Criminology
 - Division of International Criminology
 - Division of Policing
 - Division of Terrorism and Bias Crimes
- International Studies Association