

**ERIN M. KEARNS**

University of Nebraska at Omaha  
 School of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
 National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology,  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2016 American University, School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC Ph.D.  
 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
- 2012 John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, New York, NY M.A.  
 Major: Forensic Psychology.
- 2005 Miami University, Oxford, OH B.A.  
 Majors: Political Science & Psychology. Minor: European Area Studies.

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

- 2021, Fall - Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska Omaha  
 School of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
 National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center  
 National Strategic Research Institute Fellow
- 2017 - 2021 Assistant Professor, University of Alabama  
 Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
- 2020, Spring Research Associate (on pre-tenure research leave)  
 Miami University Dolibois European Center, Differdange, Luxembourg
- 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

**BOOK**

2020. **Kearns, E.M.** & Young, J.K. "Tortured Logic: Why Some Americans Support the Use of Torture in Counterterrorism." *Columbia University Press*.

**PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

\*graduate student; \*\*undergraduate student

2021. **Kearns, E.M.**, Federico, C., Asal, V., Walsh, J., \*Betus, A. & Lemieux, A. "Intergroup Images, Protest, and Terrorism." Online first, *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*.  
 • Media Coverage: *The Trace*

17. 2020. \*Betus, A., **Kearns, E.M.** & Lemieux, A. “How Perpetrator Identity (Sometimes) Influences Media Framing Attacks as ‘Terrorism’ or ‘Mental Illness.’” Online first, *Communication Research*.
  - Media Coverage: *Washington Post*
16. 2020. Ghazi-Tehrani, A. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Biased Coverage of Bias Crime: Examining Differences in Media Coverage of Hate Crimes and Terrorism.” Online first, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.
15. 2020. Lowrey-Kinberg, B., \*Mellinger, H. & **Kearns, E.M.** “How Social Dominance Orientation Shapes Perceptions of Police.” Online first, *Policing: An International Journal*.
14. 2020. Delehanty, C. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Wait, There’s Torture in *Zootopia*?: Examining the Prevalence of Torture in Popular Movies.” *Perspectives on Politics*, 18(3): 835-850.
  - Media Coverage: *Revisionist History by Malcolm Gladwell*, *Cinemascene FilmTalk*, *Tuscaloosa News*
13. 2019. \*\*Shupard, M. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Why Do Officers Support Community Policing?: A Cross-Departmental and Cross-Temporal Comparison.” *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*, 37: 665-680.
12. 2019. **Kearns, E.M.**, \*\*Ashooh, E. & Lowrey-Kinberg, B. “Racial Differences in Conceptualizing Legitimacy and Trust in Police.” *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 45: 190-214.
11. 2019. Dolliver, M. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Is it Terrorism: Public Perceptions, Media, and Labeling the Las Vegas Shooting.” Online first, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.
10. 2019. **Kearns, E.M.** “When to Take Credit for Terrorism?: A Cross-National Examination of Claims and Attributions.” *Terrorism & Political Violence*, 33(1): 164-193.
  - Media Coverage: *The Economist*
  - 2016 ASC Division of International Criminology Outstanding Student Paper Award
  - 2015 START Symposium Best Student Paper Award
9. 2019. **Kearns, E.M.**, \*Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. “Why Do Some Terrorist Attacks Receive More Media Attention Than Others?” *Justice Quarterly*, 36(6): 985-1022.
  - Select Media Coverage: *ABC Australia*, *Cato Institute*, *The Economist*, *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*
  - Policy Coverage: *United Nations Secretary-General*
8. 2019. **Kearns, E.M.**, \*Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. “When Data Don’t Matter: Exploring Public Perceptions of Terrorism.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 44(4): 285-309.
7. 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.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 43, 11: 941-958.
6. 2018. **Kearns, E.M.** “Exploring Officer Views of Community Policing in Counterterrorism.” *Police Practice and Research*, 21, 1: 18-32.
5. 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*
4. 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.
3. 2017. **Kearns, E.M.** “Why Are Some Police Officers More Supportive of Community Policing with Minorities than Others?” *Justice Quarterly*, 34(7): 1213-1245.
  2. 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.
  1. 2014. **Kearns, E.M.**, \*\*Conlon, B.L., & Young, J.K. “Lying About Terrorism.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 37(5): 422-439.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

2. 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.
1. 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.

## UNDER REVIEW

4. **Kearns, E.M.** & Delehanty, C. “Fast & Furious...Torturous?: Examining the impact of torture scenes in popular films on public perceptions of torture policy.” *Revise & Resubmit*.
3. **Kearns, E.M.** & \*Betus, A. “Asymmetric Coverage of Asymmetric Violence: How the U.S. Media Report Far-Right Terrorism.”
2. \*Bowman, R. & **Kearns, E.M.** “How Race, Experience with Police, and Experience with Crime Influence Perceptions of Legitimacy and Trust in Police.”
1. **Kearns, E.M.** & \*Senn, S. “Examining Officer Support for Community Policing in Counterterrorism Over Time.”

## WORKING PAPERS

7. **Kearns, E.M.** “Why Are Some Crimes Reported to Police While Others Aren’t?”
6. **Kearns, E.M.** “See Something, Say Something?: Reporting Potential Terrorism Activities to Police.”
5. **Kearns, E.M.** “Teaching Statistics: A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Traditional versus Flipped Classroom Models.”
4. **Kearns, E.M.** & Nix, J. “When do Policing Surveys Replicate?: A Review of Multi-Agency Studies.”
3. Fisher, D. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Theorizing Terrorism within Criminological Scholarship.”
2. Ghazi-Tehrani, A. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Differentiating Between Terrorism, Hate Crimes, and Other Violence: A Conceptual Approach”
1. \*Betus, A., **Kearns, E.M.** & \*Becker, M. “Media and Fear of Terrorism.”

## WORKING PAPERS - Funded & Data Collection Pending

2. **Kearns, E.M.** & Ghazi-Tehrani, A. “Differentiating Between Terrorism, Hate Crimes, and Other Violence: An Experimental Approach.”
1. Ghazi-Tehrani, A. & **Kearns, E.M.** “How Public Perceptions of Terrorism, Hate Crimes, and other Forms of Mass Violence Influence Support for Various Policy Response.”

## GOVERNMENT & POLICY REPORTS

4. 2020. “Terrorism as Communicative and Miscommunicative Violence.” In *Counterterrorism Yearbook 2020*, Australian Strategic Policy Institute. Author.
3. 2015. “When to Claim: A Cross-National Study of Terrorist Attacks.” National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism Research Brief. Author.
2. 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.
1. 2015. *Presidential Task Force on 21st Century Policing*. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Consulting researcher.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

### Funded

- 2021 College Academy for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (CARSCA) - \$6,000, University of Alabama (with Adam Ghazi-Tehrani)
- 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 (with Joseph Young)
- 2013 School of Public Affairs Research Scholars Grant - \$5,000, American University (with Joseph Young)
- 2012 Graduate Assistantship - fully funded for four years, American University
- 2004 Undergraduate Summer Scholars Grant - \$2,000, Miami University

### Not Funded

- 2019 Consortium member through START/University of Maryland, Terrorism Prevention and Counterterrorism Research (TPCR) Center of Excellence (COE), PI, “Evaluating State-Level Initiatives to Prevent Terrorism and Targeted Violence,” \$339,514 for UA.
- 2019 Consortium member through Georgetown University, Terrorism Prevention and Counterterrorism Research (TPCR) Center of Excellence (COE), PI, “Reporting Terrorism and Targeted Violence,” \$233,000 for UA.
- 2019 Asal, V., **Kearns, E.M.**, Zhuang, J., Baxter, P., Weedon, S. & Jahanbani, N. “Lying about Killing: Deception in Security Claims and Behavior.” *DoD Minerva Research Initiative*, \$1,133,917 total, \$92,452 for UA.

- 2014 **Kearns, E.M.**, Lemieux, A. & Young, J. “Media Depictions of Torture and Public Policy.” *DoD Minerva Research Initiative*, \$517,049.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Select Interviews

- 2021 [The Criminology Academy](#) hosted by Jose Sanchez and Jennifer Tostlebe, May 17.  
 2021 [The Loopcast](#) hosted by Chelsea Daymon, February 24.  
 2020 [Crime Talks](#) hosted by Dr. Sarah Daly, October 26.  
 2019 [Untenured Tracks](#), October 7.  
 2019 [Police Chief Magazine](#), September.  
 2019 [CBC Radio Canada, 6 interviews across CBC stations](#), August 6.  
 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

- 2019 Betus, A., **Kearns, E.M.**, & Lemieux, A. “Who’s a Terrorist and Who’s Mentally Ill? We looked at 10 years of news coverage to find out,” [Washington Post](#), August 8.  
 2019 **Kearns, E.M.** & Amarasingam, A. “How News Media Talk about Terrorism & What the Evidence Shows,” [Just Security](#), April 5.  
 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.

## TALKS

### Invited

- 2021 “Domestic Terrorism and Far-Right Extremism in America Through the Lens of the January 6th Capitol Insurrection” hosted by Rowan University.  
 2021 Intelligence Community of Academic Excellence (IC CAE) hosted by the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.  
 2020 “Race, Ethnicity, and Policing in the United States.” Hosted by the Peace Science Society.  
 2020 “Why do Americans Support Torture? Perspectives from Hollywood and the Academy.” Presented at American University’s School of Public Affairs.  
 2020 “Tortured Logic: Why Americans Support Torture in Counterterrorism.” Presented at START, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.  
 2020 “Media (Mis)Representations of Terrorism.” Miami University Dolibois European Center

- (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 “Tortured Logic.” Presented at the University of Essex.
- 2020 “Lying about Terrorism.” Presented at Royal Holloway, University of London.
- 2020 “How Groups Misrepresent Violence & Implications for Coding.” Presented to the terrorism Prosecution Project (tPP) at Miami University.
- 2019 “Expanding the Counterterrorism Aperture: New Perspectives for a New Decade.” Panelist at the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Intelligence & Research (INR)/National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)/National Intelligence Council (NIC) annual conference.
- 2019 “Tortured Logic: Why Americans Support Torture in Counterterrorism.” Presented at the Dayton International Peace Museum/Dayton Council on World Affairs.
- 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

### **Recorded & Posted for General Use to UntenuredTracks during COVID-19**

- 2020 “Policing Terrorism.”
- 2020 “Media & Terrorism.”
- 2020 “Lying about Terrorism.”

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences: 2011, 2015, 2016
- American Political Science Association: 2014
- American Society of Criminology: 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- International Studies Association: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19), 2021
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2019
- Peace Science Society: 2020
- START Annual Symposium: 2015; 2016
- Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA): 2015

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

\*denotes course that I developed

#### **Graduate Courses Taught**

- University of Alabama: Criminology Theory; Media & Crime\*
- American University: Policing Terrorism\*; Experimenting in Terrorism\*; Terrorism in the 21st Century\*; The Problem of Torture in Counterterrorism\*

#### **Undergraduate Courses Taught**

- University of Alabama: Terrorism; Statistics; Research Methods; Homeland Security; The Problem of Torture in Counterterrorism\*
- American University: Introduction to Criminology; Introduction to Justice Research
- Marymount University: Criminology; Introduction to Counterintelligence; Applied Research Methods

## CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

- 2015 - 2016 Consulting Researcher  
The Police Foundation
- 2014 - 2015 Consulting Researcher  
Department of Justice, Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

## NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2005 - 2010 Trial Services Consultant  
Kroll Ontrack/TrialGraphix

## SERVICE

### Service to the Profession

- Editorial Board Member:
  - *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* (2018 - present)
  - *Criminal Justice & Behavior* (2019 - present)
  - *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* (2019 - present)
- Advisory Board Member:
  - The Terrorism Prosecution Project at Miami University (2018 - present)
- Board of Ambassadors, CrimRxiv (2021 - present)
- Ad Hoc Grant Reviewer: *National Institute of Justice*
- Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer: *American Behavioral Scientist; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Communication Research; Comparative Political Studies; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Crime & Delinquency; Crime, Law & Social Change; Criminal Justice and Behavior; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Criminology & Public Policy ;Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict; Global Crime; International Journal of Communication; International Journal of Human Resource Management; International Security; International Studies Quarterly; International Studies Review; Journal of Experimental Criminology; Journal of Global Security Studies; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism; Journalism; Justice Quarterly; Mass Communication and Society; Media, War & Conflict; Migration Letters; Perspectives on Politics; Perspectives on Terrorism; Police Practice and Research: An International Journal; Policing: An International Journal; Policing & Society; Political Psychology; Political Research Quarterly; Public Administration Review; Research and Politics; Security Studies; Social Science Research; Sociological Quarterly; Studies in Conflict & Terrorism; Terrorism and Political Violence*
- Ad Hoc Book Proposal Reviewer: *Oxford University Press; Routledge*
- Ad Hoc Book Reviewer: *Oxford University Press*
- Committee Chair:
  - ASC, Program Committee, Sub-Area: State Crime, Political Crime, and Terrorism (2021)
  - ASC, Division of International Criminology, Graduate Fellowship Competition (2020, 2021)
- Committee Member:
  - ASC, Division of Policing, Election Committee (2020)
  - ASC, Division of Terrorism and Bias Crimes, Social Media (2018 - present)
  - ASC, Division of Terrorism and Bias Crimes, Student Paper Competition (2018)
  - ASC, Division of International Criminology, Graduate Fellowship Competition (2019)
  - ASC, Division of International Criminology, Student Paper Competition (2018, 2019)

## Service to the 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 the Department

- Graduate Committee, University of Alabama (2017 - 2020)
- Diversity Committee, University of Alabama (member 2017 - 2020; chair 2020 - present)
- Scholarship Committee, University of Alabama (2019 - present)
- Faculty Search Committee, University of Alabama (2018 - 2019)
- PhD Program Development Committee, University of Alabama (2018 - 2019)
- Colloquium Committee, University of Alabama (2017 - 2019)
- Terrorism and Security Policy Search Committee, American University (2013, 2014)

## Service to the Community

- WBHM Junior Board Member (2019-2021)
- Greater Birmingham Humane Society Volunteer (2019-2020)

## Student Research Supervision

### PhD

- Allison Betus — Committee Member, Georgia State University (2019-present)

### Masters

- Emma Huffman — Chair, University of Alabama (2020-2021)
- Rachel Simon — Committee Member, Texas A&M International University (2020-2021)
- Rachel McNealy — Research independent study, University of Alabama (2019; ASC presentation & in revision for publication)
- Carol Ann Sharo — Chair, University of Alabama (2019; ASC presentation & in revision for publication)
- Epiphany Storey — Committee Member, University of Alabama (2019)

### Undergraduate

- Grace Tully — Chair, University of Alabama (2019-2021)
- Mary Shupard — Chair, University of Alabama (2019; ASC poster & published in peer-reviewed journal)
- Emma Ashooh — Co-Chair, American University (2016; published in peer-reviewed journal)
- 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**

- 2019 ICPSR (R: Learning by Example)
- 2015 ICPSR (Time-Series Analyses, Bayesian Analyses, R & 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