Call for Papers

Journal of Family Strengths

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The victim-offender overlap among youth/young adults in both online and in-person offenses

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The Journal of Family Strengths is pleased to announce a forthcoming special issue to be published in 2024, focused on the crime victim-perpetrator overlap in youth for online and in-person offenses. For this call, we define youth as those under the age of 18. We invite papers from persons who are passionate about shedding light on this critical issue. This special issue aims to deepen our understanding of how victimization and crime perpetration intersect among youth, exploring the social factors influencing such junctures. A key objective is to inform better family support and outcomes.

Scope of the Special Issue:

We welcome manuscripts that explore theory, research, and interventions pertaining to understanding the victim-perpetrator overlap in youth. Additionally, we welcome submissions that discuss recent advances in generative AI methods, such as ChatGPT, to better understand the evolving landscape of the online world.
Our journal is open to a diverse range of research designs, including qualitative methods, quantitative methods, and mixed methods. We also welcome legal or practice case studies, and theoretical papers.

We anticipate research from the following disciplines:
Criminology
Criminal Justice
Education
Legal Studies
Psychology
Social Sciences
Social Work

Key Areas of Interest:

1. **Remote influence and impact**
We encourage submissions that explore the remote influence and impact of adult criminals on young people through online channels, including AI-mediated interactions. For example, by examining victimization or coercion leading to offending behaviors.

2. **The role of environmental and socio-economic factors in shaping the dual experiences of juvenile criminal victimization and perpetration**
This theme explores how environmental and socio-economic factors influence youth in assuming dual roles as victims and perpetrators of crime. It focuses on the impact of neighborhood characteristics, family dynamics, educational environments, and economic deprivation. The role of cultural norms and the availability of community resources are also examined. This section seeks to understand these complex interactions and their implications for policy and prevention strategies in juvenile justice.

3. **Comparative Analysis**
Authors are encouraged to compare and contrast online behaviors with in-person actions among young

individuals. Investigating the relationship between online coercion and involvement in other forms of criminal activity, including AI-assisted crimes, is a particularly welcomed avenue of research.

Authors are encouraged to collaborate with scholars and practitioners across disciplines to create pieces that have both a wide-audience and an interdisciplinary approach.
We also encourage a broad array of topics, including:

- Family and interpersonal violence
- Radicalization
- Institutional violence
- Bullying/cyberbullying/harassment victimization
- Hate crimes
- Online coercion and victimization

Guest Editors
Dr Sally-Ann Ashton
Sally-Ann is a research scientist at the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View A&M University. She is an investigative psychologist with research interests in youth gangs, violent adolescent offending, criminal exploitation of young people, and community policing.
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Dr Anna Bussu
Anna Bussu is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology and Programme Leader for the Psychosocial Analysis of Offending Behaviour programme within the School of Law, Criminology and Policing at Edge Hill University (UK). She is a Chartered Psychologist (BPS) and has completed a PhD in Forensic Psychology. Her research interests include risk factors prevention and protective factors development (e.g., life skills development, resilience, community building, and social inclusion) for children and young people. She studies and facilitates, as a trainer, psycho-pedagogical approaches (peer mentoring, restorative justice and practices, peer education, collaborative learning, and coaching) for developing self-development and empowerment.
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Dr Ling Wu
Ling Wu is an associate professor at the Department of Justice Studies at Prairie View A&M University, and she also leads Criminal Justice Data Analytics Lab, which is affiliated with Spatial Data Lab network at Harvard University. Her research interests are in Crime Mapping, Criminal Justice, Cybercrime, Juvenile Delinquency, and AI for Social Good.
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Deadline for submissions
15th October 2024
Email Submissions to the managing editor at jfs@childrenatrisk.org. To view past issues of the journal or to submit a manuscript, please visit https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/jfs/