

**ERIN M. KEARNS**

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 Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice  
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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: *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

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 - Draft Available

3. **Kearns, E.M.** “Why Are Some Crimes Reported to Police While Others Aren’t?”
2. \*Senn, S. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Officer Support for Community Policing with Racial Minorities Post-Ferguson.”
1. \*Sharo, C. & **Kearns, E.M.** “When to Call the Police?: How Crime Type and Contextual Factors Impact Crime Reporting.”

## WORKING PAPERS - Data Collected & Drafting in Progress

7. **Kearns, E.M.** “See Something, Say Something?: Reporting Potential Terrorism Activities to Police.”
6. **Kearns, E.M.** “Teaching Statistics: A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Traditional versus Flipped Classroom Models.”
5. **Kearns, E.M.** & Delehanty, C. “Experimentally Testing Public Perceptions of Media Depictions of Torture.”
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 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 Community

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

### 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)
- 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; 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 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)

### **Student Research Supervision**

#### **PhD**

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

#### **Masters**

- Emma Huffman — Chair, University of Alabama (2020-present)
- Rachel Simon — Committee Member, Texas A&M International University (2020-present)
- 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-present)
- 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