Panel:

This panel discusses causes and consequences of urban gun violence and police misconduct in the United States from a life-course perspective. The papers included in this panel analyze longitudinal data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN+), a multi-cohort study of children coming of age first surveyed in 1995 and followed through 2021. The project began in the mid-1990s as an interdisciplinary effort to unite the longitudinal study of individual lives with social context, especially neighborhoods, families, peers, schools, and the criminal justice system. Originally, over 6,200 children from seven birth cohorts living in Chicago were enrolled in the study. These children, and their caregivers, were interviewed over three waves of data collection, from 1995 to 2002. In 2012-2013, a fourth round of data collection took place, focused on a random subsample of four of the original birth cohorts (groups of individuals who were 15, 12, or 9 years old or newborns in 1995; n = 1,057). In 2021, a fifth survey wave was funded by the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research (NCGVR), again following up with the random subsample from Wave 4. The PHDCN+ consists of a unique data set that covers an important era of American history lived by children from diverse socioeconomic and racial backgrounds growing up over the last quarter century. Topics discussed in this panel include the long-term consequences of early exposure to gun violence in terms of criminal conduct and gun ownership; the assessment of individual- and neighborhood-level causes of exposure to gun violence and gun carrying in the life course; and the enduring legacy of lengthy exposure to police misconduct in terms of people’s beliefs in the authority of legal norms.

Paper 2:

While overall gun violence has declined in Chicago over the past 25 years, it is unclear how risk factors for exposure to gun violence have changed in this period. This study estimates the effect of neighborhood rates of gun violence on individual exposures to gun violence using fives waves of the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods multi-cohort study (PHDCN+) linked to 25 years of national data on gun violence, including resurgences of shootings in 2016 and 2021. We focus on how individual background and behavior – such as race, class, and self-reported deviance – as well as meso-level factors – concentrated disadvantage, racial-residential segregation, and collective efficacy – increase or decrease the risk of respondents seeing someone get shot or being shot themselves, and whether the risk factors for violence exposure have changed over time. We estimate the likelihood of being exposed to gun violence using causal models for moderated time-varying treatments.

Paper 1:

This paper examines cohort differentiation in exposure to violence and criminality from adolescence to mid-adulthood. We do so by leveraging the multicohort design of the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods and its additions (PHDCN+), 1995-2021. Particular attention is given to the consequences of multiple forms of social disadvantage during childhood among cohorts growing up at different periods in history that diverged substantially with regards to trends in crime, incarceration, and other social dynamics.