

Featured Experts



Jennifer Cobbina, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University, is an expert in protests, policing and race. She is the author of the book, “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot,” which draws on nearly 200 interviews with protesters and residents of Ferguson and Baltimore to better understand the role of race, place and policing in America.

Tamara Herold, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, is an expert in problem-oriented policing, design and management of places and crowd dynamics that lead to violence. She co-created Place-based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories, which minimizes traditional policing tactics to reduce crime in violent locations.



Delores Jones-Brown, a retired Professor of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration, is an expert in police-community relations, race and justice. She founded the John Jay College Center on Race, Crime and Justice and has spent decades teaching police officers how to work effectively with multicultural populations.

Justin Nix, Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is an expert in policing, police legitimacy and use of force. Nix works closely with police departments and has consulted for the Department of Homeland Security, the National Police Foundation and the COPS Office.



Relevant Recent Research

- **Making Black Lives Matter** *Criminology & Public Policy* (2017)

Current policies control officers’ behavior; however, many large-city departments do not have such policies or do not effectively enforce them, and smaller departments do not have best practices. Such policies include use of force, racial bias training, citizen review boards and body camera use as well as a U.S. database of officer-involved shootings.—Roger Dunham & Nick Petersen, University of Miami

- **Police Use of Force in Communities of Color** *Justice Quarterly* (2019)

Use of force by police officers in New York City is more common and more severe in Black neighborhoods. Although police used fewer force incidents in more racially- and ethnically-diverse neighborhoods, when force was used, police used it with an increasing severity.—Rachel Lautenschlager & Marisa Omori, University of Miami

- **Racial Aspects of Police Shootings** *Criminology & Public Policy* (2016)

Police should be educated on their implicit biases and given tools to reduce and manage them. High quality use of force training can help to remove the human biases that impact split-second use of force decisions. Police agencies and communities must ensure that officers will not suffer dire consequences for their reasonable use of force against racial/ethnic minorities.—Lorie Fridell, University of South Florida

- **Perceptions of Police Use of Force** *Justice Quarterly* (2019)

From 1990 through 2018, a substantial portion of nearly 20,000 respondents to the General Social Survey disapproved of justifiable use of force. In the period studied, disapproval of police use of force increased over time. Gender, level of education and political ideology significantly impacted an individual’s approval of police use of force.—Scott Mourtgos & Ian Adams, University of Utah

- **Convicted: Do Recent Cases Represent a Shift in Police Accountability?** *Criminal Law Bulletin* (2020)

Police officers kill nearly 1,000 people per year, since 2015, with Black Americans being overrepresented as victims. Officers are more likely to be convicted for fatal use of force if the victim was shot in the back, the incident was recorded, other officers testify or there is evidence of a cover-up. Trends in high-profile cases indicate that jurors are currently more willing to convict officers of homicide than they have been in the past.—Delores Jones-Brown, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (ret.)