

Melinda Tasca
Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies
The University of Texas at El Paso
2300 Randolph Drive
Education Building, Suite 111
El Paso, TX 79968
Email: mtasca@utep.edu

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

- 2020 - Present Associate Professor (with tenure). Department of Criminal Justice and Security Studies. The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 2014 - 2020 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 criminal justice

PUBLICATIONS (*denotes a graduate student co-author)

Refereed Articles

- Tasca, M.**, Orrick, E.A. & Butler, H.D. (2023). Assessing gender differences in prison rule enforcement: A focus on defiance. *Justice Quarterly*, doi: 10.1080/07418825.2023.2264356.
- Turanovic, J.J. & **Tasca, M.** (2022). Conditions of contact: Reexamining the relationship between prison visitation and recidivism. *Justice Quarterly*, 39, 923-952.
- Griffin, A.,* **Tasca, M.** & Orrick, E.A. (2020). Getting high after getting out: Understanding the relationship between support, stressors, and drug use among men and women in early reentry. *Crime and Delinquency*, 66, 1839-1864.
- Cho, A.* & **Tasca, M.** (2019). Disparities in women's prison sentences: Exploring the nexus between motherhood, drug offense, and sentence length. *Feminist Criminology*, 14, 420-440.
- Turanovic, J.J. & **Tasca, M.** (2019). Inmates' experiences with prison visitation. *Justice Quarterly*, 36, 287-322.
- Butler, H.D., **Tasca, M.**, Zhang, Y. & Carpenter, C.* (2019). A systematic and meta-analytic review of the literature on correctional officers: Identifying new avenues for research. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 60, 84-92.
- Tasca, M.**, Cho, A.,* Spohn, C. & Rodriguez, N. (2019). The role of parental status and involvement in sentence length decisions: A comparison of men and women sentenced to prison. *Crime and Delinquency*, 65, 1899-1924.
- 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

- Tasca, M.** (2019). *The (dis)continuity of parental involvement among incarcerated fathers: An analysis of caregivers' accounts*. In C. Flynn and M. Butler (Eds.) *Imprisoned Fathers: Responding to a Growing Concern*. Routledge.
 ^ *Special journal issue also published as a book.*
- Bostrom, S.R.* & **Tasca, M.** (2018). *Reentry experiences of women*. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Corrections, Women, Crime and 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

- Tasca, M.**, Butler, H.D. & Hepburn, J. (2018). *Understanding the extent and implications of*

stress among correctional officers in Texas. Submitted to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Tasca, M. & Turanovic, J.J. (2018). *Examining race and gender disparities in restrictive housing placements*. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice.

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

2020 - 2024 *The sources and consequences of prison violence*. PIs: Nancy Rodriguez; Natasha Frost, Jillian Turanovic, **Melinda Tasca**, H. Daniel Butler. Co-investigators: Susan Turner; Kai Zheng. Funded by Arnold Ventures. \$2,712,673.

2021 - 2023 *Toward a model for meaningful family engagement and support within correctional settings*. PIs: Nancy Rodriguez, **Melinda Tasca**, Elizabeth Cauffman, H. Daniel Butler. Co-investigator: Susan Turner. Funded by Arnold Ventures. \$1,108,785.

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

2019 *Disparate experiences and outcomes of Native American inmates.* PI: **Melinda Tasca**. Funded by the College of Criminal Justice External Grant Development System (EGADS) Program. \$12,639.

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

The University of Texas at El Paso (2020 – Present)

Graduate Courses

Collateral Consequences of Mass Incarceration (MA Seminar)

Seminar in Criminal Justice Policy (MA Seminar)

Program Evaluation (MA Seminar)

Undergraduate Courses

Women in Criminal Justice (Online)

Sam Houston State University (2014 – 2020)

Undergraduate Courses

Gender and Crime (Lecture; Online; Writing Enhanced)

Criminal Justice and Social Diversity (Lecture; Online)

Graduate Courses

Consequences of Incarceration (MA/PhD Seminars)

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 Committees

In progress Kaitlyn Leigh (external reader)

2020 Alicia Jurek (SHSU)

2018 Meghan Mitchell* (SHSU)

2016 Nancy Gartner (SHSU)

Doctoral Portfolio Committees

2020 Amber Griffin* (SHSU)
2019 Alicia Jurek (SHSU)
2018 Ahram Cho* (SHSU)
2016 Meghan Mitchell (SHSU)

Master's Thesis Committees

In progress Alexis Cardiel* (UTEP); Bruno Zapata* (UTEP)
2021 Marissa Delgado (UTEP)
2018 Channing Carpenter (SHSU)
2016 Candice Anderson* (SHSU)
2014 Whitney McCaskill (external reader)

Summer Research Fellowships (SHSU)

2019 Chelsi Lamberton
2018 Amber Griffin
2016 Ahram Cho
2015 Ahram Cho

Data Collection Training and Supervision

2023 Destiny Clark; Alexis Cardiel
2021 Jessica Trapassi
2018 Amber Griffin; Kate Angulski; Meghan Mitchell; Ethan Marshall; Eric Cooke;
Toycia Collins; Sarah Bostrom; Joshua Shadwick; Micaela Alvarado; Katherine
Perez; Chelsi Lamberton; Jazmin Palacios
2017 Ahram Cho; Meghan Mitchell; Amber Griffin; Matthew Bills; Ethan Marshall;
Kate Angulski; Alex Pettyjohn

Undergraduate Honors Contracts (SHSU)

2019 Ruben Pineda; Gavin Horrocks; Emilie Grecula
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

Program Topic Chair, Secure Supervision, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2023-2024).

Peer Review Panel Reviewer, National Institute of Justice (2021-2023).

Member, Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference Planning Committee, Center for Child Wellbeing, Arizona State University (2018-2020).

Secretary/Treasurer, Division of Corrections and Sentencing Executive Board, American Society of Criminology (2015-2018).

Member, Dissertation Awards Committee, Division of Corrections and Sentencing, American Society of Criminology (2016-2017).

Member, Student Affairs Committee, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2015-2016).

Manuscript Reviewer: *Criminology*; *Justice Quarterly*; *Criminal Justice and Behavior*; *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*; *Social Problems*; *Children and Youth Services Review*; *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*; *Feminist Criminology*; *American Journal of Criminal Justice*; *Punishment and Society*; *Child Care in Practice*; *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*; *Journal of Crime and Justice*; *Journal of Criminal Justice*; *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*; *Health and Justice*; *Victims and Offenders*; *Race and Social Problems*.

Book/Edited Volume Reviewer: *Oxford University Press*; *Sage Publications*; *Palgrave*; *Springer*.

University

Sam Houston State University

Member, Enhancing Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (EURECA) Advisory Committee (2018-2019).

Member, Raven Scholars Committee (2018-2019).

Member, Career Services Advisory Board (2015-2016).

College

The University of Texas at El Paso

Member, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee (LACC) (2022-Present).

Panel Speaker, New Faculty Orientation (2021-2022).

Department

The University of Texas at El Paso

Chair, Faculty Performance Achievement Revision Committee (2021-Present).

Member, Faculty Search Committee (2020-Present).

Member, Annual Faculty Performance Achievement Committee (2020-Present).

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (2022-Present).

Sam Houston State University

Member, Graduate Development and Assessment Committee (GDAC) (2019-2020).

Member, Faculty Search Committee (2014-2015; 2018-2019).

Member, Human Inclusion Minor/Certificate Program Development Committee (2018-2019).

Member, Nominations Committee (2018-2019).

Member, Faculty Evaluation System (FES) Revision Ad-Hoc Committee (2017-2018).

Member, Graduate Student Admissions Committee (GSAC) (2015-2018).

Member, Graduate Program Self-Study Committee (2016-2017).

Community

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

Work Group Participation

Participant, Multistate Correctional Work Group on Prison Violence, University of California, Irvine (2018-Present).

Participant, Topical Work Group on Restrictive Housing, National Institute of Justice (2015).

Participant, Prisoner Reentry Workgroup, Arizona State University (2013).

Consultantships

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

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (POST-2016)

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

2023 Tasca, M. & Rodriguez, N. Understanding the consequences of prison violence through interviews with impacted men. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Philadelphia, PA.

2019 Tasca, M. & Rodriguez, N. Correlates of contact during maternal incarceration. Presented at the *Annual Children of Incarcerated Parents Conference*, Phoenix, AZ.

2018 Tasca, M. & Turanovic, J.J. Examining the use of restrictive housing among incarcerated women. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Atlanta, GA.

Butler, H.D. & Tasca, M. An examination of the correlates of correctional officer use of force. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Atlanta, GA.

Griffin, A.*, Tasca, M. & Orrick, E. Gender differences in the relationship between social support and stressors on post-release drug use. Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology*, Atlanta, GA.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

PROFESSIONAL AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 Principal Investigator/Presenter, *Key Findings on the Correctional Officer Stress Project*, Executive Administration, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Texas State Capitol.

Discussant, *Graduate Student Organization: Grant Writing Workshop*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.

- 2018 Principal Investigator/Presenter, *Executive Briefing on the Correctional Officer Stress Project*, Executive Administration, Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Principal Investigator/Presenter, *Preliminary Findings from the Correctional Officer Stress Project*, Regional Warden Meeting, Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Discussant, *Graduate Student Organization: Grant Writing Workshop*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.

- 2017 Co-Principal Investigator/Co-Presenter, *Key Findings from the Arizona Prison Visitation and Recidivism Project*, Arizona Department of Corrections.

Guest lecturer, *The Consequences of Parental Incarceration for Children: The Arizona COIP Project*, Educational Leadership Department, Sam Houston State University.

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 Discussant, *Dissertation Fellowships*, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.

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.

Discussant, *Why Get a Ph.D?* Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University.

2010 Guest speaker, *Children of Incarcerated Parents: Measuring the Scope of the Problem*, Tapestry Young Child Wellness Council, Phoenix AZ.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 *Center for Instructional Design: Online Teaching Academy*. The University of Texas at El Paso.

2018 *BlackBoard Course Redesign and Certification*. Sam Houston State University.

2017 *IDEA Workshop*. Sam Houston State University.

2014 *New Faculty Investment*. Sam Houston State University.

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)

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity