

Heather Vovak

George Mason University
Department of Criminology, Law & Society
Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy
4400 University Drive, MS 6D12
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(330) 289-9902
hvovak@gmu.edu

EDUCATION

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA

Ph.D., Criminology, Law & Society, August 2016

Dissertation Title: Examining the Relationship between Crime Rates and Clearance Rates using Dual Trajectory Analysis

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Cynthia Lum

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Akron, OH

M.A., Political Science, May 2011

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

Tiffin, OH

B.S., Political Science and Psychology, May 2005

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

Research Associate

May 2016 – Present

Project Manager: Identifying Effective Investigative Practices: A National Study Using Trajectory Analysis. (Co-Principal Investigators: Cynthia Lum and Charles Wellford). Laura and John Arnold Foundation (\$579,207).

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Cynthia Lum

Aug 2011 – May 2016

2013 - 2015: Evaluating the Crime Control and Cost-Benefit Effectiveness of License Plate Recognition (LPR) Technology in Patrol and Investigations. (Co-Principal Investigators: Cynthia Lum and Christopher Koper). National Institute of Justice Grant #2013-IJ-CX-0017 (\$553,713).

2011 - 2014: Evaluation of the Transportation Security Administration's Comprehensive Strategy to Security in U.S. Airports. (Co-Principal Investigators David Weisburd and Cynthia Lum). Department of Homeland Security Grant #2010-ST-108-LR0005 (\$1,000,000).

University of Akron

Akron, OH

Graduate Assistant for Dr. Nancy Marion

Aug 2009 – May 2011

STATISTICAL SKILLS

SPSS, SAS, Stata

Experienced in group-based trajectory analysis

Advanced experience with national statistical databases

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS)

Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA)

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH REPORTS

Lum, C. and **Vovak, H.** (in progress). Misdemeanor arrest patterns from 1990 – 2013: A group-based trajectory analysis.

Vovak, H. (2016). *Examining the relationship between crime rates and clearance rates using dual trajectory analysis.* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Fairfax, VA: George Mason University.

Lum, C., Koper, C. S., Willis, J. J., Happeny, S., **Vovak, H.**, and Nichols, J. (2016). *The rapid diffusion of license plate readers in U. S. law enforcement agencies: A national survey.* Fairfax, VA: Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University.

Lum, C., Wellford, C., Scott, T. and **Vovak, H.** (2016). *Trajectories of U.S. crime clearance rates.* Report for the Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Fairfax, VA: Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University.

Grieco, J., **Vovak, H.**, and Lum, C. (2014). Examining research-practice partnerships in policing evaluations. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 8(4), 368-378.

Lum, C., Johnson, D., Gill, C., **Vovak, H.**, Chahal, J., and Merola, L. (2013). TSA's Comprehensive Strategy to Security at U.S. Airports: Assessing the Evidence-Base of the "Playbook." Phase III Report: *Playbook Implementation at 10 Airports.* Washington, DC: Department of Homeland Security. NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.

Merola, L. M. and **Vovak, H.** (2013). The challenges of terrorist and extremist prisoners: A survey of U.S. prisons. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 24(3), 735-58.

Hibdon, J., Lum, C., Gill, C., Cave, B., Chahal, J., and **Vovak, H.** (2012). TSA's Comprehensive Strategy to Security at U.S. Airports: *An analysis of security-related incidents at airports.* Washington, DC: Department of Homeland Security. NOT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.

PRESENTATIONS

Vovak, H. (2016). Examining the relationship between police crime rates and clearance rates using dual trajectory analysis. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Conference: New Orleans, LA.

Grieco, J. and **Vovak, H.** (2014). The role of police-researcher partnerships in evidence-based evaluations. Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Conference: Philadelphia, PA.

Grieco, J. and **Vovak, H.** (2013). Police partnerships and the research affiliations in evidence-based assessments. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Conference: Atlanta, GA.

Grieco, J. and **Vovak, H.** (2013). Police-researcher partnerships in crime control evaluation. Presented at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference: Philadelphia, PA.

Grieco, J. and **Vovak, H.** (2013). Police-researcher partnerships in crime control evaluation. Presented at the International Conference on Evidence-Based Policing: Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Vovak, H. (2010). Presidential rhetoric and the death penalty. Presented at the Northeastern Political Science Association Conference: Boston, MA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Criminology (ASC)
Member, Division of Policing

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

SERVICE

Criminology, Law and Society Student Association
Member 2011 - 2016
Secretary 2012 – 2013

Police Research Group
Student Member 2012 - 2016