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College of Criminal Justice  
Sam Houston State University  
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## **EDUCATION**

- 2014 Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arizona State University.
- 2009 M.S., Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arizona State University.
- 2006 B.S., Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arizona State University.

## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

- 2014 - Present Assistant Professor. Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2009 - 2014 Research Assistant/Faculty Associate. School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arizona State University.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2016 Outstanding New PI Award. Office of Research and Sponsored Projects. Sam Houston State University.
- 2016 W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship. National Institute of Justice.
- 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship. National Institute of Justice.

## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Correctional policy

Collateral consequences of incarceration

Disparities in punishment

Race/ethnicity, gender, crime and justice

## **PUBLICATIONS** (\*denotes a graduate student co-author)

### Refereed Articles

Cho, A.\* & **Tasca, M.** (Forthcoming). Disparities in women's prison sentences: Exploring the nexus between motherhood, drug offense, and sentence length. *Feminist Criminology*.

Turanovic, J.J. & **Tasca, M.** (In Press). Inmates' experiences with prison visitation. *Justice Quarterly*, doi: 10.1080/07418825.2017.1385826.

**Tasca, M.** (2018). The (dis)continuity of parental involvement among incarcerated fathers: An analysis of caregivers' accounts. *Child Care in Practice*, 24, 131-147.

^ *Invited paper for multidisciplinary special issue on imprisoned fatherhood.*

Meyers, T.J.\*, Wright, K.A., Young, J.T.N. & **Tasca, M.** (2017). Social support from outside the walls: Examining the role of relationship dynamics among inmates and visitors. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 52, 57-67.

**Tasca, M.**, Mulvey, P. & Rodriguez, N. (2016). Families coming together in prison: An examination of visitation encounters. *Punishment and Society*, 18, 459-478.

**Tasca, M.**, Wright, K.A., Turanovic, J.J., White, C. & Rodriguez, N. (2016). Moving visitation research forward: The Arizona Prison Visitation Project. *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law and Society*, 17, 55-67.

**Tasca, M.** (2016). The gatekeepers of contact: Child-caregiver dyads and parental prison visitation. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 43, 739-758.

**Tasca, M.**, Turanovic, J.J., White, C. & Rodriguez, N. (2014). Prisoners' assessments of mental health problems among their children. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 58, 154-173.

**Tasca, M.**, Rodriguez, N., Spohn, C. & Koss, M.P. (2013). Police decision making in sexual assault cases: Predictors of suspect identification and arrest. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28, 1157-1177.

**Tasca, M.**, Zatz, M.S. & Rodriguez, N. (2012). Girls' experiences with violence: An analysis of violence against and by at-risk girls. *Violence Against Women*, 18, 672-680.

**Tasca, M.**, Rodriguez, N. & Zatz, M.S. (2011). Family and residential instability in the context of paternal and maternal incarceration. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 38, 231-247.

**Tasca, M.**, Griffin, M.L. & Rodriguez, N. (2010). The effect of importation and deprivation factors on violent misconduct: An examination of Black and Latino youth in prison. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 8, 234-249.

### Book Chapters

Bostrom, S.R.\* & **Tasca, M.** (2018). *Reentry experiences of women*. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Oxford University Press.

**Tasca, M.** (2018). *The importance of prison visitation in the era of mass incarceration*. In O. Hayden and V. Woodward (Eds.) Handbook of Corrections in the United States. Routledge.

**Tasca, M.** & Griffin, M.L. (2012). *New punitiveness*. In W. Miller (Ed.) Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia. (Vol. 5), pgs. 1226-1229. Sage Publications.

### Reports

Wright, K.A., Turanovic, J.J., **Tasca, M.** & Cho, A.\* (2017). *Understanding gender, racial, and ethnic differences in the relationship between prison visitation and recidivism*. Submitted to the National Science Foundation.

**Tasca, M.** & Cho, A.\* (2016). *Racial and ethnic disparities in solitary confinement placement decisions*. Submitted to Sam Houston State University Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

**Tasca, M.**, Cho, A.\* & Wright, K.W. (2016). *Assessing the role of prison visitation on inmate misconduct, recidivism, and self-harm*. Submitted to the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Rodriguez, N., Stevenson, P. & **Tasca, M.** (2011). *Children of incarcerated parents: Measuring the scope of the problem*. Submitted to the Arizona Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

### External Awards

2016 - 2018 *Examining race and gender disparities in restricted housing placements*. **PI: Melinda Tasca**; Co-PI: Jillian Turanovic. Funded by the National Institute of Justice W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Race and Crime (Award No. 2016-R2-CX-0043). \$100,000.

- 2015 - 2017 *Understanding gender, racial, and ethnic differences in the relationship between prison visitation and recidivism.* PI: Kevin Wright; **Co-PIs: Melinda Tasca** and Jillian Turanovic. Funded by the National Science Foundation (Award No. 1535351). \$168,956.
- 2013 - 2014 *"It's not all cupcakes and lollipops": An investigation of the predictors and effects of prison visitation for children during maternal and paternal incarceration.* **PI: Melinda Tasca**; Faculty Supervisor: Nancy Rodriguez. Funded by the National Institute of Justice Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Award No. 2013-IJ-CX-0011). \$25,000.

#### Internal Awards

- 2015 *Racial and ethnic disparities in solitary confinement placements.* **PI: Melinda Tasca.** Funded by Sam Houston State University, Enhancement Research Grant Program (Award No. 29009). \$14,897.97.
- 2014 *Unpacking the prison visitation experience: How social relationships impact inmate well-being.* PI: Nancy Rodriguez; **Co-PIs: Kevin Wright and Melinda Tasca.** Funded by Arizona State University. \$10,000.

#### Project Management

- 2017 - 2018 *Measuring the effects of correctional officer stress on the well-being of the officer and the prison workplace and developing a practical index of officer stress for use by correctional agencies.* PI: John Hepburn; **Co-PI/Texas Site Coordinator: Melinda Tasca**; Co-PI/Texas Site Co-Coordinator: H. Daniel Butler. Funded by the National Institute of Justice (Award No. 2014-IJ-CX-0026). \$666,268.
- 2016 - 2018 *The evolution of the convict code throughout mass incarceration: The influence of subculture on misconduct, victimization, and offender attitudes.* PI: Meghan Mitchell; **Faculty Supervisor: Melinda Tasca.** Funded by the Bureau of Justice Statistics Graduate Research Fellowship Program (Award No. 2016-R2-CX-0024). \$45,000.
- 2016 - 2018 *Dissertation grant from the Koch Foundation.* PI: Meghan Mitchell; **Faculty Supervisor: Melinda Tasca.** Funded by the Charles Koch Foundation (Award No. 28071). \$5,000.
- 2013 *Understanding and addressing the needs of children of incarcerated parents: A focus on child welfare involved families.* PI: Judy Krysik; Co-PI: Nancy Rodriguez; **Project Manager: Melinda Tasca.** Funded by the Strategic Research Investment Fund of the College of Public Programs, Arizona State University. \$20,500.

2010 - 2012    *Children of incarcerated parents: Measuring the scope of the problem.* PI: Nancy Rodriguez; Co-PI: Phil Stevenson; **Project Manager: Melinda Tasca.** Funded by the Arizona Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families. \$60,000.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Sam Houston State University (2014 – Present)*

### Undergraduate Courses

Gender and Crime (Lecture; Online; Writing Enhanced)

Criminal Justice and Social Diversity (Lecture)

### Graduate Courses

Consequences of Incarceration (MA/PhD Summer Seminar)

Race and Crime (PhD Seminar)

*Arizona State University (2009 – 2014)*

### Undergraduate Courses

Discretionary Justice (Online)

Women and Crime (Online)

The Correctional Function (Online)

## **STUDENT MENTORSHIP** (\*denotes role as Chair)

### Dissertation Committee Member

In Progress    Ahram Cho\* (Sam Houston State University).

Completed

2018            Meghan Mitchell\* (Sam Houston State University).

2016            Nancy Gartner (Sam Houston State University).

### Doctoral Portfolio Committee Member

In Progress    Alicia Jurek (Sam Houston State University).

Amber Griffin\* (Sam Houston State University).

Completed

2018            Ahram Cho\* (Sam Houston State University).

2016            Meghan Mitchell (Sam Houston State University).

### Master's Thesis Committee Member

In Progress    Channing Carpenter (Sam Houston State University).

Completed

2016            Candice Anderson\* (Sam Houston State University).

2014            Whitney McCaskill (Arizona State University).

### Undergraduate Honors Contracts

2017	Clarra Moore; Daniela Gomez; Janice Burke; Haley Ridley; Hinakotshidibi Kabasele; Andrea Cervantes.
2016	Kimberly Rangel; Vanessa Quintanilla; Graciela Garcia; Troy Sorrells; Stephanie Dyess; Erica Timillar; Kristyn Couvillion; Brittiany Minor; Tiffany Schlagel; Alely Nava; Morgan Stickley.
2015	Denise Brown; Jessica Martinez; Gabrielle Marshall.
2014	Lindsey Croft.

### **SERVICE**

#### Professional

2015 - 2018	Secretary/Treasurer, Division of Corrections and Sentencing Executive Board, American Society of Criminology.
2016 - 2017	Member, Dissertation Awards Committee, Division of Corrections and Sentencing, American Society of Criminology.
2015 - 2016	Member, Student Affairs Committee, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Manuscript Reviewer: *Criminology*; *Justice Quarterly*; *Criminal Justice and Behavior*; *Social Problems*; *Children and Youth Services Review*; *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*; *Feminist Criminology*; *American Journal of Criminal Justice*; *Punishment and Society*.

Book Proposal Reviewer: *Oxford University Press*; *Sage Publications*; *Palgrave*.

#### University

2015 - 2016	Member, Career Services Advisory Board, Sam Houston State University.
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#### College and Department

2018	Member, Faculty Evaluation System (FES) Revision Ad-Hoc Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
2015 - 2018	Member, Graduate Student Admissions Committee (GSAC), Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
2016 - 2017	Member, Graduate Program Self-Study Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
2014 - 2015	Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.

## Community

2012 - 2013 WINGS Mentor, Florence Crittenton (non-profit), Phoenix AZ.

## **CONSULTANTSHIPS**

2016 - 2017 Subject Matter Expert, Family Strengthening Policies and Practices in Correctional Facilities, The Urban Institute and Community Works.

## **PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (PAST FIVE YEARS)**

### Policy Panels

2016 Perspectives on jail and prison visitation. The *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, New Orleans, LA.

### Chair and Discussant

2016 Segregation and punishments. The *Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Denver, CO.

2015 Not your typical family portrait: Examining family dynamics behind prison walls. The *Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Orlando, FL.

2014 The influence of gender, race and age on sentencing disparity. The *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, San Francisco, CA.

### Paper Presentations (\*denotes a graduate student co-author)

2018 Tasca, M. & Rodriguez, N. System involvement and family engagement during parental imprisonment: A review across diverse family systems. Presented at the *First Annual Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference*, Phoenix, AZ.

2017 Tasca, M. & Turanovic, J.J. Racial and ethnic disparities in men's restrictive housing placements. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Philadelphia, PA.

2017 Butler, H.D., Tasca, M., Pettyjohn, A. & Carpenter, C. A systematic review of research on correctional officers. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Philadelphia, PA.

2017 Tasca, M. & Turanovic, J.J. Racial and ethnic disparities in the relationship between prison visitation and recidivism. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Criminology*, Las Vegas, NV.

- 2017 Turanovic, J. & Tasca, M. Gender differences in the effects of prison visitation on recidivism. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Criminology*, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2016 Tasca, M., Turanovic, J.J. & Wright, K.A. Understanding gender, racial, and ethnic differences in the relationship between prison visitation and recidivism. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 Meyers, T.\*, Wright, K., Young, J. & Tasca, M. Prison visitation: Exploring the neglected role of content and quality. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 Cho, A.\* & Tasca, M. Exploring gender and racial/ethnic patterns of minor institutional infractions. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 Tasca, M. & Cho, A.\* A preliminary analysis of administrative segregation placements. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Denver, CO.
- 2015 Tasca, M. Beneficial or harmful? An investigation of children's emotional and behavioral responses to visitation with an incarcerated parent. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Washington, DC.
- 2015 Cho, A.\* & Tasca, M. Sentencing disparities among prison-bound female offenders: Examining interactions between parenthood and type of offense on sentence length. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Washington, DC.
- 2015 Tasca, M., Mulvey, P. & Rodriguez, N. Families coming together in prison: Peering inside the black box of visitation. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, Orlando, FL.
- 2015 Tasca, M. Gatekeepers of contact: Child-caregiver dyads and parental prison visitation. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Criminology*, Phoenix, AZ.
- 2014 Tasca, M., Spohn, C. & Rodriguez, N. Rethinking parenthood: Does the nature of parental involvement make a difference in sentencing? Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 Tasca, M., Rodriguez, N. & Griffin, M.L. Imprisonment and fatherhood: Parenting from behind bars. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Atlanta, GA.



## INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKING GROUP PARTICIPATION

- 2018 Discussant, *Graduate Student Organization: Grant Writing Workshop*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2017 Guest lecturer, *The Consequences of Parental Incarceration for Children: The Arizona COIP Project*, Educational Leadership Department, Sam Houston State University.
- 2017 Discussant, *Graduate Student Organization: Grant Writing Workshop*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2016 Discussant, *Applied Research Panel*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2015 Participant, *Topical Working Group on Restrictive Housing*, National Institute of Justice, Washington, DC.
- 2015 Discussant, *Dissertation Fellowships*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2015 Guest lecturer, *The Consequences of Parental Incarceration for Children: The Arizona COIP Project*, Educational Leadership Department, Sam Houston State University.
- 2014 Guest speaker, *The Ins and Outs of Graduate School*, National Honors Society, Sam Houston State University.
- 2014 Discussant, *Why Get a Ph.D?* Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.
- 2013 Participant, *Prisoner Reentry Workgroup*, College of Public Programs, Arizona State University.
- 2010 Guest speaker, *Children of Incarcerated Parents: Measuring the Scope of the Problem*, Tapestry Young Child Wellness Council, Phoenix AZ.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2017 *IDEA Workshop*. Sam Houston State University.
- 2014 *New Faculty Investment*. Sam Houston State University.
- 2014 *Annual Teaching Conference*. Sam Houston State University.

2013 *OKED Funding Success Skills Series: Transitioning to Large Strategic Proposals.* Arizona State University.

2012 *Pearson Learning Studio Online Teaching Workshops and Webinars.* Arizona State University.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS)

Western Society of Criminology (WSC)