

# NETWORK CRIMINOLOGY

MINI PRESENTATIONS

# Can Street Networks Prevent Burglaries?

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Network Criminology  
March 16, 2022

# Purpose of the Extended Literature Review

- ❖ The purpose of this presentation is to propose an extended literature review on how street networks and burglaries are connected.
- ❖ The goal is to synthesize the literature to gain a better understanding as to what characteristics of a street network leads to an increased and decreased risk of a burglary occurring.
- ❖ Synthesizing seven studies looking at the street network.
- ❖ Data: United Kingdom, Netherlands, Pennsylvania, Nigeria, China

# Goal of the Extended Literature Review

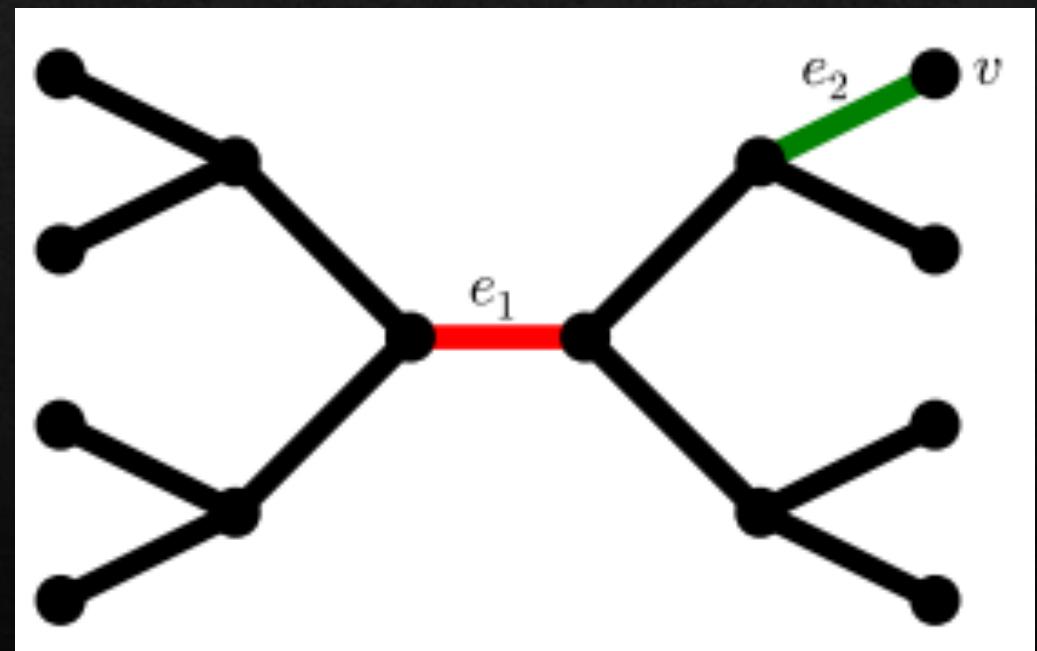
- ❖ This proposal looks to address the significance street networks and road designs play in determining the risk of a potential burglary occurring.
- ❖ Accomplishing this synthesis will provide developers, city planners, and policymakers a blueprint on creating street networks that can reduce the chances of burglary occurring.

# Open Questions and Unresolved Problems

- ❖ Is there a difference between public and private roads?
- ❖ Does the length of a street decrease the chances of burglary?
- ❖ Does more connectivity or betweenness of a street lead to a greater burglary risk?
- ❖ Is there a difference between linear and non-linear street networks in terms of burglary risk?
- ❖ Are there similarities and differences of burglary risks in different countries based on their street network?

# Points of Agreement

- ❖ Local pedestrian traffic on a street network led to a decrease in burglary risk.
- ❖ The more betweenness, the greater the burglary risk.
- ❖ The more commercial businesses on a street, the higher the risk for burglary.



# Points of Disagreement

- ❖ Sinuous streets led to mixed results.
- ❖ Linear streets led to mixed results.
- ❖ The number of residential dwellings on a street led to mixed results.



# Future Directions for Research

- ❖ Understanding burglar's selections. Does the street network play a role in their decision to burglarize?
- ❖ width of the roads in the street network. (one lane v. four)
- ❖ Does risk increase or decrease when the street network goes through different counties?
- ❖ What role does terrain play?

# Final Takeaways

01

The Need  
for  
Replication

02

Expanding  
to Other  
Crimes

03

Expands the  
Stakeholders  
Involved

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- ❖ Lantz, B., & Ruback, R. B. (2017). A networked boost: Burglary co-offending and repeat victimization using a network approach. *Crime & Delinquency*, 63(9), 1066-1090.
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- ❖ Musah, A., Umar, F., Yakubu, K. N., Ahmad, M., Babagana, A., Ahmed, A., ... & Cheshire, J. A. (2020). Assessing the impacts of various street-level characteristics on the burden of urban burglary in Kaduna, Nigeria. *Applied Geography*, 114, 102126.
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Questions?

# POLICE DISCRETION

By: Eric Alarcon

# Main focus

- Conducting an in-depth literature review of police discretion.
- What factors contribute to an arrest vs letting someone off with a warning
- Three main areas I will be looking into are
  - *Officer demographics*
  - *Civilian demographics*
  - *Ecological context*
- I will also be looking at how these areas affect
  - *Traffic stops*
  - *Arrests*
  - *Use of force*

# Literature that is currently available

- Many of the current literature focuses on the demographics of police officers and civilians
- The most common ones being
  - *Age, Gender, and race*
- Some more uncommon ones include:
  - *Police education and years on the job*
  - *Citizen demeanor and culpability*
- Ecological content has been a more recent development so data is quite new

# Agreements between researchers

- Arrests are more likely to happen depending on the seriousness of the offense (Sobol, 2010 & Buvik, 2016).
- Citizens race has no effect on police officer decision to arrest (Terrill & Mastrofski, 2002; Riksheim & Chermak, 1993)
- Age and gender are some of the highest predictors of a traffic stop (Cochran & Warren, 2012; Tillyer and Engel, 2013)

# Disagreement between researchers

- Some scholars argue that race plays a big role in traffic stops (Alpert et al, 2007; Withrow, 2007) While others state there is none (Farrell, 2015; Renauer, 2012)
- Some scholars argue that officers' gender plays a role in the use of force incidents, (Foster, 2006; La Rantz, 2008). While others show that police characteristics are not important factors (Riksheim & Chermak, 1993; Geller & Toch, 1995)

# Shortcomings

- Much of the research that is out there on police and citizen demographics are separated.
  - *Police demographic research state that a shortcoming is that they did not include citizen race and vice versa*
- More research needs to be done on ecological context
  - *Studies focusing on rural vs urban areas as well as affluent areas vs impoverished areas*
- Traffic stop reports need to be more detailed when an arrest is involved
  - *Studies should include more details as the incident that escalated a traffic stop into an arrest. Combining race, demeanor, and situational context can go a long way*

# Questions?

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# Extended Literature Review

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## Network Analysis of Police Misconduct

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By: Noah Miller

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# Prior Literature

- **Cubitt, T. (2021)**
  - Identified the presence of “brokers”
  - Failed to determine the flow of misconduct (i.e., whether the misconduct is contagious from officers to the broker group, or the broker group to officers)
- **Ouellet, M., Hashimi, S., Gravel, J., & Papachristos, A. (2019)**
  - Those with officers with a history of misconduct in their immediate network are more likely to engage in misconduct
  - If the immediate network does not have officers with complaints, the officer is less likely to engage in misconduct
- **Simpson, C., & Kirk, D. (2022)**
  - Observed conflicting results that misconduct was not contagious
  - Misconduct was a reflection of an officer’s individual characteristics (i.e., age, experience, gender, etc.)

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## Prior Literature (Cont.)

- **Wood, G., RoithMayr, D., & Papachristos, A. V. (2019)**
  - The majority of officers are named in complaints (more than 50%)
  - White officers more likely to receive complaints
  - For co-complaints (more than one officer identified), black officers are more likely to be named with a fellow black officer
- **Zhao, C., & Papachristos, A. (2020)**
  - Found persons in the broker role to be more likely to discharge their firearm
  - Similarly, questions the flow of misconduct as Cubitt (2021)
    - Offers that an officer's mobility within the organization may establish them in the broker role

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# Purpose of Literature Review

- Police misconduct is both detrimental to the public and police departments themselves
  - From 2010-2020 Chicago PD has paid roughly 528 million dollars for legal fees and settlements of police misconduct (Alexander et al., 2022).

## What am I trying to do?

- Receive a better understanding of social network in policing and if there is a correlation with police misconduct
  - Then, develop policies to eliminate such behavior to increase public safety, restore validity and trust to police organizations, and improve cost-efficiency of policing

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# Critiques of Current Literature

## Unresolved problems:

- Foremost, collecting data on officer misconduct is difficult
  - Often rely on citizen complaints (meaning, there may be instances that go unreported and thus skew results)
- Lack of research on female officers

## Open Questions:

- Difficulty discerning network influence from the ‘bad apples’ and ‘bad barrels’
  - How do all these factors coexist? Are they all critical to the production of misconduct (or can one be absent)? Does patrol environment matter?

## Points of Agreement/Disagreement:

- The majority of researchers (Cubitt, 2021; Ouelett et al., 2019; Wood et al., 2019; Zhao & Papachristos, 2020) identified that misconduct is contagious
  - Simpson & Kirk (2022) disagreed on this

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# Future Directions

- Examine the influence of social capital in networks
  - What are the socio demographics of police networks
    - The presence of homophily?
  - Are social networks as influential to female officers who behave in misconduct
    - How do their social networks differ?
  - How do networks differ from officers committing general misconduct in comparison to those who use excessive use of force? Would solutions differ depending on the misconduct?
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Alexander, K., Rich, S., & Thacker, H. (2022). *The Hidden Billion-Dollar Cost of Repeated Police Misconduct*. Washington Post. Retrieved from [Repeated police misconduct cost taxpayers \\$1.5 billion in settlements - Washington Post](#)

Cubitt, T. (2021). Using network analytics to improve targeted disruption of police misconduct. *Police Quarterly*, 0(0), 1-30. DOI: 10.1177/10986111211057212.

Ouellet, M., Hashimi, S., Gravel, J., & Papachristos, A. (2019). Network exposure and excessive use of force investigating the social transmission of police misconduct. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18, 675-704, DOI: 10.1111/1745-9133.12459.

Simpson, C., & Kirk, D. (2022). Is police misconduct contagious? Non-trivial null findings from Dallas, Texas. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09532-7>.

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# Trust Networks in Male Prisons

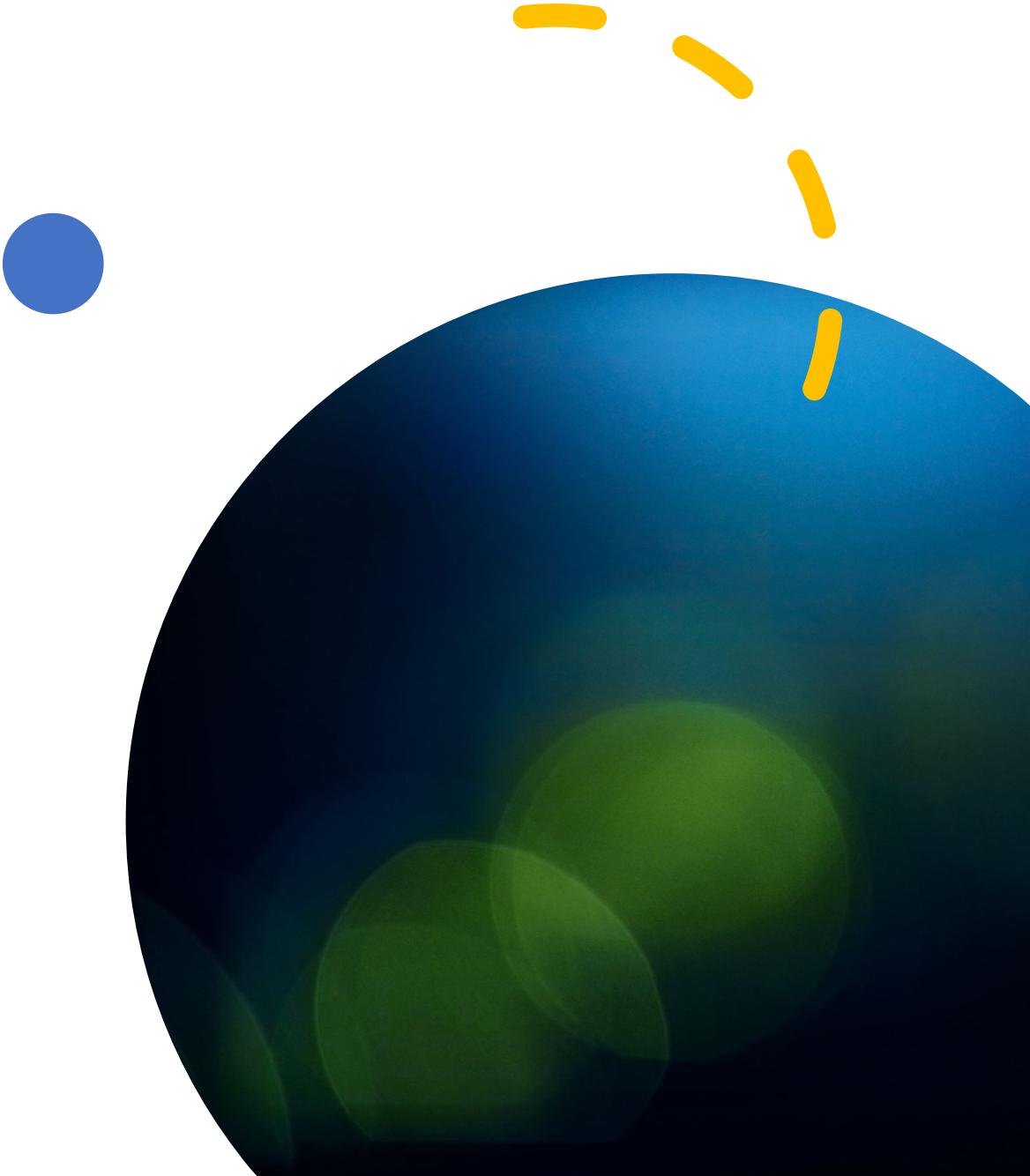
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CRJ 523 Network Criminology

Olivia Shaw, M.S.

# AN OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN PRISON

Social relationships	Trust: Prisoner and Staff	Trust: Female Prisons
<p><i>Overall</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide emotional support</li><li>• Increase in institutional hostility and deviance</li><li>• Increase in overall wellbeing</li><li>• Men interrelationships<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• characterized by gangs and violence, negative</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incarcerated individuals are more likely to be perceive prison staff as untrustworthy.</li><li>• Power imbalance<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creates conflict</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incarcerated females saw their peers as being untrustworthy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gossip and selfishness</li></ul></li><li>• More likely to trust those from the same religious group</li><li>• Embeddedness played a role in perceiving someone as being trustworthy</li></ul>



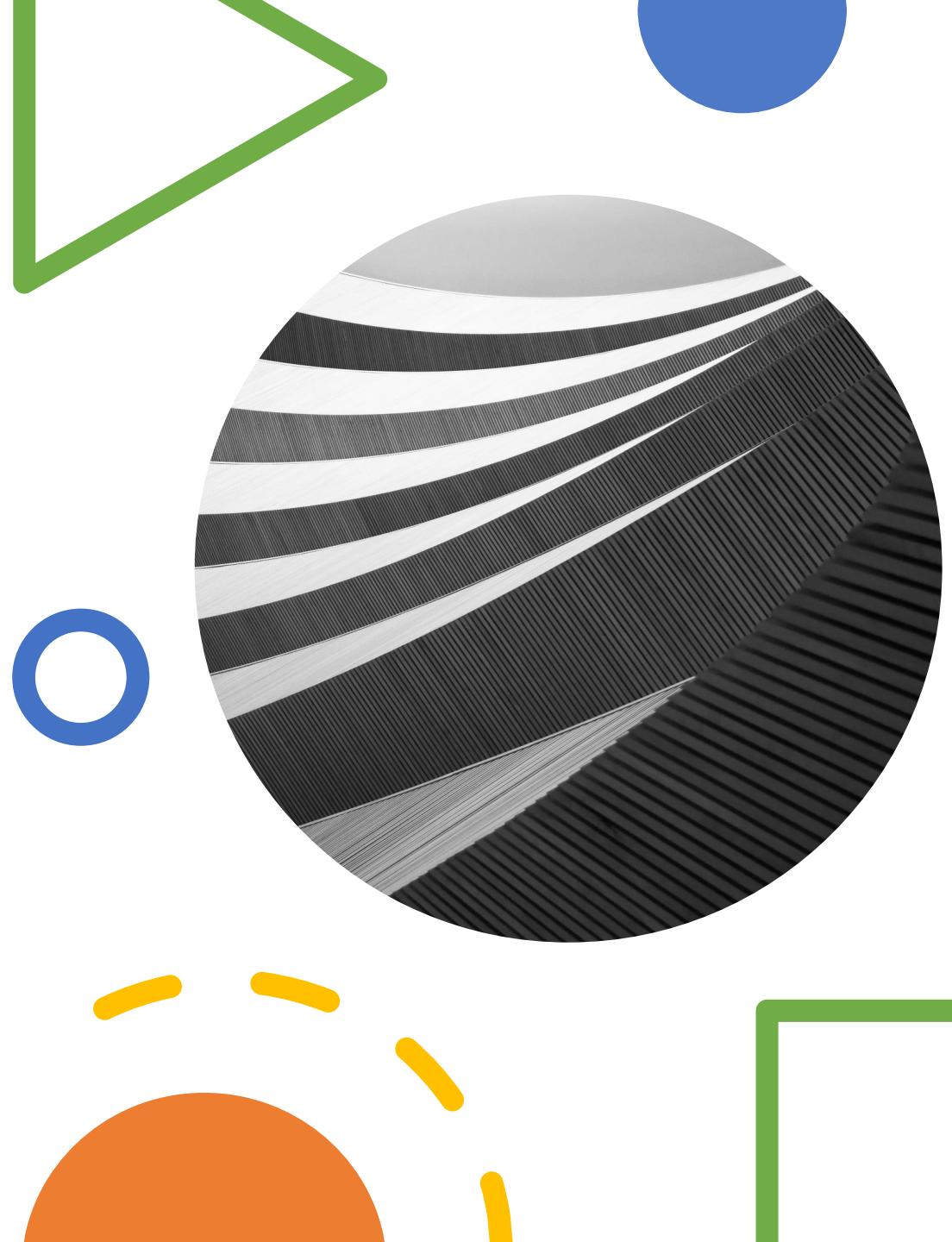
# Problem

## SOCIETAL

- Social Isolation & deprivation
- Reduce interpersonal aggression in male prisons
- Enhancing the opportunity to form positive relationships within correctional settings
- Improving correctional staff safety

## RESEARCH

- Lack of research on the aspects of trust in the formation of interpersonal relationships in male prisons
- Lack of literature on how positive relationships can be aid in the desistence process both within correctional institutions and within society for incarcerated males



# Purpose

## Add

- Add to the gaps in the current literature on the underlying mechanisms of social relationships and trust networks in male prisons
  - Utilizing social network analysis

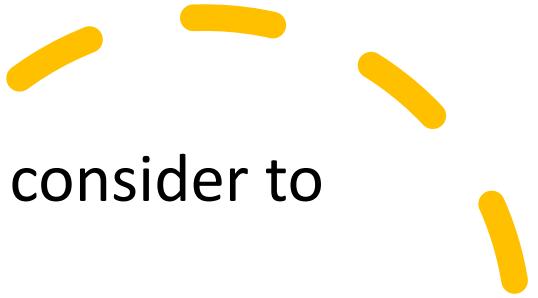
## Create

- Create a better understanding of how trust networks are formed and how they differ from networks formed in female prisons
- How/if such positive trust networks are maintained and contribute to the desistence process in male prisons

# Explorative Research Questions



- Who do incarcerated men consider to be trustworthy?
- How do factors such as trust, embeddedness and social capital play a role in forming trustworthy relationships?
- Finally, how can trustworthy relationships reduce deviant misconduct found within male correctional facilities and contribute to positive relationships?



# Data

- Only dataset to exist on the topic of incarcerated male prison networks is the:
  - Prison Inmate Study (PINS)
    - For the purpose of this study:
      - Mixed methods:
        - In- person interviews
        - Graph models
      - Site:
        - Medium security prison in California



# Prospective Interview Questions



To measure unit friendships, respondents could be asked something along the lines of “Who are your friends?”



To measure peer trust, respondents could be asked, “Who are the peers that you trust to give you advice here in this prison?”

“Who do you trust to be there when you are emotionally troubled?”  
“How reliable is this person?”  
“Does this person have your back?”



To measure future behavior, respondents could be asked, “Are there any friends you met in prison who have helped you become a better person?”



To measure embeddedness and resource capital, respondent may be asked, “How would you categorize the strength of your friendship?”

“Given the people you trust and have befriended, how have they helped you learn about opportunities on the unit?”  
(Job, programming, etc.)

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# Harm Reduction Attitudes Among Police Officers: Is There Transmission?

Seth Watts

Arizona State University



# Introduction

- Opioid crisis
- Police-led naloxone programs
  - Concerns
  - Buy-in
- Social network analysis and how it can be vital in this context

# Literature of SNA in Police Departments

- Exposure to misconduct and use of force<sup>1</sup>
  - Network exposure to misconduct is a predictor of use of force
- Similarly, misconduct networks begets misconduct<sup>2</sup>
  - Networks of officers who engage in misconduct foster misconduct
  - Police misconduct is at least partially a product of the network

# Literature of SNA in Police Departments

- Officers' framing of BWCs<sup>3</sup>
  - Network effect
  - Reduces with the addition of variables
- Takeaways:
  - Networks matter in police departments
  - Both behavior and attitudes can be influenced by these networks

# Proposed Study

- Investigate how officer attitudes change towards harm reduction policies
- Competence, confidence, and support for carrying Narcan increases over time<sup>4</sup>
- What drives this finding? Is it simply that Narcan works? Or is there a transmission of positive attitudes towards Narcan?

# Data

- Affiliational data
  - BWC coding or field contact forms
  - Unique identifier for those on scene at an overdose
- Survey data
  - Officer attitudes towards Narcan and other harm reduction perspectives
  - Unique identifier to match with affiliational data

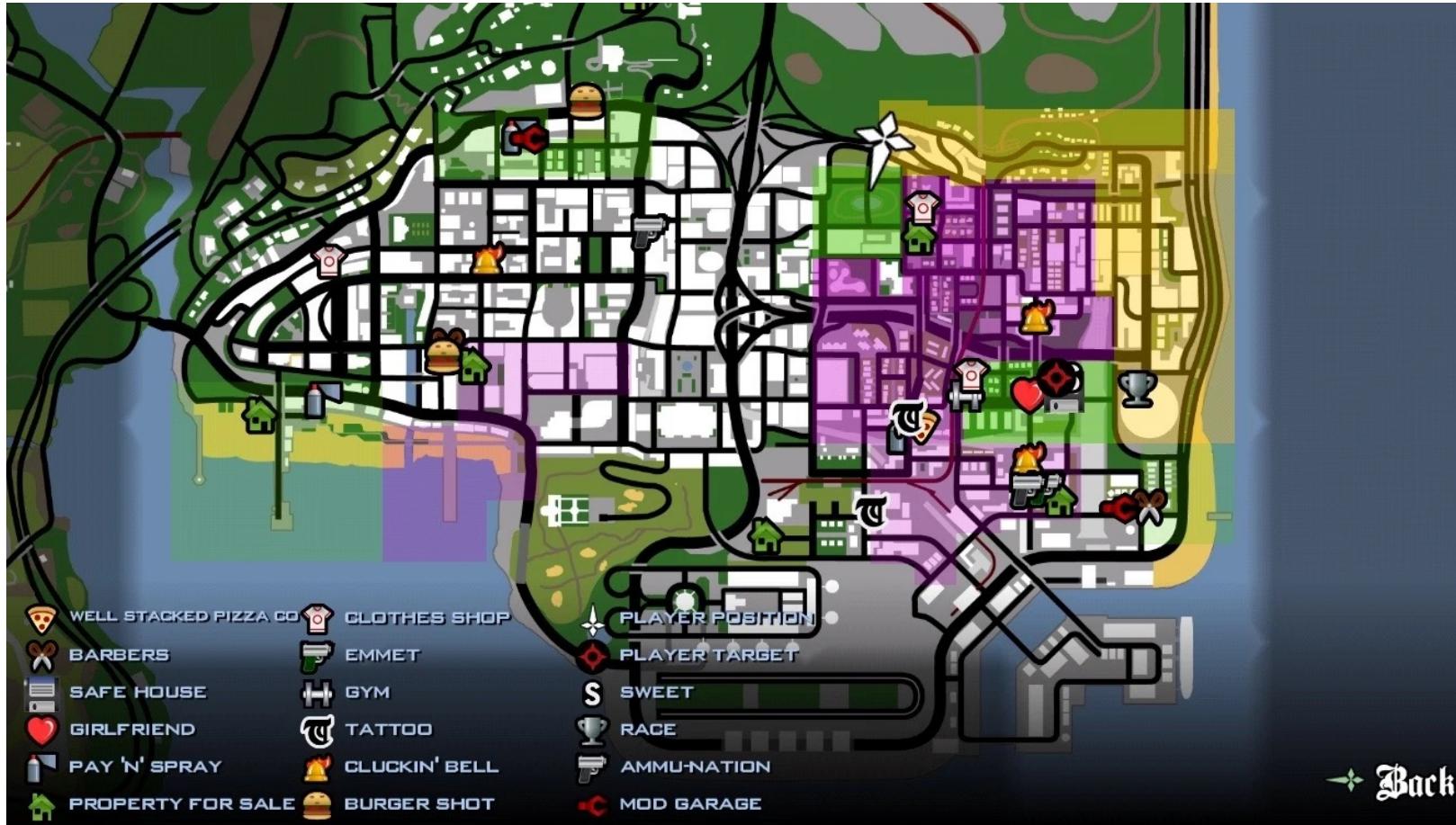
# Potential Implications

- If the results show that there is a network effect:
  - Incorporate multiple “champions” of the program during implementation
  - Continuous presence of positive messaging of the program throughout the project

# References

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# Turf wars





# Overview

- Extensive research into gangs has been ongoing since the 80's
- Sharp increase during WOD

# Overview

- Homicide is 3rd leading cause of death 15-19 (CDC)
- Gangs contribute a significant amount of drug and violent crimes (National Youth Gang Survey Analysis, National Drug Intelligence Center 2008)

# Overview

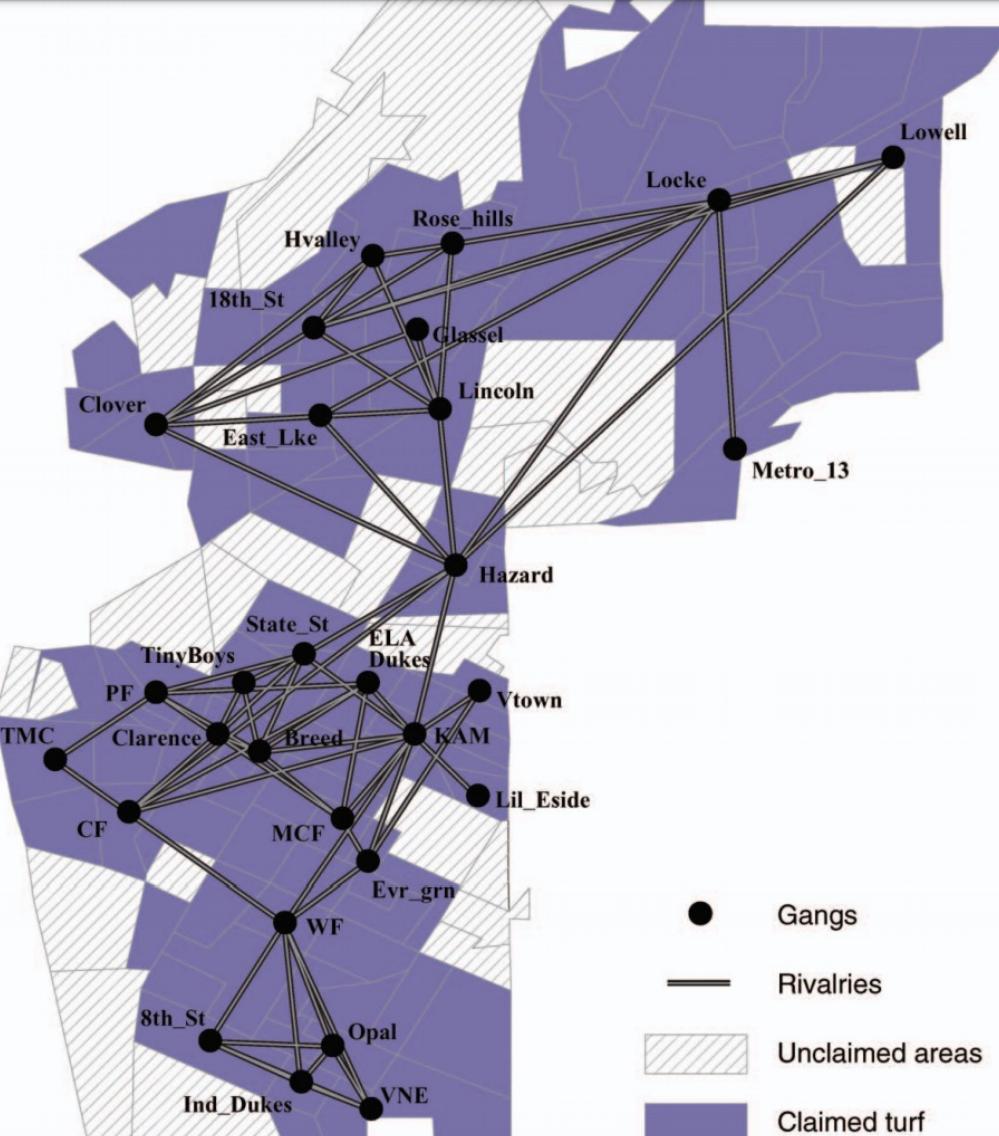
- Previous anti-gang initiatives have yielded mixed results
- Prevention techniques likewise show mixed results (restrictively target youth)
- Growing interest in gang-on-gang violence in combo with network science

# Objectives

- Synthesize information on how networks of rivalries are constructed
- Understand changing internal dynamics of gang membership (most membership only 6 months-1 year)
- Identify and eliminate effectiveness of resource nodes (WIP)
- Mechanisms of hyperdyadic contagion
- Social gains of engaging in gang rivalries

# Key findings

- Gang violence (and homicide) is sporadic, public and dominated by firearms
- Once blood is spilt – point of no return is reached
- Tit for tat (leaving attacks unpunished signals weakness)
- Escalation when faced with hostile gang members
- Geography is a mitigating factor (turf)
- Violent patterns are dyadic



**Figure 4.** Placing the gang rivalry network (based on turf locations) into the geographic space of Hollenbeck shows both the complexity of the social relations and how some relations “stretch” long distances to link gangs, whereas others link only immediate neighbors.

# Research problems

- Large number of gangs – Estimated 20,000+ W/ 1+ M. members
- Official sources only account for known members
- Membership may be very temporary or constantly shifting (6 MO-1 Yr)
- Reliant on self-report
- Only catch gambit of the group
- Overreliance on Hollenbeck/lack of more datasets

# Open questions

- Lack of ego-centric experimentation (properties of networks)
- Utilization of space (open and restricted)
- Precursors not well understood
- Internal workings of street cred not well understood
- What's more effective – viewing ties as events or as temperments

# QUESTIONS???

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