

# JOHN T. LEVERSO

School of Criminal Justice  
University of Cincinnati  
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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, Health Criminology; Crime and Delinquency, Social Media, Mixed Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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

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- Fernandes, April, **John Leverso**, Laura Nolterieke\* and Jerald R. Herting. (2025) "Parental and Sibling Confinement: Exploring Their Role in Youth Mental Health." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Leverso, John**, David Schwager, Miranda Sitney, Kelsey Ravindren, and Jennifer Roark. (2025) "The risks of exposure: the impact of social circles on youth gang involvement and criminal behavior in adulthood." *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

- Leverso, John** and Sou Lee. (2025) "The Status of The Surveilled: Hyper Surveillance and Status Attainment Among Gangs." *Social Problems*.
- Hess, Chris and **John Leverso**. (2025) "The gang's not out there anymore: Gentrification, neighborhood change and gang retreatism in Chicago." *International Criminology*.
- Worthen, Meredith G. F., **John Leverso**, Chris Hess and Gracie Hedgpeth.\* (2025) "Dude, You're a Bitch! Gang Members' Internet Banging Masculinity via Bitch Discourse." *Deviant Behavior*.
- 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*.
- Hsaio, 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 Leverso** (Editors). 2024. *Handbook on Gangs*. Oxford University Handbooks Series in Criminology.

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#### OTHER WRITING

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**Leverso, John**. 2025. Before Crips: Fussin', Cussin', and Discussin' among South Los Angeles Juvenile Gangs (2025) by John C. Quicker and Akil S. Batani-Khalfani for *American Journal of Sociology*.

**Leverso, John** and James A. Densley. 2025. Why Deportation by Race, Ethnicity, or National Origin Never Works. *Newsweek*.

**Leverso, John**. 2025. States That Impose Severe Prison Sentences Accomplish the Opposite of What They Say They Want. *The Conversation*.

Pyrooz, David C., James A. Densley and **John Leverso**. 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 Leverso**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Papachristos, Andrew V., **John Leverso** 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 Leverso**. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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

**Leverso, 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 Leverso**, 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.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2024 Society and Culture Research Advancement Program, The University of Cincinnati, \$25,000. *The Cincinnati Youth Survey*.
- 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; **John Liverso**; \$987,871. Award P116Y230013. 1 of 1 award.
- 2021 Faculty Investment Program, Vice President for Research, The University of Oklahoma, \$14,973. *Exploring Gang Interactions on the Digital and Geographic Street: A Study of Chicago Latinx Gangs*.
- 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 **Liverso, 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 S. 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).

Insco, 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).

Gross, L. Rebekkah\*, **John Leverso** and Brittany E. Hayes. 2024. "Gang Affiliation, Sexual Victimization, and Mental Health Among Female Justice-Involved Adolescents." 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 Leverso**. 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 Leverso**, April Fernandes and Jerald Herting. 2022. "Life Course Trajectories of Offending and Mental Health Among Justice Involved Youth." (November).

Schwartz, Bria\*, **John Leverso** 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 Leverso**. 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).

**Leverso, 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 Leverso** 2022. "Bargaining with Gang Patriarchy in the Digital Streets: Girls in Gangs Online." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA (November).

- Leverso, 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).
- Leverso, 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).
- Leverso, 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 Leverso**. 2021. "Changing Geography of Chicago Street Gangs from 2004 to 2018." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (November).
- Leverso, John** and Christian Hess. 2019. "Masculinity Across the Life Course of Long-Term Gang Members." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. New York, NY (August).
- Leverso, 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 Leverso**. 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 Leverso** 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 Leverso**. 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).
- Leverso, 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 Leverso**, 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).
- Leverso, 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).

**Leverso, 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).

**Leverso, 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).

**Leverso, 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

Qualitative Methods, Graduate Level  
The Urban Street Gang, Graduate Level  
Criminal Justice Statistics  
The Empirical Study of Murder

Professor      Department of Sociology, The University of Oklahoma

Qualitative Methods, Graduate Level  
Social Statistics  
The Sociology of the Urban Street Gang

Professor      Department of Sociology, Whitman College

Social Statistics  
A Sociological Approach to Urban Street Gangs  
The Sociology of Crime and Delinquency  
Race, Class, and the Criminal Justice System in the United States

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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American Society of Criminology  
American Sociological Association  
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

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### 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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