

## **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**

School of Criminology and Justice Studies  
University of Massachusetts Lowell  
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### **A. EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **1. Education**

- Ph.D.**      **American University**, Washington, D.C., 2006  
Justice, Law and Society  
Dissertation: "Community Well Being: Investigating the Police Role in Jurisdiction Level Outcomes."  
Committee:    Richard R. Bennett, Ph.D. (Chair)  
                     Robert J. Kane, Ph.D.  
                     James P. Lynch, Ph.D.
- M.S.**      **Columbia University**, New York, NY, 1999  
Social Work with a concentration in Law
- B.A.**      **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA, 1997  
Major in Political Science with a minor in Urban Studies

#### **2. Academic Experience**

- 9/15-Present    **University of Massachusetts Lowell, School of Criminology and Justice Studies**, Lowell, MA  
Associate Professor
- 9/12-8/15      **University of Massachusetts Lowell, School of Criminology and Justice Studies**, Lowell, MA  
Assistant Professor
- 9/13-Present    **Center for Women and Work, University of Massachusetts Lowell**, Lowell, MA  
Associate
- 2008-2012      **Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ and  
**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA  
Research Affiliate
- 2008-2012      **University of Massachusetts Boston, Department of Sociology**, Boston, MA, *Assistant Professor and Criminal Justice Program Director*

2006-2008 **Center for Mental Health Services and Criminal Justice Research**  
**Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, NJ and **University of**  
**Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA, *Postdoctoral Research Fellow*.

## **B. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **1. Professional Association Participation**

2015-2017 Sexual Assault Advisory Board Member for the Police Executive  
 Research Forum  
 2016-present Associate Editor for *Victims & Offenders*  
 2016-2017 Program Committee member for the American Society of Criminology  
 (ASC). Section leader for Police Organizations  
 2016-2017 Student Affairs Committee member for the American Society of  
 Criminology Annual Meeting  
 2015-Present Reviewer for *Police Quarterly*  
 2014-Present Reviewer for the *Journal of Experimental Criminology*  
 2013-2014 Minority Mentorship Award Subcommittee Chair, Academy of Criminal  
 Justice Sciences  
 2013 Tellers Committee member, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
 2011 Student Paper Competition member, Division of International  
 Criminology, American Society of Criminology  
 2011 Awards Committee member, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
 2009-Present Reviewer for *Police Quarterly*  
 2008-Present Reviewer for *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and*  
*Management*  
 2007-Present Reviewer for *Crime & Delinquency*  
 2006-2010 COPS Office Peer Reviewer  
 2006-Present Reviewer for *Justice Quarterly*  
 2006-2009 Society for Social Work and Research, member  
 2002-Present Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences member  
 2001-Present American Society of Criminology member

## **C. RESEARCH**

### **1. Grants and Contracts**

2016 Principal Investigator. Justice and Mental Health Collaborative Grant. Evaluator  
 for grant funded by Bureau of Justice Assistance (2016-MO-BX-0009) to Boston  
 Police Department. (\$200,00 to BPD and \$12,244 to UML for the evaluation)  
 2016 Consultant. NIJ Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 16 Smart Policing Initiative:  
 Smart Policing Innovation, COOP/CARE Opioid Use Disorder Treatment and  
 Prevention Research and Evaluation Partner (2016-MU-BX-0003), 2016-2019,  
 UML receives \$103,000, total award is \$700,000

- 2014 Co-Principal Investigator, “Decision-Making in Sexual Assault Cases: Multi-site Replication Research on Sexual Violence Case Attrition in the U.S. Supplement on Collection, Testing and Use of Forensic Medical Evidence”. Funded by the National Institute of Justice. 2014-91892-MA-IJ. \$490,422  
PIs: Linda Williams, April Pattavina & *Melissa Morabito*
- 2012 Co-Principal Investigator, “Decision-Making in Sexual Assault Cases: Replication Research on Sexual Violence Case Attrition in the U.S.”. Funded by the National Institute of Justice. 2012-IJ-CX-0052. \$1,197, 686.  
PIs: Linda Williams, April Pattavina & *Melissa Morabito*
- 2012 Consultant, "CIT and Mental Health Service Accessibility in Police Encounters: Impact on Outcomes of Persons with SMI,". National Institute of Mental Health. 1R01MH096744-01A1 , \$704,827. PI: Amy Watson
- 2011 Co-Principal Investigator, “Collaborative Data Mining Research Center (DMRC) On Cyber-Enabled Discovery and Innovation”. Funded by the University of Massachusetts President’s Office. \$120,000. PIs: Dan Simovici, Wei Ding, Melissa Morabito & Meng Zhou.
- 2009 Principal Investigator, “Reliably predicting the location, time, and likelihood of future criminal activity in Boston”. Funded by the National Institute of Justice, 2009-DE-BX-K219. \$200,000.
- 2007 Co-Investigator. “Testing a Systems Level Intervention to Improve Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness” 1R34MH081558-01 funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. \$729,259. PI: Amy Watson.
- 2007 Co-Investigator. “The Impact of Spatial Autocorrelation on Factors That Predict Intimate Partner Violence Decisions” 2007-IJ-CX-0005 funded by the National Institute of Justice. \$35,000. PI: Karin Rhodes
- 2007 Co-evaluator, (with Jeffrey Draine). Mental Health and Justice Grant Collaboration Program Award. Awarded to the Philadelphia Police Department by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. \$30,000.

## 2. Academic and Professional Publications

Alda, Erik\*, Richard R. Bennett and **Melissa Morabito**

- 2017 “The Effects of Community Cohesion and Empowerment on Police Legitimacy”. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*. Forthcoming.

**Morabito, Melissa**, Kelly Socia, Amanda Wik & William Fisher

- 2017 “The Nature and Extent of Police Use of Force in Encounters with People with Behavioral Health Disorders”. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2016.10.001>

**Morabito, Melissa**, April Pattavina and Linda Williams

- 2017 “Active Representation and Police Response to Sexual Assault Complaints”. *Journal of Crime and Justice*. DOI: 10.1080/0735648X.2016.1216730

**Morabito, Melissa**, April Pattavina and Linda Williams

- 2016 “It all just piles up: The cumulative effects of challenges to victim credibility on sexual assault case processing”. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. DOI: 10.1177/0886260516669164.

Yu, Chung-Hsien, Wei Ding, **Melissa Morabito** & Ping Chen

- 2016 “Hierarchical Spatio-Temporal Pattern Discovery and Predictive Modeling”. *Transactions in Knowledge and Data Engineering* 28 (4), 979-993.

Pattavina, April, **Morabito, Melissa** and Linda Williams

- 2015 Examining Connections between the Police and Prosecution in Sexual Assault Case Processing: Does the Use of Exceptional Clearance Facilitate a Downstream Orientation? *Victims & Offenders*, 1-19. doi: 10.1080/15564886.2015.1046622

Estienne, Elizabeth\* and **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**

- 2015 Understanding differences in crime reporting practices: a comparative approach. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 40(2):123-143.

**Morabito, Melissa Schaefer** and Kelly Socia

- 2015 “Is Dangerousness a Myth? Injuries and Police Encounters with People with Mental Illnesses”. *Criminology & Public Policy*. doi:10.1111/17459133.12127

**Melissa Schaefer Morabito** and Wilson, Amy Blank

- 2015 “Selecting a method of Case Identification to estimate the involvement of People with Mental Illnesses in the Criminal Justice System: A research note”. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*. 0306624X15608823

**Melissa Morabito** and Shelley, Tara O’Conner

- 2015 “Consequences of the Brass Ceiling: Understanding the relationship the lagging progress of diversity in policing”. *Race and Justice: An International Journal*. doi:10.1177/2153368715575376

**Morabito, Melissa**

- 2014 “Police Unions: A Hindrance or Help to Innovation?”. *An International Journal of Public Administration*. 37: 773–780.

Chung-Hsien Yu\*, Wei Ding, and **Melissa Morabito**

- 2014 "Crime Forecasting Using Spatio-Temporal Pattern with Ensemble Learning." *Advances in Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining*. Springer International Publishing, 2014. 174-185.

**Morabito, Melissa**, Amy Watson and Jeffrey Draine

- 2013 "Police Officer Acceptance of New Innovations: The Case of Crisis Intervention Teams". *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*. 36(2).

Dawei Wang\*, Wei Ding, Henry Lo, **Melissa Morabito**, Ping Chen, Josue Salazar and Tomasz Stepinski

- 2013 "Understanding the Spatial Distribution of Crime Based on Its Related Variables Using Geospatial Discriminative Pattern". *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems*. 39:93-106.

Wang, Dawei\*, Wei Ding, Henry Lo, Tomasz Stepinski, Josue Salazar and **Melissa Morabito**

- 2013 "Crime Hotspot Mapping Using the Crime Related Factors--A Spatial Data Mining Approach". *Applied Intelligence*. DOI 10.1007/s10489-012-0400-x

**Morabito, Melissa**, Amy Kerr\*, Amy Watson, Jeffrey Draine, Victor Ottati and Beth Angell

- 2012 "The Police and People with Mental Illness: Exploring the Factors that Influence the Use of Force". *Crime & Delinquency*. 58(1): 57-77. First published online August 26, 2010: DOI:10.1177/0011128710372456.

Watson, Amy, Victor Ottati, Jeffrey Draine, and **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**

- 2011 "CIT in Context: The Impact of Mental Health Resource Availability on Call Outcomes". *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*. 34 (2011) 287-294.

Shelley, Tara O'Conner, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito** and Jennifer Tobin-Gurley\*.

- 2011 "Gender Roles and Gendered Institutions: The Current State of Women in Policing". *Criminal Justice Studies: A Critical Journal of Crime, Law and Society*. 24(4).

Dichter, Melissa\*, Steven Marcus, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito** and Karin Rhodes

- 2011 "Explaining the IPV Arrest Decision: Including Incident, Agency, and Community Factors". *Criminal Justice Review*. 36:2: 22-39.

**Morabito, Melissa Schaefer**

- 2010 “Understanding Community Policing as an Innovation: Patterns of Adoption.” *Crime & Delinquency*, 56(4): 564-587. First published online March, 2008: DOI: 0: 0011128707311643v1.
- Kerr, Amy\*, **Melissa Morabito** and Amy Watson  
 2010 “Police Encounters, Mental Illness and Injury: An Exploratory Investigation”. *Journal of Police Crisis Negotiations*. 10:116–132.
- Watson, Amy, Victor Ottati, **Melissa Morabito**, Amy Kerr\*, Jeffrey Draine and Beth Angell  
 2010 “Outcomes of Police Contacts with People with Mental Illness: The Impact of CIT”. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health: Mental Health Services Research*. 37:4.
- Morabito, Melissa Schaefer** and Richard R. Bennett  
 2008 “Policing People with Mental Illness in a Developing Nation”. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology and Public Safety* 13:189-216.
- Watson, Amy, Beth Angell, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito** and Noel Robinson  
 2008 “Defying Negative Expectations: Dimensions of Fair and Respectful Treatment by Police Officers as Perceived by People with Mental Illness”. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research* 35: 449-457.
- Morabito, Melissa Schaefer**  
 2008 “The Adoption of Police Innovation: The Role of the Political Environment” *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies and Management*, 31(3): 466-484.
- Watson, Amy, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**, Jeffrey Draine and Victor Ottati  
 2008 “Improving Police Response to Persons with Mental Illness: A Multi-Level Conceptualization of CIT”. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 31: 359-368.
- Morabito, Melissa Schaefer**  
 2007 “Horizons of Context: Understanding the Police Decision to Arrest People with Mental Illness.” *Psychiatric Services*, 58(12): 1582-1587.
- Morabito, Melissa Schaefer** and Richard R. Bennett  
 2006 “Socrates and the Modern Classroom: Effective Strategies for Teaching Large Classes.” *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 17(1): 103-120.
- Bennett, Richard R. and **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**  
 2006 “Determinants of Constables’ Perceptions of Community Policing in Three Developing Nations.” *Police Quarterly*, 9(2): 234-265.

**Schaefer, Melissa** and James P. Lynch

2003 "The Seriousness of Crime: A Cross-National Comparison." *International Journal of Comparative Criminology*. 2(1): 90-102.

Reprinted in *International Comparison of Crime and Victimization: The ICVS*. Helmut Kury (ed.) de Sitter Publications.

### 3. Other Research

**Morabito, Melissa Schaefer**

2014 "*Policing Vulnerable Populations*" in Oxford University Handbook on Police and Policing. Eds. Robert J. Kane and Michael Reisig. Oxford University Press.

Watson, Amy, Jeffrey Draine, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito** and William Fisher

2009 Crisis Intervention Teams and Police Diversion. Policy Brief. Center for Behavioral Health Services & Criminal Justice Research. [www.cbhs-cjr.rutgers.edu](http://www.cbhs-cjr.rutgers.edu).

Reuland, Melissa, **Melissa Schaefer Morabito**, Camille Preston and Jason Cheney

2006 Police Community Partnerships to Address Domestic Violence. U.S. Department of Justice Technical Report.

**Morabito, Melissa Schaefer**

2003 Book review of *Case Studies in Community Policing* by Dennis Stevens. *Criminal Justice Review*. 28: 2 (Autumn 2003) 404-405.

Gascon, George and **Melissa Schaefer**

2003 *Bringing Diversity to Hiring and Recruiting Practices*. Bureau of Justice Assistance White Paper. Cultural Diversity and the Police (CDAP) Project.

Police Executive Research Forum

2002 Council of State Governments. Criminal Justice / Mental Health Consensus Project. New York: Council of State Governments. (co-author)

### 4. Presentations

#### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2016 "Cultural Awareness Inside the Classroom." Presented at the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Justice Education Annual Conference at Nichols College.

- 2016 “Constrained Agency: Gender and Finding Opportunities for Advancement in Policing”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings. November, 2016. New Orleans, LA
- 2016 “No Easy Answers: Understanding the Impact of Sexual Assault Kit Testing on Case Attrition”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings. November, 2016. New Orleans, LA
- 2015 “A Multi-site Investigation into Sexual Assault Case Outcomes: Understanding the Police Response”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings. November, 2015. Washington DC
- 2015 “The Nature and Extent of Police Use of Force in Encounters with People with Mental Illnesses: An Exploratory Investigation.” Presented at the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Justice Education Annual Conference at Fitchburg State University.
- 2014 “The cumulative effects of “risk taking” behavior on sexual assault case processing”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “Legitimate Rape and a Theory of the Legitimate Victim”, Presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in Atlanta, GA.
- 2013 “Police Competency, Victimization and the Fear of Crime: A Comparative Analysis”, Presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in Atlanta, GA.
- 2012 “The Effects of Community Cohesion and Empowerment on Police Legitimacy”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Gender and Gendered Institutions: A Biographical Exploration of Women’s Experiences Working in Law Enforcement”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology annual meetings in Chicago, IL.
- 2011 “Crime Forecasting Using Data Mining Techniques,” Presented at the 4th Workshop on Data Mining Case Studies and Practice Prize, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2011 “Empirical Discriminative Tensor Analysis for Crime Forecasting”. Presented at 2011 International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management (KSEM2011) in Irvine, California.
- 2011 “Understanding the Relationship between Unions and the Lagging Progress of Women in Policing. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Washington D.C.



- 2010 “Police Unions: A Help or Hindrance to Innovation?” Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in San Francisco, CA.
- 2009 “The Measurement of Mental Illness in a Criminal Justice Context”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2009 “Philadelphia: A Police Crisis Intervention Team Evaluation”. Presented at the International Association of Law and Mental Health Meetings in New York, NY.
- 2008 “Testing a systems level intervention to improve police response to mental illness: CIT in Chicago”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in St. Louis, MO
- 2008 “Police Response to People with Mental Illness: A Comparative Approach”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in St. Louis, MO.
- 2008 “The Criminalization Hypothesis: An Historical Policy Analysis” Presented at the Society for Social Work Research Meetings in Washington D.C.
- 2007 “Policing People with Mental Illness in a Developing Nation” Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Atlanta, GA.
- 2006 “The Political Environment and Community Policing”. Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings in Los Angeles, California.

## **D. INSTRUCTIONAL RELATED ACTIVITY**

### **1. Teaching**

#### ***University of Massachusetts Lowell***

CRMJUS 141 Introduction to Policing  
 CRMJUS 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice  
 CRMJUS 347 Police Innovation

#### ***University of Massachusetts Boston***

SOC/CRMJUS 351L Methods of Sociological Research  
 SOC/CRMJUS 465L The Police in Society (seminar, large class and online formats for eight semesters)  
 SOC/CRMJUS 104 Introduction to Criminal Justice

### **2. Other Activity and Accomplishments**

#### **University of Massachusetts Lowell**

Aaron Kearny           Masters Thesis Committee Member  
 Lisa Pudlo               Masters Thesis Committee Member  
 Elizabeth Estienne     Dissertation Committee Member

Amanda Wik           Dissertation Committee Member  
Meg Zuber            Dissertation Committee Member

### **E. SERVICE**

#### University Activities

2016-2017   Personnel Committee Chair  
2016-Present   Lecturer Search Committee: School of Criminology & Justice Studies  
2014-Present   Undergraduate Committee member: School of Criminology & Justice  
                  Studies  
2012-2014    Doctoral Admissions Committee member: School of Criminology &  
                  Justice Studies  
2013-2014    Search Committee member: School of Criminology & Justice Studies  
2013-Present   Institutional Review Board Member  
2013-Present   Social Media Co-Coordinator, UML Center for Women and Work