

# Exhibit 9A:

## Dr. Kelly Socia Expert Report

**DECLARATION OF KELLY M. SOCIA, PH.D.**

**Sex Crime Arrest Data and  
the Recidivism of Individuals with Sex Crime Convictions**

**Prepared by:**

Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
School of Criminology and Justice Studies  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Kelly\_Socia@uml.edu

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Note: The analyses and views represented in this document are those of Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D., and do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

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### **Summary of Expert Witness Qualifications**

I am an Associate Professor in the School of Criminology and Justice Studies and a Fellow for the Center for Public Opinion at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. I have approximately 40 peer-reviewed publications in journals such as *Criminology & Public Policy*; *Crime & Delinquency*; *Sex Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*; and *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, in addition to other scholarly publications (e.g., book chapters). I have served as co-editor of *Sex Offender Law Report*, co-wrote an Oxford Bibliography entry on Sex Offender Policy and Legislation, and have served as an expert witness/consultant in multiple court cases involving the housing impacts of sex offender residency restrictions and other post-release policies. My research interests include registered sex offenders and public policies, reentry and recidivism, public opinion and policy-making, and spatial analyses. I hold a Ph.D. and an M.A. in Criminal Justice from the School of Criminal Justice at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and a B.S. in Business Administration: Management Information Systems, from Rochester Institute of Technology. My full curriculum vitae is attached as Exhibit A, a list of publications in the last ten years as Exhibit B, and a list of cases in which I have testified as an expert in the last four years as Exhibit C. In preparing this report, I have relied on my own research, as well as my knowledge of the work of other scholars in the field, as cited below.

### ***Summary of Research Findings***

**Finding #1:** Approximately 90-95 percent of sex crime arrests involve individuals who *do not* have prior sex crime convictions, and thus who are not listed on a sex offender registry at the time of the offense. This finding is *not* an effect of registries, because it was also true before registries came into existence: more than 90 percent of sex crime arrests were committed by first-time offenders both before *and* after registry laws were passed.

**Finding #2:** The widely held public belief in a “frightening and high” sexual recidivism rate is not supported by research evidence, and that specific statistic is a myth resulting from junk science and shoddy research practices. A more reasonable estimate of the official sexual recidivism rate (e.g., rearrests) among the population of individuals listed on the sex offender registry, or with a prior sex offense before registries existed, is between 5% and 15% (rearrest for a sex crime) within the first five years of conviction/release. If *reconviction* is used as the indicator of recidivism instead of rearrest, the rate is even lower. The recidivism rate for sexual offenders, whether measured by rearrest or reconviction, is lower, and in most cases far lower, than for all other categories of offenders (like non-sexual assailants, armed robbers, drug dealers, or those who commit property crimes, etc.) but one: only murderers have a lower recidivism rate than sexual offenders.

**Finding #3:** In addition to the incorrect belief about “frightening and high” recidivism, the public believes other inaccurate myths regarding individuals listed on the registry. These include beliefs that most registrants have stranger victims (they do not), are sexual predators and/or pedophiles (they are not), and registrants are at a high risk to commit new non-sexual crimes, as well as sex crimes involving strangers, kidnapping, and victims of all ages (they are not). None of these beliefs are supported by research evidence on the criminal history of current registrants, nor research on the recidivism rates of those on the registry. Despite the lack of clear evidence that the registry actually reduces sex crimes or sexual recidivism, many members of the public believe that it *does* work, which creates a false sense of security concerning sex crimes. Additionally, much of the public admits that even if they were provided with scientific evidence that the registry does not work, they would be unwilling to change their beliefs about its efficacy.

**Finding #4:** Perhaps because of these widely held, but incorrect, beliefs about registrants and sex crimes generally, the public is intensely stigmatizing towards anyone listed on the sex offender registry. This impacts not only the proposal and passage of ‘sex offender’ laws, but also fuels further stigmatization and punitive reactions. This stigmatization of anyone on the sex offender registry, in turn, negatively impacts the chances of successful reentry and rehabilitation, especially as it relates to employment and housing.

**Finding #5:** There is no consistent evidence that a failure to register (FTR) conviction is associated with an increased likelihood of sexual recidivism. The limited research on this topic shows conflicted findings about what an FTR conviction *actually* predicts in terms of future risk, and also suggests that FTR offenses are not caused by sexually deviant intentions.

### **Summary of Existing Research**

1. I start by summarizing the existing research relating to sex crime arrests and sexual recidivism estimates, which informs or underlies all five of the statements listed above. Next I turn to the research that directly supports each of the five separate findings. First, I summarize the research on sex crime arrest data to support Finding #1. Second, I present the research on sexual recidivism rates to support Finding #2. Third, I summarize the research on public beliefs about “sex offenders,” sex crimes, and stigmatization, including the influence of stigmatizing labels, to support Finding #3. Fourth, I summarize the research on negative consequences for registrants from the public, and how that impacts legislative efforts, to support Finding #4. Fifth, I summarize the research on failure to register (FTR) convictions and recidivism risk, sexual and non-sexual, to support Finding #5.

#### ***Sex Crime Arrest Data***

2. A broad summary of the existing research on sex crime arrests suggests that approximately 90-95% of all sex crime arrests involve individuals *without* prior

sex crime convictions (i.e., new perpetrators), who would also not be listed on a sex offender registry at the time of the offense. (Levenson and Zgoba, 2016; Sandler, Freeman, and Socia, 2008.) Thus, only 5% to 10% of all sex crime arrests are *repeat* sex crimes involving individuals with prior convictions, who would typically be on the registry at the time of the follow-up offense. Studies underscoring these findings are explored in more detail below.

3. Research in Florida found that just 6.5% of sex crime arrests involved individuals with a prior sex crime conviction. (Levenson and Zgoba, 2016.) In New York, 95% of the individuals arrested for sex crimes between 1986 and 2006 did not have a prior registrable sex crime conviction on the record at the time of the offense. (Sandler et al., 2008.) Further, Sandler and colleagues (2008) also found that the implementation of the sex offender registry in New York State did not affect overall sex crime rates, new sex crime rates, or repeat sex crime rates.

4. ***Stranger victim sex crimes.*** A related body of evidence shows that most sex crimes are committed by acquaintances, family members, or other people who know the victim, rather than by strangers. (Catalano, 2006; Snyder, 2000.) This is contrary to the widely held notion that so-called “stranger danger” sex crimes predominate. (Socia and Harris, 2016.) Indeed, research suggests that approximately 13%-15% of sex crimes reported to police are committed by strangers. (Bierie and Budd, 2015; Snyder, 2000.) There are some fluctuations to these estimates based on



the data source, year examined, and the age of the victim. (C.f., Berzofsky, et al., 2013; Catalano, 2006; Greenfield, 1997; Snyder, 2000.) Child-victim sex crimes, however, are consistently even less likely to involve strangers than adult-victim sex crimes, with strangers accounting for just 5-10% of juvenile victim sexual assaults. (See Greenfield, 1997; Snyder, 2000.)

5. As a result of the low proportion of sex crimes involving individuals on the registry (5% to 10%; Craun et al., 2011; Levenson and Zgoba, 2016; Sandler et al., 2008), combined with the low proportion of sex crimes involving strangers, it is not surprising that research finds little support for the efficacy of post-release policies like registration and notification, either in reducing recidivism or in making communities safer. For instance, many independent studies have concluded that the sex offender registry did not reduce sex offending rates and/or sexual recidivism in a variety of states, including New York (Sandler et al., 2008), New Jersey (Veysey, Zgoba, and Dalessandro, 2008; Zgoba, Jennings, and Salerno, 2018), South Carolina (Letourneau, et al., 2010), and Florida (Levenson and Zgoba, 2016).

6. The most comprehensive study on sex offender registration and notification's effectiveness is a recently-published meta-analysis that covered 18 individual research studies, 25 years' worth of evaluation data, and 474,640 formerly incarcerated individuals. (Zgoba and Mitchell, 2021.) This study determined such laws had no effect on recidivism. Specifically, the authors noted that their study

“provide[s] comprehensive evidence that SORN policies have no effect on sexual and non-sexual crime commission over their period of existence, thereby failing to deliver on the intention of increasing public safety.” (Zgoba and Mitchell, 2021, p. 22.)

7. The little research that suggests registration/notification *may* influence sex crimes is mixed. Both multi-state studies (Prescott and Rockoff, 2011; Vasquez, Maddan, and Walker, 2008; Walker, et al., 2008) and systematic reviews (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2009) find no consistent evidence of the efficacy of registration/notification in reducing sex crimes. In other words, there is little evidence that these policies make communities any safer. However, there is limited evidence that for stranger-perpetrated sex crimes, the registry may increase the speed of closure (i.e., making an arrest) by an average of just over a day, perhaps due to police more easily ruling out those on the registry. (Bierie and Budd, 2021; but see Prescott and Rockoff, 2011.) Further, one study on 216 male federal offenders with a prior or current sexual offense from a Midwestern jurisdiction found that while those individuals with registerable sex offenses (N = 38) had more parole non-compliance and revocation of their supervised release sentences than those with non-registerable sex offenses, once risk assessment scores were considered, the effects

of the registry were rendered nonsignificant. (Drury, Delisi, and Elbert, 2021.)<sup>1</sup> This suggests that the registry has not particularly influenced such outcomes (parole non-compliance and revocation), but rather this may be due to the differences in risk between those who are subject to the registry and those who are not.

8. The above findings lead to several conclusions regarding sex crime arrest data. First, between 90% and 95% of sex crime arrests involve individuals who are *not* on the registry and *do not* have prior sex crime convictions (i.e., they are new perpetrators). Second, the first finding is not an effect of registries, as the data are the same before and after registries came into existence. Third, most sex crimes occur between acquaintances, family members, or others with an established relationship with the victim, rather than strangers, which undercuts the “stranger danger” myth that the registry and similar post-release notification and monitoring policies are founded upon. Fourth, there is scant evidence that the registry, community notification, or other post-release sex crime policies actually reduce sex crime rates. Indeed, those policies may make communities less safe, because individuals who cannot easily reintegrate into society, or cannot find jobs, or who lack places to live, or who are cut off from social support systems, may be *more* likely to reoffend, whether sexually or otherwise. (Prescott and Rockoff, 2011.)

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<sup>1</sup> Of course, it is not surprising that those with registerable offenses had more noncompliance violations, given the additional compliance requirements (and likely increased supervision scrutiny) imposed by the registry law itself.

***The Recidivism of Individuals Convicted of Sex Crimes***

9. In *McKune v. Lile*, 536 U.S. 24, 33 (2002), a case concerning a prison sex abuse treatment program, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy cited a “frightening and high” sexual recidivism rate of “as high as 80%” in his opinion. Since then, that figure has been cited repeatedly by courts as a justification for sex crime policies like the registry, and by proponents of these policies as evidence of the “problem” of sexual recidivism. (See, e.g., *Smith v. Doe*, 538 U.S. 84, 103 (2003) [citing *McKune*’s “frightening and high” comment in upholding Alaska’s sex offender registration statute].) But a 2015 article demolished this argument, debunking the myth of “frightening and high” recidivism rates, and showing that the “80% recidivism rate” statistic was just plain wrong. (See Ellman and Ellman, 2015.) Indeed, the source that Justice Kennedy used for this statistic was a (non-peer reviewed) Department of Justice manual. (Schwartz and Cellini, 1988.). That manual, in turn, cited the statistic from an article in the publication *Psychology Today*, which is a non-academic mass-market magazine that is geared towards public entertainment using pop-science (i.e., “infotainment”) – not peer-reviewed research.

10. In fact, the “as high as 80%” recidivism statistic contained in the *Psychology Today* magazine article was actually an unsupported guess by therapists who wrote the article, to explain their own work with a group of very high-risk individuals with prior sex crime convictions enrolled in a single treatment program

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for such offenders at Oregon State Hospital. (Freeman-Longo and Wall, 1986.) Further, the “80% recidivism rate” statistic wasn’t the actual estimate – their article noted a *range* that summarized the body of work that had been conducted to date (i.e., as of the mid-1980s): “Estimates of the recidivism rate among untreated sex offenders range between 35% to 80%.” (Freeman-Longo and Wall, 1986.) This unsupported claim was, in turn, then misused by the Department of Justice manual to suggest that 80% was a factual recidivism rate estimate for *all* individuals with a prior sex crime conviction, regardless of risk level, time since offense, or any other relevant characteristics. This inaccurate statistic cited in the manual was then erroneously cited as a fact by Justice Kennedy in his opinion, which in turn has spread throughout later judicial opinions and legislative actions concerning individuals with a prior sex crime conviction. (See Sullum, 2018.) In short, the 80% statistic was the result of sloppy research practices relying on an inaccurate secondhand citation to a vague estimate from an article in an “infotainment” magazine of no scientific merit.

11. After the Ellmans’ 2015 article, the therapist responsible for the original statistic, Dr. Freeman-Longo, said in a New York Times interview, “[That statistic] got taken to say all sex offenders recidivate at 80%. That’s absolutely incorrect, it’s wrong, it’s untrue.” (See Ellman and Ellman, 2015; Feige, 2017; Sullum, 2018.) He further noted the lack of scientific credibility of the underlying source: “If you’re

going to base laws at the federal level, you don't cite popular psychology magazines, no matter who the author is, me or anybody else, it's not a scientific journal. I'm appalled that this could happen. This [was] not my intent. Not my intent at all." (Feige, 2017.) Indeed, the author of the Department of Justice manual cited by Justice Kennedy, psychologist Barbara Schwartz, called Justice Kennedy's use of the 80% statistic an act of "deliberate indifference." (Feige, 2017.)

12. In short: the 80% recidivism estimate is a perfect example of junk science. Yet, because of the sloppy research practices used in producing the Department of Justice manual, and Justice Kennedy's use of the statistic in his opinion about recidivism rates, this incorrect statistic has been relied upon as "fact" by judges deciding subsequent court cases, and by legislators enacting registry and other laws, to justify policies that have little or no scientific evidence to support them. (See Sullum, 2018.) To be clear: modern peer-reviewed social-scientific research is nearly unanimous in finding that the recidivism rate of individuals convicted of sex offenses – far from being "frightening and high" – is actually "low" compared to all other categories of offenders (except murderers). Further, while some people with sex offense convictions may, in the initial years following release, be more likely to commit future sex crimes than people without such convictions, the *overall* sexual recidivism rate is still surprisingly low compared to the common myths. Overall, the research on sexual recidivism suggests an official sexual recidivism rate of between

5% and 15% over 5 years, when measured as rearrests. (Hanson and Bussiere, 1998; Letourneau et al., 2010; Levenson and Shields, 2012; Zgoba et al., 2012; Zgoba et al., 2016.)<sup>2</sup> This is far different than the 80% rate that has become a popular urban (as well as judicial) legend.

13. ***Problems estimating registrants' recidivism rates.*** As noted earlier, official statistics suggest that about 90% to 95% of sex crime arrests involve individuals *without* a prior sex crime conviction. On its face, this suggests that only about 5% to 10% of officially known sex crimes are committed by someone listed on the registry at the time of the crime.

14. One of the stated intentions of the sex offender registry is to assist law enforcement in solving sex crimes by providing a database of home addresses of individuals with prior sex crime convictions (i.e., registrants). As such, if the registry were working as intended, then it should *increase* law enforcement's ability to solve

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<sup>2</sup> Obviously, the official rate of sexual recidivism is not the same as the actual rate of recidivism, as there are sex crimes that are committed but do not result in an arrest. However, estimating the "actual" rate of sexual recidivism is a difficult task, and prior research has not been able to provide reliable estimates. (See, e.g., Furby, Weinrott, & Blackshaw, 1989.) Further, offender self-report studies show "the number of unreported sexual offenses is a highly skewed distribution with relatively few offenders having many victims." (Scurich and John, 2019, p. 163.) Thus, estimates about the number of sex crimes that are unreported are based around measuring *crimes*, but can say nothing about the number of *perpetrators* that are committing sex crimes that are not reported. Moreover, the issue of underreporting applies *both* to non-registrants, who as noted above, commit 90-95% of sex crimes resulting in arrest, and to people with past sex offense convictions.

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sex crimes committed by registrants, but it *would not* help law enforcement to solve crimes committed by non-registrants. That is, if the registry “worked,” then registrants should have a *greater likelihood* of being caught for a sex crime, compared to non-registrants who commit a similar sex crime. It follows that if registrants are *more likely to be caught* due to their registration, then registrants would be *over-represented* in official arrest statistics of sex crimes, compared to the proportion of all sex crimes committed in the United States. To state this another way, if we know that registrants are estimated to commit 5-10% of sex crimes that result in arrest, *and* they are more likely to be caught (arrested) than non-registrants due to the supposed impact of the registry, then registrants should be responsible for *less* than 5-10% of *all* sex crimes (both reported and unreported) that occur. Thus, if the registry has any effectiveness in helping solve sex crimes, then it is only logical that registrants would be responsible for less than the 5% to 10% estimate we find using official statistics. Further, if registries are *not* effective in helping solve sex crimes, then logically a registrant would have the *same* chance of being caught as a non-registrant.

15. Indeed, logical problems plague much of the research that attempts to estimate unreported sexual recidivism. For example, some of this research relies on interviews/surveys given to a group of very high-risk individuals, who are not reflective of “registrants” as a general group. In other cases, such estimates are taken from surveys of victims regarding sex crimes that go unreported to law enforcement,



but these estimates say nothing about the *proportion* that involve *registrants* committing recidivistic crimes, and thus cannot be used to estimate sexual recidivism. In still other cases, estimates are generated from studies that were conducted decades in the past, sometimes before the existence of the registry itself, and do not reflect the current population of registrants.

16. In any case, estimates of sexual recidivism taken from small samples of high-risk individuals, or based on decades old data, cannot be seriously used as evidence of high rates of sexual recidivism among the entire population of registrants in the United States today. Instead, such studies can only be generalized, at best, to a much smaller group of high-risk individuals (e.g., currently incarcerated, currently in treatment, currently in secure mental facilities) that simply do not reflect the typical registrant in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Estimates of teenage cigarette smoking can provide a real-world example of this logical fallacy. That is, if we wanted to estimate the extent of teenage smoking in the United States, then we would want to sample a broad swath of teenagers in the US. Perhaps we would randomly sample 1,000 teenagers from high schools across the U.S., to provide estimates that would generalize to the current population of teenagers in U.S. high schools. Let us imagine that we find 5.8% of the high school students in our sample reported smoking a cigarette in the past 30 days. While there would obviously be some margin of error if we were to generalize this 5.8% estimate to the population of teenagers in the U.S., we could still make the case that our estimate has *external validity* (i.e., reflects the larger population of U.S. high school students), given our well-designed sampling strategy. But if we instead were to draw our sample from teenagers in a handful of nicotine addiction treatment programs around the U.S., we might find that 85% of our sample of teenagers had smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days. Would it make sense to then estimate that 85% of all teenagers in the United States smoked a cigarette in the past 30 days? Obviously it

***Myths About Sex Crimes and “Sex Offenders”***

17. As noted by Quinn, Forsyth, and Mullen-Quinn (2004), many of the policies and practices in America that focus on people convicted of sex offenses are based on popular beliefs (i.e., myths) that are not supported by evidence. Research has confirmed the vast extent of the public’s misbeliefs regarding sex crimes and “sex offenders”. For instance, a nationwide survey found that most of the public perceived registrants as a “uniformly high-risk group that matches common misperceptions concerning pedophilia, sexual dangerousness, and stranger-danger. Indeed, perceptions of [registrants’] risk seem to tap a single underlying construct, based largely on misconception and fear”. (Socia and Harris, 2016, p. 383; see also Levenson et al., 2007.) Specifically, a majority of respondents believed that most registrants were “pedophiles”, and “sexual predators”, and had stranger victims, and also believed a majority of registrants were at a high risk of committing new sex crimes, abducting kids, and having future child, teen, and adult victims. (Socia and Harris, 2016.) Other research has found similar public misperceptions regarding registrants’ risk profiles. (Craun and Theriot, 2009; Decluca et al., 2018.)

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would not. This is because our sample is drawn from a population of teenagers who are inherently high risk for smoking, and thus does not reflect the “average” teenager in the U.S. Our smoking estimate would not have external validity for generalizing to teenagers in the U.S., but only for those teenagers from the addiction treatment programs we sampled from. Further, if our estimates of teenage smoking relied on studies conducted in the 1970’s and 1980’s, there is no indication that such estimates would be reflective of *current* teenage smoking rates.

18. Perhaps more concerning, the reliance on inaccurate myths about people with sex offense convictions does not appear to be easily fixed by providing the public with research evidence to the contrary. As noted above, one nationwide survey found that much of the public acknowledges that research evidence wouldn't change their views concerning sex offender registry and notification policies. (Socia and Harris, 2016; see also Levenson et al., 2007.) This is even more problematic when those who propose and pass legislation do so based on these commonly held myths and misperceptions (either directly or in response to public pressure stemming from such beliefs).

19. *The influence of language.* Some research has found that even the term used to describe individuals with sex crime convictions can influence the public's perceptions of risk, stigmatization, and preferred policy response for this population. A nationwide survey experiment that I conducted found that respondents were more likely to support registries, residency restrictions, and social network bans when asked about "sex offenders," compared to being asked about "individuals convicted of crimes of a sexual nature." (Harris and Socia, 2016.) This suggests there is an inherent knee-jerk reaction from the public in response to hearing the stigmatizing term "sex offender," or seeing an individual labeled as a "sex offender" on a public

registry website.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, the aforementioned research (Socia and Harris (2016), and Harris and Socia (2016)) reinforces that not only does the stigmatizing label implied by the ‘sex offender registry’ negatively influence perceptions of most people listed on the registry, but it also leaves no room for nuanced views about dangerousness, risk of recidivism, type of sexual offense committed (e.g., stranger victims), or even psychological diagnoses (e.g., ‘pedophile’). Instead, the one-size-fits-all label leads the public to see those listed on the registry as a homogenous, one-size-fits-all group, who are seen as uniformly dangerous and high risk.

20. *The influence of naming a law.* Additionally, experimental research has found that the public is more likely to support a law when it is named after a victim than when it is not. (Socia, 2022.) While this research focused on a relatively uncontroversial law (distracted driving), it is reasonable to assume there would be similar findings when the law focused on sex crimes. It is also important to highlight the numerous state and federal SORN-related laws that *are* named after victims (e.g., Megan’s Law, Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act of

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<sup>4</sup> Or, importantly, reading this term in an expert witness report. This is the reason why much of my report refers to this population as “individuals with a prior sex crime conviction” or similar “person-first” language, rather than the more loaded and stigmatizing term of “sex offenders.”

1994, Jessica’s Law, Pam Lynchner Sexual Offender Tracking and Identification Act of 1996).

21. As noted in a study of New York political figures, laws are named after victims in order to “beat the hell out of the opposition” and force them to vote in favor of the proposal. (Brown (2011), p. 442.) In other words, naming a law after the victim of a terrible widely-publicized crime is used as a tool to reduce opposition, thus easing its passage. It is harder for legislators to oppose such a proposed law, and it is likely harder to amend or repeal the law later on if it proves to be ineffective. In discussing SORN laws, Logan (2010, p. 391), concluded that “putting victims’ faces on initiatives humanized and rendered more understandable the posited urgent need for policy change. It also inoculated proposed legislation against challenge. Opponents risked being portrayed not only as ‘soft on crime,’ but also ‘anti-victim,’ or, even more deleterious, ‘anti-this victim.’”

### ***Public Opinion and Harsh Laws***

22. Brown (2011) also noted that public opinion plays a large role in policymaking, especially when it involves crime. As one legislative staffer noted: “Crime is one of the easiest things to phrase [i.e., sell as an idea] to the public. Everyone wants to get tougher, no matter what the law is on the books.” (Brown, 2011, p. 442.) Logan (2010, p. 384) noted this was especially true of SORN laws, which “have proved highly attractive to political bodies. Congress, for its part, since

1994 has regarded registration and notification as the equivalent of legislative catnip, perennially (often in tandem with election cycles) revising federal expectations.”

23. In short, it appears relatively easy to propose and pass a new law that implements harsher punishments on incredibly stigmatized individuals, especially when such laws are named after victims. Yet this tactic also makes it that much more difficult to oppose such measures when initially proposed, or to fix or repeal existing laws, even when social science research shows that they are ineffective and/or harmful, as is the case with third-generation SOR laws like Michigan’s SORA 2021.

#### ***The Stigmatization of Individuals on Sex Offender Registries***

24. Unsurprisingly, and likely due to these inaccurate beliefs, knee-jerk reactions, and policy actions based on them, the public perceives *all* individuals who are *on sex offender registries* with high levels of fear, disgust, and general stigma. Stigma, described as “an attribute that is deeply discrediting” (Goffman, 1963, p.3), has important effects on reentry and rehabilitation, and can negatively impact future life chances. (Link and Phelan, 2001.) Specifically, stigma can influence whether an individual is able to secure employment (Pager, 2003) or safe housing (Israelsen-Hartley, 2008), can increase the chances of rearrest (Stolzenberg, D’Alessio, and Flexon, 2021), and influence whether individuals are welcomed into social networks (Hirschfield and Piquero, 2010), all of which are important aspects of reentry and rehabilitation.

25. While any criminal conviction or incarceration background can lead to disdain and distrust by members of the public (Leverentz, 2011; Young, 1999), those with crimes that put them on a public registry (explicitly conveying a *current* dangerousness to the public) are perhaps the *most* stigmatized by society. (See Pickett, Mancini, and Mears, 2013; Harper, Rumney, and Sackey, 2023; Edwards and Mottarella, 2014; Mingus and Burchfield, 2012.) As found in a study of registrants in Kentucky, “[r]egistration permeates their lives and serves as a constant reminder that they cannot fully reintegrate to society. At least for the period of their listing on the registry (which for many is the rest of their life), these individuals live with the knowledge and experience that, ‘It’s just a horrible feeling knowing that it’s out there and it’s public information. And, everybody and anybody can get into it. I hate it.’” (Tewksbury and Lees, (2006) p. 330.)

26. The public identity of registrants, which may be in place for a decade or longer, if not for life, leads to further problems when it comes to maintaining or creating relationships with others (whether social, romantic, or familial). As again found by Tewksbury and Lees (2006, p. 331): “Offenders also perceived negative impacts as a result of registration by feeling more ‘known’ to society. Respondents felt that this public labeling presented serious challenges for both existing romantic and familial relationships as well as for potential future relationships with significant others.”

***Employment and Housing Consequences for Registrants***

27. The existing research shows that above and beyond the conviction, public registration and notification can have substantial negative consequences for registrants when it comes to employment and housing, likely as a result of the public stigma towards people listed on the registry, which in turn is based around mythical beliefs. (Grossi, 2017, Zevitz and Farkas, 2000a.) Surveys and interviews of samples of registrants and family members from individual states or cities all show very similar results regarding these problems. For instance, Tewksbury (2005) surveyed 121 individuals listed on the Kentucky sex offender registry, finding that *because of their registration status*, many individuals had experienced losing a job (42.7%), or being denied a promotion at work (23.1%). Additionally, almost half (45.3%) reported having lost or been denied a place to live. (See also, Tewksbury and Lees, 2006.) A survey of 183 registrants from outpatient treatment facilities in Florida found that 27% have lost a job after bosses or coworkers found out their sex offender registry status, 20% had to move from their residence because their landlord found out, and 15% had to move because neighbors complained. (Levenson and Cotter, 2005.) These findings were also seen in research conducted in Connecticut and Indiana (Levenson, D'Amora, and Hern, 2007), New Jersey (Mercado, Alvarez, and Levenson, 2008), Wisconsin (Zevitz and Farkas, 2000b), and in a six-state study (Farkas and Miller, 2007), among many others.



28. These findings of employment and housing consequences are also supported by research on opinions about registrants from the general public, as well as from potential landlords. For instance, social science survey research has found that the public is “more willing to subject criminal populations [e.g., sex offenders] to poor and unsafe housing conditions compared with noncriminal populations.” (Dum, Socia, Rydberg, 2017, p. 835; see also Socia, Dum, Rydberg, 2019.) Above and beyond that, the decision of landlords to deny or evict individuals with sex crime convictions has been found to be influenced directly from the ability of other tenants or neighbors to *search the public sex offender registry* or otherwise receive notification about nearby registrants. (See Malkin, 2008; Zevitz and Farkas, 2000a, 2000b.)

### ***Failure to Register (FTR) and Risk***

29. Despite the common assumption that sex offenders who fail to register are especially dangerous, relatively little evidence exists to support this belief. (Levenson et al., 2010.) A small number of studies have explored whether a failure to register (FTR) offense is related to recidivism risk, with very mixed findings. Overall, there is no consistent evidence that FTR convictions predict increased sexual recidivism, and only slight evidence that FTR convictions predict general (nonsexual) recidivism.

30. Just two studies have found any connections between FTR and sexual recidivism. An early report from Washington State found that those convicted of failure to register had higher rates of sexual recidivism (4.3% over 5 years) compared to compliant registrants (2.8%), but it was unclear whether this difference was statistically significant. (Barnowski, 2006.) Further, the overall recidivism rates were quite low for both the FTR and non-FTR groups, and challenge the “80% recidivism rate” myth noted earlier. Interestingly, this study also found that as the number of FTR convictions increased, the likelihood of sexual recidivism decreased, a finding that muddies the connection between FTR offenses and sexual recidivism risk. (Barnowski, 2006.)

31. A study of 7,055 adult male sex offenders registered and released in New York State prior to August 2005 similarly found that an FTR conviction predicted both sexual and nonsexual recidivism. (Levenson et al., 2012.) However, an FTR conviction only predicted sexual recidivism for offenders with adult victims, not those with minor victims. (Levenson et al., 2012.) Further, offenders with FTR convictions did not have more serious or more deviant sexual crimes. (Levenson et al., 2012.) The researchers hypothesized that “although this finding could mean that FTR is a marker of sexual deviance in some offenders, it may simply be yet another marker of poor general self-regulation.” (Levenson et al., 2012, p. 562.)

32. Conversely, slightly more research finds just the opposite – that there is no connection between FTR and sexual recidivism. Levenson and colleagues (2010) examined criminal history data from 2,970 registered adult sex offenders in South Carolina, finding that while an FTR conviction predicted increased general (nonsexual) recidivism, it did not predict an increased chance of sexual recidivism. Studies on individuals with sex crime convictions who were released from prison in Minnesota (Duwe and Donnay, 2010) and New Jersey (Zgoba and Levenson, 2012) both found that an FTR offense did not predict either sexual or general recidivism. Indeed, in the Minnesota study, an FTR conviction only increased the risk of a future FTR offense. (Duwe and Donnay, 2010.)

33. Overall, the existing research suggests that registration noncompliance (leading to an FTR conviction) “is more a reflection of general criminality, defiance, carelessness, or apathy than of sexually devious intentions.” (Levenson et al., 2010, p. 324; see also, Levenson et al., 2012; Thomson and Huebner, 2021; Zgoba and Levenson, 2012.) This is not surprising, as FTR can be due to many different reasons unrelated to criminal intentions, and FTR is not the same as willful absconding. (Harris and Pattavina, 2009; Levenson and Harris, 2012; Levenson et al., 2012.) As such, despite the potential resource burdens that processing FTR violations can place on the criminal justice system, and the substantial disruption it can cause registrants

and their families, the research evidence does not show a clear connection between FTR offenses and sexual recidivism risk.

### **Conclusions**

34. Overall, the conclusions from this report can be summarized as follows: First, the vast majority of sex crime arrests involve individuals who do not have a prior sex crime conviction (i.e., “new sex crimes”), with only about 5-10% involving those with prior sex crime convictions (i.e., “repeat sex crimes”). Second, despite the myth of a “frightening and high” recidivism rate based on junk science, estimates of the official sexual recidivism rates for those convicted of sex crimes are between 5 and 15% over 5 years. Third, in addition to inaccurate beliefs about sexual recidivism, the public holds many other inaccurate beliefs about registrants and sex crimes. Due to the public’s reliance on these inaccurate myths about the danger posed by people *on the registry*, registrants experience intense stigmatization that hurts their chances of successful reentry. Fourth, because of this stigmatization, there are particularly negative and damaging effects on registrants’ ability to obtain stable employment and housing in the community, both of which are key factors in successful reentry. Fifth, there is no consistent evidence that an FTR conviction is associated with an increased likelihood sexual recidivism, and research suggests that FTR offenses are not themselves caused by sexually deviant intentions.

### **Statement of Compensation**

I am being compensated at a rate of \$150/hour for the initial ten hours of work in researching and writing this report, and \$250/hour thereafter. For court testimony/deposition time that may occur in the future, my rate is \$350/hour, with reimbursement of reasonable travel expenses as required.

### **Oath and Signature**

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.



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Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
School of Criminology and Justice Studies  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Kelly\_Socia@uml.edu

**Amended Report Signed and Submitted: February 20, 2023**

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APPENDIX A

COMPREHENSIVE C.V. OF KELLY M. SOCIA, PH.D.

**Kelly M. Socia, Ph.D.**

School of Criminology and Justice Studies  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
HSSB 483, 113 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA 01854  
Kelly\_Socia@uml.edu

**Academic Employment**

**Associate Professor**, Fall 2017 - Present

School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
*Fellow, Center for Public Opinion, UML, 2014-Present*

**Assistant Professor**, Fall 2011 – Summer 2017

School of Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts, Lowell

**Assistant Professor**, Fall 2011 – Summer 2012

Department of Sociology, University of New Mexico

**Research Support Specialist**, Summer 2011

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics (University at Albany, SUNY)

**Education**

**University at Albany, Albany, NY**

Ph.D., Criminal Justice, 2011

Dissertation: *Residence Restriction Legislation, Sex Crime Rates, and the Spatial Distribution of Sex Offender Residences.*

Committee Members: Dr. Alan Lizotte (Chair), Dr. Jill Levenson, Dr. Steven Messner, Dr. Greg Pogarsky, Dr. Janet Stamatel

M.A., Criminal Justice, 2008

**Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY**

B.S. with Highest Honors, Business Administration: Management Information Systems, 2005

Minor: Criminology

**Peer Reviewed Publications**

Dum, Christopher P., **Socia, Kelly M.**, Bengt, George<sup>s</sup>, and Neiderman, Halle<sup>s</sup>. (in press) “The Effect of Reading Prisoner Poetry on Stigma and Public Attitudes: Results from a multigroup survey experiment” *The Prison Journal*.

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- Socia, Kelly M.** (2013) “Too Close for Comfort? Registered Sex Offender Spatial Clustering and Recidivistic Sex Crime Rates.” *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 25(6), 531-556. doi:10.1177/1079063212469061
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“Overview of ‘The Policy Implications of Residence Restrictions on Sex Offender Housing in Upstate, NY.’” *Criminology & Public Policy*, 10(2), 349-350. doi:10.1111/j.1745-9133.2011.00724.x

**Socia, Kelly M.** and Stamatel, Janet P.\* (2010). “Assumptions and Evidence Behind Sex Offender Laws: Registration, Community Notification, and Residency Restrictions.” *Sociology Compass*. 4(1), 1-20. doi:10.1111/j.1751-9020.2009.00251.x

Freeman, Naomi J., Sandler, Jeffrey C., and **Socia, Kelly M.** (2009). “A Time-Series Analysis on the Impact of Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification on Plea Bargaining Rates.” *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law, and Society*. 22(2), 153-165. doi:10.1080/14786010902975424

Sandler, Jeffrey C., Freeman, Naomi J., and **Socia, Kelly M.** (2008). “Does a Watched Pot Boil: A Time-Series Analysis of New York State's Sex Offender Registration and Notification Law.” *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*. 14(4), 284-302. doi:10.1037/a0013881

### **Book Chapters and Other Publications**

**Socia, Kelly M.** (2021) *The Ancillary Consequences of SORN*, (pp. 78-101). Book chapter in Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification Laws: An Empirical Evaluation. Logan, Wayne A. and Prescott, J.J. (eds). Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781108328425

Rydberg, Jason, **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Cassidy, Michael. (2018). “Community-Level Influences on the Sentencing of Convicted Sex Offenders, Pennsylvania, 2004-2010.” Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2018-08-07. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36593.v1> [Dataset]

**Socia, Kelly M.** (2017). “Sex Offender Civil Commitment Policies in Context.” *Criminology & Public Policy*. 16(3), 909-911. doi:10.1111/1745-9133.12329

**Socia, Kelly M.** (2016). “Sex Offender Housing Options in Fort Lauderdale, FL, Under a Residence Restriction Law. A Report for the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida (ACLU FL) and the Broward Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union”

**Socia, Kelly M.** and Rydberg, Jason. (April 2016). *Sex Offender Policy and Legislation*. (pp. 187-202). Book chapter in Advancing Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy. Blomberg, T., Mestre Brancal, J., Beaver, K., and Bales, W. (eds). Routledge. ISBN: 978-1138829237

**Socia, Kelly M.** and Maroun, Rimonda R.<sup>s</sup> (2016). “*Sex Offender Policies and Legislation*.” In Oxford Bibliographies in Criminology. Ed. Beth M. Huebner. New



York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780195396607,  
doi:10.1093/OBO/9780195396607-0169  
-Revision and update posted February, 2019.

In *Sex Offender Law Report*:

(2015)

Levenson, Jill S., Ackerman, Alissa R., **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Harris, Andrew J.  
“Transient Sex Offenders and Residence Restrictions.” *16*(1) 3-4, 12-13.

(2013)

“From the Literature.” *14*(5), 69-70, 80.

“Department of Defense Releases FY 2012 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the  
Military.” *14*(5), 72.

“From the Literature.” *14*(4), 51-52, 63-64.

“From the Literature.” *14*(3), 40-43.

“Texas Says ‘No’ to Federal Registry Standards.” *14*(3), 39.

“From the Literature.” *14*(2), 25-28.

“Seventh Circuit Rules Indiana DOC Sex Offender Registry Error Policy Violates Due  
Process.” *14*(2), 23-24.

“Changes to California’s Three-Strikes Law Do Not Affect Many Ex-offenders.” *14*(2),  
19-20.

“From the Literature.” *14*(1), 5-8.

(2012)

“Legal Challenge to State Residence Restriction Law in Rhode Island.” *13*(6), 83, 95-96.

“From the Literature.” *13*(6), 85-88.

“Evaluating Community-Based Management Practices.” *13*(5), 65, 78-79.

“From the Literature.” *13*(5), 71-74.

Levenson, Jill S., Ackerman, Alissa R., **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Harris, Andrew J. (2014).

“Transient Sex Offenders and Residence Restrictions in Florida” *Report to the Florida  
Action Committee*. Lake Monroe, FL: Florida Action Committee.

**Socia, Kelly M.** (2011). *The Obama Administration* in The Encyclopedia of Drug Policy.  
(Kleiman, M. and Hawdon, J., eds.) SAGE Publications.

**Socia, Kelly M.** (2008). *Spam* in The Encyclopedia of Cyber Crime. (McQuade, S. C., ed.)  
Greenwood Press.

**Socia, Kelly M.** and McCarthy, Kevin J. (2008). *Online Addiction* in The Encyclopedia of Cyber  
Crime. (McQuade, S. C., ed.) Greenwood Press.

Newman, Graeme R., with the assistance of **Kelly Socia**. (2007). *Sting Operations*. Problem-  
Oriented Guides for Police, Response Guide No. 6. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of  
Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

**Publications Under Review**

**Socia, Kelly M.**, “*Say her name: Public support for a law is higher when the law is named after*

*a victim.*” Revise and Resubmit (Justice Quarterly)

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Stone, Rebecca; Palacios, Wilson; Cluverius, John, “*Focus on Prevention: The public is more supportive of ‘Overdose Prevention Sites’ than they are of ‘Safe Injection Facilities.’*” Revise and Resubmit (Criminology & Public Policy)

### **Conference Presentations (Last 5 years)**

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Palacios, Wilson R., and Stone, Rebecca. “*The influence of message framing on support for safe injection facilities in the United States.*” Annual Meetings of the Criminology Consortium, Online conference. November 2020.

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Shields, Ryan T., and Burke, Cameron<sup>s</sup>. “*Getting Lucky or Getting Abused: A Content Analysis of Public Comments on News Articles About Sexual Abuse*” [Poster session](#). Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Annual Conference, Online, October 2020.

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Palacios, Wilson R., and Stone, Rebecca. “*The influence of respondent characteristics on support for safe injection facilities in the United States.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Washington, DC. [2020 conference cancelled due to Covid-19]

Shields, Ryan T., Kras, K.R., and **Socia, Kelly M.** “*Examining public support for child sexual abuse prevention efforts.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Washington, DC. [2020 conference cancelled due to Covid-19]

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Palacios, Wilson R., and Stone, Rebecca. “*The influence of message framing and respondent characteristics on support for safe injection facilities in the United States.*” Howard League Crime, Justice, and Social Harms Conference. [2020 conference postponed to 2021 due to Covid-19]

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Rydberg, Jason, and Dum, Christopher P. “*Punitive Attitudes Towards Individuals Convicted of Sex Offenses: A Vignette Study.*” Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2019.

Rydberg, Jason, **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Dum, Christopher P. “*Shooting the Messenger: Experimental Evidence for How Knowledge Claims on Punitive Responses to Sex Offenders Impacts Perceived Expert Credibility.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.

Dum, Christopher P., and **Socia, Kelly M.** “*Would God Forgive? Public Attitudes Toward Sex Offenders in Places of Worship.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

Rydberg, Jason, Dum, Christopher P., and **Socia, Kelly M.**, “*Nobody gives a shit ...or do they? Variation in the effects of communicating criminological evidence on opposition to sex*

*Sex Crime Arrest Data and Recidivism*

*offender residence restrictions.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

**Socia, Kelly M.,** Dum, Christopher P., and Rydberg, Jason “*Revisiting Public Opinion: Replication of a Public Opinion Survey on Sex Offender Housing.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 2017.

Rydberg, Jason, **Socia, Kelly M.,** and Dum, Christopher P. “*Falling on Deaf Ears: The Effect of Criminological Research Findings on Public Support for Sex Offender Residence Restrictions.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 2017.

**Socia, Kelly M.** and Grady, Melissa D. “*Perceptions of Sex Offender Policies in North Carolina.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2016.

Cassidy, Michael, Rydberg, Jason, and **Socia, Kelly M.** “*Community-Level Influences on the Sentencing of Convicted Sex Offenders.*” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 2016.

**Socia, Kelly M.** and Grady, Melissa D. “*Perceptions of Sex Offender Policies in North Carolina.*” Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, November 2016.

**Courses Taught**

Advanced Research Design (Ph.D.)  
Advanced Criminological Theories (Ph.D.)  
Descriptive and Inferential Statistics (Graduate, Online)  
Sex Crimes and Offenders (Graduate, Online)  
Criminology  
Honors Criminology  
Criminal Justice Research Methods (Online, Hybrid)  
Causes of Crime and Delinquency (Classroom and Online; University of New Mexico)  
American Criminal Courts (University at Albany, SUNY)

**Fellowships, Assistantships, and Internships**

**Graduate Research Fellowship,** National Institute of Justice, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

**Research Assistantship,** University at Albany, SUNY

Research Assistant, Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, Spring 2010 – Fall 2010  
Research Assistant for Dr. Janet Stamatel, Summer 2008 – Fall 2008  
Graduate Intern, Division of Criminal Justice Services, Spring 2007 – Summer 2007  
Research Assistant for Dr. Graeme Newman, Fall 2006

**Teaching Assistantship,** University at Albany, SUNY

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Instructor, American Criminal Courts (RCRJ 353), Summer 2008 – 2010; Fall 2009  
Discussion Leader, Criminology (RCRJ 203), Fall 2007; Spring 2008, 2009

**Graduate Internship**, NY OMH, Sex Offender Risk Assessment & Record Review, Summer 2008

**Ph.D. Fellowship**, University at Albany, SUNY, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

**Student Internship**, Rochester N.Y. Secret Service Office, Winter 2004

**Workshops Attended**

Funded Participant, ICPSR Summer Program (*Conducting Research on Recidivism and Reentry*),

University of Michigan (July 2010) \*\*

Funded Participant, ICPSR Summer Program (*Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal*

*Justice*), University of Michigan (June – July 2010) \*\*

**Grants Received**

PI, “Addressing COVID-19 public health misinformation” (with co-PIs Wilson Palacios and John Cluverius), Internal Seed Grant, *University of Massachusetts, Lowell*, \$10,000 (2020)

Co-I, “Improving Identification, Prevalence Estimation, and Earlier Intervention for Victims of Labor and Sex Trafficking” (with PI Ryan Shields), 2019-VT-BX-0037, *National Institute of Justice*, \$499,483 (2019)

Co-PI, “Community-level influences on the sentencing of convicted sex offenders” (with PI Jason Rydberg), 2015-R2-CX-0039, *National Institute of Justice*, \$39,997 (2015)

PI, “Analyzing Indicators of Disorder, Community Structure, and Crime in Lowell, MA” (with PI Melissa Morabito\*), Internal Seed Grant, *University of Massachusetts, Lowell*, \$8,000 (2014 – 2015)

PI “Predictors of Injury and Reporting of Intraracial, Interracial, and Racially-Biased Nonsexual Assaults” (with PI Ráchael A. Powers\*), 2013-R2-CX-0033, *National Institute of Justice*, \$39,995 (2013). Data published as ICPSR36236-v1. Ann Arbor, MI: ICPSR [distributor], 2018-05-16.  
<http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR36236.v1>

PI, “Neighborhood Conditions and Registered Sex Offender Recidivism” Research Allocation Committee Large Grant Competition, *University of New Mexico*, \$7,995 (2011 – 2012)

Travel Grant, 11<sup>th</sup> Crime Mapping Conference, *National Institute of Justice* (2011)  
Graduate Research Fellowship, “Residence Restriction Legislation and Sex Offender Residential Locations in New York” 2010-IJ-CX-0004, *National Institute of Justice*, \$25,000 (Sept. 2010 – May 2011)

Travel Grant, ICPSR Summer Program (*Conducting Research on Recidivism and Reentry*),

University of Michigan, \$1,250 (July 2010)

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Travel Grant, ICPSR Summer Program (*Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice*), University of Michigan, \$3,500 (June – July, 2010)  
Travel Grant, 10<sup>th</sup> Crime Mapping Conference, *National Institute of Justice* (2009)  
Travel Grant, School of Criminal Justice, *University at Albany*, \$250 (2007 – 2010)  
Travel Grant, Graduate Student Organization, *University at Albany*, \$350 (Fall 2007, 2010)

**Awards and Honors**

Teaching Award, School of Criminology and Justice Studies, 2013-2014  
President's Award for Excellence in Teaching (Teaching Assistant), University at Albany (2010)  
Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service, Office of the Secretary of Defense (2006)  
Certificate of Appreciation as Student Crime Analyst, RIT Campus Safety (2005)  
2004 APICS D.W. Fogarty International Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, First Place, Regional Level; Second Place, Society Level  
RIT Presidential Merit Scholarship, A.H. Clark Scholarship

**Invited Talks and Sessions**

Invited Discussant, *Adoption of URE 404(b). Character Evidence; Crime or Other Acts.* Utah Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Evidence, October 13, 2020

“Perception, Awareness, and Actions Regarding Child Abuse, Sex Offenders, and Public Policy” Plenary Talk, *New York State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYS ATSA) and the Alliance Association Annual Conference*, May 2016

Invited Participant, *Roundtable to Examine Sex Offender Residency Restrictions*, New York State Assembly, Standing Committee on Correction, May 2015

“Perception, Awareness, and Actions Regarding Child Abuse, Sex Offenders, and Public Policy” Closing Keynote, *Virginia Sex Offender Treatment Association (VSOTA) Annual Conference*, March 2015

**Service to the Profession**

Associate Editor & Editorial Board Member, *Victims and Offenders*, 2020 – Present  
Grant Reviewer, *Swiss National Science Foundation*, 2020  
Grant Reviewer, *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*, 2019  
Editorial Board Member, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 2017 – Present  
Executive Board, *Sex Offender Policy Research (SOPR) Working Group*, 2015 – Present  
Faculty Mentor, *ASC Mentoring Program*, 2011 – Present  
Grant Reviewer, *National Institute of Justice*, 2011 – 2017  
Membership Committee, *American Society of Criminology*, 2012 – 2013  
Co-Editor (with Andrew Harris), *Sex Offender Law Report*, 2012 – 2013  
Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*, 2006 – 2011

**Service to the University/College**

Workshop Co-Host, “Academic Publishing” *UML Center for Program Evaluation*, 2021  
*Massachusetts Society of Professors* (Faculty Union)  
Social Sciences Representative [Elected Position], Executive Board, 2020-Present  
Department Representative, 2020-Present  
Contract Action Team Member, 2020-Present  
Fellow, *Center for Public Opinion Research*, 2014 – Present  
Faculty Mentor, *Emerging Scholars Program*, 2015-2016; 2020-2021  
Official Representative, *ICPSR*, 2013 – Present  
Grant Reviewer, *UML Seed Grant Program*, 2019  
Faculty Attendee, *UML Open House*, Fall 2012; Fall 2014; Spring 2016, Fall 2016  
Research Member, *University Crossing Impact Study*, 2014 - 2016  
Ally Space Member, *UMass Lowell Ally Space*, 2014 – Present

**Service to the School/Department**

Personnel Committee, 2017 – Present  
Chair, 2018-2020  
Undergraduate Committee, 2012-2014; 2018-2020  
Graduate Committee, 2012 – 2020  
Search Committee, 2015, 2016, Chair 2017  
Qualifying Exam Committee, 2014 – Present  
Co-Wrote Proposal to Revise the Qualifying Exam, 2016  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2014-2015  
Organizer/Panel Participant, ‘The Academic Job Market Brown Bag’, 2014, 2016  
Organizer/Panel Participant, ‘The NIJ Graduate Dissertation Fellowship’, 2014, 2016  
Research Committee, 2014-2015; 2020-Present  
Undergraduate Committee, *UNM Sociology Department*, 2011 – 2012  
President, SCJ Graduate Student Association, *University at Albany*, 2008 – 2009

**Dissertations and Theses Committees**

Dissertation Chair:

Vera Yakovchenko, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies*  
Eli Nader, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Defended 2019)  
Trevor Fronius, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Defended 2019)  
Ryan Leavens, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Left Program)

Dissertation Committee Member:

Meridith Spencer, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Defended 2019)  
Rimonda Maroun, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Defended 2017)  
Scott Walfield, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies* (Defended 2016)

Thesis Chair:

Sanjeev Kc, Honors Thesis, *UML Honors College*  
Isabella Perez, Honors Thesis, *UML Honors College*  
Rachel Miller, Honors Thesis, *UML Honors College* (Defended 2020)

Casey Jo Calabrese, Honors Thesis, *UML Honors College* (Defended 2020)  
Thesis Committee Member:  
Shaina Ionin, Master's Thesis, *UML Criminology & Justice Studies*  
Dylan Lambert, Honors Thesis, *UML Honors College* (Defended 2018)

**Journal Reviewer, by year of first review**

2021: *Forensic Science International: Mind and Law; International Review of Victimology; International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology; Policing*  
2020: *Contemporary Drug Problems; Social Justice Research; International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice; Law & Policy*  
2019: *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse; Trauma, Violence, and Abuse; Archives of Sexual Behavior; Housing, Care, and Support; BMC Medical Research Methodology; Justice Policy Journal*  
2018: *International Review of Law, Computers & Technology; Law & Social Inquiry; Preventive Medicine*  
2017: *Punishment & Society; Social Science Research*  
2016: *Journal of Sexual Aggression*  
2015: *Journal of Quantitative Criminology; Race and Justice; Victims and Offenders; Justice Quarterly*  
2014: *Aggression and Violent Behavior; Social Forces; Journal of Criminal Justice; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Experimental Criminology; Criminal Justice Studies*  
2013: *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy; Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*  
2012: *American Journal of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice Policy Review*  
2011: *Criminology; Crime & Delinquency; Albany Law Review (Special Issue)*  
2010: *Criminology & Public Policy*

**Affiliations (Past and Present)**

Crime and Justice Research Alliance  
Sex Offender Policy Working Group  
Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA)  
Sex Offense Policy Research (SOPR)  
American Psychology-Law Society  
National White Collar Crime Center  
American Society of Criminology  
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

**Professional Experience and Consulting Activities**

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2019 - Present**  
*1:18-CV-24145-KMW Does v. Swearingen* – (Southern District of Florida)

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2019 - Present**

*Sex Crime Arrest Data and Recidivism*

*National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws; NC RSOL; and John Does #'s 1 and 2 v. Stein, Attorney General of the State of North Carolina; Erik A. Hooks, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety; et al. Case No. 1:17-cv-53 (Middle District of North Carolina)*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2019 - 2020**

*2018-CO-352 State v. William Wright – 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Nassau County, FL*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2019 – Present**

*Layfield v. Southwest Ranches – 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Broward County, FL*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2017 – 2018**

*Does vs. Miami-Dade County, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2015 – 2019**

*In Re Honor – Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Mateo*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2015 – 2018**

*Ft. Lauderdale vs. Anderson & Ford, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Broward County, FL*

**Expert Witness/Subject Matter Expert, 2014 – 2016**

*Martin v. Houston, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama*

**Consultant, 2015**

Miami-Dade Public Defender's Office

**Technology Consultant, 2011 – 2015**

NY State Alliance of Sex Offender Service Providers (NYSASOSP), Albany, NY

**Technology Consultant, 2008 – 2015**

NY State Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (NYSATSA), Albany, NY

**Management Analyst, 2005 – 2006**

Department of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Washington, DC

Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service

**Student Patrol Officer/Crime Analyst, 2003 – 2005**

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Campus Safety, Rochester, NY

Certificate of Appreciation as Student Crime Analyst

\* Denotes equal contribution

\*\* Indicates the reception of a conference-funded travel grant or similar award.

\*\*\* Denotes conference presentation given by a co-author.

<sup>s</sup> Denotes student co-author



APPENDIX B:

EXPERT WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS  
AND PUBLICATIONS (LAST 10 YEARS)

**Appendix B: Expert Witness Qualifications and Publications (last 10 years)**

Dr. Socia is one of the leading experts in the world regarding the impact of sex crime policies, as well as on public opinion regarding sex offenders and sex offenses. He has been previously qualified as an expert witness by the Superior Court of the State of California (San Mateo County), the County Court for the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Broward County, Florida), and the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of Florida. He currently has 40 peer-reviewed journal articles, the majority of which relate to sex crimes and sex crime policies, in addition to other publications on sex crime legislation and policy (e.g., book chapters, an Oxford Bibliography entry). His work has been cited approximately 1,677 times according to Google Scholar, and his research has been referenced in multiple court cases. He has previously served as co-editor to *Sex Offender Law Report*. He has given multiple keynotes at conferences for state chapters of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Below is a list of relevant publications.

**Journal Publications, Book Chapters, and Reports Since 2011 (Relating to Sex Crimes, Registrants, Sex Crime Policy, and Public opinion about such matters)***Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications*

Dum, Christopher P., **Socia, Kelly M.**, Bengt, George, and Neiderman, Halle. (in press) “The Effect of Reading Prisoner Poetry on Stigma and Public Attitudes: Results from a multigroup survey experiment” *The Prison Journal*.

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Rydberg, Jason, and Dum, Christopher P. (2021) “Punitive Attitudes Towards Individuals Convicted of Sex Offenses: A Vignette Study” *Justice Quarterly*. 38(6), 1262-1289. doi:10.1080/07418825.2019.1683218

Thompson, Lisa, Rydberg, Jason, Cassidy, Michael, **Socia, Kelly M.**, (2020) “Contextual Influences on the Sentencing of Convicted Sex Offenders” *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 32(7), 778-805. doi:10.1177/1079063219852936

**Socia, Kelly M.**, Grady, Melissa D., Bolder, Tess, Cronin, Kelli, Hurt, Christi, Vidrine, Sarah (2020) “Perceptions of Individuals Who Commit Sexual Offenses and Related Policies: A Group Comparison” *Criminal Justice Policy Review*. 31(7), 1059-1094. doi:10.1177/0887403419873126

*Sex Crime Arrest Data and Recidivism*

- Dum, Christopher P., **Socia, Kelly M.**, Yarrison, Fritz, and Long-Yarrison, Brooke L. (2020) “Would God Forgive? Attitudes Towards Sex Offenders in Places of Worship.” *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 32(5), 567-590. doi:10.1177/1079063219839498
- Socia, Kelly M.**, Dum, Christopher P., and Rydberg, Jason. (2019) “Turning a Blind Eye: Public Support of Emergency Housing Policies for Sex Offenders.” *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 31(1), 25-49. doi:10.1177/1079063217720925
- Rydberg, Jason, Dum, Christopher P., and **Socia, Kelly M.** (2018) “Nobody Gives A #%&! : A Factorial Survey Examining The Effect Of Criminological Evidence On Opposition To Sex Offender Residence Restrictions” *Journal of Experimental Criminology*. 14(4), 541-550. doi:10.1007/s11292-018-9335-5
- Rydberg, Jason, Cassidy, Michael, and **Socia, Kelly M.** (2018). “Punishing the wicked: Examining the correlates of sentence severity for convicted sex offenders” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. 34(4), 943-970. doi:10.1007/s10940-017-9360-y
- Dum, Christopher P., **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Rydberg, Jason. (2017) “Public support for emergency shelter housing interventions concerning stigmatized populations: Results from a randomized experiment.” *Criminology & Public Policy*. 16(3), 835-877. doi:10.1111/1745-9133.12311
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### ***Book Chapters, Reports, and Other Publications***

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Levenson, Jill S., Ackerman, Alissa R., **Socia, Kelly M.**, and Harris, Andrew J. (2014).

"Transient Sex Offenders and Residence Restrictions in Florida" *Report to the Florida Action Committee*. Lake Monroe, FL: Florida Action Committee.

APPENDIX C:

LIST OF OTHER RELEVANT EXPERT WITNESS CASES

**Appendix C: List of Other Relevant Expert Witness Cases**

The cases that Dr. Socia has served as an expert witness or similar duties for in the last 4 years include:

*Does v. Miami Dade County* (14-23933-Civ-Huck/McAliley, USDC So. FL)

*Does v Swearingen*, (Case 1:18-cv-24145-KMW, USDC So. FL)

*Ft. Lauderdale v. Anderson & Ford* (17-003615MO19A and 13-010799MO10A, Broward Co. Ct., FL)

*In Re Honor* (SC073793A, Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Mateo)

*Layfield v. Southwest Ranches* (CACE19-019498; Circuit Court of the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit in and for Broward County, Florida)

*National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws; NC RSOL; and John Does #'s 1 and 2 v. Joshua Stein, Attorney General of the State of North Carolina; Erik A.Hooks, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety; et al.* (1:17-cv-53, Middle District of North Carolina)

*State v. William Wright* (2018-CO-352, County Court of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Nassau County, FL)

Dr. Socia is also a signatory on Brief of Amici Curiae in cases that include: *In re Gadlin* (No. S254599) before the Supreme Court of the State of California; *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Torsilieri* (37 MAP 2018) before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; *Haymond v. United States* (No. 17-1672) and *Vasquez v. Foxx* (Illinois, No. 18-386), both before the Supreme Court of the United States.