**\*\*CALL FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE C3N SEED FUNDING\*\***

Penn State has established a [Commonwealth Campus Center Nodes Program (C3N)](https://ccresearch.psu.edu/c3n/) to support research across the Campuses by linking faculty to established centers.

The [Criminal Justice Research Center](https://justicecenter.la.psu.edu/partners-affiliates/commonwealth) and Commonwealth Campus faculty who work in the criminal justice and criminology or related fields have been successfully working to support faculty research through this C3N initiative.

We welcome your applications for research seed funding for projects of around $5,000. We expect approximately $17,000 will be available for this **FY 2023-2024** round of funding.

**Applications should include:**

* Project investigators
* Title of the project
* 1-2 sentence statement of the problem to be addressed
* Brief summary of the work to be conducted, including data and analytic strategy
* Statement of need for C3N funds (include budget estimate and project timeline)
* A well-articulated plan of activities that promises progress toward external funding AND academic publications
* Identify how the project would increase the sustainability of the C3N; for example, describe how:
  + The project might lead to pursuit of external funding
  + Cross-campus collaborations could contribute to high impact journal publications
  + The project could develop or extend community/practitioner-researcher partnerships

The budget can include items such as travel, respondent incentives, data collection, wage payroll (staff or student), and other direct research expenses. The budget cannot include faculty salary or summer stipends.

Please submit your proposals to Kim Ménard ([kmm157@psu.edu](mailto:kmm157@psu.edu)) by **April 15, 2023,** for consideration by the Criminal Justice C3N Meeting Sub-Committee. Awardees will be notified by **April 29, 2023** and will be announced at the annual meeting on **May 4, 2023, 10a-12p**. Details to follow. See below for FY 2022-2023 project awardees and descriptions.

**\*\*FY22-23 CRIMINAL JUSTICE C3N SEED FUNDED PROJECTS\*\***

**Title of Proposal:** Developing medical-legal partnerships to improve outcomes for women experiencing co-occurring intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and opioid use disorder (OUD).

**Faculty investigators:** Penelope K. Morrison (co-PI, New Kensington); Kate McLean (co-PI, Greater Allegheny); Richard L. Wentling (co-PI, New Kensington).

**Purpose:** Women experiencing co-occurring IPV and OUD (Co-IPV/OUD) often do not seek care or treatment for these issues out of fear of being judged, labeled, or treated poorly by clinical, judicial, or other providers they encounter, and/or out of fear of the consequences they may face as a result of their disclosure. In fact, research shows that women experiencing co-IPV/OUD report fear of socio-legal consequences, particularly regarding their children (e.g., CYF involvement, custody given to their abuser, separation due to incarceration), as a main reason they fail to engage in help-seeking for these issues. Previous research on Co-IPV/OUD, therefore, has strongly suggested that outcomes for women experiencing these issues would be improved if medical-legal partnerships were developed and employed to help assist this unique population. This research aims to understand the barriers and facilitators to developing medical-legal partnerships to improve outcomes for women experiencing Co-IPV/OUD from a wide range of key stakeholders, to include but not limited to: IPV advocates, MAT service providers, other health care professionals, court officials, social workers, child, youth, and family (CYF), lawyers, and law enforcement, among others.

**Work Summary:** The proposed research builds on, and weaves together, projects conducted by the investigatory team. Dr. Morrison (Co-I, Chelsea Pallatino, University of Pittsburgh) has previously examined the barriers and facilitators to care for pregnant and post-partum women experiencing co-occurring IPV and OUD. That study highlighted the need for a broader, more holistic set of service provision partnerships, and, for developing medical-legal collaborations to improve outcomes for victims and their families. Dr. McLean (Co-I’s, Philip Kavanaugh, Penn State Harrisburg; Nathan Kruis, Penn State Altoona; Jennifer Murphy, Penn State Berks; Brenda Russell, Penn State Berks) has studied barriers to MAT access and retention from the perspective of both patients and providers; these projects have highlighted a disjuncture between such actors’ understanding of not only MAT enrollment barriers, but treatment non-compliance and its consequences. Dr. Wentling (Co-I, Dr. Morrison) has examined the intersection of reinvestment policies associated with Victim Service Providers (VSPs) and the role of legislative reforms aimed at justice-related individuals. All prior projects have additionally established connections with community partners in the service areas of interest (e.g., health care professionals, substance use providers, CYF, IPV advocates, law enforcement, drug/domestic violence courts, legal representation, etc.).

We will use these existing collaborations along with snowball sampling to recruit a sample of 40 key stakeholders across service contexts whose work brings them in close contact with women with Co-IPV/OUD. Interviews will be open-ended, semi-structured and will explore participants’ perceptions on the barriers and facilitators to developing medical-legal partnerships, best practices for working across medical-legal contexts, and the unique medical-legal needs of women experiencing Co-IPV/OUD. Data analysis will take a ground theory approach, focusing on global and content coding of themes and sub-themes.

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| **Timeline/Milestones:** |  |
| Development of interviewing guide and IRB protocol  IRB submission  Begin participant recruitment and data collection  Transcription of interviews  Data Analysis  Prepare manuscript for publication/identify external funding opportunities and draft proposal | July – August 2022  August 1st, 2022  September – December 2022  October 2022 – January 2023  February 2023 – May 2023  May 2023 – June 2023 |

**Budget:** To accomplish this project we are requesting $5000 in support from C3N Initiative. The $5000 budget will provide for participant incentives (N=40 x $50/per participant = $2000). Incentives are important for encouraging participation in the study and offer compensation for participant time and effort. We are also requesting support for a part-time undergraduate research assistant to provide help with participant recruitment, data collection, data analysis, and other logistical support. A modest $13/hour for ~5 hours per week of undergraduate research assistant support is being requested. Support for the part-time research assistant will cover 10 months of work from August 2022 to May 2023.

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| **Budget Breakdown** | **N** | **Price per N** | **Total** |
| 1. Incentives for interview participation | 40 | 50 | 2000 |
| 1. Student research assistant | N/A | N/A | 2600 |
| **Total Project Cost** |  |  | **4600** |

**Sustainability:**

* The project involves collaborations across two campuses with faculty who have research experience and expertise in IPV, OUD, and in working with representatives from the court/judicial system, IPV victims and perpetrators, and opioid dependent populations. It will also utilize an undergraduate research assistant who will be involved in helping to manage the project, collect and analyze data, and the drafting of manuscripts and external funding proposals.
* This data from this project will serve as the foundation for a larger external grant which will seek to develop a multidisciplinary intervention (utilizing a medical-legal framework) which can address the unique needs of women experiencing IPV and OUD. Given the timeliness of this project, the ongoing opioid epidemic in the United States, and the increase in IPV since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, we anticipate the research will be of interest to a wide range of state and federal funders (e.g., PCCD, NIJ, NIH, CDC).

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**Title: How Much Is That Puppy on the Internet? An Examination of Pet-Scam Victim Narratives**

**Faculty Investigators:** Jennifer L. Schally (PI, Harrisburg)

**Research Question:** This project is a qualitative study which examines the narratives of victims of advance-fee pet scams. This type of pet scam became more widespread in 2020 during the Coronavirus pandemic as people increasingly sought the companionship of pets while being confined at home. Using the theoretical framework provided by both narrative criminology and narrative victimology, this project is particularly interested in victims’ experience of shame and victim-blaming as well as the ways in which the victimization experience affects future behavior and self-concepts.

**Work Summary:** The application for IRB approval has been submitted and once approval has been received, recruiting of participants will begin. The PI has identified groups on social media which are dedicated to stopping these types of scams by exposing the fraudsters- these groups will be the site of recruitment. Participants will be interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide. The interviews are expected to last between 30 minutes and one hour, approximately. The interviews will be performed over Zoom and audio recorded. The recordings will be transcribed, and transcripts will then be imported into NVivo software for qualitative analysis. This project has already been submitted as part of a thematic panel on narrative victimology to the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in November 2022 in Atlanta, GA. It is expected that a manuscript will be complete and ready for submission by the end of the year (2022).

**Budget:** Funds from the 3CN Initiative will be used to support a graduate research assistant, to purchase gift card incentives for participants, and for professional transcription services. Estimated budget: $4225.00.

**Budget Breakdown**

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Graduate research assistant: $18.00/hour \*140 = $2,500

Transcription by Rev @ $1.50 per minute; 15 hours of audio for transcription, total: $1,350.00

Gift Cards $25 each ($25 \* 15 Interviews) total: $375

**Timeline/Milestones**

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| **Milestone** | **Date** |
| Recruit Participants and Conduct Interviews | May - August 2022 |
| Send Audio out for Transcription | August 2022 |
| Analyze Data | September - October 2022 |
| ASC Panel | November 2022 |
| Final Manuscript Submitted | December 2022 |
| Identify External Funding Opportunities | December 2022- January 2023 |

**Sustainability:**

* This research would be joining a growing body of work that is under the umbrella of narrative criminology. Coined in only 2009, this work would be contributing to a burgeoning theoretical perspective in criminology.
* Existing scholarly literature about advance-fee pet scams is scarce. Likewise, research on advance-fee scams in general is minimal and is more focused on characteristics of the offense as opposed to examining victim accounts. This study would contribute to understanding this understudied phenomenon from a new perspective and lay the groundwork for future, more broad-based investigations into white-collar crime victimization.
* The project will give practical research experience to one graduate student.

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**Title:** Development & Efficacy of an “Orange Flag Assessment”: An Addendum to the Lethality Assessment Program

**Faculty Investigators**: Dr. Melanie Hetzel-Riggin (PI, Penn State Behrend)

**Research Question:** The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) has been found to be effective at increasing referrals from police officers to safe houses or other resources for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV), but only assesses for extreme levels of danger (e.g., red flags). This project is working to design an addendum that assesses more moderate levels of danger, primarily forms of coercive control which have only recently become part of the legal definition of intimate partner violence in certain states, We will then test the efficacy and practicality/likelihood of an effective application of the measure.

**Work Summary:** This project will assess the functionality and applicability of the “Orange Flag” Assessment as an addendum to the LAP. The project will consist of first finalizing a preliminary draft of the measure that adequately covers almost all forms of coercive control (reproductive coercion, financial control, social isolation, etc.). Second, we will the measure in a pilot study. The pilot study will consist of consultation meetings with experts in the field that have worked extensively with survivors of domestic violence. Appropriate changes will be made, and the study will then be submitted for IRB approval to receive the opinions of police officers, first responders, safe house workers, domestic violence advocates, and survivors themselves. We hope to garner their perspective regarding the degree to which the Orange Flag Assessment is a program that is both survivor-focused and would be effective and beneficial for survivors in helping them to obtain referrals and access to resources that could help them to begin to recover them abuse. Data collection will be conducted primarily through focus groups, interviews, and anonymous surveys so that we can collect both qualitative (comprehensive and/or anecdotal feedback and opinions) and quantitative data (ratings of certain components of the measure, the likelihood of them using it themselves or finding it beneficial, etc.). The measure will then be adapted based on the data and feedback collected and then sent out again to stakeholders and experts in the field for their opinions on the validity and potential efficacy of the revised measure. I will then apply for the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation grant to receive funds to training first responders to use the measure and to assess the functionality and efficacy of the measure as it’s applied.

**Budget:** To accomplish this project I’m requesting $5,000 in support from C3N Initiative. We will provide 308 hours at $11/hour plus fringe for a graduate research assistant to assist with assessment development, the IRB proposal, recruitment, and data collection (including the running of focus groups and interviews, data cleaning/analysis, and manuscript and report composition. Support for a research assistant for one year from June 2022 through May 2023. I am also requesting funding for materials and supplies for recruitment, specifically for copying and printing, and data collection to print data collection tools. Finally, I am requesting funds for participant payment for representatives of stakeholder groups who complete the study.

**Budget Breakdown**

Salaries and Wages for a graduate research assistant (Marisa Berner) to assist with project development (308 hours x $11/hour) = $3,388

Fringe Benefits, which are computed using the fixed rates of 0.35% applicable to Category IV Student Wages, for the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022) = $12.00

Material and Supplies (used to recruit participants via flyers and mailings and to produce copies of the assessments and other data collection tools) = $300.00

Participant Support (used to reimburse a total of 52 potential participants for their time) (52 x $25/apiece) = $1,300.00

**Total Requested.**  $5,000.00

Timeline/Milestones Expected Completion Date

Develop draft “Orange Flag Assessment”  July-August 2022

Pilot test for reliability and validity, including September-November 2022

consultation with content knowledge experts.

 IRB approval sought  November 2022

Data collection through focus groups, interviews, December 2022-February 2023

surveys, etc. of stakeholder groups (law enforcement, advocates, survivors).

Analysis of data and revision of assessment based on data  March 2023

Second level check of assessment with content experts and stakeholder groups.  April-June 2023

Submit for Department of Justice Office of Violence Against July-September 2023

Women Research and Evaluation grant.

**Collaborations & Sustainability:**

Two to three manuscripts about the development of the measure and the responses of safe house workers, first responders, police officers, and survivors’ will be submitted for publication. We will also engage in further research assessing the functionality and efficacy of the measure when the measure employed by first responders and law enforcement officials to help determine the level of risk and abuse survivors are experiencing as well as the resources and referrals they receive. The PI has extensive connections with the local domestic violence initiatives and is a member of both the Erie County Domestic Violence Action Alliance and Rural Domestic Violence Task Force—these connections have led to successful Office of Violence Against Women grants written by the PI. The grant will also provide pilot data for the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women Research and Evaluation grant that would test the functionality and efficacy of the measure as it is employed and used by first responders/law enforcement officers, and whether it increases the recovery of survivors of IPV and connections within the coordinated community response network. Collaborations with the criminal justice department at Penn State, local police departments, and safe houses/domestic violence organizations will be strengthened through this research as well.

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**Title of the project: Using a developmental approach to study victims’ post traumatic sexual behavior*.***

**Faculty Investigators**: Kim S. Ménard (PI, Altoona) and Danielle J. DelPriore (Co-I, Altoona).

**Research Question:** The purpose of this study is to determine if the developmental timing of sexual victimization (defined here as nonconsensual sexual contact) affects post traumatic sexual behavior and motivations of women, using the Post Traumatic Sexual Behavior Inventory for Women (PTSBI-W). Violent sexual experiences are prevalent among women with studies consistently find that 20% to 30% of women experience sexual victimization at some point in their lifetime (Dworkin et al., 2021; Smith et al., 2018). Further, research using a developmental approach to examine the influence of nonconsensual sexual experiences finds victimization timing (pre- versus post-menarche and pre- versus post-consensual sex) affects women’s sexual well-being (Kilimnik & Meston, 2018). Based on this research and the tenets of Finkelhor and Browne’s (1985) traumagenic dynamic theory, it is likely that the developmental timing of sexual victimization also affects post traumatic sexual behavior. However, this remains an empirical question, which the current study aims to address using women’s online self-report survey responses purchased from Qualtrics. Specifically, this study has two goals: First to gain knowledge about the effects of developmental timing of prior victimization on women’s sexual behavior, which could help to better identify and inform the treatment needs of women who have been sexually victimized. Second, this data collection effort would also allow us to subject the PTSBI-W to additional invariance analyses (i.e., by developmental group, namely childhood, adolescence, and adulthood). The PTSBI-W (Ménard, Leri, & Pincus, revise and resubmit) is a brief 24-item instrument that can be used to identify maladaptive sexual behavior, as higher scores on the measure reflect greater likelihood of past sexual victimization. It has strong psychometric properties including demonstrated measurement invariance across victims and non-victims. The proposed study would expand the examination of measurement invariance to include developmentally identified victimization groups (i.e., childhood, adolescence, and adulthood), which would further support and promote the use of this new measure in applied and research settings.

**Work Summary:** The preliminary work, including obtaining IRB approval for the collection of human subject information, and obtaining a portion of the data has been completed. A Penn State Altoona Senior Research Grant (award to the PI) funded the purchase of a data from Qualtrics for 600 women participants. However, a larger sample is needed to have a sufficient number of victims per developmental period (e.g., childhood, adolescence, adulthood) for statistical analyses. The requested funds would allow for the purchase of the remaining 900 needed participants.

**Budget:** To complete this project, $5,247 in support is being requested from the C3N Initiative. This funding will be used for participant payment for the sample recruited by Qualtrics: Female participants for one hour each at cost of $5.83 per hour for a total of = $5247.

**Budget Breakdown**

Qualtrics research participants ($5.83 \* 900) = $5247.00

**Timeline/Milestones:** The project period would be 12 months (7/22-6/23).

Milestones Expected Completion Date

Data collected July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

Data cleaned October 1, 2022 – November 30, 2022

Dataset Analyzed December 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Manuscript Drafted April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Manuscript Submission June 30, 2023

**Sustainability:**

* The project will produce a publication that will inform research and practice about the potential impact of developmental timing of sexual victimization on sexual behavior.
* This project will also allow for the preparation of a second manuscript to further validate the PTSBI-W (Ménard, Leri, & Pincus, revise and resubmit), which could be used as a screener to identify maladaptive post traumatic sexual behavior and to recommend appropriate intervention.
* Ultimately, we would like to secure external funding (e.g., Avon Foundation for Women, Center for Rural Pennsylvania) to examine the potential use of the PTSBI-W as a health screening tool (e.g., at college wellness or rape crisis centers) to help identify and inform victims’ treatment needs.
* Finally, because the survey instrument being used contains many questions beyond those outlined above (e.g., related to disclosure, coping, alcohol use, post traumatic symptoms), this data collection effort could be used to answer other empirical questions surrounding sexual victimization and produce several peer-reviewed journal articles.