

MoretoCTA Done

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SPEAKERS

Jenn Tostlebe, Jose Sanchez, William Moreto



Jose Sanchez 00:14

Hi everyone, my name is Jose Sanchez.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:16

And I'm Jenn Tostlebe



Jose Sanchez 00:18

And we're the hosts of the criminology Academy where we are criminally academic. In today's episode, we're speaking with Professor Will moreto about wildlife crime.



Jenn Tostlebe 00:27

Dr. William Moreto, is an associate professor and interim Graduate Programs Director in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Central Florida. He received his PhD from the School of Criminal Justice at Rutgers University Newark. He has published extensively on wildlife crime, wildlife crime prevention, and conservation related enforcement, and has conducted fieldwork in Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines, and Uganda. He has collaborated with the international NGOs, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Re:wild, and has been involved in primary data collection in over 30 countries. Thank you so much for joining us, Will. We are excited to have you on the podcast today.




William Moreto 01:12

Absolute pleasure. Thank you so much for having me. I'm very excited. I'm very honored to be here with you guys

here with you guys.

J Jose Sanchez 01:17

And so a brief overview of today's episode, we are going to go over what exactly wildlife crime is, then we're going to talk about a project or an article written and co authored by our guest Will. And then finally, we're going to talk about enforcement and sort of what goes into, I guess, policing wildlife crime. And so with that being said, Jenn, why don't you go ahead and get started?

 Jenn Tostlebe 01:48

Okay, so our first question for you will, is broad and covers the whole scope of things, I'm sure, but simply put, what is wildlife crime?

W William Moreto 02:01

Yeah, you're right, absolutely broad in terms of how it's understood, how it's interpreted, but broadly stated, it's essentially crimes that are against or involve wildlife. And wildlife here needs to be broadly defined as well, too. Often is the case that when we think about wildlife, we think of wild animals. But when it comes to wildlife crime, that actually does include also flora or plant kind of base species as well, too. So a lot of the stuff that I've done tends to focus on examining illicit markets, and specifically looking at the illegal wildlife trade. And so when it comes to illegal wildlife trade, you're looking at illegally sourced, transported, traded products, that are both fauna, so animal, and flora, which is plant. So in a nutshell, that is one component of wildlife crime is kind of the overlap with illegal wildlife trade, wildlife trafficking, etc. However, there's also other forms of wildlife crime, including illegal killing of wildlife species, particularly obviously fauna, in retaliation as a result of human wildlife conflict. And so human wildlife conflict occurs when wildlife species either harm, ill, hurt individuals, or they hurt or harmed their kind of livelihood. So whether it be through crops, livestock, etc. And so as a result of that happening, there are some cases where people can retaliate against that, and in some cases, that is illegal. And so those are probably the two broad components that people tend to think of when it comes to wildlife crime. There's more, but for the sake of time, I'll give you those two right now.

 Jenn Tostlebe 03:31

Awesome. And so then since we're talking about both fauna and flora, what types of species and plants are kind of most at risk at falling victim to wildlife crime? Is that a hard question?

W William Moreto 03:48

It's a hard question only because it's largely dependent in terms of geographic region. It's also largely dependent in terms of how somebody might categorize threatened or endangered, right. I mean, there are a kind of established kind of guidelines for this. There's an organization

that has developed the red lists for endangered species. There's certain categories when it comes to illegal trade as well, too. But it's going to be your typical megafauna, certainly looking at your elephants, right, because of the economic value of the ivory, you're looking at Rhino because of their rhino horn, penguins because of their scales and their meat. With that in mind, there's also a lot of species that are threatened that people don't typically think of right and so they're looking at illegal cacti, for example. Cacti is actually one of the most profitable in terms of illegal wildlife trade simply because the fact that ornamental, it's fairly easy to access because you just literally, well for the most part, it's easy to access because it's on the ground and you can get it. But it's also, people don't know if it's illegal or not. And so therefore, your consumer market's fairly large as well. Moreover, there is a considerable market in terms of orchids. So illegal orchids, so the flower trade. And then you have other consumable products like illegal caviar, for example, which is fairly high up there as well, too. And so it's fairly broad. There's a lot in terms of what species are being targeted, but for the most part, it's going to be regionally defined. But then also what the market actually looks like specifically for threatened species for the market itself.



Jenn Tostlebe 05:14

Yeah, I'll have to say, when I was like, thinking through this episode, I was mostly thinking of animals versus plants. But it does make sense that both are included in this.



Jose Sanchez 05:26

Yeah, same. I just keep wanting to laugh at a cactus being illegal, like my neighbors have cactuses in their front yard. So like, should I be calling like the police or something?



William Moreto 05:40

Well, you know, it's fascinating. And then we'll probably touch upon this later on. But what's kind of interesting about wildlife products as well, too, is how some products might be laundered, right. And so you might have illegally sourced products that are now just put into a legal market. And then people have zero idea. And so in some cases, you might be in the grocery store and say you're walking through the seafood aisle or whatever. And it'll state like this has been sustainably sourced or our products are sustainably sourced, you go to a restaurant, sometimes they say that as well to just because they want to emphasize and highlight the fact that they're catching their products, ethically and sustainably, right. Because there are concerns in terms of laundering products, right? You know, one of the things that I found fascinating, you know, Jenn, to your point about just like you never think about certain things in a certain way. Like I didn't think about plants until I really got into it right. Into like the research, but one of the things that I found absolutely fascinating was this idea of fish laundering, right, and this idea that there are certain types of fish species that are caught in mass and then basically laundered, would legitimately cost fish in the high seas. And then that's brought back to the mainland, and then it's sold as if it's legal, right. And so this idea of fish laundering was never something I thought of, frankly. But it's a fascinating thing, because it makes the market problematic in certain facets, but also gives us an opportunity, at least from a research standpoint, be like, Wow, that's really interesting stuff. Right? And so, yeah, it's cool when you start seeing these kinds of types of overlap.



Jenn Tostlebe 07:09

Yeah, absolutely. I mean, I've only ever heard of or thought of money laundering. So to hear that this happens in other spaces as well. It is fascinating.



Jose Sanchez 07:19

Speaking of the research, when did people really start studying wildlife crime? And how has it changed over time?



William Moreto 07:28

I mean, let me preface this with the growing recognition and acknowledgement that a lot of research that we've done, tends to be global North centric. Moreover, it tends to be based in certain perspectives and ideologies, right? A lot of what we know from established crim theory, you know, CJ perspectives, etc, are based in typically in the United States or in Europe, right. And so, I would say that a lot of the research that has generated in the last couple of decades on wildlife crime has grown exponentially in terms of the topic itself. Now, with that in mind, there's been early research that just wasn't published in the English language, or wasn't the mainstream kind of discussion that was published in the Global South, when it was discussed in terms of wildlife crime and crimes against the environment in general. Realistically, we're starting to find more information that's been collected and discovered in like the 1970s and on right. And so I would probably say that as an asterix, I would go with a safe answer in the sense of there's been a growth of research on the topic starting in the 1990s. But there's a lot more research that's out there that we probably don't know about. And so I think when people started focusing on it, it's been a while, let's just say that. Moreover, in terms of our field, other disciplines also study wildlife crime. So you have geographers, ecologists, you have folks in conservation biology, political geography, and they've been doing this for a while as well, too.



Jenn Tostlebe 08:56

Yeah. When you say it's grown exponentially. Do you mean, like, I'm keep thinking of when, you know, you started to hear the general public being more concerned with the environment. And these kinds of crimes that are occurring in the public, or the social media accounts have grown. You know, like, in the last 10/20 years, is that kind of when this research has just like, taken off? Or was it earlier than that, in the 90s? And before?



William Moreto 09:24

I'd say there's a growing interest in terms of environment related topics and issues, right. And so, when it comes to wildlife crime itself, one is at least from the criminological and criminal justice standpoint, we're starting to see more people do that research because if you look at it from a legalistic standpoint, it's a crime. Right? So we should have avenue and space to maneuver through that. It's just whether or not you want to study that right. And so there's been a growth in that and as a result of more people doing research on that there's more

people who are doing you know, papers, teaching it, whatever, and that you know, hopefully results in more students coming up and kind of pursuing that avenue. So I'd say there's a combination in that. Moreover, there's an increased interest in the role of the social sciences in understanding conservation related topics. Typically, conservation related topics has focused on the natural sciences, right, which makes sense. But increasingly, people are starting to understand that we actually need to understand the social sciences a bit more, particularly when there's an overlap with human beings. When you're looking at laws, that's human related, right? Like, those are human constructions, those are human applications, human enforcement, etc. But also, we need to understand how the overlap itself impacts human beings themselves, right local communities that might be around protected areas, understanding kind of how they interpret laws, how they comply, all that stuff is really important. So I would say that it's a combination in terms of more attention. But then also just more research coming at it from different angles, which has led to not only the identification of my place in this area of my research if I'm thinking about from a scholarship perspective, but this idea of, okay, now, there might be more avenues for collaboration, there might be more research questions that are approaching it in a certain way, and so on. And so I'd probably say it's a combination of a number of different things, but interest in the environment for sure, is key in this.



Jenn Tostlebe 11:14

Alright, so I did a quick search for wildlife crime and found, obviously the World Wildlife Fund, or WWF. And on their website, I'm quoting here, they say that "In more than 30 years of conservation, we have never seen wildlife crime on such a scale. Wildlife Crime is now the most urgent threat to three of the world's best loved species, elephants, rhinos and tigers." Would you agree with this statement based off of the research you have done and have read? And more specifically, how has the prevalence of wildlife crime changed over time?



William Moreto 11:51

I mean, I would say that it's absolutely an important topic, right. And it's absolutely finally getting the recognition it deserves. Now, one of the challenges, however, is how it's packaged and how it's framed, right, because in some cases, and you'll see this with a lot of government organizations, NGOs, etc, is they tend to package it as this idea of transnational organized crime, right. And then that's how you can kind of emphasize the scale of it/severity of it, I would argue that it's serious enough as is. It doesn't necessarily need to be packaged as transnational organized crime. Moreover, not all wildlife crime is transnational organized crime. And so the assumption that it is might not only be misleading, but then also might be problematic in the sense of developing prevention measures that are not only sustainable, but also ethical. Right. And so I would say that in terms of recognizing the scope and scale, absolutely, because now you have an expansion to a couple of different things. One is globalization has led to basically the condensing of the world, right, like now you have more transportation routes, you have better access in terms of getting products across, the advent of information technology particularly the Internet has resulted in a growth of markets as well, both in terms of markets that could occur on a legal platform. So for example, eBay, or through the sale through the dark web, right. And so now you have a stronger connection between consumers, traders, sellers, etc. So now the prevalence has expanded not only from a physical landscape, but also from a virtual one as well, too. So there's that potential. Moreover, the idea of profit has led to the recognition that the illegal trade in wildlife particularly can be profitable,

right. So you might have more individuals who are dabbling in other types of illegal activities, who now might also dabble in wildlife trade, or wildlife trafficking. And so I would say that the prevalence? Yes, absolutely. Whether it's been happening at a smaller scale for decades, is questionable. Like, I think that it has been, we just don't know about it, right. And we're probably getting a little bit more information about it now as well, too. And so, for the most part, yeah, I'd agree with that.

J Jose Sanchez 14:03

When we think about wildlife crime, and like engaging in this type of crime, and preventing it or trying to explain it, can we apply what we would consider like your more traditional criminological theories and like your learning, your control to wildlife crime? Or do we need to think of it in a different way and maybe a different, unique theoretical framework?

W William Moreto 14:29

That's a great question. It's one that I mean, I've thought of for years now. And it was one that was a big part of how I developed I guess some of my research was the idea that looking solely at wildlife crime as a crime from a legalistic standpoint, but then also understanding kind of its broader implications, right, because you have certain activities that are illegal, that might be extremely harmful, right. So if you're looking at certain types of pollution, contributing certain types of legislation and that it can harm a lot of people, right, like you could have literally people being poisoned from their water, right. And that can be not only illegal but extremely harmful. And understanding kind of these dynamics, I would say provides us with opportunities from criminological standpoint to not only apply and test the theories that we have established, but identify ways in which we can adapt and improve. And so I think there's place to grow criminological theory, like I said, I mean, a lot of what we know now is based in terms of the global north, you know, it's established, a lot of our theories are based from the 1960s to 1980s. Like, like, heavy, heavy, right? And so, you know, the development of new theory, I've talked to some students about this in our doc program, they're like, is there going to be a time when we're gonna have new theories? I'm like, I don't know, you guys tell me this is gonna be, you know, up to you guys, and kind of moving forward. But, you know, in all honesty, and you know, joking aside, we haven't developed everything yet. At least I like to think we haven't yet because we're going to have new problems that are going to come into play. Now, with that in mind, does that mean that all our theories that are currently established are not going to be useful? Probably not, because some of them are pretty good theories, right. And so I would say that there's an avenue and a place to test and assess whether or not these theories play out for sure. And in some cases, the challenge is whether we can also adapt. Right. And so one of the most well known theories that we have is routine activities right? Now, routine activities is based on this idea of people intersecting in time and space at the same time, right? You're motivated offending, you're situable target, etc, in time and space. Now, that works in some types of wildlife crime, right? So for example, if I'm illegally hunting, let's just say an elephant just for the sake of it. And I'm using a rifle, right, or firearm, whatever that intersection and time and space is there. Right? However, if I'm using a certain type of trap, and I place the trap, I'm not there when that trap actually is sprung, necessarily, right? So the intersection in time and space doesn't exist there. Right, but a crime occurs, right? And so the theory then becomes challenged. And so what we did in one paper was argued that there's kind of this idea of a proxy offender, right? So you can actually have proxies that are for the offender that those

proxies intersect in time and space for a crime to occur, right. But the physical interaction is not necessarily there until later on, right. And so there's absolutely a place and a space to test and adjust when need be. But I also think that as we come to new crimes or develop new social problems that exist, we will probably have to develop some new theories, or at least adjusted them in a significant manner, in a way. And I think that's exciting. I think that's the way things should kind of flow.



Jenn Tostlebe 17:35

Yeah, your example of routine activity theory is really interesting, because you still have kind of like the motivation there behind the motivated offender. But the offender in this case is almost like the trap, but the person behind it. So yeah, I can see how that would need to be expanded upon or kind of shifted. Yeah, that's interesting to think about.



William Moreto 17:57

Yeah, you know, it's fun, because it's a complicated problem, right? Like, a lot of problems are there. They're very complicated. It's a wicked problem. But it's what makes it interesting, right? Because then we have to kind of get uncomfortable with some of the theories that we might have the measures that we might have, and think to ourselves, like, maybe we need to adjust and adapt, you know, you have to be able to kind of be able to wiggle in some cases, a lot of our theories are based in terms of urban crime, right. And so trying to adjust to what's happening now, whether it be wildlife, whether it be cyber, whatever, whatever it might be, you know, it makes it really interesting. And so yeah, I think there's a place. I think it's just, it's going to take some creativity as well, too.



Jenn Tostlebe 18:34

Okay, so so far, you've alluded to some of the implications of wildlife crime, whether it's ecologically, economically, culturally, socially, etc. But just more directly, can you discuss a handful of the potential implications of wildlife crime?



William Moreto 18:53

Sure. So I guess let me go with kind of the, well, let me go with three right now, just because we've covered quite a few already. No, let's go for it. Let's go with four.



William Moreto 19:02

The first would be economic. Right. So if you're looking at it from a standpoint, from an economic standpoint, wildlife crime can be problematic for a number of different reasons. One, if there is a legal trade that's for certain types of species, then you're pulling from that legal trade, right? Or you're pulling from the economic benefits that could arise either locally, nationally, or even regionally. Right. And so there is an economic component within that as well.

W

William Moreto 19:26

The second would be zoonotic. So biological public health, right. If you are possibly getting wildlife products for consumption, whether it be you know, caviar, whether it be you know, other products that you would consume, and say it's not taken care of properly, prepared properly, whatever, it can result in public health issues. There's increasing discussion as it relates to how wildlife consumption has led to certain types of diseases in the world. And so there could be that issue as well too. So there could be a public health component related to it.

W

William Moreto 19:58

The third would be cultural. And so one of the implications, at least when it comes to wildlife crime, is its overlap with cultural practices as well. And so if certain practices are deemed to be illegal, then that in itself might be problematic for the continuance of certain types of cultural practice, whether there are made to be right or wrong. Right. And so I think that's, as a sidebar, I think that that's what's kind of fascinating about wildlife crime as well, as well as other types of crime is it's not necessarily this idea of black or white, what's right or what's wrong, right. It's very much a continuum, that's very culturally defined as well. And so understanding the cultural implications for for wildlife crime is really important as well.

W

William Moreto 20:39

And then the final thing, I would probably say, because I mentioned ecological, I think one of the most important things to consider when it comes to wildlife crime is the human dimension of it. And the reason why I mentioned that is because this literally covers a lot of things that we were talking about economic, public health center, etc. When we think about wildlife crime, we tend to think of the species, right, you know, whether it be fauna or flora, but human beings are very much implicated in this as well, too. Right. And so I think understanding the human implications is really important, not only from just understanding the phenomenon itself, but then also appropriately identifying ways of prevention or enforcement or compliance or whatever it might be. Because that needs to be couched within understanding that the people who it's going to impact directly. And so of the bat, that probably those four.



Jenn Tostlebe 21:29

A wide scope of problematic implications. At least, that's the take that I got from reading your work. And then now that we are talking to you.

W

William Moreto 21:39

Yeah, it's complicated, right. As with most things, it's, you know, a lot of things. It's complicated, but it's also simple. That's kind of the nature of it. Sometimes we tend to oversimplify things. Sometimes we overcomplicate things. In this case, it can be a little bit both, it just kind of depends in terms of the frame of reference.



Jose Sanchez 21:56

Okay, so I think we've set a really good foundation, and we can start moving into discussing the paper that we're going to be talking about today. So this was authored by our guest Will Moretto and his colleague, and you'll have to correct me, as I'll be pretty sure that I'm going to butcher this pretty good right now. Daan P. Van Uhm.



William Moreto 22:16

Oh, that's good. That's good. Yeah, that's good. It's Daan Van Uhm. So well done. Well done.



Jose Sanchez 22:24

I am so proud right now. The paper was published in the British Journal of Criminology in 2021. It's titled "Nested complex crime: Assessing the convergence of wildlife trafficking, organized crime, and loose criminal networks." In this paper, Will and Daan examine the experiences and perceptions of individuals familiar with illegal wildlife markets in two countries, Uganda and China. More specifically, the authors use qualitative data from 214 total individuals to examine the convergence between wildlife trafficking and organized crime from a crime mutualism framework.



Jose Sanchez 23:02

Okay, so earlier Jenn asked you to define and describe what wildlife crime is. And so now, we want to be a little more specific, and you've started to touch on this a little bit. But can you describe what wildlife trafficking is? And maybe give us some examples of what this might look like?



William Moreto 23:19

Sure. So wildlife trafficking is essentially the transnational illegal wildlife trade, right. So in order for it to be trafficking, you need to cross borders. The other is domestic illegal wildlife trade as well, too, that exists in certain regions, certain countries. But for wildlife trafficking, it needs to be able to cross actual borders itself. So it's essentially illegal wildlife trade, but with a transnational component to it. And that results in kind of the sourcing of certain products from one region or from one country, the trading within that country that transported within that country, and then subsequently across the border to other consumer or source nations. Oh. Example!



Jenn Tostlebe 23:57

Example. Yeah.

W

William Moreto 23:58

You wanted examples. Right. I'm sorry. I mean, a pretty straightforward one would be illegal ivory, right. So ivory trafficking, you'd have rhino horn trafficking, you'd have caviar, which would be some of the big ones. Penguin, as well too. Tiger parts. So certain types of Tiger derivatives, although there is also a very strong domestic market for that as well, too. And so yeah, I mean, those will be just right off the top of my head. Live birds as well too. Parrots, etc.



Jenn Tostlebe 24:21

So we have discussed organized crime on the podcast before, but not in the context of a wildlife perspective. And so when we are thinking about organized crime from a wildlife perspective, what are you referring to?

W

William Moreto 24:39

So it was a little choppy there, Jenn. So let me in terms of the application of organized crime in wildlife?



Jenn Tostlebe 24:45

Yes, correct.

W

William Moreto 24:47

So this goes back to my earlier comments about how wildlife trafficking can be framed. And so one of the challenges that we have is trying to separate transnational organized crime from wildlife trafficking. So what you typically see when it comes to the role of transnational organized crime, at least from the research I've done, and the research that I've read is that it typically tends to show near the transportation out of the country phase, right. So when you're actually trying to get a product out of country, that's when you're going to need a little bit more connections, whether it be through legitimate connections, whether it be through corruption of officials, authority figures, whatever it might be. That typically is when it starts to show up quite a bit, at least characteristics of it. It also can show up in some aspects for traders to consumers, depending on the scale of it, depending on the type of product itself. So if you're seeing more of a high scale, high end kind of product, you might have more involvement in that because the profits are going to be there, right? You typically do not see it at the sourcing stage, right? So when things are actually being illegally taken, or poached or whatever, that is typically not where you're going to see it. Typically. Right now, there might be some cases where they might outsource and hire somebody to go hunt. But typically, that's going to be local, lower level types of offending, which then gets, you know, sent up to the top. And so typically, it's when there's more of a logistically heavy component is when you're going to see more involvement, because then you're going to need resources, you're going to need political will or power, coercion, corruption, wherever it might be.



Jose Sanchez 26:25

Okay, so given these not definitional elements that we've been discussing, what was the motivation behind writing this paper on the convergence between wildlife trafficking and organized crime?



William Moreto 26:38

I think, for me, and this is a conversation that Daan and I had, and obviously, he's not here to join us. So I'm just gonna speak on his behalf. No, this is just my thoughts. It was just increasing, I would say, lack of information as to the justification of linking transnational organized crime with wildlife trafficking. I mean, we had, there was a political reason for it, there's an economic reason, there's a security reason for it. Why it was being framed in a certain way, right, because it's twofold. You say that wildlife trafficking is transnational organized crime, it automatically elevates the severity and the seriousness of it, like there's not even a question of it. All you're starting to think about is how you would manifest and think about transnational organized crime. And now you're just saying, Oh, now there now is it's being done. It's occurring with certain types of species that we all love, and you know, and appreciate: elephants, rhinos, tigers, etc. And so what it does is it creates an automatic audience and an understanding that it's important. The challenge was we just there wasn't as much information. Now in some places in the world are absolutely seems to be an involvement of transnational organized crime, right. There tends to be a lot of information that's coming out from South Africa that suggests that there is increasing kind of role when it comes to rhino poaching, specifically, but we can't just overgeneralize right. And in some cases, wildlife trafficking has absolutely zero evidence of transnational organized crime, or at least very minimal. And so for me, it was just getting more research out there, that is empirical. But also this idea that let's just kind of maybe unpack it a bit more, instead of just assume that it's just transnational organized crime. I think that for me, I think wildlife trafficking is serious as is, right. It's one of the largest black markets in the world, depending on the metrics, and you guys know this, the metrics when it comes to anything global is very difficult. When it comes to black markets, illicit black markets, it's even worse, because that's, by definition, very hard to quantify, right? Because it's underground. And so depending on your metric, it's either the third or fifth largest black market in the world, right, you know, behind guns, drugs, you know, human trafficking, and so on. And so it's serious on its own, right. And it has certain significant implications beyond kind of law enforcement, beyond security, there's also public health, etc, economic and cultural. And for me, it was just trying to do more research to emphasize and highlight let's just look at this specifically. And then if we see organized crime, where does it appear? You know, it doesn't it's not it's gonna appear throughout the entire market. I don't know, maybe, maybe not. It was trying to get a better understanding of that. And so that was really the motivation for it. And so yeah, that was primarily it, you know, just curious.



Jenn Tostlebe 29:19

Alright, so, in this paper, and you've mentioned this a little bit throughout the episode, but you theorized that wildlife trafficking involves a variety of different levels of organization and resources that occur at all different stages. You've mentioned sourcing, there's also the transporting and then the trading of illegal wildlife products. So in other words, to kind of look at wildlife trafficking, we needed to look at this nested nature, which is really what you're

setting out to do here. And can you tell us, I guess you kind of alluded to this in your last response, but why did you put forward this theoretical idea of wildlife trafficking as a nested complex crime.

W

William Moreto 30:05

Because we had to adapt established theories. It goes back to Jose's point about like, it was one of those things where we had a definition as it relates to complex crime, you know, like organized crime is viewed to be complex crime, because there's moving pieces and parts, there's multiple individuals. When you look at illegal or illicit trades, same idea, right, you have different certain, you know, certain moving pieces. But the way we viewed and the way we were kind of looking at this problem was, but they were still separate on their own. The idea of nested complex crime was this idea of how one complex crime could be couched or nested within another. So you're using certain types of resources, whatever it might be, but it's still its own type of complex entity, right? It's not, it doesn't combine to form necessarily one new one, it still has its own kind of dynamics and whatever might be, and it could still largely survive without wildlife trafficking, like transnational organized crime will survive without, you know, wildlife trafficking, you can switch over to guns, drugs, etc. And so one of the key things that we want to emphasize and highlight was this idea that you might have one complex crime that assists in providing, whether it be actors, settings, resources, equipment, certain stages, to facilitate the growth, or the completion of another complex crime. Right. And that was really the main reason why we want to try and make sure that we understood its mutual exclusivity, but also this idea that there are going to be components where one pulls from another. And that's the reason why we kind of developed this idea of nested complex crime.



Jenn Tostlebe 31:35

So just to break that down a little bit more. It's like, the sourcing component might be mostly wildlife trafficking, whereas the actual, like, trading part might be organized crime, but we don't know. So we're kind of going at them as separate things, but they might overlap.

W

William Moreto 31:54

Yeah, exactly.

W

William Moreto 31:56

And so one of the things that we did in this paper that was drawing from some earlier research that I did, was looking at the legal wildlife trade, like looking at the wildlife themselves as products, right. And, you know, when it comes to wildlife trafficking, there is still a very much an emotional component to it, right? Like, you don't want to look at certain wildlife as products, you know, it seems to devalue what they are as living species in a lot of cases. With that in mind, if you are trading wildlife products, that's how you view them: as products to move and move around. In order for certain products to be profitable, some have to be processed in a certain way, they have to be made in a way where they can be transported properly, where they're going to make it to the end consumer. If something's alive, there's additional logistics

related to that, like you have to be able to feed, take care of, etc. Transport in a certain way, as well too. You know, one of the key things that, you know, I found in my research is that people tend to transport certain types of species at night. Why? Because they're nocturnal, and they don't make sounds when they're awake, right? So it's easy to transport. All these kind of logistics and components highlight the fact that in wildlife trafficking, the product itself has a very strong influence in terms of what people are involved, what stages are needed, as well, too. And so the way that we kind of envisioned this idea of nested complex crime is you already have people who can transport illegal goods through certain pathways, right, you're not going to create a new one for wildlife trafficking, you're going to use the same ones that use for drugs, guns, people. Like you just are. Why? Because they work right. And so you might find that person who's just familiar with transport certain types of illegal goods, services, whatever, and just be like, just move this ivory, right? Okay, great. I don't have to create anything new. There's no added logistics. And then there you go. Now you're using certain types of resources, right? So it's this idea that certain resources, certain actors already exists, it's how this kind of other complex crime can use those resources to further develop its growth, while also benefiting this original group that now has its, you know, hands in multiple different types of, you know, illegal pots.



Jenn Tostlebe 31:57

Okay.



Jenn Tostlebe 34:08

Makes sense.



Jose Sanchez 34:09

So you also bring in the idea of crime symbiosis, which can manifest in several ways. In the paper, you describe crime symbiosis manifesting as crime mutualism. And so can you describe to us what you mean by crime mutualism? And how does it play into wildlife trafficking?



William Moreto 34:28

Sure. So we just keep going back to like what we just talked about earlier, and then also, I'm gonna expand. So I didn't create this, let me just be very clear. I'm not this smart. You know, Marcus Felson developed this idea of crime mutualism basically argued that you can both have a illegitimate and legitimate activities that interact with one another, you know, they can be illegitimate and illegitimate. So that would be the case of complex crime actors working together, right? It can be illegitimate or legitimate. That would be the case in terms of political officials working with transnational organized crime groups, or it could bethrough laundering of products, you know, whatever might be. And usually involves the sharing or the exchange of certain types of resources, whether it be individuals, equipment, etc. It could also involve getting in the way or stopping mutual adversaries, right. So in this case it could be, it could be law enforcement, right trying to find identifying ways to stop law enforcement being involved in stopping the act itself. Or it could be through the spreading of crime. Right. And so like kind of,

I mentioned, when you have the use, or the encouragement of organized crime and certain stages of the illegal wildlife trade that helps promote and spread the crime itself, right. Moreover, if you're finding ways that you're demonstrating that it can be profitable than other individuals may also want now to be involved as well. Right. So now again, that spreading the potential opportunities as well. And so that's typically the idea of crime mutualism. And so, at least as it relates to what we did in our study, what we found was, again, very stage specific in terms of when crime mutualism would occur. And typically, what you would see is its overlap with corruption. And so typically, you'd see it in the sense of individuals could be able to bribe certain types of authority figures, or you might be able to get access through legitimate means. So you might have individuals who might work in an airport, and you can get certain types of products to them by those kinds of contacts. And so you can have both, again, illegitimate and legitimate kind of overlap. But corruption was a pretty big component as it relates to kind of providing a foundation for crime mutualism to actually occur in both settings, both in Ghana and in China.



Jenn Tostlebe 36:38

Alright, so starting to get into kind of the methodology for this paper. One thing that I thought was really interesting was that you're actually using data from two different projects, which, if I remember right, these are coming from both of your individual dissertation projects, right?



William Moreto 36:55

Yeah, that's correct.



Jenn Tostlebe 36:57

So really, I'm just interested in why you decided to use data from both the Uganda and China projects rather than just one or the other. What made you decide to use both?



William Moreto 37:08

Well, first and foremost, we were having a lot of conversation about the work that we were doing. And we're just like, there's a lot of overlap here, like you're seeing like this manifest in a certain way, in your case study. I'm seeing it in mine. And it wasn't something that you're typically you think about when you're doing research, right? Like this idea, like this combined datasets that are primary data, and qual, you just never think about that, you know, we think about it for different ways. And we were just, we kept talking, and I'm like, You know what, let's try this out. Let's see if we can actually establish and draw from, you know, a theoretical framework that exists. Adapt it when necessary, but let's see if it plays out in these two settings, right? I mean, we are seeing certain types of findings manifest in both datasets, let's see if it applies, theoretically, because realistically, you could've done one case study with Uganda and then one in China, you know, there's two papers, I guess. But it didn't hit the mark that we wanted to hit what we wanted to kind of look at in the sense of not only multiple sites, but he was able to provide some guidance and insight on his study that filled out some of the gaps in the Uganda case study, right. And so it was just providing us with a fuller appreciation

for the problem, and giving us more avenues to actually assess it. And also, it was challenging, like, it was not easy to kind of view them that way. Because we had completely different methods in the way we kind of did things, right. And so trying to be very clear and transparent, and how we did our methods, and then explain our findings was a fun exercise, you know, getting it through the journal, and also great feedback from the reviewers. Because they were on board, they were just like, explain this more, right, which turned out to lead to a better paper. But it also just, it made sure that we were kind of approaching the matter that it was an ad hoc kind of assessment. And typically, that's not the case when it comes to qualitative. And we wanted to try and pull this off in a certain way, you know, fortunately worked out. And it gave us different insights into not only an established theoretical framework, but then also how to do qualitative assessments and analysis, even after the fact. And so yeah.



Jenn Tostlebe 39:04

Yeah, yeah, I definitely thought... I'm mostly trained in quantitative data. So Jose is the one who does more of the qualitative work. But, you know, I knew that it wasn't typical to kind of look at methods and do this on the back end. And so I did, I think it was really interesting, just how you pulled it off. And I'm assuming there's different cultural elements that went into both of your projects as well. So kind of trying to mesh those together. Yeah. Kudos to both of you because it turned out to be cool.



William Moreto 39:37

Yeah, I mean, I love writing methods sections for qualitative articles. I love reading them. Like I love absolutely reading the work that's being out there right now and how detailed and transparent the method sections are for qualitative work. It's one of the most challenging parts to write but it's probably one of the best. I enjoy really writing it because then you get to reflect back on certain things. Now, the main thing with this project was we had a brand new research question, right? We had a brand new research question that we didn't really think about when we were collecting the data. But the data was appearing throughout the course of our interviews throughout our fieldwork. And so just again, revisiting the data and being like, alright, let's kind of scrap how else we think about this data. Here's our new research objective. Now, let's start looking at from that standpoint, right. And you have to kind of look at the data differently; you have to reanalyze the data, but it's fascinating, because then that data, it's giving you something different that you didn't expect that was going to show you in the first place. So it was a fascinating exercise.



Jose Sanchez 40:32

Okay, so let's start moving into your actual results. You know, like, this is what everyone's been waiting for up to this moment.



William Moreto 40:39

Yeah.



Jose Sanchez 40:39

So you had two main objectives, the first of which was to investigate respondents orientation towards the potential existence and influence of organized crime within illegal wildlife market in Uganda and China. What did your findings suggest was organized crime present within the wildlife trade?



William Moreto 40:58

So I mean, I guess it's not really much of a spoiler alert since I already talked about it repeatedly in the sense of the way it's been set up. But we saw some evidence of it in the latter stages, particularly as it relates to kind of coordinating transportation routes, and facilitating coordination with corrupt officials, providing resources for bribes or documentation, falsified documentation, stuff like that. But we saw for the most part fairly little at the sourcing stage. So when hunters themselves would opportunistically hunt, or gather illegal product, or illegally harvested or caught products, we saw very little of that. Moreover, we saw more of this idea of loose criminal networks. So individuals who were engaged in criminal behavior and activities with certain skill sets, then would be hired, like, right now you're gonna be, you know, you're you're on the clock, or you're hired now, but they don't know who the next person necessarily is. Or when they're going to meet them. They don't know the person above them, they don't know where it's going to eventually end up. All they care about is alright, here's a quick, you know, quick job. And here we go. And so from the traditional view of organized crime, which is top down, and everybody knows everybody, I mean, we just didn't see that in both case studies, there was more of its presence in the latter stages, the more complicated stages, I would say, logistically complicated, but in the early stages, not really, it was more short term, very infrequent interactions, very informal, very opportunistic. Whereas in the latter stages, you have to have more of an established connection, you have to have more trust in one another. And then also more resources to convince people to cooperate.



Jenn Tostlebe 42:25

Okay, and next, you were interested in assessing the applicability of the stage specific crime mutualism framework to try and kind of explain this convergence between wildlife trafficking and organized crime actors. You already mentioned that there was this element of corruption and kind of this mutualistic relationship. But did you find any evidence of like variation in this mutualistic relationship by stage and or by country?



William Moreto 42:58

Yeah, absolutely. And this is, I think it's fascinating is when you look, when you break down the full market to its parts, then you start being able to identify some of the nuance, right? So from the sources stage to the trading stage, there was absolutely different types of relationships, right? Again, more sourcing, or the harvesting, the taking was far more opportunistic. It wasn't as established, at least in Uganda. In China, it was a little bit different. There was some evidence of more arranged contracts. When it came to some of the trading, again, depending on the stage itself, so if you're going from the illegal hunter to the next, the transporter, there wasn't very much in terms of actual understanding one another, right? Like there just wasn't.

But if you're going from contact from country A to Country B, there was probably more of a long term kind of frequent kind of interaction at that stage specifically. So when it came to a stage specific kind of component. Yeah, you saw some differences there as well. And so again, it's, it helps kind of address some of the questions related to is wildlife trafficking transnational organized crime? The answer is not necessarily. But in some stages, it may occur. In other stages, it might be more loose criminal networks that have zero organization, at least hierarchical organization. But they know each other very well, because they know how to commit certain types of activities really well. It's more of a contractual outsourcing kind of event than those stages.



Jenn Tostlebe 44:21

Yeah, it was really interesting to look at the stage specific findings that you concluded with in the paper. And it wasn't I mean, granted, I don't know really anything about this, but it was surprising to me, but also not because I could see how the source thing would be more of just, you know, these people who are out and do the hunting or do you know collecting the flora and whatever else. And then as it increasingly gets more complicated, you need to rely on these other actors to kind of accomplish the final goal. But yeah, it was cool to look at.



William Moreto 44:59

Yeah, absolutely. I guess it gets to this idea of if you have established resources or connections already, right, you might as well be efficient. You know, one of the key things is people like to be efficient, right? They don't necessarily want to reinvent the wheel, if they already have access, and if they need to move certain things. So you use people who know what they're doing, or you establish contact later on. And so, yeah, it's from a stage specific kind of component. It's it facilitates elucidates that a little bit more.



Jose Sanchez 45:25

Absolutely. Okay, so what are the implications of your study for research, but also policy and practice?



William Moreto 45:36

I think from a research standpoint, it goes to this idea of, again, using established kind of criminological theory, right, or approaches and applying it to a crime type that we're not overly familiar with. With emphasizing and highlights the potential role that we have as social scientists in conservation related problems. And again, this, I think, as we move forward in science, I think increasingly, the idea of interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary research needs to really be at the forefront. One, because it challenges us to do things a little differently, but also allows us to apply what we know, to problems that are going to be multifaceted and complicated, right. And so at least from a theoretical standpoint, I think that that would be at least one contribution. The other thing to would be further emphasizing and highlighting the kind of the, I guess, stage and product influences that exists when it comes to the illegal wildlife trade. But then also the introduction of this idea of nested complex crimes, right, this

idea that crimes don't have to be the same, like in order for it to be recognized as a problem, right? Each one has its own dynamics. And in some cases, there might be some mutualistic kind of components that are needed.

W

William Moreto 46:43

From a policy standpoint. For me, I think the key thing is trying to emphasize and highlight that not all responses that are tailored for transnational organized crime are necessarily going to work here. And in some cases, it might actually be problematic. If you're looking at not only just understanding enforcement, but then compliance, you know, this may not necessarily be the proper approach, you know, compliance might require a little bit more localized, culturally sensitive kind of approach, especially when you're looking at, you know, the sourcing stage, right. If you're looking at transportation stages, they probably won't matter as much. Because those again, those are more logistically heavy, profit driven individuals, right. And so I think it just highlights the fact that different responses are gonna be warranted for different stages, different individuals, when it comes to something that is as complicated as this, but one in a blanket approach is not going to be not only effective, but it also might be counterproductive.



Jenn Tostlebe 47:37

Okay, so we have about 10 minutes left. And so we want to jump into this topic of enforcement. And so we have this paper authored by our guest, Will Moreto and his colleague, Richard Charlton, it was published in Oryx, is that how you say?

W

William Moreto 47:59

That's correct.



Jenn Tostlebe 48:00

Oryx in 2021. It's titled "Rangers can't be with every elephant: Assessing Rangers perceptions of a community problem solving policing model for protected areas." And so can you just start off by giving us a quick summary of the paper, including its background and kind of the goals?

W

William Moreto 48:20

Sure. So this paper kind of originated from early aspects of my dissertation, I did some subsequent fieldwork afterwards, as well. And it looked just examining the workplace climate and environment and perceptions of conservation Rangers in Uganda, specifically trying to understand not only job stress and job satisfaction, community relations, but then also just their thoughts in terms of what they do and whether or not they felt that it was important. And one of the key kind of sections, in my observations in my interviews was just asking Rangers like, what are your thoughts on enforcement? Like, what are your thoughts in terms of the current impact of enforcement? What are your thoughts on alternatives to enforcement, you know, the patrol work that you're doing, you know, what are some potential alternatives to it.

And really getting back to a lot of what we've done in policing research in kind of the history of criminal justice research and criminological research, right, understanding, you know, what's going to be more effective is it patrol work? Is it going to be, you know, does that have a deterrent value? Or is it going to be other kind of policing perspectives? And so that was really kind of the impetus for the study, or at least for this specific study was trying to look at their thoughts as to how effective they were in deterring crime, whether their enforcement activities were perceived to be useful, and also what their thoughts were for non enforcement or alternative approaches as well.

J Jose Sanchez 49:42

So, before we keep going further, we kind of want to break down what exactly a ranger is and does because, you know, when I think of a ranger, I just think of this person wearing like, some hiking boots and Some khaki shorts with like a safari hat telling us to put our food away in like these metal containers so that the bears don't get our food. But I'm guessing there's a little more to them than simply just... I don't even know if I'm describing a ranger? I think I'm just describing like someone from Parks and Recreation. So could you tell us a little more about what a ranger is and what they do?

W William Moreto 50:22

Well, great question man. You're bang on, you're absolutely bang on. One of the biggest challenges in conducting this research is the very definition of what a conservation Ranger is, right? There's different terminology and job titles. There's game wardens, there's rangers, there's a lot, there's a lot. There's actually been a study, there was an attempt to examine not only the different names and titles of rangers, it's in the hundreds, but also the different roles and responsibilities, like you mentioned. Yeah, absolutely. That that is part of and part and parcel in terms of what's responsible for a conservation Ranger. In some areas in the world, they're also responsible for doing certain types of patrol work in protected areas, right. So in Uganda, there's law enforcement rangers who are responsible for going in protected areas, and making arrests when need be. Just taking a look at the mats, that status of the protected area itself, helping wildlife when when need be as well, too. And some places that's not necessarily what they need to do, right. Like in might literally just be certain types of Code Enforcement, whether it be littering or off tracking, or you know, you know, those kind of issues. And so, very broad in terms of the roles and responsibilities. Some Rangers also do not have a law enforcement role or capacity or responsibility as well, others do. And so it's varied, quite a bit. In Uganda, specifically, where I did my research for this paper, there are certain types of rangers who are responsible for law enforcement. So those are the ones who are going on patrols in the bush. And then you also have community rangers who are responsible for engaging with the community, conducting education services, addressing human wildlife conflict, you have tourism Rangers, who are responsible for tourism initiatives, you know, providing meetings with tourists, taking them on on game drives, and etc. And so different types of rangers in that capacity. The term itself is very, it's not as simple and as straightforward as if you say police, people typically know what that means. Right? Ranger, like, to your point, there's some variation. So it's a great question. It's probably the most frustrating question, because it's so hard to answer, because there's so much going on with it. But yeah.

J Jose Sanchez 52:20

Okay, so you interviewed 89 Rangers, including law enforcement, intelligence and Community Conservation Rangers in Uganda. What were their attitudes towards traditional enforcement and the effectiveness of these strategies?

W William Moreto 52:35

It was interesting, because it was split in the way where they saw the value in it, like the overwhelming majority of people saw that, yeah, we need to continue to do patrol. Because one of the most important aspects of patrolling is, again, it's not just a law enforcement component, it's also just seeing how the animals are doing, how the habitats doing and all that. So there's also like a data collecting component to it as well. So from that standpoint, they saw an absolute value in that as well, from an enforcement perspective, they also saw some value with it. With that in mind, they also recognized some limitations of it. Right? Like, they recognize the fact that they're very, they're not as resourced they could be, they also understand that not able to cover as much ground and land as humanly possible, right. I mean you're looking at, you know, over 1900 square kilometers, and you have at that time, they had about 80/85 law enforcement Rangers covering that entire landscape. It's impossible, right? It just is. So the deterrent factor, at least, you know, statistically, is low. Right? Conceptually, it's not. Like a lot of the some of the Rangers were like, No, we deter crime, because we're out patrolling, and I'm like, But do you think that they know you're out there? Or do you think you're gonna be able to interact? And so they did feel as if they had a deterrent component now, you know, realistically, probably not as as much when you're thinking about land coverage and all that. But the idea that they still felt that there was a place for it was high up there, right. Now, whether or not that's individual preference or organizational, right, like how you're trained, kind of the symbols, the cultural components of it. But we know from policing researchers, you can apply here as well to, you want to know that what you're doing is effective, right? Like you want you're being told, like this is effective. So you know, you kind of want to buy into it. So there can be some of that going on as well, too. And so, in general, yeah, a lot of them did feel as if traditional enforcement was effective. Now, they also felt similar for other alternative approaches as well, too. And in some cases, they felt that those approaches are going to be more effective in the long run.

J Jose Sanchez 54:38

Can you tell us a little bit more about those non enforcement strategies and how they felt about those?

W William Moreto 54:43

Can do and so typically, when you're looking at enforcement it's patrol, heavy work, right, like you're actually going to patrol. If you arrest somebody, then you take them to the police and hopefully, they're, they're prosecuted, they're found guilty, etc.

W William Moreto 54:55

William Moreto 55:39

The other alternatives have to do with educating community members, you know, whether it be through having Rangers go to these communities explain to them the rules, regulations, why it's important for them not to go out into the protected area, whether it be for their own public health and safety, right, because if you're in protected area, you could be actually harmed by wildlife. Also explain the economic benefits of having a protected area, right, but then you have tourists there. And then hopefully that generates into local investment, and so on. And so there's a lot of this idea of just trying to provide more information to the local communities so that they themselves not only comply, because they believe it's morally appropriate, or economically appropriate or whatever, to not engage in illegal activity.

W

William Moreto 55:39

And also this idea of informal guardianship, right, this notion that if we are able to convince you to just watch over your neighbors, maybe educate them, you know, pass on that message, or call us whenever they're not listening, that expands the ability for law enforcement to have an impact as well, too, right. So again, it's I mean, if you're thinking about from crim perspective, right, let's again, it's establishing this idea of guardianship, right. Ensuring that there's a growth in that, you know, identifying various ways to establish and promote social bonds, right, like, there is some overlap there for sure. And so those are some of the alternative approaches that were happening and that are happening, that Rangers themselves felt that were actually fairly beneficial as well.

W

William Moreto 56:20

And one of the key things that, you know, as I was having my conversations and kind of observations was, you know, and I hate dichotomous, like binary questions when it comes to qualitative, but I had to be asked, right, which was, which one we think is gonna be more effective enforcement or these kinds of non enforcement strategies, right, simply, you know, which one's gonna be more effective? The majority actually said, non enforcement, because they felt as if not only did it have a more long term sustainable impact, but they also recognized some of the limitations as well, right. And it wasn't just their enforcement, it was what I would refer to as more of the criminal justice cynicism. Right. So if I arrest somebody, and I take them to the police, and that person bribes that police officer now, and then is let go, that's awful, because one, I'm seeing that the system's not working and also, I didn't get that bribe. Right. And so there's issues in terms of that component. Moreover, whether or not somebody's actually charged or prosecuted, there's corruption in those components as well, too. So it wasn't just this idea that look, can we do our job properly, but what happens if we do our job properly, is the system going to be effective as well, too? And if it's not, then there is an issue with that as well, related to not only just the morale of the Ranger, or the Rangers themselves, then also just the system itself is not going to be very serious, right. And so hence, why a lot of them did feel as if the non enforcement law and Criminal Justice responses were going to be just as useful, if not more, so.



Jenn Tostlebe 57:46

So touching on that, you know, you also bring that up in your study that your participants kind of felt that arrest. You know, they are measures of success from a legal standpoint, but they

also could turn into not super successful, as you just mentioned, but they also kind of see an arrest as a measure of failure from this conservation standpoint, which I thought was really interesting and kind of this important point that you brought up. And that was because a poaching incident would have still occurred for that arrest to have happened. And so based off of your work, this study as well as your other work, what do you think needs to be done to reduce the frequency and/or prevalence of poaching incidents?

W

William Moreto 58:35

I mean, a lot of it is probably going to be just educational based. I mean, a lot of what we know, when it comes to prevention is, a lot of it can be socialized. Right. But in order for that to happen, a lot more education and information has to be sent out. What's fascinating is from conservation, and again, what I love about this work is that it's inherently has to be interdisciplinary or transdisciplinary. And so not only are we able to apply what we know from our field to this area and maybe kind of provide a different perspective, you have to get in the literature for other fields, like you have to understand what's going on in that realm. It's been fascinating in that capacity. And so education is really an important element in this particular intergenerational education. And so a lot of what's happened, at least in conservation is that a lot of programs tend to focus on kids, right? In terms of school programs. Why? Because you can communicate things in a certain way. Like you can communicate the value of, you know, the environments, or wildlife or whatever it might be, in certain ways. Like it can be through song. It can be through plays, it can be through just direct messaging, but it can be also contextualized to that context, that culture, right. So it's delivered in a manner that is understood, but then it's appreciated. What they found in some conservation based studies, is that if you educate the kids, they themselves might be able to educate their parents. They're able to actually transfer that information up to their parents. And as a result, now you're seeing more of a multiplied effect.

W

William Moreto 1:00:08

Now with that in mind, if you're looking at education, you also have to probably approach it in certain ways as well, too, right? So there has to be a very specific approach to it. But also you have to approach it in a manner that is actually conceptually appropriate. And I've said that multiple times. But this is the reason why it's important. This one is how you communicate to elders, right? To adults, to children, but then also gender, there can be a very important gendered component and how you communicate rules, regulations, and also expectations.

W

William Moreto 1:00:36

And so I would say that one of the most important ways to kind of curb or prevent wildlife crime would be through that just more information, providing people with more information. And the other thing would be to emphasize and highlight responses that are not necessarily going to be criminal justice right. Now, there are times when criminal justice responses are absolutely needed. However, we also know that to your point, what you just said about if an animal's already killed, the game is lost, technically, when you're looking at from an environmental kind of component, right? Arresting and all that stuff is kind of it's a different outcome that you want, what you want is that animal not to be taken, or that plant not be harvested or whatever,

that's prevention in this case, right. And so for that to occur, a reactive CJ response is not necessarily gonna be the most effective, right. And so other responses might be more useful. I already mentioned education. There can be the pathway and avenue for situational crime prevention as well, too. And again, just more information is what's probably going to be needed.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:01:38

It sounds like that's what your participants in this specific study, were also really getting at too. So kind of come full circle.



Jose Sanchez 1:01:45

Okay. Well, thank you. Will, those are the questions that we have for you today. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to talk to us this morning. Is there anything you'd like to plug? Anything we should be on the lookout for in the near future?



William Moreto 1:01:45

Yeah. And I expected I didn't really... I expected, and I tried, obviously to approach it fairly open mind, but I expected like, law enforcement great. Like, we catch everybody, and there were some who were adamant, like, we catch everybody. And I'm like, Okay, that's fair. Why do you think that's the case, right? And then others are, like, we know, like, this is not gonna work. Like it just does not work. And so it was fascinating to get those different experiences and different perspectives. And again, it's the reality of it, like, you can talk to urban police officers, and they'll likely say the same thing, like some of them will be on board, like, yeah, we need to do random patrol, we're all good. Like, okay, other folks are gonna be like, it's not let's be more targeted. And then other folks will be like let's do more targeted, but then they also understand the social outcomes of that, right. And so it's a fascinating kind of game when it comes to enforcement and it does play out. And that's, you know, when we're thinking about the role of you know, criminologists, criminal justice scholars in a topic that's not typically in our wheelhouse. This is what I think we can bring, right, this information that we know, and apply it in this environment, but then also get that information and start applying it to what we know about in policing, for example.



William Moreto 1:03:06

I mean, I do have a couple of things that are coming through the pipeline, but then that's gonna hold me to a deadline, and I don't really want a deadline.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:03:13

We're academics, we don't do deadlines, Will.

 W

William Moreto 1:03:16

I don't want to like, yeah, you know, I got this thing happening this spring. No, no, I just want to say thanks for inviting me. It's an absolute pleasure having conversation, you guys. You guys are doing great with this stuff. I think it's awesome that there's this platform to disseminate not only just the work, but then also for people to, I guess virtually meet some of the folks that they might be reading about. So I've enjoyed listening to you guys in the past. Again, it's an honor to be here with you guys today. And thanks so much. It was great having this conversation with you.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:03:41

Yeah, thank you for coming on and sharing all of your knowledge. It was great speaking with you and learning more about this. This is an area. So we did do one episode on green criminology, what, two years ago, I don't know if that's one that you listened to. But Jose and I didn't really know what to expect going into that episode. And I left and I was like, man, maybe I shouldn't do this corrections stuff anymore. *laughter* I think it's really cool. It's really interesting to me. So thank you for coming on and sharing more about your work.

 W

William Moreto 1:04:12

Of course, and again, like there's plenty of space when it comes to this kind of work and research. And I think that the more that we have folks who are trained in our field in our discipline, we know our theories, who know our research, and have a very impactful influence on the work that's being done. And so yeah, hopefully, more of this stuff will continue.

 J

Jose Sanchez 1:04:31

Yeah, absolutely. And where can people find you? Email, the Twitter, website, any of those?

 W

William Moreto 1:04:40

Well first of all, I love the fact that you call "the Twitter." Yeah, I mean, I'm on Twitter. I try and get there as frequent as I can. Unfortunately lapses there as well too. But yeah, @MoreToPhD is my Twitter, and then email is william.moreto AT ucf.edu. And so yeah, Feel free to email me or tweet me at the Twitter. And I'll be more than happy to respond.

 J

Jose Sanchez 1:05:05

Perfect. Well, thank you again. We really appreciate it. Absolutely.

 W

William Moreto 1:05:09

Absolutely and thank you so much. Have a great day. And I'll hopefully see you guys at ASC.
Yeah?

rean?



Jose Sanchez 1:05:13

Yep, absolutely.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:05:14

Yep, we'll be there.



William Moreto 1:05:15

Awesome. All right. Take care. Enjoy your summer.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:05:18

Hey, thanks for listening.



Jose Sanchez 1:05:19

Don't forget to leave us a review on Apple podcasts or iTunes. Or let us know what you think of the episode by leaving us a comment on our website, thecriminologyacademy.com.



Jenn Tostlebe 1:05:29

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Jose Sanchez 1:05:41

or email us at thecrimacademy@gmail.com. See you next time.