

Heleana Melendez

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Research Assistant, Justice & Security Strategies, Inc. (JSS), Sept. 2020 - Present.

Support and assist the program manager and research team in implementing the research methodologies, strategies, tasks and procedures of specified research and evaluation projects and research partner collaborations.

Recent Projects Include:

- *Research Assistant* for the National Prosecutors Consortium. Collect, review, and code articles to create a searchable database of resources for prosecutors.
- *Research Assistant* for the Solve Crime. Build Trust? Investigating Homicides and Shootings in Los Angeles funded by the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to research on the investigation of homicides and shootings in Los Angeles, particularly those that involve gangs
- *Research Assistant* for the for the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) program funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics to enable the LAPD to transition to the National Incident Based Reporting System

PUBLICATIONS

Melendez, H. (2018). Under their roof: The normalization of organized crime in post-Soviet Russia. *UC Undergraduate Journal of Slavic and East/Central European Studies*, 11, 1-23.

PRESENTATIONS AND PANEL PARTICIPATION

Panelist, "Under their Roof: The Normalization of the Russian Mafia and its Effect on Russian Society." Paper given at UCLA Undergraduate Research Week, Los Angeles, CA, May 2017.

Panelist, "Under their Roof: The Normalization of the Russian Mafia and its Effect on Russian Society." Paper given at UC Undergraduate Conference on Slavic, East/Central European, and Eurasian Studies, Los Angeles, CA, April, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL AND RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Intern, Justice & Security Strategies, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

Aided program manager in reviewing cases. Researched homicide counts in Los Angeles.

Research Assistant, Network of Tobacco Vendors on the Dark Web, California State University, Long Beach

Research Assistant for a Phillip Morris grant studying tobacco products on the dark web. Synthesized literature on social networks and cryptomarkets and analyzed data using UCINET

software to provide an analysis of the underlying network structure of tobacco sellers on a cryptomarket.

Principal Investigator, Master's Thesis, A Social Network Approach of Websites on the Dark Web, California State University, Long Beach

Conducted secondary data analysis of cryptomarket vendors and sellers. Examined network topography, underlying subgroups, and fragmentation of cryptomarket. Presented findings in thesis.

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Computer skills include MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access), SPSS, UCINET
- Geographic Profiling Analysis I - Basic [completed 01/2019]
- CITI Social and Behavioral Research Certification [completed 09/2018]

EDUCATION

- California State University, Long Beach, CA Master's of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Summer 2020
- University of California, Los Angeles, CA Bachelors' of Arts in Psychology and Russian Language & Literature, Spring 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

California State University, Long Beach

Bruce Berg Memorial Criminal Justice Award, 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA)

California State University, Long Beach

Alpha Phi Sigma