

# JOHN T. LEVERSO

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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- 2023 to Current Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati  
Affiliations: Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology, University of Washington
- 2021 to 2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Oklahoma
- 2020 to 2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Whitman College

## EDUCATION

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- 2020 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Washington  
Committee: Sarah Quinn (Co-Chair), Callie Burt (Co-Chair), Jerald Herting, Robert Crutchfield, and Darryl Holman  
  
Concentration in Social Science Statistics, Center for Statistics in the Social Sciences
- 2016 M.A. Sociology, University of Washington  
Committee: Ross Matsueda (Chair), Jerald Herting, and Darryl Holman
- 2014 B.A. Sociology and Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, University of Illinois at Chicago

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Street Gangs, Crime and Delinquency, Social Media, Mental Health, Gender, Mixed Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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JOURNAL ARTICLES (\*indicates graduate student co-author)

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**Leverso, John** and Sou Lee. (Forthcoming) "The Status of The Surveilled: Hyper Surveillance and Status Attainment Among Gangs." *Social Problems*.

**Leverso, John**, Kate K. O'Neill, Alex Knorre and George Mohler. (2025) "The limits of digital liberation: The social locations of gang-affiliated girls and women in the digital streets." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 96: 102344.

**Leverso, John**, Youness Diouane and George Mohler (2025) "Measuring Online-Offline Spillover of Gang Violence Using Bivariate Hawkes Processes." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

**Leverso, John**, Cyrus Schleifer and David C. Pyrooz (2024) "Leaving the gang is good for your health: A stress process perspective on disengagement from gangs." *Criminology*.

**Leverso, John**, James A. Densley and Lindsey Insko (2024) "Keeping it real: A signaling theory perspective on authentic claims of gang membership made on social media." *Theoretical Criminology*.

Pyrooz, David C., **John Leverso**, James A. Densley and Jose Sanchez\* (2024) "Gang membership in developmental and life course perspective." *Annual Review of Criminology*.

Hsiao, Yuan, **John Leverso (Equal contribution and listed alphabetically)**, and Andrew Papachristos (2023) "The Corner, the Crew, and the Digital Street: Multiplex networks of gang online-offline conflict dynamics." *American Sociological Review*.

*Featured in Contexts Magazine <https://contexts.org/articles/digital-street/>*

Lee, Sou, and **John Leverso** (2023) "You In or Out?: Reflecting on Positionality in Gang Research." *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*.

**Leverso, John**, Rin Ferraro\*, April Fernandes and Jerald Herting (2023) "Life Course Trajectories of Offending and Mental Health Among Justice Involved Youth." *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*.

**Leverso, John**, and Chris Hess. (2021) "From the Hood to the Home: Masculinity Maturation of Chicago Street Gang Members." *Sociological Perspectives*.

*Featured in the Society Pages <https://thesocietypages.org/discoveries/2022/04/07/aging-and-manhood-among-gang-members/>*

*Winner of the SSSP Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division Student Paper Award, 2018.*

**Leverso, John**, and Kate K. O'Neill. (2021) "Youth Gangs and Victimization: An investigation of the impact of gang dynamics on experiences of victimization." *Deviant Behavior*.

**Leverso, John**, and Yuan Hsiao. (2021) "Gangbanging On The [Face]Book: Understanding Online Interactions of Chicago Latina/o Gangs." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.

**Leverso, John**, and Ross L. Matsueda. (2019) "Gang Organization and Gang Identity: An Investigation of Enduring Gang Membership." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

McCoy, Henrika, **John Leverso**, and Elizabeth A. Bowen. (2016) "What the MAYSI-2 Can Tell Us About Anger-Irritability and Trauma." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology* 60(5):555-574.

**Leverso, John**, William Bielby, and Lynette F. Hoelter. (2015) "Back on the streets: Maturation and risk factors for recidivism among serious juvenile offenders." *Journal of Adolescence* 41:67-75.

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## BOOKS

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Pyrooz, David C., James A. Densley and **John Liverso** (Editors). 2024. *Handbook on Gangs*. Oxford University Handbooks Series in Criminology.

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## OTHER WRITING

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Pyrooz, David C., James A. Densley and **John Liverso**. 2024. "Introduction to the OUP Handbook of Gangs and Society." In *Handbook on Gangs*. Oxford University Handbooks Series in Criminology, edited by Pyrooz, David C., James A. Densley and **John Liverso**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Papachristos, Andrew V., **John Liverso** and David Hureau. 2024. "A Relational Approach to Street Gangs." In *Handbook on Gangs*. Oxford University Handbooks Series in Criminology, edited by Pyrooz, David C., James A. Densley and **John Liverso**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

**Liverso, John**. 2021. Review of *Alt-Right Gangs: a hazy shade of white* (2020) by Reid and Valasik for *Social Forces*.

**Liverso, John**. 2018. Review of *The Neighborhood Has Its Own Rules: Latinos and African-Americans in South Los Angeles* (2016) by Cid Gregory Martinez for *Race and Justice*.

McCoy, Henrika, Joshua P. Mersky, **John Liverso**, and Elizabeth A. Bowen. 2014. "Risk assessment with juvenile offenders." Pp. 387-411 in *Juvenile justice sourcebook*, edited by W. T. Church II, D. W. Springer, and A. R. Stone. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2024	Society and Culture Research Advancement Program, The University of Cincinnati, \$25,000. <i>The Cincinnati Youth Survey</i> .
2023	U.S. Department of Education. Urban Youth Leadership Academy: Transitioning Gang-Impacted Youth to Higher Education Opportunities. Investigators, Smith, Paula; Juwan Bennett; Christina Campbell; <b>John Liverso</b> ; \$987,871. Award P116Y230013. 1 of 1 award.
2021	Faculty Investment Program, Vice President for Research, The University of Oklahoma, \$14,973. <i>Exploring Gang Interactions on the Digital and Geographic Street: A Study of Chicago Latinx Gangs</i> .
2015-2019	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle. \$130,000.
2018	Department of Sociology Graduate Research Grant, University of Washington, Seattle. \$2,000.
2015	Department of Sociology Graduate Research Grant, University of Washington, Seattle. \$900.
2014-2015	Top Scholar Fellowship, University of Washington, Seattle. \$40,000.
2014-2015	Schrag Endowment Fellowship Award, University of Washington, Seattle. \$4,000.

## AWARDS

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- 2019 National Medal of Museum and Library Science; chosen to accept the National Medal on behalf of Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research.
- 2018 Winner, SSSP Youth, Aging, and the Life Course Division Student Paper Award.
- 2017 Outstanding Masters Thesis Award, Department of Sociology, University of Washington, Seattle.
- 2014 Patrick Juris Memorial Award. Outstanding Performance in Sociology, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2014 Honors College Award. Outstanding Research Performance, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2014 Elected Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2014 Summa Cum Laude, Honors College, Highest Distinction in Sociology and Distinction in Psychology, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2013 Honors Council Award, Outstanding Research Performance, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2012 Member, Golden Key International Honor Society, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2012-2014 Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Award, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2012-2014 Dean's List, University of Illinois, Chicago.
- 2008 Honors Graduate, Lincoln Trail College.
- 2007-2008 CEO's Honors List, Lincoln Trail College.
- 2006-2007 President's List, Lake Land College.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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- 2024 **Leverso, John.** *Urban Chronicles: Navigating Gangs and Life Lessons.* Keynote speaker, Critical Issues Facing Children and Adolescents National Conference. Salt Lake City, UT. (November).
- 2024 **Leverso, John.** *The Unlikely Scholar.* Center for Neighborhood Engagement Research & Science Northwestern University. Evanston, Illinois (September).

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (\*indicates graduate student co-author; +indicates undergraduate co-author)

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- Nolterieke Sophia Laura, and **John Leverso.** 2024. "Do Gang-Involved Youth Differ from Broader Justice-Involved Youth?: Perceived Barriers and Access to Services." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA (November).
- Insko, Marie Lindsey\*, **John Leverso** and Ben Feldmeyer. 2024. "Unpacking Gang Dynamics on Social Media Through Signaling Theory." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (November).
- Proffit, Calvin\*, **John Leverso** and Ben Feldmeyer. 2024. "Extending the Immigration Crime Nexus to the Context of Gangs." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (November).
- O'Neill, K. Kate, and **John Leverso.** 2024 "Racial Innocence and Cultural Appropriation in a Latino Gang Forum." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA (November).
- Leverso, John,** and Kate K. O'Neill. 2023. "Don't Even Argue with Them Sis': Social Media Use Among Gang-Involved Girls and Women." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA (November).

- Lee, Sou, and **John Liverso**. 2023 “You In or Out?: Reflecting on Positionality in Gang Research.” 2023. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA (November).
- Ferraro, Rin\* **John Liverso**, April Fernandes and Jerald Herting. 2022. “Life Course Trajectories of Offending and Mental Health Among Justice Involved Youth.” (November).
- Schwartz, Bria\*, **John Liverso** and Cyrus Schleifer. 2022. “Pulling the Short Straw: The Intersection of Girls, Gangs, & Juvenile Detention.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Doyle, Margot \* and **John Liverso**. 2022. “Girls, Gangs and the Digital Street: Understanding Online Interactions of Women/Girls Involved in Gangs.” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Liverso, John** and Cyrus Schleifer. 2022. “Mental Health and Gang Disengagement: A Stress Process Perspective.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).
- O’Neill, K. Kate **and John Liverso** 2022. “Bargaining with Gang Patriarchy in the Digital Streets: Girls in Gangs Online.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Liverso, John**, Meredith Worthen and Chris Hess. 2022. “Gay gang slurs and misogyny off the streets and on Facebook.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November). American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Liverso, John**, David Schwager, Miranda Sitney, Wende Jackson, Jennifer Roark, and Erika Preuitt. “The Intergenerational Transmission of Gang Involvement from Fathers to Sons. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Liverso, John**, Yuan Hsiao, and Andrew Papachristos. 2021. “Investigating the Relationship between Gang Interactions Online and Offline Violent Events.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (November).
- Hess, Chris and **John Liverso**. 2021. “Changing Geography of Chicago Street Gangs from 2004 to 2018.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (November).
- Liverso, John** and Christian Hess. 2019. “Masculinity Across the Life Course of Long-Term Gang Members.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY (August).
- Liverso, John**. 2019. “Understanding Changes in Solidarity among Gang Members: A Case Study of Chicago’s Latino Gangs.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA (November).
- Lewi, Anna and **John Liverso**. 2018. “Incarceration Aftermath: The Effects of Serving Time on Transitioning Out of Gang Life.” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA (November).

- Tan, Zu, Zinyang, **John Liverso** and Christian Hess. 2018. "Gentrification and Gangs: Impacts Gang Relations and Vernacular." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Jeon, Grace\*, Lauren Sabbatani\*, and **John Liverso**. 2018. "Gangs and Social Media: Analyzing the Online Communications of Gang Members." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA (November).
- Liverso, John** and Christian Hess. 2018. "From the Hood to the Home: Masculinity Reformation of Chicago Street Gang Members" Critical Dialogue Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Philadelphia, PA (August).
- Martinez, Cid. Author Meets Critics: Waverly Duck, **John Liverso**, and Maria Beatriz Velez. 2017. "The Neighborhood Has Its Own Rules: Latinos and African Americans in South Los Angeles." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA (November).
- Liverso, John**. 2016. Tell Me Who You Hang with and I'll Tell You What You Are: Gang Organization, Identity, and Desistance." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA (November).
- Liverso, John** and Christian Hess. 2015. "It's been fun now I'm done: Desistance Trajectories of Chicago Street Gang Members." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington D.C. (November).
- Liverso, John**, and William T. Bielby. 2014. "Back on the Streets: Maturation and Risk Factors for Recidivism among Serious Juvenile Offenders." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA (August).
- Liverso, John**. 2014. "The Effects of Adolescence on Future Criminal Offending in Serious Juvenile Offenders." Poster presented at the Annual Meetings of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Philadelphia, PA (February).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Professor	School of Criminal Justice, The University of Cincinnati
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative Methods, Graduate Level</li> <li>The Urban Street Gang, Graduate Level</li> <li>Criminal Justice Statistics</li> <li>The Empirical Study of Murder</li> </ul>
Professor	Department of Sociology, The University of Oklahoma
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Qualitative Methods, Graduate Level</li> <li>Social Statistics</li> <li>The Sociology of the Urban Street Gang</li> </ul>
Professor	Department of Sociology, Whitman College
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social Statistics</li> <li>A Sociological Approach to Urban Street Gangs</li> <li>The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency</li> </ul>

Race, Class, and the Criminal Justice System in the United States

Instructor Department of Sociology, University of Washington, Seattle

Introduction to Social Statistics  
The Sociology of Urban Street Gangs

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association  
Society for the Study of Social Problems  
American Society of Criminology

**SERVICE**

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2021 – Current	Expert witness, criminal cases in King County, WA
2021	Expert witness, federal cases
2020	Organizer, Graduation celebration for formerly incarcerated students
2010-2013	Motivational Speaker, Illinois Prison System
2012	Assistant Peer Educator
2011	Organizer, Domestic Violence Prevention Fund 5k
2008-2012	Tutor, Illinois Prison System

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