

The Korean Criminologist

The Official Newsletter of the
Korean Society of Criminology in America



“A Warm Welcome to the Fall Edition of KOSCA Newsletter”



Dear Esteemed Members and Colleagues,

As we embrace the fall season, it’s an excellent opportunity to reflect on the dynamic activities and accomplishments that marked our spring and summer months. We are excited to share these developments with you in Volume 14, Issue 2 of the KOSCA Newsletter.

Our group has been exceptionally active this year, making significant contributions in domestic and international contexts. Our engagements have furthered educational and research initiatives, showcasing the exceptional talents and achievements of Korean criminologists worldwide.

Thanks to your continued support, KOSCA successfully facilitated several international gatherings, including the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), the International White Hat Conference, the Korea CPTED Association event, the Annual Conference of the Asian Criminological Society (ACS), the US-Korea Conference (UKC), and a Study Abroad Program in South Korea. These events have been instrumental in advancing our fundamental values of innovation and upholding our deep sense of pride in our Korean heritage.

Our annual summer conference was another highlight, creating a vibrant and cohesive community atmosphere. This gathering served as a vital forum for our members to exchange knowledge and professional development.

In this issue, we also spotlight the **groundbreaking achievements of our members** in criminology through education, scholarly work, and international collaborations. Special thanks are due to our KOSCA executive team and all the active members whose expertise and dedication have been key to our success.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and trust in our mission. We hope you enjoy reading about our recent endeavors and achievements in this edition of our newsletter.

Sincerely,

Kyung-Shick Choi, Ph.D.
The 8th President of KOSCA

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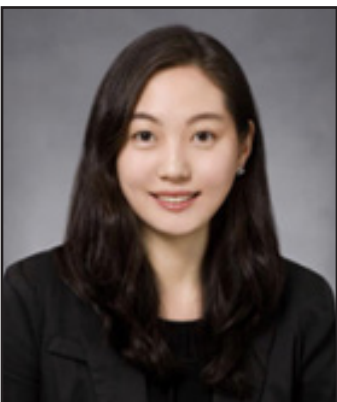
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2024 61st ACJS Annual Meeting Highlight

The 61st Annual Meeting of ACJS (61st President: Dr. Anthony Peguero), held in Chicago, IL, featured the theme *Represent: Pursuing Equitable Justice for Families, Schools, Communities, and Marginalized Populations & Individuals*. It was an especially significant conference for KOSCA, as Dr. Bitna Kim assumed her presidency during this event.

Dr. Kim introduced her theme for the next annual meeting, *The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Case for Inclusion, Interaction, and Internationalization*, delivering part of her speech in Korean, her native language. Her speech clearly conveyed her commitment to fostering greater inclusion and interaction with international scholars and practitioners.



To All Engaged in Advancing Criminal Justice and Criminology,

I am Bitna Kim, the 62nd president of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), and a Professor at Sam Houston State University. It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I step into this role, committed to furthering our ACJS mission of “Transforming Justice through Research, Education, and Practice.”

In my presidency, I am dedicated to building on ACJS’s international foundation. My goals are to enhance our global outreach, increase our visibility, foster innovative collaborations, and collectively address the multifaceted challenges within our field. I am committed to fostering equal partnerships across our community, ensuring that researchers, educators, and practitioners are integral to our initiatives from inception to implementation.

I am excited to invite you to the ACJS 62nd annual meeting in Denver, from March 11th to 15th, 2025. Themed “The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Case for Inclusion, Interaction, and Internationalization,” this event promises to be a pivotal moment for our community. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in Denver for this transformative event.

I look forward to your support and involvement as we work together to make a meaningful impact in the field of criminal justice and criminology.

Bitna Kim, 62nd President of ACJS



One of the notable sessions at the meeting was *Joint Criminal Justice Endeavors: Research and Policy in Korea and the US*, moderated by Dr. Bitna Kim and Dr. Jisun Choi from the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice. The session featured 21 scholars from 16 institutions, including Sam Houston State University, the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Michigan State University, and Johannes Kepler University Linz.

KOSCA Academic Divisions

Our academic divisions serve as the foundation of the association, bringing together individuals with shared interests to foster mutual growth and learning. Please explore the activities of each division and consider reaching out to them for membership!

Division of Criminological Theory and Juvenile Justice
(Chair: Dr. Hyunin Baek - New Mexico State University;
h0baek01@nmsu.edu)

Division of Criminological Theory and Juvenile Justice seeks to broaden the understanding of the etiology of criminal and delinquent behaviors from diverse theoretical perspectives. The Division is committed to fostering and promoting open and constructive dialogue, rigorous scientific research, and collaboration among academic scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to develop effective and comprehensive delinquent/criminal behavior prevention programs and strategies.

The Division regularly hosted meetings to promote academic exchange among its members. It also participated in the student-led grant program, and the results were presented at the KOSCA 2024 Summer Conference. Winners of the student-led grant were Danee Lee and Hyunjung Cheon, who presented their project titled "A Retrospective Study of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program: Do Peers and Family Matter?"

The Division also has several ongoing projects among the members including "Does Parent-Child Relationship Intervene Smartphone Addiction through Reducing Stress and Negative Emotions?," "Role of Parent-Child Relationship on Stressors and Juvenile Delinquency," "Gaming Disorder among Korean Adolescents," "The Relationship between Academic Performance and Delinquent Behavior." The Division will also be discussing how students' stressful lives in South Korea influence their deviant behaviors at the Annual Meeting of ASC 2024.

Our division continues to explore more research topics related to juvenile delinquency. We encourage KOSCA members, particularly, student members, to engage in research projects and collaborate with us. Please contact Dr. Baek for more information and membership.

Division of Cybercriminology
(Chair: Dr. Sinchul Back - University of Scranton;
sinchul.back@scranton.edu)

This June, the 5th International White Hat Conference (WHC) was held, building on the success of its predecessors in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The conference was a testament to the active involvement and leadership of the Cybercriminology Division members, including Dr. Kyungshick Choi, Dr. Sinchul Back, Mr. Mike Toro, and Drs. Jaeseung Lee and Mijin Kim.

This year, the conference was co-hosted with Boston University, the Korean National Police University, and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice. It featured various sessions under the theme, "AI & Robotics Frontier: Mastering Cybercrime Defense in the Digital Age." As artificial intelligence and robotics rapidly advance, their impact on cybersecurity and cybercrime defense becomes increasingly critical. The WHC 2024 focused on exploring the latest developments in these technologies and their applications in defending against cyber threats. The conference emphasized the necessity for interdisciplinary approaches, bringing together experts from AI, robotics, cybersecurity, and law enforcement to tackle the challenges of the digital age.



KOSCA Academic Divisions

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Division of Korean Community and Criminal Justice

(Chair: Dr. Sinyong Choi - Kennesaw State University;
schoi35@kennesaw.edu)

The Division of Korean Community and Criminal Justice has been actively involved in various research endeavors over the past months, including:

1. The division has been working on a new project titled "Korean Americans' Perceptions of Police Legitimacy and Cooperation with Police: Normative and Instrumental Pathways." This project is currently under review in a peer-reviewed journal for publication
2. Division members actively participated in the 2024 KOSCA Summer Workshop in July 2024. During this event, Dr. Sinyong Choi presented research titled "After Atlanta Spa Shooting, Perceived Police Legitimacy and Cooperation with Police in the Korean American Community," with Dr. Jiseun Sohn serving as a discussant.

Are you passionate about criminal justice topics, especially those focused on the Korean community? We are actively seeking dedicated individuals to join our dynamic team. If you're interested in joining the division, please reach out to the division chair, Dr. Sinyong Choi, at Schoi35@kennesaw.edu. We look forward to welcoming you on board!

Division of Policing and Public Safety

(Chair: Hyunjung Cheon - University of Texas at El Paso;
hcheon@utep.edu)

Division of Policing and Public Safety seeks to contribute professional expertise to policing and public safety via research, collaboration, and social networking. More specifically, the division intends to help students of policing to become future policing scholars. The division plans to organize and promote a session (or event) related to policing. The division provides great opportunities to work along with members on research projects and to share their professional expertise through multiple channels.

Division of Women and Gender

(Chair: Dr. Chunrye Kim - Saint Joseph's University;
ckim@sju.edu)

Division of Women and Gender brings together ALL members who are interested in addressing gender equality and women's empowerment in the study of crime, justice, and the crime-processing system. The primary goals of this section are to facilitate and promote research and exchange of information concerning women and gender issues in the field and to develop effective pedagogical strategies and curricula for women, gender, and crime courses. The Women and Crime Section also encourages networking and interaction among members by providing various professional and social interaction opportunities, including: panels and presentations on gender, crime and justice; and mentoring for female faculty and student members in the discipline.

Division of Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Justice

(Chair: Dr. Hyoungah Park - Saint Peter's University;
hpark1@saintpeters.edu)

The division of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Criminal Justice (CJ) is committed to understanding and utilizing Artificial Intelligence, such as Random Forests, Neural Networks, Support Vector Machine Learning, etc., in crime prediction, crime prevention, crime investigations, corrections, and so on. It seeks the collaboration of scholars, interdisciplinary research, and cooperation with practitioners, community members, and policymakers on topics that have recently gained more attention, such as Crime Forecasting, Recidivism Prediction, Smart Crime Maps, Smart CCTV, Facial Recognition, Fingerprint Identification, DNA Matching, Cyber Security, Abnormal Behavior Detection, Gun Shot Detection, Monitoring Social Networks, Plate Number Chasing, and any other utilization of AI and Machine Learning in CJ.

Interview with Experts



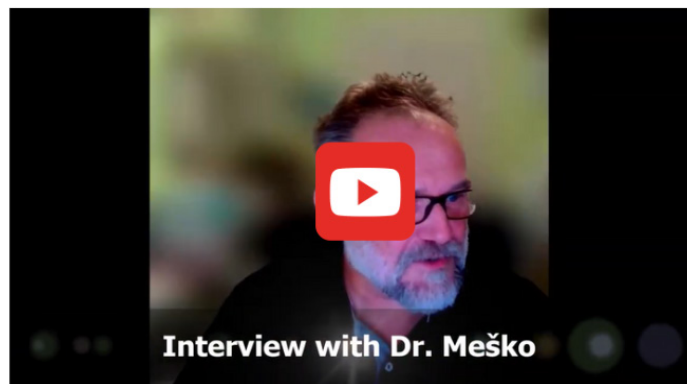
Bitna Kim, Ph.D.
Sam Houston State University

- Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology Department at the Sam Houston State University
- Current President and Previous Vice President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)
- Incoming Chair and Current Vice Chair of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Division of International Criminology
- Faculty Director, Office of Comparative and International Education and Leadership
- Research focused on Translational Criminology, International & Comparative Criminology, and other contemporary issues including campus carry guns, cyberstalking, and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).
- Click below to learn more about her research, her vision for the next ACJS annual meeting, and advice for students and junior faculty
- Email: bitna.kim@shsu.edu



Gorazd Meško, Ph.D.
University of Maribor, Slovenia

- Professor of Criminology at the University of Maribor in Slovenia
- Served as President of the European Society of Criminology (2018) and as President of the Slovenian Society of Criminal Law and Criminology (2001-2007)
- Recipient of the Freda Adler Award of the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology (2022) and ACJS International Section G. O. W Mueller Award in 2024
- Research focused on Comparative Criminology, Policing, Crime Prevention, Victimology and Penology
- Click below to learn more about his research strategy, the evolution of his research over the years, and his advice for students and junior faculty
- Email: gorazd.mesko@um.si



Video recording: Sujung Cho
Video editing: Mike Toro

Interview with Dr. Bitna Kim

Based on your research, could you share your insights on Cyberstalking and gunviolence?

In recent publications, I have synthesized studies on cyberstalking in the *Journal of Criminal Justice* and campus carry in *Justice Quarterly*. Both studies employed a systematic review and meta-analysis approach. Extensive research has been conducted on each, and my goal was to synthesize these findings.

Regarding cyberstalking, my study found both similarities and differences in contributing factors between cyberstalking and traditional, in-person stalking. A larger effect size was observed for risk factors as compared to protective factors.

And, given the public concern surrounding campus shootings, there has been an increase in studies focusing on campus carry. The purpose of my study was to synthesize these findings, focusing in particular on whether risk factors varied across attitudes, intentions, and behaviors related to campus carry. According to the findings, there were notable differences among these factors, highlighting the need for targeted strategies, particularly regarding factors associated with actual campus carry behavior.

In both studies, the implications suggest that a one-size-fits-all strategy will not work. Instead, interventions must be tailored to the specific dynamics and contributing factors of each context to address cyberstalking and gun violence effectively.

Congratulations on winning the 2023 KOSCA Excellence-in-Research Award! Could you tell us how your research has evolved over the years?

I am humbled and honored to receive the 2023 KOSCA Excellent-in-Research Award. My work doesn't revolve around a single topic area. Instead, I strive to embody the roles of a "translational criminologist" and a "transnational criminologist."

As a *translational criminologist*, my research is centered on bridging the gap between academic findings and practical applications. I begin by identi-

fying contemporary issues such as cyberstalking and campus carry, then synthesize and disseminate the research findings. I focus on evaluating the practical implications or effect sizes of these findings, which are of the utmost importance to practitioners and policymakers. Using a systematic review and meta-analysis approach, I also try to provide comprehensive assessments of existing research as well as identify areas that require further investigation, suggesting future research directions.

In my role as a *transnational criminologist*, my international background informs my approach to translating research into practice. In particular, I am interested in whether findings from one country or culture can be applied to different international contexts.

Overall, my research trajectory reflects a commitment to advancing the criminology and criminal justice field through comprehensive synthesis, dissemination, and application of research findings, both within and across international contexts.



Interview with Dr. Bitna Kim

You must be busy preparing for the next ACJS conference! Could you tell us about your vision for the next annual meeting?

I am honored to serve as President of ACJS and am responsible for organizing the 62nd annual conference, which will take place in Denver from March 11 to 15, 2025.

ACJS is an international organization dedicated to transforming justice through research, education, and practice, and the Denver conference will reflect this mission. This year's conference theme is "The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Case for Inclusion, Interaction, and Internationalization."

The program team and I are working hard to organize featured sessions and events to facilitate interaction among researchers, practitioners, educators, and students. We are also extending our reach beyond the borders of the United States to ensure international participation.

The conference is expected to be both educational and enjoyable. It will showcase Denver's unique culture and history while advancing meaningful interaction and collaboration in criminal justice and criminology. It would be great if KOSCA members could join us in Denver at the ACJS conference.

Could you share any memorable moments from your 16 years of teaching?

Teaching is important: it is our main job as professors. But, as a non-native English speaker from Korea, teaching in the United States has presented its challenges.

In my statistics course, I often share my journey as a foreigner struggling with English. To my students, I explain that understanding numbers (statistics) is similar to learning a new language— it's not always easy, but with dedication and effort, progress is possible. It was common for students to complain about my statistics course's demanding nature. However, the most rewarding moments for me are when stu-

dents express that they have learned and improved. Hearing those words—"I learned"—is truly the highlight of my teaching career.

Aside from statistics, I often teach contemporary issues in Criminal Justice. This course requires students to identify and research a contemporary issue. In some cases, I find myself learning from their perspectives and insights. My joy as a professor comes from these moments of mutual learning.

While teaching presents challenges, in moments like these—when knowledge is shared, understood, and cultivated—that makes it so rewarding.

Based on your experience, what advice would you offer to junior faculty members and graduate students?

Each of us is unique. I advise junior faculty members and graduate students in teaching and research to discover and cultivate your unique brands. This process may take time, so patience is key.

Also, invest time and effort into enhancing your strengths rather than solely focusing on improving weaknesses. Having these strengths makes you unique in academia.

I encourage focusing on learning moments and growth opportunities, as our profession often does not produce instant outcomes.

Interview with Dr. Gorazd Meško

Who has most influenced your work?

I had great mentors. The first professor who influenced my research career was a mentor for my MA thesis. He convinced me to study in the Central Prison of Slovenia and test a theory of criminal lifestyle and criminal careers. I spent three years in prison as a researcher – from Monday to Thursday, and transcribed interviews for the rest of the week. Three years of research resulted in a nice piece of work that took me to an academic career. As an MA student, I was already an assistant in criminology, and after graduation, I became a senior lecturer.

I got a grant in 1995 for a study visit at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge, UK. Two scholars really impressed me – David Farrington and Loraine Gelsthorpe. I enjoyed a study visit at the Centre for Criminological Research in Oxford in 1996. I learned from the best scholars and upgraded my research skills. In 1998, I completed my PhD dissertation on police officers' personality characteristics and their attitudes towards marginal social groups and defended it successfully.

In 1999, I got a grant to improve my teaching skills in criminology and spent some time with Roger Hood as a teaching apprentice who learned skills from a distinguished professor of criminology. In addition, I met a great guy, Steven Farrall, with whom I published a paper on fear of crime. In 2000, I spent some time teaching at Grand Valley State University in the USA, where my host was James Houston, a great scholar and a friend.

I had a series of lectures and visits at other universities in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. I started a very fruitful cooperation with Chuck Fields from Eastern Kentucky University in 2000. This significant joint venture lasted for more than two decades. We coedited English issues of the *Journal of Criminal Justice and Security* and coauthored and coedited many other publications. The next year, I got a grant for post-doc research on crime prevention and spent several months at the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge, UK. The result of this

study visit was a monograph on crime prevention. In 2002, I spent several months in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, researching a socially disorganized post-conflict society. Later, I cooperated with colleagues from Michigan State University and other academic institutions in the USA, UK and Europe.

I must mention the names of people who have significantly influenced my work. In punishment and prison studies, I owe immense gratitude to Roger Hood and my mentor, Franc Brinc, from the Institute of Criminology in Ljubljana, also Vinko Skalar, professor of penology and Miran Čuk, professor of statistics and research methods.

In the fields of policing and criminal justice, Mahesh Nalla and Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovich from MSU played a very special role in my research on policing; in the area of crime prevention, P.O. Wikstrom and Mike Tonry, a director of the Institute of Criminology in Cambridge who invited me to broaden my horizons of crime prevention and crime policy. In situational crime prevention and crime science, Ronald Clarke, Marcus Felson and other crime science/situational crime prevention scholars have had a significant impact on my career.

There were many colleagues to whom I am grateful for their support. Among them, Mike Reisig has a special place because we have done some incredible work in comparative criminology, legitimacy and local safety studies. Justice Tankebe and other criminal justice legitimacy scholars have greatly influenced my academic development. Recently, we joined the ISRD4 study and cooperation with colleagues from this research group has been great. In victimology, I have learned a lot from a great group of enthusiastic scholars from Balkan countries with whom I recently contributed an edited book. Not to forget Rene Levy from GERN, Helmut Kury from Max Planck in Freiburg, Helmut Hirtenlehner from Linz, Lieven Pauwels from Ghent, and John Winterdyk from Calgary.

Interview with Dr. Gorazd Meško

How are you able to publish and receive grants so much?

I must mention that money is important, but not the most important. The most important are ideas and motivation to contribute. In addition to this, it is even more important to work with a great team. When one has good references and is still able to do their work properly and write research proposals that are accepted, then a snowball effect happens.

I live and work in Slovenia. My working language is Slovenian. The academic promotion criteria are mainly based on international publications in WoS and Scopus journals, authored and edited books, and chapters in edited books by internationally renowned publishers. My mentors recommended that I start writing as soon as possible and get proficient in English to communicate with international researchers and publish research results in international publications. It was not easy in the beginning, but persistence paid off eventually.

There were two stages of my research career. The first could be named »for free but not in vain.« It comprised many preliminary research projects that resulted in national and international publications. Some of these projects later developed into something bigger. To mention a few: my work with Mahesh Nalla from Michigan State University on private security resulted in several publications and doctoral research of my first PhD graduate. Work with Mike Reisig on legitimacy in prisons was a great success. I owe Mike a lot for his friendly support for many years. A study on fear of crime, which I started in 1999, developed into a comparative study between Bosnia and Slovenia, and the second PhD candidate who is now already a full professor of criminology.

National and international projects characterized the second stage, and much of my success in this stage is due to my coauthors. The most critical project in my career was CRIMPREV (2006-2009), where we met with the best criminology researchers in Europe. In 2007, my colleague Goran Klemenčič, who had graduated from Harvard, coauthored with me a book chapter on the legitimacy of policing in Slovenia

for a book edited by Tom Taylor. This was a big step forward. I could say that real learning started when I became a full professor in 2009 when we began a research project on environmental criminology and protection of the environment—multidisciplinary perspectives.

I also got the first early-career researcher who worked with me between 2009 and 2012. We developed this project on a higher level, organising a NATO advanced research workshop on understanding and managing environmental threats in South-eastern Europe. The result of this study was a special issue of *Crime, Law and Social Change* on green criminology and a monograph in English, later translated into 7 other languages. My former PhD student is becoming a prominent scholar in the field of green criminology.

I headed a project on local safety—fear of crime and the role of police in providing local safety and security (2010-2012). This was the first national project that later became a wider national project with more than ten researchers covering many local safety and security perspectives. We have been intensively researching local safety and security since 2015. In 2016, we published a book on local safety and security research and criminology, and in 2018 on policy-making and practice—between common sense and evidence-based responses. Recently, in 2021 and 2023, we focused on urban-rural perspectives and the UN Sustainable development goals.

In 2013, I got a national grant for a project on the legitimacy of criminal justice. We worked so well that we expanded it to many Eastern European countries. I cooperated with Justice Tankebe and Mike Reisig and national scholars. We published a book on *Trust and Legitimacy in Criminal Justice: European Perspectives* (2015).

Interview with Dr. Gorazd Meško

In the meantime, I got a grant from the Slovenian research agency for an early-career researcher who was my PhD student and is now my close co-worker. We have recently conducted a study in Slovenian prisons and tested the perception of legitimacy and self-legitimacy of the prison staff.

I have also headed projects on plural policing, community policing, deviance, juvenile delinquency, environmental issues and violence. The most important things in any research partnership are the high quality of work, mutual respect, complementing each other, and loving your job. Perhaps the latter should be the first.

Do you ever get writer's block?

Of course. Sometimes, my head is empty, and I cannot write a word. Then I listen to music, read, watch documentaries and go for a long walk. And then it comes back. Sometimes I write more in one day than in the previous weeks. If I ride a high wave of concentration, I do not stop. Then I spend a lot of time in my little world...

How many different research projects do you tend to work on at one time?

I usually run at least two projects simultaneously. It also depends on how big the projects are and how tight the deadlines are.

Do you have a specific time of the day when you prefer to do research?

I usually get up early, between 5 and 6 o'clock in the morning. My working biorhythm also depends on how busy my teaching schedule is. I usually plan the largest teaching load in the winter semester to do research in the spring when nature wakes up and sunny days come back.

How many pages do you tend to write per day?

Sometimes up to ten pages, sometimes barely a paragraph, but I try to write at least a page or two. My mentor once said: »If you write a page daily, it is up to 30 pages per month. When you edit these 30 pages, you will have at least 15 pages of reasonably good text.« It is also good to make notes of ideas that appear by coincidence and keep them "seasoning" for later.

What constitutes a specific research year for you?

I have been working at the UM FCJS for 31 years. My regular research year, besides teaching, consists of at least two projects I do simultaneously. I regularly attend several national conferences and at least two international ones. Before 2001, I attended the British Society of Criminology conferences. After 2001, I have regularly participated at the European Society of Criminology, American Society of Criminology and Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences conferences. I have travelled quite a lot and visited numerous universities worldwide, as well as in South Korea. I was impressed with the Korean cuisine, hospitality and kindness of Korean scholars.

My idea is to upgrade previous research projects and add some new perspectives. I gladly accept new research challenges as well. The majority of research project findings are included in the subjects I teach, especially for MA and PhD students. I also need to emphasize the importance of PhD students in developing new research avenues, especially if we become research partners who »speak the same language« and have respect for each other. It is a learning process which goes both ways.

Interview with Dr. Gorazd Meško

Do you set specific productivity goals in terms of quantity and quality?

Publishing is related to academic promotion. The promotion requirements at our university are quite high and based on international recognition – publications in SSCI and Scopus journals, authored and edited books and book chapters in books published by renowned international publishers. I stick to topics I am quite confident about. I try upgrading my previous studies to do better research and gain new knowledge. Quality is very important, but we still have to write and publish a certain number of papers to prove our academic activity for teaching and mentoring PhD students, regardless of the fact that one is a full professor.

Productivity is something that is nowadays related to academic freedom – you can do what you can do best and contribute. Once, our rector said: »Meško forget about academic freedom. We are in the times of academic production, and this is all that really matters.« So... no comment.

What would you advise junior faculty and graduate students?

Be persistent, and do not be vain when you achieve something. Be proud and happy that you can do research and teach young people. This is a real privilege because you can share your knowledge, and you have a great opportunity to learn constantly.

It is also important not to lose contact with the real world and to enjoy little things of everyday life outside academia. Try to be disciplined and resilient. Learn stress-coping strategies as much as possible because academia can cause a lot of frustration due to its competitive nature.

Do not forget to do sports as work in academia can sometimes be unhealthy due to long hours working with a computer and even longer sitting. A healthy mind in a healthy body is the best combination. I was a judo player, then a judo referee and coach. I refereed at Grand Prix competitions, European

championships and world Francophone games.

Currently, I am president of a local judo club in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. I follow the principles of judo also in my academic life—two important principles: Seiryoku Zenyo (the maximum efficient use of one's energy to achieve goals) and Jita Kyo-ei (functioning in harmony with others and being a useful member of society). To transfer these two principles to my academic life, I could simply say: »Learn as much as possible. Become a competent researcher and teacher. Respect others and yourself. Transfer your knowledge and experience to the next generations. Do good for your society.«

KOSCA in Korea

KOSCA's global collaboration efforts during the summer began with a joint conference held by the **Korea CPTED** (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) **Association** (President: **Dong Hee Lee**) and the **Korean Criminology Association** (President: **Dr. Eui-Gab Hwang**) on June 14 at Kyonggi University.

Both the Korean Society of Criminology and the Korean Society of CPTED are esteemed academic institutions recognized for their contributions to crime prevention and public safety policies. These organizations not only lead the development of theories and research on evolving crime but also offer practical crime prevention strategies and educational programs in partnership with criminal justice agencies to enhance public safety.



“Strategies for Building a Safe Society Based on Criminology and CPTED”

The Seoul Metropolitan Government Autonomous Police Commission and the Gyeonggi Nambu Provincial Police sponsored the conference, “Strategies for Building a Safe Society Based on Criminology and CPTED.” **Dr. Kyung-shick Choi, President of KOSCA**, delivered the opening remarks, and **Dr. Bitna Kim, President of ACJS**, provided a congratulatory message.

The event featured two sessions: the first focused on recent CPTED strategies for building a safer society, and the second addressed criminological response strategies for public safety. KOSCA member **Dr. Byongook Moon** (University of Texas at San Antonio) presented a study titled “A Study on the Status, Negative Impact, and School Response to the Experiences of Victimization Among Middle and High School Teachers in the U.S.”

2024 International White Hat Conference



The 2024 International White Hat Conference took aim at newly developing threats, with its theme of “AI & Robotics Frontier: Mastering Cybercrime Defense in the Digital Age.” Hosted by BU’s Metropolitan College (MET) and the Center for Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity in partnership with the Korean National Police University and the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, this year’s conference was held June 26–28 in Panykyo, South Korea—a renowned technology hub. With 200 attendees joining on site, and an additional 518 participating virtually, the fifth annual installment of the conference was a rousing success, gathering global leaders from law enforcement and academia as

well as experts and practitioners in AI, robotics, material science, and cybersecurity to explore the newest technologies and methods for tackling cybercrime, ensuring digital security, and understanding the ethical and legal considerations of these rapidly progressing domains.

The program featured keynote speeches from prominent figures such as **Ben Pak**, Police officer at the Los Angeles Police Department and President of the Korean American Law Enforcement Organization; **Dr. Lou Chitkushev**, Senior Associate Dean at Boston University Metropolitan College; **Dr. Tae Hoon Ha**, President of the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice; and **Dr. Kyung-shick**

Choi, founder of the White Hat Conference and Director of Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity Programs at Boston University Metropolitan College.

Sessions at the conference covered a range of topics, including AI and Robotics in the criminal justice system, advancing security frontiers, the use of AI and robotics in crime prevention, and legal perspectives and strategies. The event also included mock trials, a cyber safety education panel, student paper presentations, and challenges in cybercrime investigation. A career fair provided students with valuable networking opportunities.



“Cybercrime Defense in Preparation for the AI and Robotics Revolution”



The White Hat Cybercrime Investigation Challenge included competition in a 12-hour digital forensics and cybercrime investigation scenario developed by Boston University. The top three winners were **Korean National Police University** (1st Place), **Team Hungary** (2nd Place), and **Chung-Ang University** (3rd Place), who received the scholarship from the **Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice**.

Students also submitted papers for the Cybercrime Prevention and Response Award. This year's winning papers were: **Sanaika Shetty** (Boston University) for “Intersection of AI and Cybercrime: Risks, Trends, and Countermeasures” and **Yashna Praveen** (Boston University) for “Cyber Victimization in the Healthcare Industry: An Analysis of Offender Motivations and Target Characteristics Using Routine Activities Theory.”

The 2024 White Hat Conference markedly advanced the cybersecurity discourse and implementation of AI and robotics. Through in-depth discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on challenges, it addressed current technological and ethical challenges and paved the way for future innovations and international collaborations in the field.

Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice President, Dr. Tae-hoon Ha, gave the closing remarks. “Let’s build on the momentum gained here to continue to innovate, collaborate, and advance our global efforts against cybercrime,” he said. “Thank you all for your participation and commitment to shaping the future of cybersecurity and criminal justice.”

According to **BU MET’s Dr. Kyungshick Choi**, the South Korean backdrop was indispensable to the event’s success. “The unique

blend of location, culture, and advanced technological showcases made this year’s conference distinct and memorable,” he said.

But, as ever, the future is always in mind when it comes to cybersecurity. It was with that in consideration that Dr. Choi forecasted further possibilities for the conference in years to come. “Looking ahead, we are exploring potential venues in Europe and are currently in discussions with German law enforcement agencies for next year’s conference.”

Watch the recording [here](#).

KOSCA Summer Conference

The first summer conference of the Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA) was held at the Wylie Center & Tupper Manor, Endicott College, from July 30 to August 1, 2024. The conference began with the Executive Board Meeting, followed by a Grants Workshop led by **Dr. Kyungseok Choo** of Endicott College. On Day 2, KOSCA's five academic divisions presented their research, with the sessions chaired by **Dr. Myunghyun Choi** (University of Central Missouri) and **Dr. Jiseun Sohn** (Southern University and A&M College).

Danee Lee (University of Cincinnati), representing the **Division of Criminological Theory and Juvenile Justice**, presented a paper titled "The Influence of Peer Influence and Parenting on Adolescent Drug Abuse: Evaluating Drug Prevention Programs."

Dr. Sinyong Choi (Kennesaw State University), representing the **Division of Korean Community and Criminal Justice**, presented "Korean Americans' Perceptions of Police Legitimacy and Cooperation with Police."

Hyeongguen Choe (University of Pennsylvania), representing the **Division of Policing and Public Safety**, discussed "Unpacking the Failure of D.A.R.E.: Insights from Student Participants."

Sohee Jung (University of South Carolina), for the **Division of Cybercriminology**, presented findings on "Cryptocurrency and Drug Trafficking: Exploring



Intersections and Implications." **Hyeseon Noh** (University of South Carolina), representing the **Division of Artificial Intelligence and Criminal Justice**, shared insights on "The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Drug Crime." Guest speakers, chaired by **Dr. Hyesun Kim** (Worcester State University), included **Dr. Stephen Morreale** (Worcester State University), who presented "Navigating Drug Issues: Insights from a Former DEA and Criminal Justice Professor," and **Paul B. Lim**, President of COYAD, discussed its mission and goals. Day 2 concluded with a Poster session.

Day 3 was moderated by **Dr. Jae-Seung Lee** (Miami University) on the panel of "Improving Youth Drug Prevention Strategies: Exploring Factors that Contribute to Prevention." The conference was well-attended by KOSCA members, scholars, and distinguished guests from the Korean National Police Agency, including Byeongjun Park, Kwangmin Park, Choongkeun Shin, Minche Jeong, Dayeon Yee, and Sohee An. Stay tuned for the next summer conference in 2025!



15th Annual Conference of Asian Criminological Society in Manila



KOSCA members participated in the [15th Annual Conference of the Asian Criminological Society \(ACS\)](#), held from August 8 to 10 in Manila, Philippines. The event, hosted in collaboration with the Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PCAP), aimed to unite scholars, researchers, and practitioners across Asia to explore the region's most pressing criminology and criminal justice issues.

The conference theme, **“Criminology, Criminal Justice, Technology, and Public Safety,”** set the stage for diverse discussions. The ACS President Professor Ramasubbu Thilagaraj, from the University of Madras, India, delivered the opening remarks. Key sessions included “Current Developments in Criminological Theories,” “Forensic Science and Rules on Evidence,” and “Artificial Intelligence, Digital Forensics, Cybercrime, and Cybersecurity.”



KOSCA members **Dr. Bitna Kim** (Sam Houston State University) delivered the **keynote speech** titled **“Bridging Borders: Translational and Transnational Criminology”** and **Dr. Sujung Cho** (Southern Illinois University Carbondale) participated in the session on **Artificial Intelligence, Digital Forensics, Cybercrime, and Cybersecurity**, alongside international colleagues.



Organized and Hosted by:
ASIAN CRIMINOLOGICAL SOCIETY (ACS)
& PROFESSIONAL CRIMINOLOGISTS
ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (PCAP)



KOSCA at UKC 2024 San Francisco

“The Next Era of Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship with Artificial Intelligence”

The US-Korea Conference (UKC) occurred in San Francisco on August 21 - 24, 2024. This event marked the first participation of the Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA) as a D-1 group at UKC. Through this collaborative effort, KOSCA aimed to build synergies between criminology and the technological disciplines represented by the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) to enhance the impact and scope of crime research.

The “Navigating the Nexus of Technology and Crime Prevention in the Digital Age” session explored the evolving relationship between technology and crime prevention, highlighting both opportunities and challenges. It focused on advancements like predictive policing, AI surveillance, cybercrime prevention, and robotic patrols, aiming to improve law enforcement and public safety. The discussion also touched on ethical considerations, striving to develop effective, fair, and responsible strategies for crime prevention in the digital age.

Several innovative topics were presented during the session. **Dr. Kangpyo So** (AtoMe) introduced Multifunctional Ballistic Armor for Security and Surveillance Robots.



Dr. Kyung-Shick Choi (Boston University) discussed “Robotic Police Patrols: Balancing Crime Prevention Efficacy with Cybersecurity and Civil Liberties Concerns.” **Dr. Jae-Seung Lee** (Miami University) presented on Community Policing and AI: The Need for Transition to Cyber Community. **Dr. Sinchul Back** (University of Scranton) explored Crime Prevention Strat-

egies in the Era of Deepfakes, and **Dr. Hyoungah Park** (Saint Peter’s University) evaluated the use of Random Forest in Crime Prediction.

The session successfully brought together experts from criminology and technology to address the complexities of crime prevention in the digital era.



KOSCA at UKC 2024 San Francisco

“The Next Era of Science, Technology and Entrepreneurship with Artificial Intelligence”



Dr. Kangpyo So (AtoMe), a newly joined member of KOSCA through UKC, presented at the conference on “Multifunctional Ballistic Armor for Security and Surveillance Robots.” His presentation highlighted his pioneering work with a new metal nanocomposite material, which could potentially be used in security patrol robots as anti-ballistic protection.

Dr. So’s journey began in Namwon, Korea, where he faced significant challenges from a young age. At just two years old, he lost his left arm in a tragic accident involving a machine used to dry and chop grass for cows. Despite these early adversities and a difficult family background, Dr. So stayed persistent despite

these early adversities and a difficult family background. He studied out of boredom while his local friends went to the army, and he eventually gained admission to the Chemistry program at Gunsan University. Financial difficulties meant he relied on friends for tuition assistance.

Feeling disconnected from society due to his disability, Dr. So applied for a national scholarship, which funded his study abroad in the US. His commitment to education led him to a research career at MIT starting in 2013. After a decade of research in the US, Dr. So founded his company, AtoME, in New Jersey in 2023. His company focuses on developing advanced materials, including the

nanocomposite he showcased at the UKC conference, designed to enhance the safety features of security robots.

Beyond his professional achievements, Dr. So is deeply involved in community and humanitarian efforts. He supports runaway children in the Philippines and volunteers with his church to assist individuals without permanent housing. He is also dedicated to combating prejudice against disabled individuals, working to change perceptions and promote inclusivity.

Dr. So’s story is a testament to resilience and innovation, reflecting his significant contributions to both technology and community service.

[Interview credit: Seungku Kang at US Knews](#)



Study Abroad Program in *South Korea* University of Scranton

Dr. Sinchul Back at the University of Scranton, and **Dr. Michael Jenkins** led a Study Abroad Course this past summer as part of a Special Topics in Criminal Justice course. Eleven students had a chance to experience an in-depth exploration of the CJ systems both in South Korea and the US.

Contact Dr. Back at sinchul.back@scranton.edu if you are interested in learning more about the program in South Korea or have questions about organizing and planning a study abroad course at your University.



Program Highlights

- Students Visited key institutions to gain a comprehensive understanding of South Korea’s criminal justice and national security systems
- This included visits to the Blue House, the Korean National Police Agency, Korean National Police University, Korean Supreme Prosecution Office and the Korean Defense Counterintelligence Agency
- Students also participated as a cybercrime investigation team in the 2024 International White Hat Conference.
- Students had an opportunity to showcase their research projects related to cybercrime investigation at the conference.
- Click [here](#) to read the news report and student testimonials.

KOSCA-sponsored Panels at ASC 2024

See you in San Francisco!

Drugs in the Modern Times

November 14, 2024, Thursday, 11:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m., Golden Gate C1 - B2 Level

The session discusses various aspects of drug-related crime in relations to artificial intelligence, drug abuse educational program, drug trafficking, the Dark Web, and criminological theoretical perspectives. All preliminary research presentations are funded by the non-profit organization, COYAD (Council of Youth Anti-Drug).

- **Artificial Intelligence in drug crime** - Hyeseon Noh (University of South Carolina), Juyoung Song (Penn State Schuylkill), Hyoungah Park (Saint Peter's University)
- **Why D.A.R.E. failed? Voices from students who participated** - Hyeongguen Choe (University of Pennsylvania), Jae-Seung Lee (Miami University)
- **Analyzing cryptocurrency transactions of organizational criminal activities related to drug trafficking in the Dark Web** - Sohee Jung (University of South Carolina), Kyung-shick Choi (Boston University), Sinchul Back (University of Scranton)
- **A retrospective study of the D.A.R.E. program: Do peers and family matter?** - Danee Lee (University of Cincinnati), Hyunjung Cheon (University of Texas El Paso)

KOSCA Annual Meeting @ Golden Gate C1 - B2 Level

Annual Student Meeting

- Thursday November 14, 12:30-1:50p.m.

Annual Meeting

- Thursday November 14, 2:00-2:20p.m.

Reception

- Thursday November 14, 2:30-4:50p.m.

Annual Meeting

Honorary Guest Speaker:

Dr. Evan Marie Lowder
Associate Professor of Criminology, Law, and Society at George Mason University
The Crucial Nexus of Public Health and Criminal Justice in Drug Prevention



“The Crucial Nexus of Public Health and Criminal Justice in Drug Prevention”

Member Highlights

North Korean Migrants in China

Whether Illegal Migrants, Refugees, or Human Trafficking Victims



By [Hyoungah Park, Ph.D.](#)
Saint Peter's University
Publisher: Lexington Books
[Link](#)

North Korean Migrants in China traces the journey of North Koreans who escape from their homeland, travel to China, and ultimately reach South Korea.

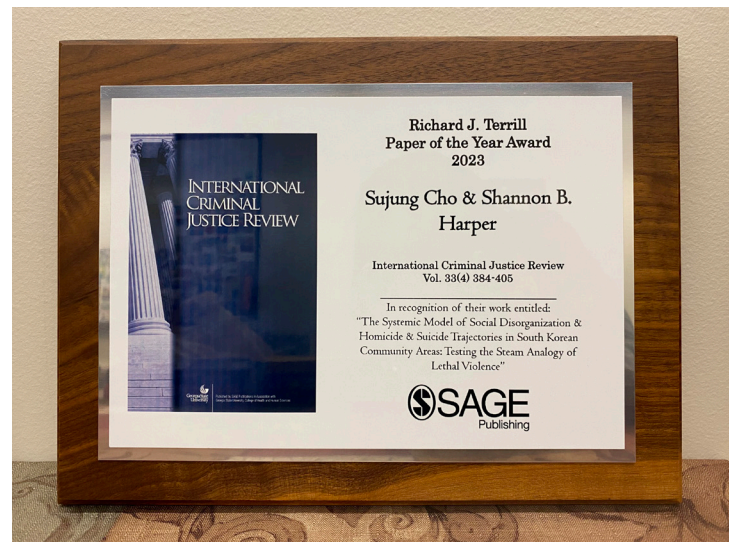
Hyoungah Park interviews fifty-eight North Korean migrants in China and delves into their stories, examining why they chose to flee North Korea despite the dangers, how they managed their escapes, and their harrowing experiences of being victimized by human traffickers. Many of these migrants were deceived, coerced, and forced into exploitation—sold as brides to strangers in China, compelled to work in brothels and video chat rooms, and subjected to labor abuse. The constant fear of deportation, language barriers, unfamiliar terrain, and a lack of essential knowledge heightened their vulnerability.

By dissecting the factors that contributed to their victimization, Park offers policy recommendations aimed at preventing future cases of human trafficking.

We welcome Book Publication & Grant news from our members.
Please send submissions for our next issue to: newsletter@kosca.org
Deadline: **January 31, 2025**

Member Highlights

Dr. Sujung Cho at Southern Illinois University Carbondale received the **Richard J. Terrill Paper of the Year Award** for her co-authored paper titled *“The Systemic Model of Social Disorganization & Homicide & Suicide Trajectories in South Korean Community Areas: Testing the Stream Analogy of Lethal Violence”* published in *International Criminal Justice Review*.



The Editorial Board of ICJR chose the paper as the best paper published in 2023, as it *“applied a rich theoretical framework and rigorous analytic methods to investigate the homicide-suicide interrelationship in South Korea.”* *“Their innovative study disentangled the macrolevel drivers of lethal violence and how certain forms of social control mediate this relationship in an understudied Asian context.”*

We welcome Book Publication & Grant news from our members.
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Deadline: **January 31, 2025**

Member Highlights

Chairman Park Hyung-kwon Chosen as the 2024 Korea Global Leader



Hyungkwon Park, Vice President of OKTA’s North America Chapter and the operator of the largest Korean beauty supply chain in the U.S., “Beauty Master,” has been named a “2024 Korea Global Leader.” Park was recognized for fostering mutual growth with Americans and supporting local communities through initiatives such as scholarship programs, earning him the title of Global Leader. Notably, he established the “Georgia Advocates for Crime Prevention” to ensure the safety of Korean residents in the U.S. and has significantly contributed to enhancing cooperation between the Korean community and U.S. law enforcement, helping to create a safer environment for Korean-Americans. The Korea Global Leader Awards, now in its 12th year, is an annual event organized by the Maeil Business Newspaper and Maekyung Media Group to recognize outstanding entrepreneurs and heads of institutions.



Member Highlights

BJA Internet of Things (IoT) National Training and Technical Assistance Program



The University of Texas at San Antonio™

Dr. Kyung-shick Choi was recently awarded the Bureau of Justice Assistance Internet of Thinkgs (IoT) National Training and Technical Assistance Program. Boston University (BU) and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), in collaboration with WestEd's Justice and Prevention Research Center, will utilize this funding for the development of innovative, practical training methodologies for investigations involving IoT devices and systems. Visit the [grant award information page](#) to learn more about the program.



Publication Opportunities

Journal of Applied Security Research

Editor-in-Chief: Hyeyoung Lim, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

[Journal of Applied Security Research](#) is the official journal of the Security & Crime Prevention Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. It is an international premier, peer-reviewed journal for scholars, educators, practitioners and students in the fields of security, criminology and criminal justice, and crime prevention.

The JASR particularly welcomes evidence-based empirical research with an emphasis on the latest methods, techniques and technology applied to crime prevention and security management. The journal also publishes case studies, interviews (see Practitioner's Corner) and state-of-the-art systematic reviews.

Coverage includes, but is not limited to:

- Applied security systems and technologies in crime prevention
- Career development
- Computer and information security
- Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)
- Cybercrime
- Cyberpolicing
- Cybersecurity
- Evaluations of security regulations, policies and laws
- Fraud
- Health and safety
- Personal security
- Physical security
- Private security/policing
- Risk assessment
- Security management
- Security trends and analyses
- Victims' and offenders' perspectives
- Workplace violence
- Homeland security
- Terrorism

The International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime

[The Journal](#) welcomes research submissions from criminologists, social scientists, computer scientists, cybersecurity practitioners, members of police agencies, policy-makers, and academic researchers. International and global perspectives on cybercrime and cybersecurity topics are also welcome for submission. The International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence and Cybercrime (IJCIC) is affiliated with the Center for Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity (CIC).

Editor-in-Chief: Kyung-shick Choi, Ph.D., Boston University

Editors:

Hyeyoung Lim, Ph.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham

Claire S. Lee, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts Lowell

Cathy Marcum, Ph.D., Appalachian State University

Austen D. Givens, Ph.D., Utica College

ACJS Annual Meeting Call for Presentations

Please contact the Program Committee Chair Dr. Jiseun Sohn for KOSCA sponsored panels. All Members and Divisions are encouraged to make [submissions!](#)

Call for Presentations, Invitation to Participate, and Abstract Submission System

ACADEMY OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SCIENCES 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

March 11 -15, 2025
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, CO

Conference Theme:
***“The Future of Criminal Justice and Criminology: The Case
for Inclusion, Interaction, and Internationalization”***

Bitna Kim, ACJS President
Sam Houston State University

Camille Gibson, Program Co-Chair
Prairie View A&M University

Sarah Kuehn, Program Co-Chair
Slippery Rock University

Sujung Cho, Program Co-Chair
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Email: 2025acisprogram@gmail.com

The Program Committee requests submissions by Monday, September 30, 2024.
The final deadline for submissions is Monday, October 14, 2024. Please note that
the online submission system will close at midnight EST on October 14, 2024.

ACJS Annual Meeting Keynote & Plenary Speakers



The Future of Criminal Justice & Criminology:
**The Case for Inclusion, Interaction,
and Internationalization**



ACJS 62nd ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11-15, 2025 • DENVER, COLORADO

KEYNOTE SPEECH
“Translational Criminology”
Dr. John Laub
Former Director of NIJ
University of Maryland

PLENARY SPEAKERS

“Inclusion in Academia and Government”
Dr. Alex Piquero
University of Miami

“Interaction between Researchers and Practitioners”
Mr. Doug Dretke
2024 E.R.Cass Correctional Award Recipient

“Inclusion in the Criminal Legal System”
Dr. Cassia Spohn
Arizona State University

“Internationalization in Criminal Justice and Criminology”
Dr. Jianhong Liu
University of Macau

ACJS 62ND ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 11-15, 2025
DENVER, COLORADO
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
SEPT. 30, 2024



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KOREAN SOCIETY OF
CRIMINOLOGY IN AMERICA

Newsletter

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Deadline: **January 31, 2025**