

Curriculum Vitae

Craig J. Rivera
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Niagara University
Niagara University, NY 14109
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EDUCATION:

University at Albany, State University of New York

Ph.D. in Criminal Justice

University at Albany, State University of New York

M.A. in Criminal Justice

The Pennsylvania State University

B.S. in Administration of Justice

Minor: Psychology

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2019 – present	Niagara University Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
2008 – 2019	Niagara University Associate Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
2002 – 2008	Niagara University Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Courses taught:

Undergraduate

Introduction to Criminal Justice; Policy Research Seminar; Restorative Justice

Graduate

Seminar in Research, Planning, and Evaluation; Introduction to Statistical Analysis; Seminar in Restorative Justice; Seminar in Criminal Justice Management; Policy Paper Seminar

Awards and Honors:

2013 Co-Recipient of Niagara University Vincentian Mission Award
2008 Excellence in Teaching Award

PUBLICATIONS:

Journal Articles:

- Lauger, T., and Rivera, C. (2024). Banging while believing: The intersection of religiosity, gang membership, and violence. *Social Problems*, 71(2), 553-571.
- Rivera, C. and Lauger, T. (2021). The protective effects of religious group membership, service attendance, and scripture reading on binge drinking among college students. *Pastoral Psychology*, 70, 125-140.
- Rivera, C., Lauger, T., and Cretacci, M. (2018). Religiosity, marijuana use, and binge drinking: A test of the moral community hypothesis. *Sociology of Religion*, 79(3), 356-378.
- Cretacci, M., Rivera, C., Gao, Y., and Zheng, L. (2018). Bonding to bamboo: A social control explanation of Chinese crime. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 13(1), 122-136.
- Spano, R., Rivera, C., Vazsonyi, A.T., and Bolland J. (2012). The interrelationship between exposure to violence and parental monitoring during adolescence: A five year longitudinal test. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 49(1-2), 127-141.
- Spano, R., Rivera, C., and Bolland, J. (2011). Does parenting shield youth from exposure to violence during adolescence? A five-year longitudinal test. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(5), 930-949.
- Spano, R., Rivera, C., and Bolland, J. (2010). Are chronic exposure to violence and chronic violent behavior closely related developmental processes during adolescence? *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 37(10), 1160-1179.
- Schupp, P., and Rivera, C. (2010). Trajectory analysis of U.S. county admission patterns 1990-2003: A methodological demonstration. *Journal of Criminal Justice Research*, 1(2), 1-18.
- Schupp, P., and Rivera, C. (2010). Identifying imprisonment patterns and their relation to crime among New York counties 1990-2000: An exploratory application of trajectory modeling. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 21(1), 50-75.
- Cretacci, M., Ding, R., and Rivera, C. (2010). Traditional and bond measures of self-control and their impact on deviance among Chinese University students. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 5(1), 220-236.

- Harmon, T., Acker, J., and Rivera, C. (2010). The power to be lenient: Examining New York governors' capital case clemency decisions. *Justice Quarterly*, 27(5), 742-764.
- Schupp, P., Ireland, T., and Rivera, C. (2010). Examining environmental inequality and social disorganization in upstate New York cities. *Critical Issues in Justice and Politics*, 3(1), 31-49.
- Cretacci, M., Rivera, C., and Ding, F. (2009). Self-control and Chinese delinquency: A look behind the bamboo curtain. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*, 42(2), 131-143.
- Blair, K.D., Taylor, D.B., and Rivera, C. (2009). Strengths and stressors in a population of kinship caregivers: Implications for caseload management and administration. *Families and Society*, 90(4), 431-438.
- Spano, R., Rivera, C., Vazsonyi, A.T., and Bolland J. (2008). The impact of exposure to violence on a trajectory of (declining) parental monitoring: A partial test of the ecological-transactional model of community violence. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 35(11), 1411-1428.
- Roscoe, T., Duffee, D., Rivera, C., and Smith, T. (2007). Arming probation officers: Correlates of the decision to arm at the departmental level. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 20(1), 43-63.
- Spano, R., Rivera, C., and Bolland, J. (2006). The impact of timing of exposure to violence on violent behavior in a high poverty sample of inner city African American youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 35(5), 681-692.
- Bernburg, J., Krohn, M.D., and Rivera, C. (2006). Formal criminal intervention, deviant networks, and subsequent delinquency: A test of structural labeling theory. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 43(1), 67-88.
- Rivera, C., Chu, R., & Loftin, C. (2002). Do strong communities increase homicide? An evaluation of the Nisbett-Cohen thesis. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 22(7/8), 106-118.
- Sweeney, J., Rivera, C., Duffee, D., & Roscoe, T. (2000). Environmental effects on probation supervision strategy. *Corrections Management Quarterly*, 4(4), 34-44.
- Chu, R., Rivera, C., and Loftin, C. (2000). Herding and homicide: An examination of the Nisbett-Reaves hypothesis. *Social Forces*, 78(3), 971-987.

Freilich J.D., Pichardo Almanzar, N., & Rivera C. (1999). How social movement organizations explicitly and implicitly promote deviant behavior: The case of the militia movement. *Justice Quarterly*, 16, 654-683.

Freilich, J.D., & Rivera, C. (1999). Mercy, death, and politics: An historical analysis of executions and commutations in New York State from 1935-1963. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 24(1), 15-29.

Brody, D.C., & Rivera, C. (1997). Examining the Dougherty 'all-knowing' assumption: Do jurors know about their jury nullification power? *Criminal Law Bulletin*, 33, 151-167.

Book Chapters:

Ireland, T.O., Rivera, C., and Hoffman, J.P. (2009). Developmental trajectories, stressful life events, and delinquency. In Savage, J. (Ed.), *Persistent Criminality*, (pgs. 90-114). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Krohn, M.D., Thornberry, T.P., Rivera, C., & Le Blanc, M. (2001). Later delinquency careers. In D.P. Farrington & R. Loeber (Eds.), *Child Delinquents: Development, Interventions, and Service Needs*, 67-93. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Research Reports:

Rivera, C. (2026). *Religious Affiliation, Practice, and Salience Among Niagara University Students: Snapshots in 2019 and 2025*. Center for the Study and Practice of Religion, Niagara University.

Lauger, T., Rivera, C., & Cassidy, M. (2023). Niagara County PATH. Report submitted to Niagara County Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services for inclusion in final submission to Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice.

Cassidy, M., Rivera, C., Lauger, T., & Schupp, P. (2021). *Reducing Revocations Challenge: Final Report*. Report submitted to the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance.

Cassidy, M., Rivera, C., Lauger, T., & Schupp, P. (2020). *Reducing Revocations Challenge: Draft Findings Report*. Report submitted to the CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance.

Rivera, C. (2019). *Niagara University Students' Knowledge and Views of the Catholic Church Sex Abuse Crisis*. Center for the Study and Practice of Religion, Niagara University.

- Rivera, C. (2019). *Religious Affiliation, Practice, and Salience Among Niagara University Students: A Faith Snapshot*. Center for the Study and Practice of Religion, Niagara University.
- Lauger, T., Rivera, C., & Snowden, A. (2018). *Niagara County GIVE Initiative Analysis of Gun Violence Patterns and Process: Final Report*. Report submitted to Niagara County District Attorney's Office.
- Lauger, T., Rivera, C., & Coleman, R. (2017). *Niagara County GIVE Initiative Analysis of Gun Violence Patterns and Process: Final Report*. Report submitted to Niagara County District Attorney's Office.
- Lauger, T., & Rivera, C. (2016). *Gun Violence Analysis for Niagara Falls, NY: GIVE Focused Deterrence/Lever Pulling Initiative*. Report submitted to Niagara County District Attorney's Office.
- Rivera, C. & Ireland, T. (2012). *Niagara Falls Hope VI Evaluation: Final Report*. Report submitted to Niagara Falls Housing Authority at completion of five year evaluation study of Hope VI revitalization effort.
- Lauger, T., Ireland, T., & Rivera, C. (2012). *An Audit of the Gangs in Niagara Falls, NY*. Report Submitted to Rochester Institute of Technology.
- Smith, C.A., Rivera, C., Huizinga, D., Stouthamer-Loeber, M. & Thornberry, T.P. (2000). *Resilience to Serious Violent Juvenile Offending in Three Sites*. Report submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Thornberry, T.P., Smith, C.A., Rivera, C., Huizinga, D., & Stouthamer-Loeber, M. (1999). *Family disruption and delinquency*. Bulletin prepared for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Smith, C.A., Lizotte, A.J., Rivera, C., Krohn, M.D., & Thornberry, T.P. (1998). *Age of onset and dimensions of delinquency*. Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
- Smith, C.A., Rivera, C., & Thornberry, T.P. (1997). *Family disruption and delinquency: The impact of changes in family structure on adolescent development*. Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS:

Rivera, C. “Religious Affiliation, Practice, and Salience Among Niagara University Students: Snapshots in 2019 and 2025.”

Harmon, T., Rivera, C., and Taylor, D. “The Link Between Religiousness and Support for Capital Punishment.”

Phillips, S., and Rivera, C. “Impact of Academy Training on Police Cadet Stress.”

Cassidy, M., Lauger, T., Rivera, C., and Schupp, P. “Analyzing the drivers of probation violations and revocations.”

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTED RESEARCH:

Evaluation of initiative entitled “Co-Design and Pilot of Training for Community Supervision Personnel to Reduce Recidivism [Erie County Probation Department]” (with M. Cassidy); Contracted Research from January to December 2023, funded by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. Budget: approximately \$50,000

Evaluation of PATH 3D Initiative in Niagara County (with M. Cassidy and T. Lauger); Contracted Research from 2023 – 2025; Budget: approximately \$25,000 annually

Evaluation of initiative entitled “Co-Design and Pilot of Training for Community Supervision Personnel to Reduce Recidivism [Niagara County Probation Department]” (with M. Cassidy); Contracted Research from January to December 2022, funded by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. Budget: approximately \$16,500

Reducing Revocation Challenge (with M. Cassidy, T. Lauger, and P. Schupp); Research funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation; October 2019 to June 2021; Budget: \$184,453

Evaluation of PATH and LEAD Initiatives in Niagara County (with M. Cassidy and T. Lauger); Contracted Research from 2019 – 2022; Budget: approximately \$21,000 annually

Niagara County Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) Initiative (with T. Lauger); Contracted Research from 2015 – 2018; Budget: \$32,000 – \$39,000 annually

Niagara Falls Projects Safe Neighborhoods (with T. Lauger); Contracted Research from 2017 – 2019 through the Center for Public Safety Initiatives, Rochester Institute of Technology; Budget: \$25,000 annually

Niagara Falls Housing Authority Hope VI Evaluation (with T. Ireland): Contracted Research from 2007 – 2012; Budget: \$200,000

Niagara University Research Council Summer Research Stipend (with T. Ireland) – 2006
Amount: \$5,200

Niagara University Research Council Summer Research Stipend (with T. Ireland) – 2005
Amount: \$5,200

Niagara University Research Council Research Support Grant – 2005-2006
Amount: \$1,520

Niagara University Research Council Research Support Grant – 2003-2004
Amount: \$1,370

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:

Presentations (previous 10 years):

Rivera, C. (2025). “The Association Between Parental and College Student Religiosity: The Importance of Parental Attachment.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Minneapolis, MN.

Rivera, C., Harmon, T., and Taylor, D. (2025). “The Link Between Religiousness and Support for Capital Punishment.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Minneapolis, MN.

Rivera, C., & Cretacci, M. (2024). “The Link Between Parental and College Student Religiosity.” Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Pittsburgh, PA.

Radatz, D.L., Beebe, J.E., Rivera C., Ireland, T.O. (2024). “The Assessment of First-Year Students’ Perceptions, Knowledge, and Experiences of Gender-Based Violence.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, CA.

Cassidy, M., Rivera, C., Lauger, T., and Schupp, P. (2023). “Analyzing the drivers of probation violations and revocations.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in Philadelphia, PA.

DiRienzo, F., Radatz, D., and Rivera, C. (2022). “Gendered perspectives on the Catholic Church sex abuse crisis.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in Atlanta, GA.

- Beightol, A., & Rivera, C. (2022). "Validating a Risk Prediction Instrument at the County Level." Presented at the New York Association for Pretrial Service Agencies virtual conference.
- DiRienzo, F., Radatz, D., Rivera, C., and Cassidy, M. (2021). "The Cumulative Consequences of Childhood Risk on Later Chronic Offending." Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in Chicago, IL.
- Rivera, C. (2019). "Knowledge and Views of the Sex Abuse Crisis Among Students at a Catholic University." Presented at the annual meetings of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in St. Louis, MO.
- Lauger, T., & Rivera, C. (2019). "Gangs, Religiosity, and Violence." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in San Francisco, CA.
- Rivera, C. (2018). "The Impact of Religious Practices on Marijuana Use and Binge Drinking: A Propensity Score Analysis." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in Atlanta, GA.
- Lauger, T., and Rivera, C. (2018). "The Role of Data and Social Network Analysis in Developing Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence." Paper presented at the University, Community, and Government Partnerships for Race, Equality, and Mission Conference at Niagara University, NY.
- Rivera, C., Lauger, T., and Cretacci, M. (2016). "The Impact of Trajectories of Religiosity and Moral Community on Marijuana Use and Binge Drinking." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology in New Orleans, LA.
- Rivera, C. (2016). "Geographic Distributions of Firearm-Related 911 Calls for Service in Niagara Falls, NY." Presented at the New York State Probation Officers' Association Annual Conference in Niagara Falls, NY.
- Rivera, C. (2016). "Block-Level Trajectory Analysis of 911 'Shots-Fired' Calls for Service in Niagara Falls, NY." Presented at the annual GIVE Regional Conference in Rochester, NY.

SERVICE:

Department, College, and University:

Fall 2025-
Present

Acting Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Spring 2026- Present	Director of Faculty Mission
Fall 2022- Present	Social Science Workgroup of the General Education Committee Review syllabi for courses seeking the “Social Science Inquiry” designation under the new General Education Curriculum.
Fall 2024; Spring 2007; Fall 2005	Acting Director of the Graduate Program in Criminal Justice Administration
Fall 2021- present	Co-Advisor for Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society
Fall 2015- present	Co-Developed and Direct Center for the Study and Practice of Religion at Niagara University Co-developed, and currently direct as of June 2018, a Center focused on the scholarship and practice of religion.
Spring 2022- Spring 2023; Spring 2018- Spring 2019	Hearing Committee of the University Senate Elected to two one-year terms on the Hearing Committee.
March 2019– May 2022; June 2006-June 2008	Niagara University Research Council
Spring 2019- Spring 2020	Common GOOD Conversations Committee Serve on committee organizing series of civil conversations on hot-button topics such as free speech on campus and immigration.
Fall 2018 – Spring 2019	Member of the Grants Evaluation Team Served on a committee charged with evaluating and revising or restructuring the internal grants programs run by the Niagara University Research Council.
Spring 2018- present	Member of the Rose Bente Lee Ostapenko Center for Ethics in Medicine and Healthcare Members facilitate student involvement with concrete projects and initiatives related to ethics in medicine and healthcare.
Fall 2010- Spring 2019	Assisted Campus Ministry with R.C.I.A. classes Attended and assisted with teaching classes

Fall 2013- Spring 2015	Participant in Vincentian Mission Institute
Spring 2014- Spring 2017	Assist with Niagara Fund Faculty/Staff Annual Appeal by serving as a Faculty Representative
Spring 2011	Acting Chair for Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Spring 2009- Summer 2011	Excellence in Teaching Award Committee
Summer 2005 – Summer 2015	Guest Lecturer in NUOP Summer Program Taught a criminal justice module in the Learning to Learn class of the Niagara University Opportunity Program (NUOP) Summer Program
Fall 2004 – Spring 2012	Criminal Justice Association – Faculty Advisor Co-moderator for criminal justice student interest group that conducts fundraisers, engages in community service, holds regular meetings, co-sponsors speakers and events on campus, and arranges field trips.
Spring 2003 – Spring 2008	Niagara University Student Success and Retention Committee Member of university-wide committee with the goal of assessing and improving students’ educational experience and consequently increasing student retention.
Spring 2003 – present	Niagara University Liberal Arts Faculty Advisory Committee Criminal Justice curriculum advisor, and reader on thesis committees, for all students pursuing a Liberal Arts degree who select criminal justice as one of their concentration areas
Fall 2008 – Spring 2009; Fall 2003 – Spring 2004	Chair of Search Committee for Tenure-Track Faculty Member in Criminal Justice Chaired national searches for a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.
Spring 2005; Spring 2007 – Spring 2018	Commencement Ceremonies Marshal Serve as a marshal for the College of Arts and Sciences at Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony.
Discipline of Criminology and Criminal Justice: May 2018- present	Validated Risk Prediction Instrument for County Probation Departments Validated the pretrial supervision risk prediction instrument for Niagara and Washington counties.

- August 2012-
present
- Editorial Board for *Journal of Youth and Adolescence* and *Adolescent Research Review***
Serve on the editorial board for both journals, regularly conducting peer reviews of manuscripts submitted for publication.
- October 2013-
May 2019
- Sheridan College Ad hoc Professional Advisory Council**
Member of advisory committee assisting with the development of a 4-year baccalaureate degree program in Community Safety.
- Spring 2009-
Fall 2009
- American Society of Criminology Program Committee**
Served on Program Committee for the American Society of Criminology November 2009 national conference. Chair of the sub-area “Comparative Data and Methods” within the “Comparative Crime and Justice” area.
- Spring 2003 –
present
- Manuscript Reviewer for *Justice Quarterly*, *Sociology of Religion*; *Addictive Behaviors*; *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*; *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*; *Journal of Adolescence*; and *Criminal Justice Review***
- Community:**
Spring 2025 –
present
- Member of Mission and Ministry Committee**
Serve on a committee tasked with developing and coordinating activities related to the mission and ministries of the Niagara Frontier Catholic Community.
- Fall 2021-
present
- Volunteer at Stella Niagara Library**
Volunteer weekly at the school library and assist with various tasks.
- Fall 2020 –
Present
- Lector and Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Conception Church**
Serve monthly as a lector at Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Ransomville, NY, and bring Communion to homebound parishioners.
- Summer 2023 –
Spring 2025
- Member of Liturgical Pillar Committee**
Served on a committee tasked with scheduling of Holy Day Masses, planning and scheduling trainings for volunteer ministers, and other liturgical issues.
- Fall 2007 –
Fall 2019
- Heart, Love, and Soul Soup Kitchen**
Served monthly at a local soup kitchen in Niagara Falls, NY.
- January 2013-
March 2015
- Board of Directors, Peaceprints of Western New York**
Served on board of directors for faith-based ministry working with inmates and former inmates re-entering society in Western New York.

- Fall 2011-
March 2015 **Program Committee member for Peaceprints of Western New York**
Member of committee charged with examining and evaluating programming, and developing new programming, for two Half-Way homes in Buffalo, NY run by the ministry.
- Fall 2009 –
Fall 2014 **Alumni Chapel Community Pastoral Council**
Served on the Pastoral Council for the Alumni Chapel Community. The council assists with decision-making and planning of events, services, and religious education programming affecting the chapel community.
- January 2009;
January 2014 **B.A.S.I.C Trip**
Attended Campus Ministry's B.A.S.I.C (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) Service trip to Philadelphia, PA from January 5th to January 12th, 2009 and January 4th to January 11th, 2014.
- Fall 2003;
Fall 2004;
Fall 2005 **Participated in American Cancer Society's Breast Cancer Campaigns**
Raised financial support for breast cancer treatment and research, and participated in annual walk each fall for three consecutive years.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Religious Research Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion