

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
Spring 2020 (on research leave) Research Associate
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

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

- 2019 Dolliver, Matthew & **Kearns, E.M.** "Is it Terrorism: Public Perceptions, Media, and Labeling the Las Vegas Shooting." Online first, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.

- 2019 **Kearns, E.M.** “When to Take Credit for Terrorism?: A Cross-National Examination of Claims and Attributions.” Online first, *Terrorism & Political Violence*.
- Media Coverage: *The Economist*
 - 2016 ASC Division of International Criminology Outstanding Student Paper Award
 - 2015 START Symposium Best Student Paper Award
- 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*
- 2019 **Kearns, E.M.**, *Betus, A., & Lemieux, A. “When Data Don’t Matter: Exploring Public Perceptions of Terrorism.” Online first, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*.
- 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

- 2020 **Kearns, E.M.** & Young, J.K. “Tortured Logic: Why Americans Support Torture in Counterterrorism.” Forthcoming, *Columbia University Press*.

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.**, **Ashooh, E. & Lowery-Kinberg, B. “Racial Differences in Conceptualizing Legitimacy and Trust.” *Revise & Resubmit*.

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

- Media Coverage: *The Trace*

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

- Media Coverage: *Cinemascene FilmTalk*

*Betus, A., **Kearns, E.M.** & Lemieux, A. “‘Terrorism’ or ‘Mental Illness’?: Factors that Impact How Media Label Terrorist Attacks”

- Media Coverage: *Washington Post*

WORKING PAPERS - Draft Available

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

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

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

*Sharo, C. & **Kearns, E.M.** “When to Call the Police?: How Crime Type and Contextual Factors Impact Crime Reporting.”

Shupard, M. & **Kearns, E.M. “Why Do Officers Support Community Policing?: A Cross-Departmental Comparison.”

WORKING PAPERS - Data Collected & Drafting in Progress

*graduate student; **undergraduate student

Kearns, E.M. “Teaching Statistics: A Quasi-Experimental Comparison of Traditional versus Flipped Classroom Models.”

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

Kearns, E.M. & *Senn, S. “Changes over Time in Officer Support for Community Policing with Minorities.”

*Bowman, R. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Variants in Views of Police Across and Within Races.”

*Senn, S. & **Kearns, E.M.** “Changes over Time in Officer Support for Community Policing Across Crime Types.”

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

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.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Funded

- 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

In Progress/Under Review

- 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," \$367,825 for UA.

Declined

- 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

- 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.

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

- 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
- International Studies Association: 2017, 2018, 2019
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2019
- START Annual Symposium: 2015; 2016
- Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA): 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*
- * denotes course that I developed

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
- * denotes course that I developed

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**The Police Foundation**

2015-2016

Consulting Researcher

Department of Justice

2014-2015

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
Consulting Researcher**NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

2005-2010

Kroll Ontrack/TrialGraphix
Trial Services Consultant**SERVICE****Service to Profession**

- Editorial Board Member:
 - *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* - 2018 - present
 - *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* - 2019 - present
- Advisory Board Member: The Terrorism Prosecution Project at Miami University
- 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; Criminal Justice and Behavior; Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict; The International Journal of Human Resource Management; International Security; c; International Studies Review; Journal of Global Security Studies; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Journalism; Mass Communication and Society; Migration Letters; Perspectives on Terrorism; Policing & Society; Political Psychology; Social Science Research; Sociological Quarterly; Studies in Conflict & Terrorism; Terrorism and Political Violence*
- Ad Hoc Book Proposal Reviewer: *Oxford University Press*
- Committee Member:
 - 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 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)
- Diversity Committee, University of Alabama (2017-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 Advising

Masters

- Carol Ann Sharo — Chair, University of Alabama (2019; ASC presentation & in revision for publication)
- Epiphany Storey — Committee Member, University of Alabama (2019)

Undergraduate

- Mary Shupard — Chair, University of Alabama (2019; ASC poster & in revision for publication)
- 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

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