

# TheCrimAcademy\_29\_Lantz

Sun, 9/26 8:47AM 50:12

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

hate crime, hate crimes, victimization, reporting, crime, pandemic, important, people, victim, research, paper, police, official statistics, talking, united states, bit, survey, crimes, victimized, terms

## SPEAKERS

Brendan Lantz, Jenn Tostlebe, Jose Sanchez

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Jenn Tostlebe 00:14

Hi everyone, welcome back to The Criminology Academy podcast where we are criminally academic. My name is Jenn Tostlebe.



Jose Sanchez 00:22

And I'm Jose Sanchez.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:24

And today we are speaking with Professor Brendan Lantz about his research on hate crimes.



Jose Sanchez 00:29

Brendan Lantz is an assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, and director of the Hate Crime Research and Policy Institute at Florida State University. His research focuses on hate crime, violence and victimization, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation and Bureau of Justice Statistics, among others. His published work has appeared in a number of research outlets, such as Social Problems, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Justice Quarterly, and Psychology of Violence. Thank you so much for joining us today, Brendan.



Brendan Lantz 01:04

Thanks for having me.



Jenn Tostlebe 01:05

All right. So just to get started a brief overview of the episode, we're going to first start with a broad discussion on

hate crimes, focusing on what they are, what they look like, and how they're punished. From there, we'll go into a paper that's authored by Brendan on differences between Asians and non Asians in reporting of victimization during covid 19 pandemic. And then lastly, we will talk about hate crimes internationally. So Jose, why don't you get us started?

J

Jose Sanchez 01:36

Okay, so Brendan, as is typical of this podcast, we're about to ask you a question, that's probably a little too big, but we're gonna ask it anyways. Can you tell us what is a hate crime?

B

Brendan Lantz 01:50

Yeah, so I mean, a hate crime from a legal standpoint is just any crime motivated by bias towards characteristic of the victim. So most often, that's some sort of demographic characteristic race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, and so on. So it's any it's any crime at all. So it could be it could be a violent crime, but it also could be, you know, a property crime or anything, anything like that.

J

Jose Sanchez 02:16

Right. And can you tell us a little bit of how this definition of hate crime has changed or evolved over time?

B

Brendan Lantz 02:24

Yeah, I think, so, that's, that's actually a really important question when we're talking about hate crimes. So, one thing that's important to note is that hate crimes as a legal concept, didn't even really exist before the 1980s. Right. So in the 1980s, is when we first started implementing hate crime legislation, the United States, and that was at the state level, at the federal level, we didn't see hate crime legislation, like actual hate crime legislation beyond, you know, tracking hate crime statistics until 2009. So hate crimes as a legal category are relatively new. Where we see the most variation in the definition is actually over space. So in the sense that there's a lot of state to state variation and how hate crimes are defined. And then you see some variation over time within places. So like in Florida, for example, where I'm recording from right now, there's a push to expand the definition of a hate crime to include gender based crime. Right now, if a crime was committed because of somebody's gender, it wouldn't count as a hate crime in Florida. So there's a lot of variations state to state. Other states do include gender in their hate crime laws, things like that.



Jenn Tostlebe 03:25

And gender is included in like the federal definition. Correct? Okay. That's interesting. I didn't realize there was as much variation.

B

Brendan Lantz 03:34

Yeah, there's sort of, it makes things really complicated when we start talking about tracking them at the local level, and then reporting them at the federal level.



Jose Sanchez 03:42

Right. And then if memory serves, correct, I think there's still three states that don't even have any hate crime legislation, right?



Brendan Lantz 03:49

Yep. So Wyoming, Arkansas, and South Carolina don't have hate crime legislation. And then Indiana is sort of an interesting, they sort of fall in between there. They have a hate crime law that they introduced in the last couple years. But, it doesn't actually enumerate any categories. So, it doesn't even say you know, it doesn't say race, religion, and so on. So, some of the organizations that keep track of hate crime laws, like the Dnti-defamation League, ADL doesn't even recognize Indiana's law as a hate crime law.



Jenn Tostlebe 04:18

Wow. Lots of changes over time and in place.



Brendan Lantz 04:23

Yep.



Jenn Tostlebe 04:24

Alright, so as with all types of crime, we know that more crimes more hate crimes occur that are reported to police. And that's something we'll get into more when we talk about your paper. How many known in other words reported hate crimes occur on a yearly basis?



Brendan Lantz 04:41

So, that's a pretty complicated answer when we start talking about hate crime. The most recent official statistics on hate crime released by the FBI a couple weeks ago indicate roughly 7,700 hate crimes in the last year. But what's really important to note there like as you alluded to, is that those officially recorded hate crimes are really by all accounts a gross underestimate of actual hate crime that's occurring in the United States every year. So data from other sources, like the National Crime Victimization Survey actually indicate the rates of victimization are much higher, exceeding more than 200,000 incidents a year. So that's a huge discrepancy.



Jenn Tostlebe 05:18

Yeah. And how does that compare then to non hate crime? Well, I think on par.



Brendan Lantz 05:25

Yeah. So, in terms of those two, there's sort of two questions there, right, like compared to actual occurrence

compared to non hate crimes, hate crimes, you know, it's a relatively small number, and the crimes are comparatively rare. But in terms of reporting, we know that the reporting rates in terms like compared to other crime types are quite a bit lower, sort of on par with some of those notoriously underreported crimes like sexual assault.



Jenn Tostlebe 05:47

Are there reasons as to why they're so under reported?

B

Brendan Lantz 05:51

I think there's a lot to a lot to unpack there. I think one of the biggest one of the biggest reasons is who hate crimes most commonly target, right? So they're most commonly targeting marginalized communities, Black and Hispanic people, Asian people, LGBTQ people. And there are a lot of reasons why those different groups might be reluctant to engage with the police, right? So especially if you were victimized, because of your race, that's going to be a really salient factor in your decision making process post victimization. And then if you're, you're concerned about potential police racism or something like that, that's just going to be magnified when you're thinking about reporting a hate crime, where you're just victimized because of your race.

J

Jose Sanchez 06:35

So, in one of your recent papers, you discuss that there's an inaccuracy in the amount of a crime. However, you also mentioned that official hate crime statistics may be inaccurate when they're trying to represent the nature of hate crimes. Can you tell us a little bit more about what exactly you mean by this?

B

Brendan Lantz 06:55

Yeah, of course, I think that's a really important point. So, what I mean, when I say that, it's actually pretty straightforward. The under reporting and under recording of hate crime that we've been talking about, it's it's not a random process, right. So instead, there are systematic differences in the likelihood of hate crime reporting, there are systematic differences in the likelihood of recording. And if the process of recording and reporting is non random, then that snapshot that we get from official statistics isn't going to be representative of hate crimes as a whole. Right. So we know that in terms of in terms of what the research suggests, we know that hate crimes that are most likely to be reported and recorded and appear in official statistics are those that fit the stereotypical notions of a true or a normal hate crime. So, those'll be the hate crimes that are interpersonal, in nature, they're violent in nature, they involve a white offender and a minority victim. And often they have some sort of flag for offender motivation, like slur, like the presence of a slur or hate group membership. But there's a lot of variation in hate crime characteristics, and a lot of hate crimes don't fit that mold. So those hate crimes that don't fit that mold are a lot less likely to appear in official statistics.



Jenn Tostlebe 08:03

Can you give some examples of what are types of hate crimes that went this mold? That I mean, I think of and that I think a lot of people do,



B

Brendan Lantz 08:11

I think it's normal to think of that that's the kind of that's the kind of hate crime that we that's, first off is most apparent, right? Because we have the complicating aspect of a hate crime is that bias motivation. And it's such a unique aspect to a criminal incident in that it's not always apparent, right. So it becomes more apparent when you have those flags, like a slur, or so on. But we also know that there's a lot of, for example, hate crime that are not committed by white people, minority on minority hate crime, things like that, you know, even in our research we're going to talk about today, some of the anti Asian hate crime was committed by people by offenders who identified as Asian, or not all, hate, hate crimes fit that mold, you have a lot of variation. Does that make sense?



Jenn Tostlebe 08:54

Yeah, yeah. Yep. Okay, so our next question is kind of on like the trend of crime over time. So, we know based off of official and self report data, that crime has been decreasing over the last couple of decades, really, it hit this peak in like the 90s. And ever since has been going down. And so does the prevalence of hate crime fit this trend? Or is it different in some way?

B

Brendan Lantz 09:21

I think the short answer, so that's actually, that's, you know, just because of the things we've been talking about already it's sort of a complicated question. I think the short answer is most hate crime researchers would say no, there's a number of reasons to expect that the prevalence of hate crimes has been increasing over time, the exact nature [INAUDIBLE]. But, I think the reason that's difficult to assess and something that we have to remember in particular, when we're talking about hate crime statistics, is that all official crime statistics are the results of two processes, right? It's actual criminal behavior, and then how we respond to that criminal behavior. And that's that's important to remember for all clients, but that's really important to remember For hate crimes, just because at the same time that we've seen this rise in official hate crime statistics, our official hate crimes are going up. We've also seen increased awareness of hate crimes. We've seen increased resources, even if it's not enough, we've seen increased resources for responding to hate crime. And all of those factors are, are likely contributing to that measured increase.



Jenn Tostlebe 10:21

Does that hold true then for self reports to you might have just said this? totally missed it. But

B

Brendan Lantz 10:26

Yeah, so there's self reports are a little bit more consistent, but we still saw spikes, particularly post-2016. Okay.

J

Jose Sanchez 10:35

Okay. So we've talked a little bit about, you know, legislation surrounding hate crimes, and sort of what gets defined as a hate crime. But when it comes to sentencing and punishment, are hate crimes, punished differently than normal crimes? And if they are, how, so?



**B****Brendan Lantz 10:55**

Yeah, hate crimes, most often punished with what we would call a penalty enhancement. So, it's essentially, you know, you get the sentence commensurate with the the underlying crime. So if you committed a homicide, and then that sentence would be enhanced, you know, depending on the statute by a couple years or so on, reflecting that additional hate crime element.

**J****Jose Sanchez 11:16**

Right. So and, you know, listeners of the podcast now, I'm sorry that I'm going to say this for probably like the 20th time, but the very first research project that I was involved in as an undergrad, was on hate crimes against transgender people. And so during some of the conversations that we had with other sort of professionals and academics, in this area, it seemed not everyone was sort of in favor of sentencing enhancements. And one of the things that would get thrown out as because they involve motive were there's like a difference between intent and motive, where, like, if you have like the intent to harm somebody, or like premeditated murder, they don't typically why you want it to carry that out doesn't really come into play, like it's not a part of the crime, then you tell us a little bit more about this, about this. So, to have a motive when, because one of the things that I've heard is like, well, you already punishing, like the actual crime itself. Do we really need to add an enhancement for what motivated the crime?

**B****Brendan Lantz 12:21**

Yeah, so this comes circles back to that additional element, right? So for hate crimes, and you know, it's useful to break them down into the two components, right? You have the...anytime, if, you know, from a prosecutorial viewpoint, you have those two elements, you have to prove the crime. That's exactly what you're talking about. You have to prove the homicide. And then, you know, if you seek that penalty enhancement, you have to, you have to prove the bias motivation, I think you're alluding to just how much of a complicating factor that is. And it really is right? So that's the reason that we see a lot of, that's one of the reasons that we see so many victims who report being the victim of a hate crime, and so few official officially recorded hate crimes, and that number that 7,700 would be even smaller if we were we were talking about convictions, right? Because the prosecutor might still say, Yeah, well, we're not going to go after the bias motivation here. So, I think that there's sort of two questions. You know, what, if you think about the implications of that, there's sort of sort of two things to think about, well, do we need to always seek that additional penalty enhancement? And I think, you know, instances like you're talking about where you already have like premeditated murder, there. Is that sort of counter argument about, you know, expanding punishment, do we really need to expand punishment, given the current current state of, you know, incarceration in America and so on. But then I think some people like to extend that conclusion to well, then do we need hate crime laws? And I like to push back on that part of the argument, even if I even if I can see why we might argue that we don't need that additional punishment, because those hate crime laws are so essential if we want to actually keep track of this, this the sort of phenomenon and without hate crime laws, we can't we have no gauge for how often these things are happening in the United States. So I think there's there's a lot to unpack there. And I don't know if I actually answered your question. I just sort of rambling at this point. But I think it's important to think about all that when you think about that penalty.

**J****Jose Sanchez 14:16**

Yeah, no, definitely. I mean, you know, it'd be nice if these issues could just have a straight yes or no answer. Right? But unfortunately, they hardly ever do.

B

Brendan Lantz 14:26

Yeah, sociology.



Jenn Tostlebe 14:29

Yeah, yeah. All right, well, shall we move into your paper. So, the paper we're going to talk about is called "Are Asian victims, Less Likely to Report Hate Crime Victimization to the Police: Implications for Research and Policy in the Wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic." And it was authored by our guest, Brendan, as well as his co author Marin Wenger. You say that right winger. Okay, so to provide a brief summary of this paper, this paper examine differences between Asians and non Asians in their reporting of victimization to the police within the first couple of months in the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, data was obtained using the research firm Cloud Research and web based survey administered to 4188 American adults. The final sample in the study included 997 participants who answered yes to experiencing at least one racially or ethnically, ethnically motivated hate crime within the two months preceding the survey. That a decent summary of your paper? Okay, all right, so our first question, one that we ask every single person who comes on the podcast is what was the motivation behind writing this paper?

B

Brendan Lantz 15:51

Yeah, good question. So I think, especially early in the pandemic, and sort of throughout the pandemic, we've seen a lot of attention to various reports about increasing hate crimes towards the Asian population. One of the things I think a lot about in my own research is what happens after victimization, before we count something as a hate crime and seek a hate crime conviction that sort of the in between stage I think a lot about the victims decision making processes and, and sort of what happens after that. So we saw a lot of focus on the frequency of victimization, without much attention to the sort of the consequences of victimization, and very little attention to help seeking patterns during the pandemic. So, we've been focusing a lot of our attention there lately, and not only in this paper, but in several other papers that we are projects that we have ongoing. So for this particular paper, we know from some limited research on other crime types, that there's some some documented reluctance for help seeking among the Asian community. And we thought that examining and documenting those patterns for hate crime victimization specifically, was something important to do.

J

Jose Sanchez 16:52

Okay, so we want to provide a little, a little bit of background. And so when COVID-19 started to really take a hold, and, you know, we started declaring that a global pandemic, the FBI, or the Federal Bureau of Investigations, they issued a warning right? On that we might see an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. And unfortunately, it seemed to come to fruition and we even saw the COVID-19 Hate Crime Act passed by Congress. Can you talk to us a little bit about why the FBI put out a warning about an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans? And what the increased look like and sort of, maybe tell us a little bit more about what this Hate Crimes Act? And tell us?

B

Brendan Lantz 17:41

Sure. So that's a couple of different questions. I'm going to try to go through each and if, if I'm, if I skipped something, just let me know. And I'll come back to it. Okay. So, I think we've seen a lot of, we've seen a lot of racism and xenophobia during the pandemic. The problem is that xenophobia has been situated within a long history of racist stereotypes linking the Asian population to disease. The World Health Organization explicitly has guidelines for best

practices in naming infectious diseases. They state that disease names should include geographic locations, and similar similar characteristics because they want to avoid negative consequences like the backlash against members of particular ethnic communities. Many people ignore that, including prominent politicians and disparagingly referred to the disease's things like the China virus anyway. And we know that that sort of rhetoric, you know, it's pretty well documented in the hate crime literature that that sort of rhetoric has a legitimization effect, and has the potential to embolden would be hate crime offenders to act on their bigotry. So, I think that that kind of rhetoric is a primary reason why we saw the FBI come out with a warning. In terms of the nature of that increase, alot of the initial evidence was anecdotal. It was a prominent media report here and there. That was sort of one of the one of the motivations for our research was to try to systematically measure what was going on. And in our research, we do see that a significant proportion of Asian communities indicating some experiences. So we tried to measure those experiences in a variety of ways discrimination, bias, motivated victimization, but we also you know, we saw we saw a fair amount of that, we saw up to the level of serious aggravated assault involving weapon use, you know, people were indicating that kind of victimization. But we also saw that a lot of Asian Americans sparely, in the pandemic, were indicating some level of fear, even if they weren't indicating that they were being victimized. They were afraid of being victimized. So. they were changing their behavior in a number of ways they were leaving the house less, not just because they were, you know, isolating, or quarantining, but because they were afraid of what might happen, or they were, a number of them indicated that they were just preparing for insults when they left the house. So we saw, you know, a wide ranging impact on the Asian community, not just in terms of actual victimization, but in terms of those broader, you know, the fear of victimization, knowing somebody who's been victimized, and so on. I think I covered the first two questions, I think We also asked about the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. So that act did a couple of things. One of the primary purposes of it was to just expedite review of COVID-19 related hate crimes, those hate crimes, you know, as we're documenting in our research, our real issue right now. So, I think that there's always it's always important to acknowledge with an act like this, that it wasn't an act until later in the pandemic, a lot of its impact is largely symbolic.



Jenn Tostlebe 20:24

It's Sorry to interrupt you, but when was the act actually implemented?



Brendan Lantz 20:29

I'd have to look up the exact date, but it wasn't implemented until earlier this year. So, nearly a year, okay, pandemic started. So I mean, the goal was to expedite handling the handling of hate crimes. And I think that one of the more important aspects of the hate crime act was to establish online reporting options, which, you know, related to what we're going to be talking about today, they were available in multiple languages. So, they helped to do that sort of approach, you know, if implemented, effectively can help to deal with some of those structural barriers to reporting like language issues. So, I think it's important to keep in mind that, you know, act is important, because even even a symbolic effect can be important, symbolic, condemnatory effect is important. Right? It says, you know, we're not okay with what's happening right now. But, you know, I think it's also important that a lot of acknowledge that a lot of the issues that that COVID-19 hate crime act is trying to address are systemic issues with hate crime data across the board, and they've been an issue for for years prior to the covid 19 pandemic.



Jenn Tostlebe 21:30

Maybe baby steps to baby steps trying to fix this larger problem.





**B** Brendan Lantz 21:36

Yep, recognizing it as an issue is the first step. So.



Jenn Tostlebe 21:40

Yeah, absolutely. And you started to talk about this a little bit already, Brendon. But what kinds of explanations have been proposed as to why hate crimes against Asian Americans increased during the pandemic?

**B** Brendan Lantz 21:53

I'm going to talk about a couple. I think there's a sort of a general impact. We know that when fear increases, prejudice increases, that's pretty well documented, you know, so we saw we saw a heightened fear, especially at the very beginning of the pandemic, when there was just the magnitude and scope of what was going on, you know, people people were shocked and experienced a lot of fear. And I think that unfortunately, often that fear gets directed out groups. So there's that sort of general effect. I think, more specifically, the role of political legitimization can't be ignored, right. So it has, it's pretty well documented that when, you know, when we have widespread political or widespread rhetoric that's directed at a particular group, it's not uncommon for spikes in hate crimes to follow. So, I think that those two things sort of was unfortunately a perfect combination for seeing spikes in in anti-Asian hate crime. Right.



Jose Sanchez 22:49

So, in your paper, one of the things that you mentioned, you know, this sort of extends that you make the point to say that it's not just related to hate crime, but just across the board, there tends to be a lot of crime that goes unreported sort of this dark figure of crime. Can you tell us a little bit more about what we mean when we say, that dark figure. And then the other thing that you mentioned is that we see variation across different groups, but especially among Asian Americans, why do we see this variation, especially with that group?

**B** Brendan Lantz 23:29

Yeah, I think, you know, the dark figure of crime, just really referring to that that chunk of crime that we're we're unable to measure. And a pretty, you know, something that I focus on a lot in my research is the way that reporting impacts that dark figure of crime, right? How much does that victim decision making process impact that figure, and we know that a lot of crimes are not reported. There are some crimes in particular, where reporting rates are particularly low sexual assault, hate crime, come to mind is sort of the perfect examples of those lower reporting rates. Part of the reason that we see that for hate crimes, in particular, I've touched on it a little bit, is that there are reasons that those people who are most commonly targeted as hate crime victims might be especially reluctant to engage with the police. And that's not just true of Asian people. I mean, we we focus on Asian people in our paper, and members of the black community, you know, they may be reluctant to engage with the police given a larger backdrop of, of racism among the police and poor police Community Relations. the LGBTQ community has reason to suspect or fear homophobia should they engage with the police, but also the additional, you know, concerns about the public nature of pursuing criminal proceedings, especially if someone's not, not out. But the Asian population in particular we focus on I think, a couple of the reasons that are worth focusing on there that, first, the structural barriers, right, we didn't have the we didn't have the ability in our paper to disentangle further by Native versus non-Native status, but about half of our respondents were not, we're not native. So, there are likely language barriers that are functioning to impact some of this. But then there are also, you know, there's obviously a lot of

variation within the Asian community. But there, there are cultural norms, among some Asian groups particularly centered around privacy and self sufficiency, and not help seeking. And I think those two, those things are operating together here to suppress reporting rates.



Jenn Tostlebe 25:31

Okay, so then, I think that kind of sets up the paper pretty well, I mean, the front end of your paper, so let's start to kind of get into the findings. But so when it comes to some of the findings from your paper found that compared to White victims, Blacks and Hispanics were not significantly different in their reporting patterns. But Asians were significantly less likely to report being victimized to the police. So, along the lines of everything that we've been talking about, really, however, we did find it kind of surprising that Blacks and Hispanics were not more similar to this Asian group in regard in this regard, because at least Jose and I believe, and I think you've mentioned that Blacks and Hispanics are also less likely to report to the police for a variety of reasons. Why do you think you didn't find more similarity between Blacks and Hispanics with Asians?

B

Brendan Lantz 26:24

I think that's a really important point. And I'm glad you brought it up. So, you're obviously alluding to the expectation that black and Hispanic people should be less likely to report just because of concerns about racism, poor perceptions of the police, poor, poor police community relations. I agree. I think what's really important to remember, though, is that when a victim is deciding whether or not to report a crime to the police, those concerns about racism and poor treatment, they may be a really important factor in decision but but they're not the only factor. And one of the ways that we've thought about this is, you know, there's a significant body of research showing that disadvantaged communities, which are frequently disproportionately Black and Hispanic and their racial, ethnic. competen, composition, sometimes also lack access to effective mechanisms of informal social control. So, in the absence of informal social control, it's sometimes necessary to turn turn to formal social control, like the police to get help, even if one doesn't necessarily trust them. And I'm going to plug some other research that I have going on on here, if that's okay. Y

J

Jose Sanchez 26:25

eah, go for it.

B

Brendan Lantz 27:08

So, we have we have an ongoing research project looking at exactly this issue, because you know, one of the interesting things in the literature is that, you know, it's not universally, it's not a universal finding that Black and Hispanic people are less likely to report to the police. And one author referred to it as the the paradox of crime reporting, like why why are we not seeing that? So, we've dug into that a bit in our own research. And we argue that because of those different sometimes opposing forces, like concerns about racism, also being coupled with, you know, lack of other health sources, it's important to look at heterogeneity in reporting decisions. So, especially by the nature of the offence. So in our research, which is in the review process right now, we basically disaggregate those reporting decisions by offense severity, and I can get into the details there if anyone's interested. But essentially, we disaggregate, we create a measure severity and we disaggregate and look at racial differences in reporting. And when we do that, we see that among Black victims, there is some indication that they're less likely to report victimization to the police in line with that idea of reluctance. But when it's more severe, they're actually more likely even than white victims to report that victimization to the police. So, I think that, you know, we don't have we don't

have a precise measure of the mechanisms there. But I think that that suggests that there's, you know, some combination of reluctance, and a lack of informal social control sort of acting jointly. So, those decisions, you know, they're really complex. And I think a lot of different factors weigh into that decision. So, sometimes, we see Black and Hispanic victims reporting more, possibly because of needing to get help and not having other resources. Does that make sense?



Jenn Tostlebe 29:01

Yeah. So then the argument would be that Asian Americans would have more informal mechanisms of control versus Blacks and Hispanics.



Brendan Lantz 29:11

If you were to extend that to Asian victims. I think that that would be the extension of the argument. Yeah. Okay, that that paper doesn't have the I mean, we don't have the ability to sort of extend it to Asi, it's a different sample, you know, some complications there in terms of looking them all at the same time, but yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 29:27

Okay, cool.



Jose Sanchez 29:29

Yeah, I think that's Yeah, really interesting. To bring up because I think a lot of us sort of the papers will read they usually dealing with like aggregate data, so you kind of just get like the group as a whole. But yeah, like these groups aren't monoliths, right, like, yeah, so yeah, I guess they just serve never truly occurred to me that sometimes, though, your only recourse is to turn to the police. Like what else are you gonna do? I would you know, when you when you frame it that way, I think it makes a lot of sense.



Brendan Lantz 30:07

Yeah, I think so it's just really important to think about, you know, well, what is the alternative? You know? And if those alternatives aren't there, sometimes you don't have choice.



Jose Sanchez 30:16

Right? Yeah. And yeah, I'm really interested in reading this, this new paper you're working on.



Brendan Lantz 30:23

I'll send it your way.





Jenn Tostlebe 30:25

Yeah, hopefully the review process goes smoothly.

B

Brendan Lantz 30:28

Yep, fingers crossed.

J

Jose Sanchez 30:31

Okay, so another one of your findings, and this was in your supplementary analysis. And so what you ended up doing was, you say, in the main analysis, your recall period was one to two months before COVID-19. But for your supplemental, you push that to one to two years. And you found that this underreporting sort of trend held pretty true even before COVID. So can you talk to us about whether there was any impact of COVID-19 and hate crime reporting? And if there was, what was that impact? Or was it significant?

B

Brendan Lantz 31:16

Yeah. So what we wanted to do there was try to, you know, an imperfect approach, because, you know, our sample size was limited, but we wanted to try to disaggregate what aspect of this is like an overall Asian effect. So what extent are Asian people just less likely to report victimization, versus how much of this is attributable to the pandemic itself? So we thought that by sort of, you know, looking at those different recall periods, we might be able to disentangle that a little bit, it's in a supplementary analysis, because it's, you know, it's not exact, it's just a way of thinking about it. But, you know, we do see that overall, we do see that overall Asian effects. So, we think that it is, you know, not a code COVID specific effect. But we also do see some direct effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, on hate crime or on hate crime reporting, I'm hesitant to make a huge deal of those at this point, because there's, you know, we saw that the perceptions of risk were associated with reporting papers, so people who perceived, you know, more personal risk to themselves, and the COVID-19 pandemic, were actually more likely to report their victimization. So, we're hesitant to make any sort of broad based conclusions off of that, because, you know, we didn't have specific hypotheses there. And I don't know of other people doing that research right now. But I do think it's important to keep in mind the potential impact of the pandemic, not just on crime, and there's a lot of conversation about that, right now, a lot of conversation about, you know, how did the COVID-19 pandemic impact, you know, domestic violence or impact crime generally, so on those conversations are important to have. But I think that the what we really wanted to take away was, you know, we can't stop there, we have to also ask ourselves, you know, whether or not reporting behavior has been impacted, too, because if it's impacting reporting, you know, that's impacting our assessment of overall crime rates, especially when most of those, most of the research is relying on official data to make those to make come to those conclusions. Right? So we wanted to just, you know, sort of get people thinking about this, this issue at this point, you know, we don't have any sort of broad based conclusions to draw at this point, because it's, it's sort of a, we didn't hypothesize it. And we, we don't have, you know, we didn't have specific expectations there. But the idea that the pandemic itself could impact reporting, I think is something that that's important to think about. Right.

J

Jose Sanchez 33:36

Are there any other key findings that you would like to discuss that maybe we haven't talked about yet?



 B

Brendan Lantz 33:42

I think we covered most of them that the findings of that paper, relatively straightforward, we just, we see that, you know, Asian people are less likely to report hate crime victimization, and then other people that doesn't appear to be attributable to anything specific about those those crimes.



Jenn Tostlebe 33:59

Okay, so then Can you discuss the implications your study may have kind of thinking a for like the academic community, and then also for the general public, policymakers, practitioners, so forth?

 B

Brendan Lantz 34:13

Yeah, I think in terms of like, in terms of the most direct implications, I think, the most obvious implication as far as measurement of anti-Asian hate crime, both during the pandemic, and moving forward, and just victimization in the Asian community in general, our results suggest that that those estimates might be suppressed, they might actually be an under estimate under estimation of the true extent of the problem. So, I think thinking about that and thinking about ways for policymakers, and so on to possibly increase reporting. I think things like online reporting options are an important first step, but you know that it also means other ways to reduce those structural barriers to reporting might be beneficial. I also think it's important to think about you know, I mentioned Asian American victimization more broadly. I think it's that's a really understudied phenomenon. I think from a research research perspective, you know, that group is among the fastest growing population groups in the country. And we know very little about it, about the specific reactions to victimization, and so on. So, I think moving forward, it's really important to start focusing on Asian American victimisation in our research.



Jenn Tostlebe 35:20

One last thing that I want to touch on on the paper, I just thought about it. And you've mentioned it a couple of times. But your methods for this paper, I thought were really unique using kind of this research firm, Cloud Research, which I've never heard of before. And then the web based survey was that primarily to try and get a larger sample size or a better sample? Can you just talk a little bit about this for people who may be interested in using data like this?

 B

Brendan Lantz 35:48

Yeah, so I think the hardest thing, so I mean, we approached it that way, because the hardest thing with studying hate crime victimization in the United States is its comparative rarity, right? So, and this is true for any sort of rare phenomenon. If you just take a population survey of, you know, a convenient sample or something like that, you're not going to have the ability to look at what you want to look at. And for hate crime victimization, we had to, we had to think of a couple different things when we were, when we were rolling out the survey, basically, we had to make sure that the sample was large enough that we were going to, you know, not everyone experiences a hate crime victimization, if we want to look at victimization outcomes, we need to have a sample large enough to actually be able to measure that. And then we had to think about who's being victimized most frequently. So for us, that meant over sampling racial ethnic minorities, to really be focusing on the population of interest, rather than, you know, ending up with a predominantly white sample that hasn't experienced a lot of hate crime victimization. And then in

terms of, you know, rolling it out web based, that was a matter of, we were two months into the pandemic, we thought this was a really important issue to be assessing. And that was the most expedient way to measure it while it was happening.



Jenn Tostlebe 37:08

Yeah, it's cool, I'm gonna have to look a little bit more into it, because I think it's an interesting way to do survey research. Yeah.



Jose Sanchez 37:16

Cool. I have a question. That's a little more. So, hate crime research in general, it sort of clicked one new mentioned measurement. And can you tell us about maybe some of the concerns that may come up with doing like, self report hate crime research? Mainly, so, kind of going back to like that motive, part of a hate crime? And I guess, like, what are the risks that someone may say, I've been the victim of a hate crime. But without really knowing that that was the, like the underlying motive for the victimization.



Brendan Lantz 37:51

Yeah, I think you're actually touching on something really important there. So if somebody was motivated, at some point, they could do a really important study on this. I don't know of one that that exists. But I think that the most important thing is given what we know about hate crime, you can't just say, were you the victim of a hate crime? Right? So if you ask somebody, if they were the victim of a hate crime, there's going to be a lot of confusion, there's going to be people that say, Well, no, I mean that that thing happened. But that wasn't a hate crime. You know, the way we approach it is to say, specifically, did you experience were you the victim of a crime? So you're getting it that first element? And then you're asking, did this crime occur because of your race, religion, ethnicity, so in our case, we say race ethnicity. And by measuring those two elements, you're done, you're definitionally, measuring a crime, even if the the person wouldn't have said, Oh, that's definitely a hate crime. You're you're getting around the sort of differential perceptions issue. Does that make sense?



Jose Sanchez 38:51

Yeah. Yeah, definitely. Yeah. I think, yeah, that that sounds like a, like a good approach. So like a two step approach. Would you ever ask for like confirmation? So maybe like a third question like, like, Well, how do you know that it was because of this?



Brendan Lantz 39:08

I think I think that's a good question. So we only had 20 minutes. So we had a limited really had limited space on our survey, I wish that we had asked who had the space to ask something like that. The NCVS does do that. So we sort of modeled our question after the ncv. Then the NCVS in 2000...I want to say 2010. But that's worth checking. In 2010, the ncv. implemented additional questions basically asking exactly what you're getting at. So saying, you know, what was the evidence for that? And then they provide different options. Was there a slur? Things like that? Did the police say it was a hate crime? So there is some difference there? If you start, you know, digging into the evidence in the ncv. data? We didn't have space.



Jose Sanchez 39:52

Yeah, no, yeah, this was more of like a general question. But yeah, thank you.



Brendan Lantz 39:58

Yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 39:59

Okay, one follow up. Question to go off of that. And then and then we'll keep going. But I'm just curious. Obviously, reporting is a big factor here, but have any studies looked at, like the overlap between what people are perceiving and self-reporting as a hate crime versus what's officially characterized as a hate crime to see if there's there is an overlap or if there's like a complete difference to where officially it's not a hate crime, but people will say that it is a hate crime to them.



Brendan Lantz 40:31

I think, you know, people have tried to get it that in roundabout ways, so that exact comparison is difficult to make, because those things are happening in different data sources. I think people have tried to say it tried to look at characteristics that, you know, so we have survey data that says, you know, there's some people have conducted that says that, you know, these are the factors that people associate with a hate crime. And then we have official data. And we've, you know, myself and some other people have conducted studies where we're looking at those characteristics that have been identified in survey research, and say, how often are they associated with case with, you know, an actual hate crime conviction? So people have tried to do that, in that sort of two step process. Does that make sense? But, but doing it in the same in the same data sets really difficult? I think, you know, Jose mentioned that the measurement issue and I thought, Oh, you know, maybe I'm giving away a research idea here, but, you know, a survey, you know, survey where you asked it two different ways and randomly assigned, it would be fascinating, you know, you ask them because of and then you ask them where they victim of a crime and you have you have a fascinating study.



Jose Sanchez 41:38

Yeah, that'd be super interesting. So, someone, someone get on that. Okay, well, how about we sort of zoom out on Google Earth a little bit and take this discussion into international waters. And so you and your co-author, Wesley Myers, have a paper that was published in 2020, in the British Journal of Criminology, called "Reporting Racist Hate Crime Victimization to Police in the United States and the United Kingdom: A Cross National Comparison." And so based on your work and or others works, our hate crimes and international or sort of global phenomenon, or is this really like a US, unique to the United States?



Brendan Lantz 42:25

Yeah, that's a good question. hate crime. I mean, hate crimes as a concept are absolutely an international issue. Their measurement, and definitions vary country specific. So, the study that you were you were talking about, we were able to facilitate a comparison by using survey data that asked the question very similarly, across countries. But

if we were to use legal definitions, that would have been a lot more difficult. There is more similarity in certain countries. So you see, the overwhelming majority of the research on the subject is focused on the US, the UK and Australia to some degree. So as a concept, hate crimes are absolutely a global issue. But in terms of their measurement and definition, it tends to be very country specific.



Jenn Tostlebe 43:07

Can you talk a little bit about, like the conceptualization differences, whether that I mean, you just want to focus on the US versus the UK or other places?

B

Brendan Lantz 43:18

Yeah, you know, so like I said, the basic idea of a hate crime is similar across countries. And the precise definition is very different across country. So in the US, I mean, as we all know, and I'm sure everyone listening knows, the idea of free speech is sort of this golden paramount ideal. That means that we tend to define hate crime a little bit more narrowly than other countries. So, there are several countries, for example, where hate crime or related legislation makes it criminal to deny the Holocaust. So, Holocaust denial is illegal, that would never happen in the United States. Because, because of notions of free speech, however offensive, that kind of thing is protected under free speech. There are important differences that I think are worth honing in on in terms of identification between countries. So, one of the most fascinating differences when we talk about the US, UK, is the approach to identification. So in the US, hate crime identification is very police centered, right? So the victim can report that they were likely that they were the victim of a crime, and that they think it's a hate crime. But that determination is ultimately up to the police. In the UK, they take a victim centered approach. So, if the victim says this was a hate crime, the crime is treated as such. That's a very different approach. And it results in likely in differences in terms of perceptions of the victims in terms of how their cases were handled, and things like that.



Jenn Tostlebe 44:39

Yeah, that seems like a major difference, actually. And I mean, I'm so used to studying the United States, so I like never would have even thought that that was something that was happening elsewhere. Yeah. And then do other countries have these sentencing enhancements for hate crimes like in the United States, and like we've talked about?

B

Brendan Lantz 44:59

Yeah, so In the UK, you know, you see the sentencing enhancements. But you also see, you know, in some of the European countries, you see standalone offenses, standalone statutes that are specifically built around hate crime. So like Holocaust denial, things like that. So there's a lot of country variation across countries. I know more about a sentencing process in the US. But there's a lot of variation there.

J

Jose Sanchez 45:23

Based on the paper that we talked about in in BJC, where you compare the US to the United Kingdom, what can you tell us about hate crime reporting? And whether it's similar or different across these two places?





B

Brendan Lantz 45:39

Yeah. So basically, we went back to 2003, because that's, you know, that's how far back our US data went. And we looked at the likelihood of reporting hate crime victimization in both, in both countries. And we saw that the likelihood of reporting hate crime victimization in the US has been decreasing. In contrast to the UK, where we actually see increases. The one exception to that pattern is among Black hate crime victims in the US, which is also you know, I think, interestingly enough, where we see an increased likelihood of case clearance and stuff in the US. A lot of it linking back to stereotypical notions of what a hate crime is, I just think that you know, perceptions of what a hate crime is impact the likelihood that it's handled effectively, and so on. So those it I don't think it's surprising that we see that those victims are the most likely to report hate crimes to the police. I think what's really alarming is if you think about those patterns, if you think about you know, the decreasing patterns in the United States, and you couple that with what we know about official statistics, I think that's when you see a pretty alarming picture. So, officially reported hate crimes, like what we're seeing in the FBI are increasing. And then we see in these in the NCVS data, that the tendency to report hate crime is decreasing. And if you take those two patterns together, it means that the magnitude of those recent increases in hate crimes are likely much larger than what they appear to be in the official statistics. And I think that that's, that's something that's really important to think about.



Jenn Tostlebe 47:00

Yeah, I was actually just gonna ask that and how it compares to like the UK, do you know how their like official reports are versus if their reporting is increasing?

B

Brendan Lantz 47:12

I don't know about trends in their official reports, there are people I could point you to if you really wanted the answer that might know a little bit more about that than me.

B

Brendan Lantz 47:19

OK, I was just curious.

B

Brendan Lantz 47:21

I think. So in the in the UK, in the early 2000s, there was something called the Steven Lawrence inquiry, which was centered around really poor handling of racist crime that occurred in the UK at the time. And then there was investigation and all kinds of, you know, policies that were implemented that were intended to increase a crime reporting, and things like that, and the handling of hate crimes. And that's when that sort of victim centered approach started to take focus and things like that. And we haven't, haven't seen those same sort of systemic efforts to make change in the United States. And it's a lot more difficult to make systemic changes in the United States because of that state by state variation that we mentioned right at the beginning.



Jenn Tostlebe 48:00

Yeah. All right. Well, that's like all of our main questions for you. Is there anything else that you'd like to add on hate crimes, anything that's important for us and others to know, that we didn't patch on?



Brendan Lantz 48:13

I think we I think we talked about about a lot today. I don't, I don't know that I have anything grand to add at the end. But I enjoyed our conversation.



Jenn Tostlebe 48:23

Okay, perfect. Well, thank you so much, Brendan. It's been great having you as far as where people can find you. If they want to know more. email, Twitter, other social media, etc.



Brendan Lantz 48:36

Yeah, sure. My email is [dlantz@fsu.edu](mailto:dlantz@fsu.edu). You know what? I forget my Twitter handle, but I do have one. Let me see.



Jenn Tostlebe 48:45

It's okay. We can post it on our website. But you do have Twitter?



Brendan Lantz 48:49

I do, Yes, yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 48:51

All right. And then besides the paper that you kind of plugged earlier, that's under review. Is there anything else related to this topic that you'd like to plug or tell people about?



Brendan Lantz 49:01

I mean, we have a lot of ongoing research right now. And especially in terms of hate crime. We just received funding myself along with Dr. Piatkowska. Here at FSU, to start looking at geographic variation in hate crime reporting in the United States. So, you know, that's an early stages, but I I think we'll have some interesting stuff coming out of that in the next couple of years.



Jenn Tostlebe 49:22

Cool. Yeah, based off of our discussion, that seems incredibly important. Look at so cool that you're seeing funding. Yeah. All right. Well, thank you again.



Jose Sanchez 49:32

Thank you very much.



Jenn Tostlebe 49:34

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