

CHRISTOPHER CONTRERAS

Department of Sociology
University of Massachusetts, Boston
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POSITION

University of Massachusetts, Boston (UMB)

2021 – Assistant Professor of Sociology
Present

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

Ph.D. Criminology, Law & Society 2021

Dissertation: The Neighborhood Context of Drugs and Violence: Examining Drug Abuse, Drug Activity, and Violent Crime

Committee: John Hipp (Chair), Elliott Currie, and Bryan Sykes

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB)

M.S. Criminal Justice 2014

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

B.A. Criminology, Law & Society and Social Ecology 2012
Minor in Philosophy

Irvine Valley College (IVC)

A.A. Social and Behavioral Sciences 2009

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Communities and Crime, Criminological Theory, Drug Abuse, Drug Markets, Quantitative Methods

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

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- 2021 American Society of Criminology (Division of Communities and Place): Ruth D. Peterson and Lauren J. Krivo Graduate Student Scholar Award (1st Place)
- 2021 Society for the Study of Social Problems (Drinking and Drugs Division): Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award (1st Place; \$100)
- 2021 UCI School of Social Ecology: Dean's Quarterly Fellowship for Spring Quarter (\$13,500)
- 2021 UCI School of Social Ecology: Dean's Quarterly Fellowship for Winter Quarter (\$13,500)
- 2020 American Society of Criminology: Gene Carte Student Paper Award (1st Place; \$250)
- 2020 UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society: Gil Geis Award for Excellence in Research (\$250)
- 2020 Western Society of Criminology: Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Award (1st Place; \$100)
- 2019 American Society of Criminology: Ruth D. Peterson Fellowship for Racial and Ethnic Diversity (\$6,000)
- 2019 UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society: Commendation Award (\$500)
- 2019 Western Society of Criminology: June Morrison Travel Award (\$400)
- 2018 UCI School of Social Ecology: Dean's Advancement Fellowship for Fall Quarter (\$12,660)
- 2018 Western Society of Criminology: Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention)
- 2017 UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society: Commendation Award (\$500)
- 2017 UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society: Kitty Calavita Award for Best Second-Year Project (\$750)
- 2017 UCI School of Social Ecology: Graduate Student Mentoring Award (\$200)
- 2017 Western Society of Criminology: Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Award (Honorable Mention)
- 2014 CSULB College of Health and Human Services: Graduate Dean's List of University Scholars and Artists Award
- 2012 UCI School of Social Ecology: Special Recognition for Multidisciplinary Achievement Award
- 2009 IVC Foundation: Social and Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Award (\$300)
- 2009 IVC Support Services: Recognition of Academic Excellence Award

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

4. Pontell, Henry N., Jianhong Liu, **Christopher Contreras**, Soi Wan Donna Leong, and Li Huang (2022). "Occupational Crimes in Casinos: Employee Theft in Macau, China." *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 78(3), 241–270. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-021-10001-2>
3. Lee, Narae and **Christopher Contreras** (2021). "Neighborhood Walkability and Crime: Does the Relationship Vary by Crime Type?" *Environment and Behavior*, 53(7), 753–786. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916520921843>
American Society of Criminology Gene Carte Student Paper Award, First Place (2020)
Western Society of Criminology Miki Vobryzek-Bolden Student Paper Award, First Place (2020)
2. **Contreras, Christopher** and John R. Hipp (2020). "Drugs, Crime, Space, and Time: A Spatiotemporal Examination of Drug Activity and Crime Rates." *Justice Quarterly*, 37(2), 187–209. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2018.1515318>
American Society of Criminology, Division of Communities and Place, Ruth D. Peterson and Lauren J. Krivo Graduate Student Scholar Award, First Place (2021)
1. **Contreras, Christopher** (2017). "A Block-Level Analysis of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Crime in the City of Los Angeles." *Justice Quarterly*, 34(6), 1069–1095. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2016.1270346>
UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society Kitty Calavita Award, First Place (2017)
Western Society of Criminology Miki Vobryzek-Bolden Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention (2017)

PRIOR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Irvine Laboratory for the Study of Space and Crime (ILSSC)

Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), Winter 2016, Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Summer 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor

UMB Department of Sociology

Criminology

Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Teaching Associate

UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society

Crime and Public Policy

Summer 2020, Summer 2021

Teaching Assistant (TA)

UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society

Community Context of Crime

Winter 2015

Crime and Public Policy

Fall 2016, Spring 2018

Crime Measurement

Spring 2015

Culture Change and the Mexican People

Fall 2014

Deviance

Winter 2017

Fundamentals of Criminology, Law & Society

Fall 2020

Government Crime

Spring 2017

Introduction to Criminology, Law & Society

Winter 2018, Winter 2020

Introduction to Criminology, Law & Society (Graduate)

Summer 2018, Summer 2019

Legal Sanctions and Social Control

Fall 2017, Spring 2019

Naturalistic Field Research

Fall 2015

Structural Equation Modeling I (Graduate)

Winter 2019

White-Collar Crime

Summer 2017, Summer 2018

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Fellowship Committee Member

Fall 2022 – Present

UMB Department of Sociology

Undergraduate Studies Committee Member

Fall 2022 – Present

Non-Tenure Track (NTT) Faculty Committee Member

Fall 2022 – Present

Criminology & Criminal Justice Program Committee Member	Fall 2021 – Spring 2022
Oxford Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice	
Area Editor — Research Methods	Fall 2021 – Winter 2022
American Society of Criminology	
2023 Annual Meeting Program Committee — Section Chair	Fall 2022 – Present
Graduate Student Poster Award Committee Member	Winter 2022 – Fall 2022 Winter 2021 – Fall 2021
UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation	
TA Professional Development Program Panelist	Fall 2018
UCI Department of Criminology, Law & Society	
Comprehensive Examinations Committee Chair	Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
UCI Graduate Division Competitive Edge Program	
Graduate Peer Mentor	Summer 2017
UCI School of Social Ecology Take a Student to Eat Program	
Alumni Volunteer	Fall 2015

REVIEWING ACTIVITY

Journal Peer Review

Crime, Law and Social Change; Criminal Justice Studies; Criminology; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Global Crime; International Journal of Drug Policy; Journal of Crime and Justice; Journal of Criminology; Journal of Drug Issues; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Journal of Urban Affairs; Justice Quarterly; Police Quarterly

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 American Society of Criminology
 Society for the Study of Social Problems
 UMB Tri-Alpha Honor Society
 Western Society of Criminology

REFERENCES

Dr. John R. Hipp, Professor

University of California, Irvine
 Department of Criminology, Law & Society
 3392 Social Ecology II
 Irvine, CA 92697-7080
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Dr. Elliott P. Currie, Professor

University of California, Irvine
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 2385 Social Ecology II
 Irvine, CA 92697-7080
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Dr. Bryan L. Sykes, Associate Professor

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