

## The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

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**Dr. David Weisburd**  
*Director*

**Dr. Cynthia Lum**  
*Deputy Director*

**Dr. Faye S. Taxman**  
*Corrections & Treatment Director*

**Dr. David B. Wilson**  
*Systematic Reviews Co-Director*

**Cody Telep & Julie Willis**  
*Graduate Research Assistants*

**Tracy Shevlin**  
*Executive Assistant*

**Brittany Davenport**  
*Undergraduate Intern*

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp>

### The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

Administration of Justice Dept.  
George Mason University  
10900 University Blvd. MS4F4  
Manassas, VA 20110

Phone: 703-993-4901  
Fax: 703-993-8316  
Email: [cebcp@gmu.edu](mailto:cebcp@gmu.edu)

## Our Mission

The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, housed within the Administration of Justice Department at George Mason University, seeks to make scientific research a key component in decisions about crime and justice policies by advancing rigorous study in criminal justice and criminology and serving as an informational link to practitioners and the policy community.

### Research Excellence

CEBCP engages in a wide variety of projects, which are highlighted in this newsletter and at our regularly updated website. These studies include both primary research on crime and justice issues as well as evaluations of interventions for outcome and implementation effectiveness. Of special interest to the Center are advancing the study of crime and place; using rigorous methods (especially experimentation) to evaluate and assess policing, corrections and treatment interventions; and conducting systematic reviews of research.

### Proactively Translating Research Into Practice

The Center's main goal is not only to generate research in these areas, but also to proactively work to translate that research into practice by pursuing a number of activities in our communities. These efforts include working with police, courts, corrections, and treatment agencies to improve practices; organizing Congressional briefings and special public lectures highlighting new research findings; developing symposia on specific topics with our practitioner and policy partners; and developing tools to help facilitate the use of research in practice. The Center also serves to train graduate research assistants in these areas.



David Weisburd, Director

## Upcoming Events

**February 3: Congressional Briefing - Reducing Violent Crime at Places: The Research Evidence.** Scholars from GMU and across the U.S. will present briefs on cutting edge research regarding reducing violent crime at places at the Senate Russell Building, SR-385, from 10am to noon. Registration is free but limited; visit <http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/Impact.html> for more information.

**February 12: A Reform Agenda of Corrections presented by Dr. Todd Clear (John Jay College of Criminal Justice).** Dr. Clear will speak on the limits of traditional prison reduction strategies and the potential of community justice for reducing America's reliance on prisons.

**April 22-23: CEBCP Opening Year Celebration.** The Center's opening year celebration will begin with a special session on crime and place by the Crime and Place Working Group on the 22nd (*closed meeting*), the meeting of the Advisory Board on the 23rd, and a special keynote and reception for the Center (*by invitation only*).

**April 27-28: 9th Annual Jerry Lee Crime Prevention Symposium.** A special two-day symposium highlighting methodological and evaluation research on "what works" in crime and justice. Register at our website <http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp>

## Research Programs

### CPWG Co-Directors:

Dr. David Weisburd &  
Dr. Elizabeth Groff

### CPWG Members:

Dr. Anthony Braga  
*Harvard University*

Dr. Gerben Bruinsma  
*Netherlands Institute for  
the Study of Crime and  
Law Enforcement (NSCR)  
and Leiden University*

Chief Jim Bueermann  
*Redlands Police Depart-  
ment*

Dr. John Eck  
*University of Cincinnati*

Dr. Elizabeth Groff  
*Temple University*

Dr. Cynthia Lum  
*George Mason University*

Dr. Jerry Ratcliffe  
*Temple University*

Dr. George Rengert  
*Temple University*

Dr. Sue-Ming Yang  
*Georgia State University*



Photo by Alexander Rogge

### Program Co-Directors:

Dr. Cynthia Lum (above)  
& Dr. David Weisburd

### Crime and Place Working Group (CPWG)

**Place as an important unit of analysis.** Recent studies have pointed to a tremendous concentration of crime at very small geographic units of analysis such as street segments (often termed "crime hot spots"), and evaluation research on hot spots policing suggests that significant crime prevention benefits can be gained by focusing interventions at such places. Despite a growing scientific base for crime prevention at places, there remain significant gaps in our knowledge. Moreover, crime prevention approaches in society have often continued to ignore the importance of place. The CPWG works to identify ar-

eas of significant research promise, and practical crime prevention benefit in this area.

**Current Projects:**  
*Exploring Developmental Patterns of Crime at Place* (David Weisburd, Elizabeth Groff and Sue-Ming Yang).

*The Influence of Places on Policing: The NIJ DuBois Fellowship* (Cynthia Lum).

*The Impact of Environmental Factors on Effective Drug Treatment of Offenders* (Cynthia Lum and Faye Taxman)

*An Examination of Officer Perceptions of Dangerous Spaces and Gang Territories: Some*



*Preliminary Findings* (Julie Willis)

**Website Extra:** A working 22-page bibliography on all crime and place literature is now available at our website. To suggest additional cites, please send an email to Julie Willis, CPWG coordinator, at [jwillis3@gmu.edu](mailto:jwillis3@gmu.edu)

### Evidence-Based Policing

**Improving policing with evidence.** A strong tradition in criminological research has been the evaluation and improvement of police practices to reduce crime. Such scientific evidence uses information, analysis, and results from research to guide police activity as well as inspire innovations and new ideas in joint collaboration with our practitioner-partners.

Yet as the recent Committee to Review Research on Police Policy and Practices of the National Research Council states in their report *Fairness and Effectiveness in Policing*, "there is much about police practice and its effectiveness that is still unknown" and that "many established police practices have not been carefully evaluated" (p. 247). The

CEBCP engages in a variety of projects and activities, in collaboration with police agencies, to directly address this call for more evidence for more effective and fair crime prevention strategies.

**Translating police evidence into practice.** In November, Dr. Cynthia Lum gave the "Ideas in American Policing" lecture at the Police Foundation, which emphasized the need to improve efforts to translate research into practice. At the lecture, she presented an evidence-based matrix, developed with Dr. Christopher Koper (PERF) and Cody Telep (GMU) to organize the most rigorous police evaluation research into a three-dimensional framework. The matrix visually depicts our collective knowledge of what works in policing and will soon be available on our website.

### Current Projects:

*The San Bernardino Valley Broken Windows Policing Experiment* (Weisburd, Hinkle, Farnega & Ready)

*The Effects of Problem-Oriented Policing on Crime and Disorder: A Systematic Review* (Weisburd, Telep, Hinkle & Eck; Online at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/224990.pdf>)

*Northern Virginia Research & Teaching Police Consortium* (Team members, along with Dr. Stephen Mastrofski are partnering with local police agencies on implementing science into practice.)

**Website Extras:** Check out our latest WORDLE comparing words used in police and hospital mission statements.

## Evidence-Based Corrections and Treatment

### Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Services

As Director of CEBCP's *Program on Evidence-Based Corrections and Treatment*, Professor Faye Taxman has expertise in the delivery of evidence-based programs and services for offenders. She currently is conducting two randomized trials and has completed 15 other studies testing new processing, understanding the adoption of services, and exploring the concepts of sustainability of EBPs in a variety of settings. Her current projects look at the effectiveness of treatment modalities in improving offender outcomes, the impact or organizational climate on implementation, and the use

of technology to improve assessment and monitoring in drug courts and juvenile justice agencies.

Dr. Taxman's current studies focus on process improvements. She was the Lead PI for the Coordinating Center of NIDA's Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies (CJ-DATS). During the 6-year cooperative, Dr. Taxman conducted a national survey of criminal justice treatment practices in all justice settings, a randomized trial of positive reinforcement in probation and parole, and a randomized prison HIV prevention program.

Dr. Taxman recently gave a

presentation entitled "A National Portrait of Treatment in the CJS" at the SAMHSA Criminal and Juvenile Justice Matrix Workgroup.

**Current Projects:**  
*Evidence-Based Practices in Corrections Project*

*Manualized Treatment in A Seamless System of Care*

*Technology Transfer (JARPP & eCourt)*

For more information, please contact the Evidence-Based Corrections and Treatment Coordinator Kate Zinsser at [kzinsser@gmu.edu](mailto:kzinsser@gmu.edu).



Photo by Alexander Rogge

**Program Director:**  
Dr. Faye Taxman (above)



**Executive Assistant:**  
Tracy Shevlin

## Systematic Reviews

Taking stock of existing research evidence on the effectiveness of interventions intended to prevent or reduce crime not only is an important part of the scientific process but also can play a central role in informing public policy. Not all evidence is equally credible and even high quality studies do not always agree with one another. A rigorous method called systematic reviewing has been developed to synthesize the evidence across seemingly disparate studies of a common intervention or crime policy.

The Systematic Review Research Program seeks to advance the use of this approach by not only improving upon the methods used to bring together research evidence, but also to conduct systematic reviews on a wide variety of criminal jus-

tice intervention areas. Already, team members have published systematic reviews on policing, corrections, juvenile justice, counter-terrorism, and drug treatment through the *Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group* of which the co-Directors of this research program lead.

### **Reviews authored or co-authored by CEBCP members:**

*Problem-Oriented Policing* (David Weisburd, Cody Telep, Josh Hinkle, and John Eck)

*Second Responder Programs for Domestic Violence* (Robert C. Davis, David Weisburd, and Bruce Taylor)

*Counter-terrorism Strategies* (Cynthia Lum, Leslie Kennedy, and Alison Sherley)

*Boot Camps* (David Wilson, Doris MacKenzie, and Fawn Ngo-Mitchell)

*Court-mandated Interventions for Domestic Violence* (Lynette Feder, David Wilson, and Sabrina Austin)

*Incarceration-based Drug Treatment* (Ojmarrh Mitchell, David Wilson, and Doris MacKenzie)

*Drug Courts* (In Progress-David Wilson, Ojmarrh Mitchell, and Doris Mackenzie)

*'Pulling Levers' Policing* (In Progress—David Weisburd and Anthony Braga)

**Website Extras:** Dr. Wilson's Toolkits and Resources for conducting meta-analysis and systematic reviews as well as links to all completed reviews listed here are now available.



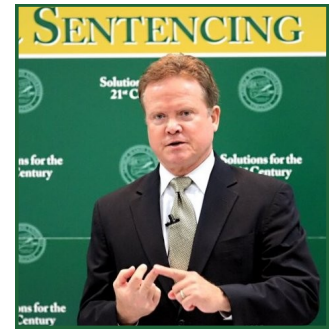
**Program Co-Directors:**  
Dr. David Wilson (below)  
& Dr. David Weisburd

## Impacting Policy

The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy seeks to impact policy in numerous ways, and conducts public lectures, congressional briefings, and various symposia to inform decision makers about the scientific evidence of the effectiveness of programs and interventions intended to reduce crime and the fear of crime. **Examples of such events have included:**

1. **Congressional Briefings** - These are held in Congressional office buildings in Washington, DC, and are sponsored by a House or Senate member. They are designed to showcase the latest empirical research on crime and justice topics and interventions prepared in concise, accessible ways. Our next congressional briefing will take place on February 3, 2009, from 10am to 12noon at the Senate Russell Building, SR-385. The event is open to the public, but advanced registration is required at CEBCP's website.

2. **Public Symposia and Lectures** - Such events provide a forum and discussing setting to bring together policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to explore thought provoking topics and debates within both the field of criminology and its practice. Recent examples include the Symposium on Drugs in America sponsored by Senator Webb (<http://webb.senate.gov/symp/Symposium.html>), organized with Dr. Faye Taxman, our Director for the Research Program on Evidence-based Corrections and Treatment. Other events will include our upcoming Crime and Place Working Group Symposium and the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Lee Crime Prevention Symposium in April. In addition to these forums, CEBCP members and affiliates give public lectures and present their research at various conferences throughout the world. For more information on lectures and future events, as well as to access transcripts of lectures, please visit the Center's website.



*Photo by Alexander Rogge*

Senator Webb (above) speaking at the Drug Policy Symposium

3. **Evaluation Projects** - The Center is actively involved in expanding our crime policy evidence base through the rigorous evaluation of criminal justice interventions. Ongoing work includes the San Bernardino Valley Broken Windows Policing Experiment and the Evidence-Based Practices in Corrections project. We also partner with criminal justice agencies; non-profit research groups; and local, state, and federal government with the goal of increasing the use of research in their justice practices and evaluation.

## Graduate Research Assistantship Available

CEBCP will be awarding a graduate research assistantship (renewable up to three years) at the doctoral level within the ADJ Department's graduate program in Justice, Law and Crime Policy. This graduate assistantship will begin in the Fall of 2009, and we seek an individual interested and specializing in the criminology of places.

**Requirements and Qualifications:** Students must be accepted in the Administration of Justice Department's graduate program in Justice, Law and Crime Policy (applications for the Fall 2009 semester for those seeking funding are due **February 1, 2009**). Students must comply with university guidelines on full-time status for GRA appointees. Individuals holding or in near completion of a Master's degree at the time of application in a related field will be preferred. Proficiency in the use of geographic information systems (e.g., ArcGIS) as well as general statistical methods and associated tools is desired, as is experience in working on funded research projects in crime and justice.

**Benefits:** The assistantship will be yearly, renewable for up to three years contingent on performance and progress in the JLCP doctoral program. Included in the assistantship is a tuition waiver for up to nine credits, an academic year (9 month) graduate assistantship stipend of \$20,000, with the possibility of additional hours per week if funding and university policy permits. Additionally, we offer a \$6,000 summer funding stipend, funding each year to one academic conference of which the Center is involved (e.g., the American Society of Criminology Conference), health insurance benefits, a computer, and office space.

**To Apply:** All interested parties must apply for admission to the graduate program in Justice, Law and Crime Policy. Interested applicants must apply to George Mason through its normal channels by **February 1, 2009**. Please visit GMU's Graduate Admissions JLCP webpage for more information on how to apply online: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/our\\_programs/progdetails.asp?progID=235](http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/our_programs/progdetails.asp?progID=235). Additionally, **interested applicants must also submit a one-page letter of interest directly to Dr. Cynthia Lum, Deputy Director of CEBCP**. The letter should detail (1) how the applicant satisfies the qualifications listed above; (2) provide references to two individuals who can speak directly to the applicant's research in the area of crime and place studies and research skills; (3) list any publications of the applicant's in the area of crime and place; and (4) indicate the month, year, and institution in which the applicant's Master's degree has been or will be conferred. Please feel free to contact Dr. Lum at [clum@gmu.edu](mailto:clum@gmu.edu) with questions about this position. George Mason University is an equal opportunity employer.

## Contributing to CEBCP

The activities of the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy rely on public grants and private contributions. For contributors, there are a number of ways to support CEBCP:

**Sponsor graduate student assistantships and research** - The mentoring, training, and funding of graduate students is key in the success of academic research and to continue to build our discipline. With your contributions, such apprenticeships are possible.

**General Contributions** - General contributions help support policy impact events held by the CEBCP and can help provide tuition for undergraduate interns.

**Propose and sponsor a specific evaluation or project** - The unbiased and scientific evaluation of crime prevention programs is necessary to ensure that public and private spending for those programs are supported by scientific evidence of effectiveness.

**Sponsor systematic reviews of known evidence** - CEBCP team members have not only conducted systematic reviews but have also advanced the methods by which reviews are conducted. Such synthesis of research evidence is central in our goal of advancing the use of social science research.

If you are interested in contributing, please contact our Executive Assistant, Tracy Shevlin, ([tshevlin@gmu.edu](mailto:tshevlin@gmu.edu)).

## Advisory Board Members

### Robert Boruch

Chair, Graduate School of Education and Statistics Dept., University of Pennsylvania

### Gerben Bruinsma

Full Professor, University of Leiden, and Scientific Director of Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR)

### Jim Bueermann

Chief of Police, Redlands, California Police Department

### Ron Clarke

Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University

### Lorraine Mazerolle

Professor, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Director of ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security, Griffiths University, Australia

### Gary LaFree

Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Director, START Center, University of Maryland

### Edward Latessa

Professor and Division Head, Division of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati

### Jerry Lee

President, Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania and B101-FM Radio President and Founder

### Friedrich Lösel

Director, Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University, and Stockholm Prize recipient

### Daniel Nagin

Professor of Public Policy and Statistics at The Heinz School, Carnegie Mellon University

### Peter Neyroud

Chief Executive, National Policing Improvement Agency, United Kingdom

### Lawrence Sherman

Wolfsen Professor of Criminology, Cambridge University, and Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania

## Meet Our Graduate Research Assistants and Interns



### Julie Willis (left), Doctoral Student & CPWG

**Coordinator.** Julie's research interests include crime and small scale spaces, crime and place, and gang territory. Her recent work involves examining cognitions of dangerous spaces and gang territory in police officers and community residents.

### Cody Telep (center), Doctoral Student & Evidence-Based Policing

**Coordinator.** Cody's research interests include innovations in policing, police education, and evidence-based policy. He has recently completed a Campbell Collaboration systematic review on the effectiveness of problem-oriented policing and is a GMU Presidential Scholar.

### Brittany Davenport (right) Undergraduate Intern.

Brittany is currently in her fourth year at GMU. She is interested in place-based policing, crime prevention and evidence-based policy, and plans to attend graduate school.

## Publications, Reports, and Lectures by CEBCP Team and Affiliates

*COD Services in Community Correctional Settings: An Examination of Organizational Factors that Affect Service Delivery.* (F.S. Taxman, K. Crospey, J. Melnick, & M. Perdoni, 2008). *Behavioral Sciences and Law*, 26(4): 435-455.

*Community-Based Co-Occurring Disorder (COD) Intermediate and Advanced Treatment for Offenders.* (J. Melnick, C. Coen, F.S. Taxman, S. Sacks, & K. Zinsser, 2008). *Behavioral Sciences and Law*, 26(4): 457-473.

*Getting Beyond the Moral Drama of Crime: What We Learn From Studying White Collar Criminal Careers.* (D. Weisburd, E. Waring, & N. Piquero, 2008). In J. Minkes & L. Minkes (Eds.), *Corporate and White Collar Crime*. London: Sage.

*A Rausch Model Analysis of Evidence-Based Treatment Practices Used in the Criminal Justice System.* (C. Henderson, F.S. Taxman, & D. Young, 2008) *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 93(1-2): 163-175.

*How Well Criminologists Explain Crime?: Statistical Models in Published Studies.* (D. Weisburd & A. Piquero, 2008). *Crime and Justice*, 37, 453-502.

*Journal of Experimental Criminology.* (D. Weisburd, Editor in Chief).

*Missing a Critical Piece of the Pie: Simple Document Search Strategies Inadequate for Systematic Reviews.* (D. Wilson, in press). *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.

*No Illusion, Offender and Organizational Change in Maryland's Proactive Community Supervision Model.* (F.S. Taxman, 2008). *Criminology and Public Policy*, 7(2), 275-302.

*Police Pursuits in an Age of Innovation and Reform; The IACP Police Pursuit Database.* (C. Lum & G. Fachner, Forthcoming). Alexandria, VA: International Association of Chiefs of Police.

*Project TIPLINE Software and Handbook for Law Enforcement Agencies.* (C. Lum, for NIJ and SPAWAR). Can be accessed at <http://gemini.gmu.edu/clum/Tipline/About.html>.

*Putting Crime in Its Place: Units of Analysis in Geographic Criminology.* (D. Weisburd, W. Bernasco, & G. Bruinsma, Eds., 2008). New York: Springer Verlaag.

*Risk-Focused Policing at Places: An Experimental Evaluation of the Communities that Care Program in Redlands, California.* (D. Weisburd, N. Morris, & J. Ready, 2008). *Justice Quarterly*, 25(1): 163-200.

*Systematic Coding for Research Synthesis.* (D. Wilson, 2009). In H. Cooper, L. V. Hedges, & J. Valentine (Eds.), *The Handbook of Research Synthesis* (2nd edition). New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

*The Crucial Question for Crime: Not Who Done It, But Where Done It?* Forum for New Ideas Lecture: ADJ Dept., George Mason Univ. (D. Weisburd, Nov. 18, 2008).

*The Geography of Drug Activity and Violence: Analyzing Spatial Relationships of Non-Homogenous Crime Event Types.* (C. Lum, 2008). *Substance Use & Misuse*, 43:179-201.

*The Irony of Broken Windows Policing: A Micro-Place Study of the Relationship Between Disorder, Focused Police Crack-downs, and Fear of Crime.* (J. Hinkle & D. Weisburd, 2008). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 36(6): 503-512.

*The Miracle of the Cells: An Experimental Study of Interventions to Increase Payment of Court Ordered Financial Obligations.* (D. Weisburd, T. Einat, & M. Kowalski, 2008). *Criminology and Public Policy*, 7(1): 9-36.

*To Be or Not To Be: Community Supervision Déjà Vu.* (F.S. Taxman, 2008). *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 47(3): 250-260.

*Translating Police Research into Practice.* Ideas in American Policing Lecture: Police Foundation. (C. Lum, Nov. 17, 2008).

*Where the Action is at Places: Examining Spatio-Temporal Patterns of Juvenile Crime at Places Using Trajectory Analysis and GIS.* (E. Groff, D. Weisburd & N. Morris, 2008). In *Putting Crime in Its Place: Units of Analysis in Geographic Criminology*. New York: Springer Verlaag.



## Administration of Justice at George Mason University

The Administration of Justice Department (ADJ) at George Mason University is a multi-disciplinary unit in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition to our large undergraduate program of over 600 students, we also offer M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Justice, Law and Crime Policy. The ADJ Department has 13 full time, tenure-track faculty members, three full time teaching professors, three affiliated Centers, and over 35 adjunct instructors with years of experience in the justice fields. For more information on how to apply, please visit us at <http://adj.gmu.edu>.