

Scott M. Mourtgos

Ph.D. Candidate
University of Utah

✉ scott.mourtgos@utah.edu 🌐 smourtgos.netlify.app | Updated: Feb. 17, 2023

Education

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Department of Political Science, Ph.D. Candidate 2018-Present

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Department of Psychology, Masters of Forensic Psychology 2016

WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice 2004
Summa Cum Laude

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

University of Virginia 2021

Academic Positions

Associate Instructor | University of Utah 2022-Present

Associate Instructor | Kent State University 2022-Present

Publications

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

From [Google Scholar Profile](#): Total citations 233, h-index 9, i10-index 8.

- (1) Michael Sierra-Arevalo, Justin Nix, & **Scott M. Mourtgos**. (forthcoming). *Criminology*, o(o). [Preprint](#)
- (2) Ian Adams, **Scott M. Mourtgos**, Kyle McLean, & Geoffrey Alpert. (2023). "Defanged." *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, o(o). [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (3) Ian Adams, **Scott M. Mourtgos**, Christopher Simon, & Nicholas Lovrich. (2023). "If the Face Fits: Predicting Future Promotions from Police Cadets' Facial Traits." *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, o(o). [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)

- (4) **Scott Mourtgos**, Ian Adams, & Justin Nix. (2022). "Elevated Police Turnover following the Summer of George Floyd Protests: A Synthetic Control Study." *Criminology & Public Policy*, 21(1), 9-33. [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (5) **Scott Mourtgos**, Ian Adams, & Sam Baty. (2022). "Challenging the Ordinality of Police Use-of-Force Policy." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 33(2), 119-147. [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (6) Justin Nix, Tara Richards, **Scott Mourtgos**, & Ian Adams. (2021). "Comparing 911 and Emergency Hotline Calls for Domestic Violence in Seven Cities: What Happened When People Started Staying Home Due to COVID-19?" *Criminology & Public Policy*, 20(3), 573-591. [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (7) **Scott Mourtgos**, Ian Adams, & Sharon Mastracci (2021). "Improving Victim Retention and Police-Victim Interactions in Rape Investigations: A Longitudinal Assessment of a Brief Training." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 74, 101-118. [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (8) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams. (2021). "COVID-19 vaccine program eliminates law enforcement workforce infections: A Bayesian Structural Time Series Analysis." *Police Practice and Research*, 22(5), 1557-1565. [Journal](#) or [Postprint](#)
- (9) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams, Justin Nix, & Tara Richards (2021). "Mandatory Sexual Assault Kit Testing Policies and Arrest Trends: A Natural Experiment." *Justice Evaluation Journal*, 22(5), 145-162. [Journal](#) or [Postprint](#)
- (10) Sharon Mastracci & **Scott Mourtgos**. (2021). "The ethics of emotional labor in public service: The case of children's services forensic interviewers." *Human Service Organizations: Management, Leadership & Government* 45(3), 260-272. [Journal](#)
- (11) Ian Adams, **Scott Mourtgos**, & Sharon Mastracci. (2021). "High-Stakes Administrative Discretion: What Drives Body-Worn Camera Activations?" *Public Administration Review*, 81(4), 691-703. [Journal](#) or [Preprint](#)
- (12) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams (2020). "Assessing Public Perceptions of Police Use-of-Force: Legal Reasonableness and Community Standards." *Justice Quarterly*, 37(5), 869-899. [Journal](#)
- (13) **Scott Mourtgos**, Roger Mayer, Richard Wise, & Holly O'Rourke. (2020). "The overlooked perspective of police trust in the public: Measurement and effects on police job behaviors." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 31(5), 639-672. [Journal](#)
- (14) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams (2019). "The rhetoric of de-policing: Evaluating open-ended survey responses from police officers with machine learning-based structural topic modeling." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 64, 61-73. [Journal](#)
- (15) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams. (2019). "The Effect of Prosecutorial Actions on Deterrence: A County-Level Analysis." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 31(4), 479-499. [Journal](#)
- (16) **Scott Mourtgos**, Richard Wise, & Thomas Petros. (2018). "The consequences of restricting police arrest authority: Less deterrence and more crime." *Policing: An International Journal*, 41(2), 233-246. [Journal](#)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- (17) **Scott Mourtgos** & Ian Adams. (*in press*). Police Proactivity in an Era of Pandemic and Protest. In M. Deflem (Eds.), *Crime and Social Control in Pandemic Times*. Emerald Publishing.
- (18) Richard Wise, Roger Mayer, **Scott Mourtgos**, & Holly O-Rourke. (*in press*). A new direction in police-public trust research: Exploring trust from both perspectives. In R. Mayer * B. Mayer (Eds.), *A Research Agenda for Trust: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*.
- (19) **Scott Mourtgos**, Ian Adams, & Sharon Mastracci. (2021). Improving Victim Retention and Officer Response in Rape Investigations. In E. Arble & B. Arnetz (Eds.), *Interventions, Training, and Technologies for Improved Police Well-Being and Performance*. IGI Global.

Teaching

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Introduction to Criminal Jurisprudence (POLS 3220)

In-person

Spring 2023

Statistical Packages for Public Policy (PUBL 6002)

Asynchronous online

Fall 2022

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Justice Administration (CRIM 66767)

Asynchronous online

Fall 2022

Grant Activity

Josh McCrain, **Scott M. Mourtgos (co-PI)**, & Ian Adams. (2022). "Policing Policy, Reforms, and Human Capital." University of Utah, Research Incentive Seed Grant. \$26,796. *Funded*.

Selected Honors

American Society of Criminology, Division of Policing Outstanding Student Article Award
2022

Major Brent R. Taylor Endowed Fellowship 2022

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) Doctoral Summit Fellowship 2022

University of Utah Political Science Department Best Graduate Student Paper Award (with
Ian Adams and Sam Baty) 2022

FBI National Academy – Session 280 2021

Earl and Elies Skidmore Endowed Graduate Fellowship 2021

National Institute of Justice (NIJ) LEADS Scholars Fellowship 2020

Police Star Commendation – Salt Lake City Police Department	2017
Appointed to the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing Rank and File Forum	2016
Law Enforcement Professional of the Year – Salt Lake County Children’s Justice Center	2012
Chief’s Unit of the Year Award – Salt Lake City Police Department	2010
Meritorious Unit Citation – Salt Lake City Police Department	2007
Blue Shirt Award – Salt Lake City Police Department Police Academy	2006
Director’s List – Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy	2005

Professional and Public Facing Communication

PUBLIC AND PRACTITIONER CRIMINOLOGY

Ian Adams, Justin Nix, & **Scott M. Mourtgos**. February 2023. Memphis police numbers dropped by nearly a quarter in recent years - were staffing shortages a factor in the killing of Tyre Nichols? *The Conversation*. [Available online](#).

Scott Mourtgos, Ian Adams, & Justin Nix. August 2022. Linking the Workforce Crisis, Crime, and Response Time. *Police Chief Magazine*. [Available online](#).

Scott Mourtgos, Ian Adams, & Sam Baty. November 2021. Police use-of-force policies should be replaced by those based more closely on legal principles. London School of Economics, Phelan US Centre. [Available online](#).

Justin Nix, Ian Adams, & **Scott Mourtgos**. Autumn, 2021. “Arresting the Recruitment Crisis.” *City Journal*, 344, 4-5. [Available online](#).

Scott Mourtgos, Ian Adams, Justin Nix, Tara Richards. 2020. “Code-R Kit Mandatory Testing Experiment.” Research Brief for Agency Command Staff. Salt Lake City Police Department.

Scott Mourtgos. 2021. “SLCPD Resignations,” *Legislative Brief*. Utah State Legislature.

Scott Mourtgos. 2021. “Effect of COVID-19 Vaccines at SLCPD.” *Research Brief for Multiple Government Agencies*. Utah Department of Public Safety; Salt Lake County Health Department; Salt Lake City Police Department.

Scott Mourtgos. 2020. “Officer Retention in 2020.” *Research Brief for Agency Presentation*. Salt Lake City Police Department.

Scott Mourtgos & Ian Adams. 2020. “First Responder Sexual Assault Training: An Evaluation.” *Research Brief for Agency Presentation*. Salt Lake City Police Department.

Scott Mourtgos. 2017. “Identifying students exposed to violence or trauma.” *In A training manual for school administrators and school resource officers*. Salt Lake City, UT.

CONFERENCE RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

“Effects of police killings on media coverage.” *Southern Political Science Association*. St. Pete Beach, FL. January 2023.

American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. November 2022.

"Police executives on today's critical issues: Linking research to practice." *Invited Roundtable Panelist.*

"The 'war on cops' and the murder of George Floyd."

"Assessing the feasibility and impact of using the violent criminal apprehension program in sexual assault kit initiative projects."

"What explains law enforcement elites' support for civilian reviews boards?"

"Citizen attitudes towards internal and external applications of artificial intelligence in policing."

"The social construction of news and effects on public opinion regarding police use-of-force." *Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.* Las Vegas, NV. March 2022.

Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL. April 2022.

"Arrested (policy) development: Explaining change in police executives support for civilian review boards."

"Citizen perceptions of artificial intelligence use in policing."

American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL. November 2021.

"Elevated police turnover following the summer of George Floyd protests: A synthetic control study."

"911 and domestic violence service emergency hotline calls before and during COVID-19."

"Domestic violence emergency hotline calls before and during COVID-19: How might these data inform victim service agencies and coordinated community response?"

"First responder sexual assault training." *International Association of Chiefs of Police.* New Orleans, LA. October 2020.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. San Antonio, TX. March 2020. (conference canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

"Assessing public perceptions of police use-of-force: Legal reasonableness and community standards."

"Body-worn camera activations: Demographic, attitudinal, and job function predictors."

"Police-public trust: Time to look at the whole picture." *Behavioral Science & Policy Association.* Washington, DC. January 2020.

"The (non)linearity of use-of-force continuums: Effects on officer injuries." *Western Association of Criminal Justice.*, Coeur d'Alene, ID. October 2019.

"Police-community trust: The overlooked perspective of police trust in the public and its effects on policing." *Academy of Management.* Atlanta, GA. August 2017.

GUEST LECTURES, PANELS, & WORKSHOPS

Guest Speaker. (September 2022). "What explains law enforcement elites' support for civilian reviews boards?" Invited research presentation, Political Science Research Colloquium, University of Utah.

Guest Lecturer. (April 2022). "Text Analytics and Bayesian Modeling." Invited lecturer event, POLS 6002: Advanced Quantitative Methods, University of Utah.

Panelist. (September 2021). "Police Use-of-Force Reform: Problems, Policies, and Practices." Invited panelist at the Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah.

Panelist. (2021, September). "Police Use-of-Force Reform: Problems, Policies, and Practices." *Invited panelist at the Hinckley Institute of Politics, University of Utah.*

Guest Lecturer. (September 2021). "Sexual Assault Investigation and Policy." Invited lecturer event, POLS 3220: Introduction to Criminal Jurisprudence, University of Utah.

Guest Speaker. (March 2021). "Utah's Use of Parole: Effects on Violent Crime." Invited research presentation, Political Research Colloquium, University of Utah.

Guest Speaker. (October 2020). "A Random Forest Approach to Predicting US Public Opinion on Punitiveness in the Criminal Courts System." Invited research presentation, Political Research Colloquium, University of Utah, with Ian T. Adams.

Panelist. (October 2020). "Publishing as a Graduate Student." Invited panelist in The Hidden Curriculum workshop, University of Utah.

Guest Lecturer. (October 2020). "Investigating Homicides and Officer Involved Critical Incidents: A Practitioner's Perspective." Invited lecturer event, POLS 3220: Introduction to Criminal Jurisprudence, University of Utah.

Guest Speaker. (March 2020). "Assessing Public Perceptions of Police Use-of-Force: Legal Reasonableness and Community Standards." Invited research presentation, Political Research Colloquium, University of Utah, with Ian T. Adams.

Guest Lecturer. (November 2019). "Policy, Policing, & Prisons." Invited lecturer event, POLS 3320: Introduction to Public Policy and Analysis, University of Utah. November 14, 2019, with Ian T. Adams.

Guest Speaker. (July 2017). "Title IX Sexual Assault Investigations." Invited presentation, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT.

Guest Speaker. (May 2016). "Child Interviews for First Responders." Invited presentation, Utah Children's Justice Symposium/Utah Prosecution Council Domestic Violence Conference, Snowbird, UT.

Guest Speaker. (March 2016). "Analysis of the Impact of Jail Restrictions on Offender Behavior in Salt Lake City." Invited research presentation, Salt Lake City Police Department Week 35 CompStat Assembly, Salt Lake City, UT.

Guest Speaker. (2017, July). "Title IX Sexual Assault Investigations." *Invited presentation, Westminster College, Salt Lake City, UT.*

Guest Speaker. (2016, May). "Child Interviews for First Responders." *Invited presentation, Utah Children's Justice Symposium/Utah Prosecution Council Domestic Violence Conference, Snowbird, UT.*

Service

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Journal of Criminal Justice	2021-Present
-----------------------------	--------------

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS (AD-HOC)

Criminology & Public Policy
Policy Studies Journal
Justice Quarterly
Journal of Criminal Justice
European Journal of Criminology
Policing & Society
Police Practice & Research An International Journal
PLOS One
Crime, Law and Social Change
Administrative Theory & Praxis
American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, 2017
Gender Issues

GRANT REVIEWS (AD-HOC)

Grant Peer Reviewer. (2021). Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program to Support Law Enforcement Agencies. On behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Grant reference BJA-2021-131001.

Grant Lead Technical Reviewer, (2020). Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System. On behalf of the National Institute of Justice. Grant reference NIJ-2020-17296.

Grant Peer Reviewer, (2020). Preventing School Violence: BJA's STOP School Violence Program. On behalf of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Grant reference BJA-2020-17312.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative Law Enforcement Program Representative	2021-Present
Bureau of Justice Statistics, LEMAS Supplement Expert Panel: Developing a National Snapshot of Law Enforcement In-Service Training	2021-2022

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Utah's Office of Guardian ad Litem	2014-2015
Youth Baseball and Soccer Coach, Various Local Recreational Leagues	2008-2020

Societal/Professional Memberships

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences | American Society of Evidence-Based Policing | American Society of Criminology | Western Association of Criminal Justice | FBI National Academy Associates | Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) | International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

Praxis

BOARD POSITIONS

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)

Research Advisory Board 2022-Present

Salt Lake County Children's Justice Center

Board of Advisors 2019-2021

Salt Lake Area Family Justice Center Partners Council

Board of Advisors 2019-2020

Salt Lake Area Non-Fatal Strangulation Steering Committee

Board of Advisors 2019-2020

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Criminal Justice Data Management Task Force, SB150. 2022-2023. Utah State Legislature, on behalf of the Utah Chiefs of Police Association.

Utah Legislature, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee. 2022-2023. On behalf of the Salt Lake City Police Department.

Law Enforcement Technology Workgroup. 2022-2023. Utah State Legislature, on behalf of the Salt Lake City Police Department.

Academic & Professional Media (selected)

Williams, M. (2023, February 8). "State of the Union: What experts have said about Biden's proposed reforms on policing, guns and taxes - 8 essential reads. *The Conversation*. [Link](#)

Reavy, P. (2022, October 10). "Salt Lake City introduces 3rd phase of crime reduction plan." *KSL News*. [Link](#)

Miller, J. (2022, February 25). "Salt Lake City officers used more force in 2021 - but less than expected, department report finds." *The Salt Lake Tribune*. [Link](#)

Key Considerations for Investigations of Sexual Assault Cases. (2022, February 4). *Just Science Podcast*. Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, a Program of the National Institute of Justice. [Link](#)

Rivera, D. (2021, November 10). "COVID risk: Do department policies protect Utah law enforcement and the public?" *KSL News*. [Link](#)

Harkins, P. (2021, October 18). Shooting not to Kill. This Utah Case Fuels a Debate that Frustrates Police. *Salt Lake Tribune*. [Link](#)

Lehman, C. F. (2021, July 13). "Why Cops Are Quitting." *City Journal*. [Link](#)

Payne, D. (2021, July 11). "Sharp Increase in Police Resignations after Black Lives Matter Protests in 2020: Study." *Just the News*. [Link](#)

Ridderbusch, K. (2021, June 21). "Metro Atlanta Police Grapple with Mental Health amid Violence, Stress and Scrutiny." *WABE – Atlanta NPR*. [Link](#)

Mourtgos, S. M. (2021, February 5). "Don't Forget the Good with the Bad and the Ugly: Topic Modeling a Policing Commission Listening Session." *Post at personal website*. [Link](#)

Mourtgos, S. M. (2021, January 19). "Fleeing Police: Evaluating and Forecasting Police Turnover." *Post at Police Practice & Research: An International Journal website*. [Link](#)

Mourtgos, S. M. (2020, December 7). "Policing in a Pandemic: How Pracademics and Data can Help." *Post at Police Practice & Research: An International Journal website*. [Link](#)

Mourtgos, S. M. (2020, December 2). "Explaining Federal Crime Control Policy with Punctuated Equilibrium Theory." *Post at personal website*. [Link](#)

Mourtgos, S. M. (2020, August 20). "Police Twitter Rhetoric post-George Floyd: Difference by Party in the US Senate." *Post at personal website*. [Link](#)

Pantazi, A. (2020, September 11). Jacksonville prosecutors will seek longer sentences for felony gun charges. Will it stop crime? *The Florida Times-Union*. [Link](#)

Race, Policing & Protests: Recent Relevant Research. (July, 2020). *Crime and Justice Research Alliance Newsletter*. [Link](#)

Trust Between Police and the Public. (2019, June 25). *KSL Voices of Reason Podcast*.

A First Responder's Introduction to Sexual Assault. (2018, April). *Utah Peace Officer Standards and Training in-service online course*.

Graduate Student Positions

Research Assistant, Dr. Josh McCrain University of Utah	2022 - 2023
Research Assistant, Dr. Matthew Burbank University of Utah	2021 - 2022
Research Assistant, Dr. Matthew Burbank University of Utah	2020 - 2021
Teaching Assistant, Dr. Stephen Nelson University of Utah	2020
Teaching Assistant, Dr. James M. Curry University of Utah	2019
Research Assistant, Dr. Sharon Mastracci University of Utah	2018 – 2019
Teaching Assistant, Dr. Morgan Lyon Cotti University of Utah	2018 – 2019

Professional Experience

BUREAU COMMANDER - DEPUTY CHIEF

Field Operations Bureau/Data and Crime Analysis Section, Salt Lake City Police Department 2021-Present

DIVISION COMMANDER - CAPTAIN

Training Division/Academy Director, Salt Lake City Police Department 2020-2021

COVID-19 PANDEMIC INCIDENT COMMANDER

Auxiliary Assignment, Salt Lake City Police Department 2020-2021

ACTING DIVISION COMMANDER - ACTING CAPTAIN

Investigations Division, Salt Lake City Police Department 2020

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER - LIEUTENANT

Investigations Division, Salt Lake City Police Department 2019-2020

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE COMMANDER

Auxiliary Assignment, Salt Lake City Police Department 2019-2020

ASSISTANT DIVISION COMMANDER - LIEUTENANT

Support Division, Salt Lake City Police Department 2018-2019

WATCH COMMANDER - LIEUTENANT

Salt Lake City Police Department 2018

SHIFT SUPERVISOR - SERGEANT

Salt Lake City Police Department 2013-2018

Patrol
Bikes
Professional Standards

POLICE OFFICER/DETECTIVE

Salt Lake City Police Department 2005-2013

Patrol
Narcotics

Bikes
Special Victims Unit
Community Intelligence Unit
Field Training

High School Law Enforcement Teacher | Salt Lake City School District 2011-2012
Police Academy Instructor | Weber State University Police Academy & Salt Lake City Police Academy 2010-Present
Child Forensic Interviewing Instructor | State of Utah Attorney General's Office & Salt Lake County Children's Justice Center 2013-2018

Selected Professional Training & Certifications

FBI National Academy - Session 280
Incident Command System (ICS) Advanced Certification: ICS 100, 200, 300, 400; NIMS 700 – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Mid-Management Certificate – Utah POST
Leadership in Police Organizations - International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
Fair and Impartial Policing Trainer – Fair and Impartial Policing
Advanced Force Science Analyst – Force Science Institute
Exploring & Evaluating Police Response Course (IACP)
Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) - Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)
Secret Security Clearance - FBI
Child Abduction Response Team – United States Department of Justice
Instructor Development - Federal Bureau of Investigation
Child Forensic Interviewing – National Institute of Child Health & Human Development
Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - State of Utah Division Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Undercover Operations – Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission
STATIC-99 Sex Offender Actuarial Risk Assessment Instrument
Peace Officer Certification – Utah POST

References

Academic and professional references available upon request. Please send corrections, requests, and concerns to scott.mourtgos@utah.edu.