

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of South Carolina 2022
Dissertation: *The Spatial Variability of Crime: A Review of Methodological Choice, Proposed Models, and Methods for Illustrating the Phenomenon.*
- M.A.** Criminal Justice, Radford University 2018
- B.S.** Forest Resources & Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech 2014

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor, Georgia Southern University 2024 -
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Assistant Professor, South Dakota State University,
School of Psychology, Sociology and Rural Studies 2022 - 2024
- Faculty Affiliate, Department of Natural Resource Management 2023 - 2024

Research Affiliations

- Institute for Water and Health, Georgia Southern University 2024 -
- South Dakota Governor's Center on the Illicit Economy 2023 - 2024

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Quantitative & Spatial Methods | Wildlife Crime | Mapping | Crime Prevention | Policing

PUBLICATIONS (TOTAL: 15 JOURNAL ARTICLES | 2 BOOK CHAPTERS | 1 TECHNICAL REPORT)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (*Denotes student co-author)

1. Pires, S. F., Guerette, R. T., Del Rio, J., & **Spencer, M. D.** (Accepted). Further evidence for situational determinants of crime: The role of environmental and geographic features in explaining violence hotspots in Columbia, South America. *Crime Science*.
2. Lockwood, A., **Spencer, M. D.**, Boehme, H., Davallou, J. *, & Elligson, R. (2025). Discretion in immigration enforcement: How non-federal officers navigate policy mandates and moral judgements. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-025-09702-8>
3. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Mitre-Becerril, D. (2025). Do urban greenways reduce crime? A quasi-experimental study of the Atlanta beltline. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-025-09634-6>
4. Cohen, N. *, & **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). Recreation and disarray: Analysis of disorder in U.S. national parks. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*, 51, 100936. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jort.2025.100936>
5. **Spencer, M. D.**, Christiansen, E. *, Pires, S. F., Tsai, C. *, Gondhali, U. *, & Petrossian, G. (2025). Identifying and explaining the distribution of Chinese-affiliated ports around the world: A case control design. *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 269, 107819. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2025.107819>
6. **Spencer, M. D.**, Schnell, C., & DeWitt, S. (2025). The disruptive impact of public transportation expansion on crime trends: A time series analysis of light rail train stations in Charlotte, NC. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-025-09676-7>
7. **Spencer, M. D.**, Wilson, A., & Bolin, R. (2025). Policing and corrections in the classroom: Criminal justice students' perceptions of course material and career attractiveness. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2025.2475194>
8. Boehme, H. M., Klein, B. R., **Spencer, M. D.**, Jones, A. *, McMains-Nurisio, M. *, Morgan, K. *, & Trowbridge, J. * (2025). Social determinants of health, driving time to trauma hospitals, racial composition, and firearm violence in South Carolina. *Injury Prevention*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/ip-2024-045442>
9. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2025). Risky facilities, physical site-features, and comparing crime between urban parks. *Security Journal*, 38, 1. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-024-00453-1>
10. Singh, A. M. *, Pires, S. F., & **Spencer, M. D.** (2024). Using a spatial access measure to assess the relationship between alcohol outlet types and various violent crimes in the Bronx,

NY. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, 17, 1413-1433. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12061-024-09589-4>

11. Petrossian, G. A., Pires, S. F., **Spencer, M. D.**, & Cohen, N.* (2024). An empirical assessment of seaports as facilitators of FOC-flagged transshipment landings. *Crime Science*, 13, 10. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40163-024-00210-0>
12. Schnell, C., DeWitt, S., & **Spencer, M. D.** (2024). The role of neighborhoods in the age of crime hot spots: A multi-level theory of the spatial distribution of robbery in Chicago. *Crime & Delinquency*, 70, 2855-2881. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221140836>
13. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2022). Reinvestigating the relationship between cities and the spatial distribution of robbery: A tale of eight cities. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 82, 102003. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2022.102003>
14. Schnell, C., **Spencer, M. D.**, Mancik, A., Porter, L., Ready, J., & Alpert, G. (2022). Expanding research on investigations of officer-involved shootings: An experimental evaluation of question timing on police officer's memory recall. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 49, 1031-1049. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548211035824>
15. **Spencer, M. D.**, Green, E. K., & Bolin, R. M. (2021). Exploring the relationship between fishing regulations and angler compliance in Virginia. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 46, 815-836. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09576-8>

Manuscripts Under Review

1. **Spencer, M. D.** (Under Review). "Best practices in crime mapping: Policy-driven approaches to visualizing spatial crime variability." *Crime Science*.
2. Pires, S. F., **Spencer, M. D.**, Petrossian, G., Christiansen, E.* , & Gondhali, U.* (Revise & Resubmit) "Predicting dark vessel fishing off West Africa: A micro-spatial approach." *Marine Policy*.
3. Markel, P. D., **Spencer, M. D.**, & Arends, R. (Under Review) "New roads don't pave themselves: Building an integrated community for climate-behavioral research." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
4. **Spencer, M. D.**, Cohen, N. D.* , & Connealy, N. (Revise & Resubmit) "When wildfires suppress crime: A spatial analysis of post-wildfire trends in Los Angeles." *Applied Geography*.
5. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (Under Review) "Risky facilities, crime prevention, and the legacy of Ronald Clarke: Contextualizing problem places in Atlanta. *Criminology & Public Policy*.

6. Mitre-Becerril, D., & **Spencer, M. D.** (Under Review). "Illuminating crime prevention: Evidence from Washington, DC's street lighting upgrade." *Criminology & Public Policy*.

Working Papers (Ordered by progress)

1. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Cohen, N.* (In Prep.) "A problem-oriented approach of the problem of crowding at overlooks on U.S. federal lands."
Status: Manuscript drafting. Topic accepted pending full review at *Center for Problem-Oriented Policing*.
2. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Cohen, N.* (In Prep.) "What drives wildlife poaching? A machine-learning aided systematic review of offender motivations in North America."
Status: Manuscript drafting. Target journal: *Conservation Biology*
3. Pires, S. F., **Spencer, M. D.**, Christiansen, E.* (In Prep.) "Spatial patterns and co-locations of FOC dark vessels in West Africa."
Status: Manuscript drafting. Abstract accepted for full review for special issue in *Applied Geography*

Book Chapters & Technical Reports

1. **Spencer, M. D.**, Posick, C., & Colon-Gaud, C. (Forthcoming). Improving water quality for safer communities: How criminology and river ecology can collaborate on conservation and justice. In W. Moreto (Ed.), *Environmental Crime and Harm Prevention*. Routledge.
2. Schnell, C., & **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). Micro-places, multi-level frameworks, and modeling the spatial granularity of crime. In R. Wickes & D. Oberwittler (Eds.), *The handbook on cities and crime*. Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800375710.00017>
3. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). *The problem of wildlife poaching on U.S. federal lands*. A Problem-Solving Guide: Wilderness Problems, Guide No. 1. Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, Arizona State University.
http://popcenter.asu.edu/sites/default/files/wildlife_pop_guide_mds_final_v2_aml.pdf

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Denotes online or hybrid course

Undergraduate Level

Georgia Southern University

- Applied Statistics in CJ & Criminology Research (SP 2025*, F 2025*, SP 2026)
- Introduction to Policing (SU 2026*)
- Investigations (SU 2025*)

South Dakota State University

- Advanced Criminology - Capstone (SP 2023*, SP 2024)

- Criminal Investigations (F 2022*, SP 2023, F 2023*, SP 2024)
- Introduction to Criminal Justice (SP 2023*, SU 2023*, F 2023, SP 2024, SU 2024*)
- Policing in a Free Society (F 2022, F 2023*)

Radford University

- Research Methods (SP 2022*)

University of South Carolina

- Policing (F 2020*, SP 2021*)
- Sociology of Crime (F 2019, SP 2020, F 2021, SP 2022*)

Graduate Level

Georgia Southern University

- Crime Mapping (SP 2026*)
- Criminology Seminar - Crime Prevention (SU 2025*)
- Criminological Theory (F 2025)
- Environmental Crime & Justice (SU 2024*, SP 2025)
- Quantitative Research Design (F 2024*)
- Seminar in Law Enforcement (SU 2026*)
- Statistics for Social Science (F 2024)

PRESENTATIONS (TOTAL: 22 CONFERENCES | 12 INVITED TALKS | 4 GUEST LECTURES)

Conferences (*Denotes student co-presenter)

1. **Spencer, M. D.**, Christiansen, E.*, Pires, S. F., Tsai, C. H.*, Gondhali, U.* & Petrossian, G. (2025). “Identifying and Explaining the Distribution of Chinese-Affiliated Ports Around the World.” Panel presentation at the American Society of Criminology, Washington DC.
2. Pires, S. F., **Spencer, M. D.**, Petrossian, G., Christiansen, E.* & Gondhali, U.* (2025). “Predicting Dark Vessel Fishing Off West Africa: A Micro-Spatial Approach.” Southern Criminal Justice Association, Charleston, SC.
3. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2025). “Urban Parks, Risky Facilities, and Crime: An Open Data Analysis of Built Environments.” European Society of Criminology, Athens, GR.
4. Davlou, J.* , Lockwood, A., **Spencer, M. D.**, Elligson, R., & Boehme, H. (2025). “Measuring Local Law Enforcement Perceptions of ICE Intervention.” Georgia Southern Student Scholars Symposium (GS4), Savannah, GA.
5. Cohen, N.* , & **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). “Recreation and Disarray: Analysis of Disorder in U.S. National Parks.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Denver, CO.

6. **Spencer, M. D.**, DeWitt, S., & Schnell, C. (2024). "Analyzing Crime Patterns Surrounding Light Rail Expansion in Charlotte, NC." American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
7. Pires, S. F., **Spencer, M. D.**, Petrossian, G. A., Christiansen, E. *, & Gondhali, U. * (2024). "A Comparative Modeling Study of Potential IUU Fishing Off the Coast of West Africa." Panel presentation at the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
8. Cohen, N. *, & **Spencer, M. D.** (2024). "Evaluating Security Features in a U.S. National Park: A Crime Science Perspective." The International Symposium on Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis, Yerevan, Armenia.
9. **Spencer, M. D.**, Wilson, A., & Bolin, R. (2024). "Understanding the Intersection of Context and Criminology in Teaching and Learning." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, IL.
10. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2023). "Running for Fun, Not My Life! A Spatial Analysis of Crime at Public Recreation Sites." American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
11. Petrossian, G., Pires, S. F., & **Spencer, M. D.**, & Cohen, N. * (2023). "An Empirical Assessment of Seaports as Facilitators of FOC-Flagged Transshipment Landings." American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
12. **Spencer, M. D.** (2022). "Best Practices for Illustrating the Spatial Variability of Crime: Re-imagining the Crime Map." American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
13. DeWitt, S., Schnell, C., & **Spencer, M. D.** (2022). "A Tale of Two (Way) Fixed Effects: Applying Modern Statistical Corrections to Studying the Impact of the Charlotte Light Rail Expansions." Southern Criminal Justice Association, Asheville, NC.
14. **Spencer, M. D.**, Mancik, A., & Lemieux, A. (2022). "A Systematic Review of the Methodological Choice of Research on the Spatial Variability of Crime." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, NV.
15. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2021). "An Exploration of the Spatial Variability of Crime Within and Between Seven U.S. Cities." American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.
16. **Spencer, M. D.**, Schnell, C., & DeWitt, S. (2021). "The Disruptive Impact of Public Transportation Expansion on Crime: A Time Series Analysis of Light Rail Train Stations in Charlotte, NC." Discover UofSC, Columbia, SC.
17. **Spencer, M. D.**, Schnell, C., & DeWitt, S. (2020). "The Disruptive Impact of Public Transportation Expansion on Crime: A Time Series Analysis." American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC. *Accepted- Conference Cancelled due to Covid-19

18. Schnell, C., **Spencer, M. D.**, Mancik, A., Porter, L., Ready, J., & Alpert, G. (2020). “Advancing Research on Memory Accuracy After Officer-Involved Shootings: An Experimental Evaluation of the Effect of Question Timing on Recall.” Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, San Antonio, TX. *Accepted- Conference Cancelled due to Covid-19
19. **Spencer, M. D.**, & Schnell, C. (2019). “Exploring the Hierarchical Spatial Distribution of Crime: The Concentration and Stability of Robberies at Street Segments Within and Between Chicago’s Neighborhood Clusters.” American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
20. **Spencer, M. D.** (2019). “Problem-Oriented Wildlife Protection: Poaching Prevention on U.S. Federal Lands.” Southeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Hilton Head, SC.
21. **Spencer, M. D.** (2019). “Problem-Oriented Wildlife Protection: Poaching Prevention on U.S. Federal Lands.” Discover USC, Columbia, SC.
22. **Spencer, M. D.** (2018). “Exploring the Relationship Between Fishing Regulations and Angler Compliance in Virginia.” Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Burlington, VT.

Invited Talks

1. Posick, C., & **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). “Plant Thieves: Botanic Crimes & Its Consequences.” The Botanic Garden at Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA.
2. **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). “Integrating Criminology and Conservation Science: Applications and Future Research.” Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
3. **Spencer, M. D.** (2023). “What’s Next for Crime and Place Research?” Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement, Amsterdam, NL.
4. **Spencer, M. D.** (2023). “Crime Prevention, Natural Resources, and the Illicit Economy.” South Dakota Governor’s Research Center, Virtual.
5. **Spencer, M. D.** (2023). “Bridging the Gap Between Criminology and Natural Resources.” Department of Natural Resource Management, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.
6. **Spencer, M. D.** (2022). “Machine Learning: A Tool for Systematic Reviews.” School of Psychology, Sociology and Rural Studies, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD.
7. **Spencer, M. D.** (2021). “Graduate School and Research.” Entering Research Panel, University of South Carolina, Virtual.
8. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). “Grading Recommendations and Best Practices.” Teaching Assistant Orientation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

9. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). "Social Science Q&A." Teaching Assistant Orientation, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
10. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). "Using R and RStudio for Statistical Analysis." PowerSchool LLC, Content Department, Virtual.
11. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). "Migrating to an Online Teaching Environment." PowerSchool LLC, Content Department, Virtual.
12. **Spencer, M. D.** (2018). "Geographic Information Systems." PowerSchool LLC, Content Department. Roanoke, VA.

Guest Lectures

1. **Spencer, M. D.** (2025). "Crime Mapping using R." Dr. Gohar Petrossian's Graduate Crime Mapping Course, John Jay College, Virtual.
2. **Spencer, M. D.** (2020). "Descriptive Spatial Statistics." Dr. Cory Schnell's Graduate Crime and Place Course, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
3. **Spencer, M. D.** (2019 - 2021). "Routine Activities Approach." Dr. Ashley Mancik's Communities and Crime Course, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
4. **Spencer, M. D.** (2019 - 2021). "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design." Dr. Ashley Mancik's Communities and Crime Course, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

FUNDED RESEARCH

Co-I, "Socio-Environmental Systems of Rural Health," Funded by South Dakota State University, Division of Research and Economic Development, (\$15,000; July 2023 - November 2024).

PI, "Public Transportation and Crime," Funded by University of South Carolina, Office of the Vice President for Research, (\$5,000; May 2020 - July 2021).

TRAINING, CERTIFICATIONS, & AWARDS

Discover USC 2021 Graduate Student Presenter Award, University of South Carolina

Fostering Proactive Learning Environments, University of South Carolina

Preparing Future Faculty, University of South Carolina

Teaching Toward Inclusive Excellence, University of South Carolina

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Crime Analysis, Radford University

Minor in Forestry, Virginia Tech

SERVICE

Journal Reviewer

American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Computational Urban Science, Crime Prevention and Community Safety, Crime Science, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Journal of Criminal Justice, Journal of Geovisualization and Spatial Analysis, Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Population Research and Policy Review, Security Journal, Victims & Offenders

Departmental Service

Georgia Southern University

- Chair, Faculty Search Committee, 2025 - Present
- Graduate Committee Member, 2024 - Present
- Undergraduate Committee Member, 2024 - Present

South Dakota State University

- Criminology Club Faculty Advisor, 2023 - 2024

Student Mentorship

Georgia Southern University

- Abisoye Adeniyi (Graduate research mentor)
- Cheyenne Harvey (Thesis committee, Criminal Justice, Current)
- Joshua Robinson (Graduate research mentor)
- Jeremiah Davallou (Undergraduate research mentor)

South Dakota State University

- Chloe Beavers (Undergraduate research mentor)
- Chloe Bender (Undergraduate research mentor)
- Damilola Adereti (Ph.D. committee, Sociology, Defended 2024)
- Dylan Borchert (Ph.D. committee, Computational Science & Statistics, Current)
- Margaret Schliepsiek (Karen McComish Fellowship mentor)
- Morgan Hunt (Undergraduate research mentor)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, 2019 - Present

American Society of Criminology, 2019 - Present

Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis, 2023 - Present

European Society of Criminology, 2025 - Present

Southern Criminal Justice Association, 2020 – 2022

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Forestry and GIS Technician, Eastern Forest Consultants 2015 - 2016

GIS Research Field Assistant, Virginia Tech 2015 - 2016

Conservation Land Monitor, Virginia Outdoors Foundation 2014 - 2015

SOFTWARE EXPERTISE

GIS (ArcGIS, QGIS) | LaTeX | R | STATA