

JOHN T. LEVERSO

School of Criminal Justice
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2026 to Current Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati
 Affiliations: Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology, University of Washington

2023 to 2026 Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati

2021 to 2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Oklahoma

2020 to 2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Whitman College

EDUCATION

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

Street Gangs, Health Criminology; Crime and Delinquency, Social Media, Mixed Methods

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES (*indicates graduate student co-author)

Leverso, John. (2026). "Structured Redemption: Desistance After Homicide Under Conditions of Durable Stigma." *Homicide Studies*.

Doyle, Margaret C.*, **John Leverso** and Meredith G. F. Worthen. (2025). "Scrolling Through the Streets: Examining Women's Gang-Related Online Engagements." *Feminist Criminology*.

- O'Neill, Kate K., and **John Liverso**. (2026). "The Real Ones: Gang Femininity and Authenticity in the Digital Streets." *Deviant Behavior*.
- Liverso, John**, Chris Hess, James Densley and Kristonn Stubbs*. (2026). "GangTok: Street gang content, culture, and roleplay on TikTok." *Crime, Media, Culture*.
- Proffitt, Calvin*, **John Liverso** and Ben Feldmeyer. (2026). "Immigration and serious gang violence: Assessing the immigrant revitalization thesis on urban gang shootings." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Gross, Rebekkah L*, **John Liverso**, and Brittany E. Hayes. (2025). "The Association of Gang Embeddedness and Sexual Victimization with Mental Health Outcomes." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Fernandes, April, **John Liverso**, Laura Nolterieke* and Jerald R. Herting. (2025). "Parental and Sibling Confinement: Exploring Their Role in Youth Mental Health." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Liverso, 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*.
- Liverso, John** and Sou Lee. (2025). "The Status of the Surveilled: Hyper Surveillance and Status Attainment Among Gangs." *Social Problems*.
- Hess, Chris and **John Liverso**. (2025). "The gang's not out there anymore: Gentrification, neighborhood change and gang retreatism in Chicago." *International Criminology*.
- Worthen, Meredith G. F., **John Liverso**, Chris Hess and Gracie Hedgpeth*. (2025). "Dude, You're a Bitch! Gang Members' Internet Banging Masculinity via Bitch Discourse." *Deviant Behavior*.
- Liverso, 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.
- Liverso, John**, Youness Diouane and George Mohler. (2025) "Measuring Online-Offline Spillover of Gang Violence Using Bivariate Hawkes Processes." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.
- Liverso, 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*.
- Liverso, 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 Liverso**, James A. Densley and Jose Sanchez*. (2024). "Gang membership in developmental and life course perspective." *Annual Review of Criminology*.
- Hsaio, Yuan, **John Liverso (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 Liverso**. (2023). "You In or Out?: Reflecting on Positionality in Gang Research." *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice & Criminology*.

Liverso, 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*.

Liverso, 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.

Liverso, 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*.

Liverso, 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*.

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

McCoy, Henrika, **John Liverso**, 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.

Liverso, 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.

BOOKS

Liverso, John. (Forthcoming 2027). *Crossing Worlds: My Journey from Gangs and Prison to a PhD and Professorship*. Under contract with Rutgers University Press.

Liverso, John and James Densley. (Forthcoming 2027). *When Gangs Change: The Temporal Logic of Identity, Solidarity, and Violence*. Under contract with Temple University Press.

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

OP-EDS AND PUBLIC WRITING

Proffitt, Calvin*, **John Liverso** and Ben Feldmeyer. (2026). University researchers: Is immigration driving crime in Chicago? Here's what the data shows. *Chicago Tribune*.

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

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

MEDIA

The Last Show with David Cooper. (2026). Featured guest; discussion of TikTok and gang membership.

"An Unusual Journey: John Liverso's Path to a PhD." (2020). Department of Sociology, University of Washington.

OTHER WRITING

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

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.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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. <i>Urban Youth Leadership Academy: Transitioning Gang-Impacted Youth to Higher Education Opportunities</i> . 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. <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

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

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

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

- Doyle, Margot*, **John Liverso** and Meredith Worthen. 2025. "Scrolling Through the Streets: Exploring Women's Gang-Related Digital Identities." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November).
- Hess, Chris, Kristonn Stubbs*, **John Liverso** and James Densley. 2025. "Reputation, Realness, and the Algorithm: Gangs in the TikTok Era." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November).
- Liverso, John** and James Densley. 2025. "Chicago Gang Evolution: Crime, Culture, and Control from the Era of Mixtapes to the Time of TikTok." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November).
- Stubbs, Kristonn* and **John Liverso**. 2025. "Risky Choices: Examining Sexual Behaviors and HIV/AIDS Knowledge Among Justice-Involved Youth." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (November).
- Nolterieke S. Laura*, and **John Liverso**. 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 Liverso** and James Densley. 2024. "Unpacking Gang Dynamics on Social Media Through Signaling Theory." American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (November).
- Proffit, Calvin*, **John Liverso** 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 Liverso** 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 Liverso**. 2024 "Racial Innocence and Cultural Appropriation in a Latino Gang Forum." Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA (November).
- Liverso, 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

Professor School of Criminal Justice, The University of Cincinnati

Qualitative Methods, Graduate Level
The Urban Street Gang, Graduate Level
Gangs and Crime
Criminal Justice Statistics
The Empirical Study of Murder
Health Criminology

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

SERVICE	
2021 – Current	Expert witness
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
