

Victoria Rivera Laugalis

Curriculum Vitae

Loyola University New Orleans
Department of Criminology and Justice
6363 St. Charles Ave, Campus Box 55
New Orleans, LA 70118
Email: vrlaugal@loyno.edu

EDUCATION

- 2024 Sam Houston State University (SHSU), Huntsville, TX
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Ph.D. in Criminal Justice
Dissertation: *Assessing Public Punitiveness Toward Emerging Adult Sentencing*
Committee: Dr. Stuti S. Kokkalera, Dr. Eric. J. Connolly, & Dr. Michael S. Vaughn
- 2019 Saint Leo University (SLU), Saint Leo, FL
Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Specialization: Behavioral Studies
- 2014 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), Prescott, AZ
Bachelor of Science in Global Security & Intelligence, Magna Cum Laude
Minor: Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Sentencing and corrections
 - Youth justice and delinquency
 - Biosocial and developmental criminology
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

Laugalis, V. R., & Kokkalera, S. S. (2025). Predicting parole for emerging adult lifers: Do age, culpability, and rehabilitation matter? *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 97.

Laugalis, V. R., Kokkalera, S. S., & Wronski, B. A. (2024). Examining Parole Decision-Making Pre- and Post-COVID-19: Does Elderly Status Matter? *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 51(11), 1715-1733.

Laugalis, V. & Connolly, E. J. (2024). Head Injury and Antisocial Personality Features in a Sample of Juvenile Detainees. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 22(1), 46-60.

Laugalis, V. R., Koza, M., Kokkalera, S.S., & Vaughn, M.S. (2023) Technically Not Life: How De Facto Life Sentences Condemn Juveniles to Die in Prison. *Criminal Justice Review*.

Book Chapter in Edited Volume

Laugalis, V.R., & Kokkalera, S.S. (2025) Are children permanently incorrigible? Examining the role of developmental neuroscience in youth sentencing in U.S. states and territories. In H. Wishart & R. Arthur (Eds.), *International Perspectives of Neuroscience in the Criminal Justice System*, (Chapter 8). Routledge.

Under Review

Laugalis, V. R., McCullough, K., Koza, M.,* Kokkalera, S.S., & Vaughn, M.S. A State-By-State Analysis of Sentencing Statutes for Juvenile Homicide Offenders in the United States.

Laugalis, V. R. Trauma Mitigating in Emerging Adult Sentencing? An Experimental Examination of the Influence of Homicide Defendants' Age and Biopsychosocial Factors on the Public's Punitiveness.

Manuscripts in Progress

Laugalis, V. R. Perceptions of Culpability and Rehabilitation in Sentencing Emerging Adults to Life.

Ramos, J., Kokkalera, S.S., Amalfi Wronski, B., & **Laugalis, V. R.** Negotiating Parole: Do Repeat Players Fare Better?

Coupe, H.,* **Laugalis, V. R.,** & Vaughn, M.S. Review of the Legal Aspects of Alcohol and Opioid Withdrawal Injury and Death Cases in Custody.

Book Chapter in Progress

Laugalis, V. R., & Koza, M.* How Blameworthy are They? Assessing the Weight of Emerging Adult Culpability in Parole Decision-Making through a Developmental Lens

*student at time of writing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Appointments

2025-Present **Interim Director, Master of Criminology and Justice Program**, Department of Criminology and Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans

- 2024-Present **Assistant Professor**, Department of Criminology and Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, Loyola University New Orleans
- 2023-2024 **Instructor of Record**, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University
- 2021-2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University
- 2021-2023 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate Courses

- 2024-Present Loyola University New Orleans, Department of Criminology and Justice
Juvenile Delinquency, Undergraduate (in-person and online)
Research Methods, Undergraduate (in-person)
Statistics in Criminal Justice, Undergraduate (in-person)
Juveniles & the Justice System, Honors Undergrad Service Learning (in-person)
Research and Statistical Methods, Graduate (online)
Statistics, Graduate (online)
- 2023-2024 Sam Houston State University, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Introduction to Methods of Research, Undergraduate (in-person)

Teaching Assistant

Sam Houston State University, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

- 2023 **Fundamentals of Criminal Law** – Undergraduate, Dr. Miltonette Craig
2023 **Criminal Justice and Social Diversity** – Undergraduate, Dr. Javier Ramos
2022-2023 **Juvenile Delinquency and Justice** – Undergraduate, Dr. Stuti Kokkalera
2022 **Social Deviance** – Undergraduate, Dr. Mitchel Roth
Violent Offenders – Undergraduate, Dr. Mitchel Roth
2021-2022 **Seminar in Deviant Behavior** - Graduate, Dr. Mitchel Roth
2021 **Criminology** – Undergraduate, Dr. Elisa Toman

Guest Lectures

- 2023 **“Emerging Adults.”** Juvenile Justice, Dr. Stuti. S. Kokkalera, Sam Houston State University, TX.

2023 **“Three Modes of Survey Collection.”** Research Methods, Professor Davis Shelfer, Sam Houston State University, TX.

2022 **“Developmental Model of Juvenile Justice.”** Juvenile Justice, Dr. Stuti S. Kokkalera, Sam Houston State University, TX.

Teaching

2020-2021 **Online English Language Teacher**, VIPKid, Remote

2014-2015 **Paraprofessional**, Acorn Montessori Charter School, Prescott Valley, AZ

2013 **English Teaching Volunteer**, Amal Salé Association, Rabat and Salé, Morocco

Relevant Experience

2017-2020 **Pinellas County Consumer Protection**, Clearwater, FL
Criminal Investigator, 40 hours/week

- Conducted about 200 criminal investigations, including complex multi-victim/multi-subject cases, involving over \$500,000 in restitution
- Researched and analyzed specific laws, drafted subpoena requests, participated in depositions, and prepared for court testimony
- Interviewed witnesses, victims, and suspects and recorded statements
- Analyzed evidence and presented in reports and oral briefings
- Participated in community outreach programs, conducted human trafficking awareness compliance inspections, and contributed articles to the employee newsletter
- Collaborated with other government agencies, law enforcement, and prosecutors

2016-2017 **Florida Department of Juvenile Justice**, Clearwater, FL
Juvenile Justice Detention Officer Supervisor, 40 - 60 hours/week

- Supervised officers, conducted shift briefings, assigned duty posts, monitored progress, and ensured adherence to policies, while maintaining a safe and secure facility
- Completed daily shift reports and reviewed incident, medical, and mental health reports

2015-2016 **Juvenile Justice Detention Officer II**, 40 – 60 hours/week

- Maintained control and ensured the safe custody of detained youth through appropriate levels of verbal and physical responses in accordance with policies and procedures
- Wrote incident, medical, and mental health reports
- Trained a new class of juvenile detention officers

Training

- 2023 **Faculty Certification for Online Instruction**
Online Course Redesign and Faculty Certification Program, SHSU
- 2020 **National White-Collar Crime Center (NW3C) Training**
Cognitive Interviewing, Communication, & Influence, 16 hours
- 2019 **Association of Certified Fraud Examiners**
60 Hour Prep Course and Exam
- 2018 **Advanced Homeland Security Training in Israel**
Security Solutions International, 60 Hour Course of Study in Israel
- 2018 **National White-Collar Crime Center (NW3C) Training**
Online Social Networking for Investigations & Intelligence, 16 hours

Professional Development

- 2024-25 **Mentoring for Success Program**, Division of Corrections and Sentencing,
American Society of Criminology
- 2024 **ACJS Doctoral Summit**, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- 2023 **Dissertation Boot Camp**, Sam Houston State University
- 2023 **Teaching and Learning Conference**, Sam Houston State University
- 2023 **Diversity Leadership Conference**, Sam Houston State University
- 2023 **Teaching Workshop**, Sam Houston State University
- 2021-2023 **Graduate Student Organization Workshops**, Sam Houston State University

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Conference Presentations

- 2025 **Laugalis, V. R.** (Forthcoming September 2025). Do They Deserve a Second Chance? Public Perceptions of Responsibility and Rehabilitative Potential in Sentencing Emerging Adults Convicted of Homicide in the United States. European Society of Criminology, Athens, Greece.

- 2025 Coupel, H.,* **Laugalis, V. R.**, & Vaughn, M.S. (Forthcoming November 2025). Examining Cases of Alcohol and Opioid Withdrawal Injuries and Deaths in U.S. Criminal Justice Custody. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- 2025 **Laugalis, V. R.**, & Bolden, C. (Forthcoming November 2025). Exploring Juvenile and Emerging Adult Lifers' Early Life Experiences and Rehabilitation Efforts in Prison. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- 2025 Koza, M.,* & **Laugalis, V. R.** (Forthcoming November 2025). How Blameworthy are They? Examining Emerging Adult Culpability in Parole Decision-Making Through a Developmental Lens. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- 2024 **Laugalis, V. R.** (November 2024). Perceptions of Age and Rehabilitation in Sentencing Emerging Adults to Life. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2024 **Laugalis, V.** & Kokkalera, S.S. (June 2024). Assessing Parole Decision-Making for Juveniles and Emerging Adults Sentenced to Life. Law and Society Association, Denver, CO.
- 2024 **Laugalis, V.** (March 2024). Assessing Public Punitiveness Toward Emerging Adult Sentencing. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Laugalis, V.**, Amalfi Wronski, B., & Kokkalera, S.S. (November 2023). Examining the role of age on parole decision-making pre and post Covid-19. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 **Laugalis, V.** & Kokkalera, S.S. (June 2023). Are children permanently incorrigible? Examining the role of developmental neuroscience in youth sentencing in U.S. states and territories. Law and Society Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2022 **Laugalis, V.** & Connolly, E. J. (November 2022). Examination of the link between head injuries and antisocial personality disorder. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2022 **Laugalis, V.**, Koza, M., Kokkalera, S.S., & Vaughn, M.S. (November 2022). Technically not life: How virtual life sentences condemn juveniles to die in prison. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2022 **Laugalis, V.**, McCullough, K., & Vaughn, M.S. (March 2022). Sentencing statutes for juvenile homicide offenders in the United States: A state-by-state analysis. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, NV.

Conference Posters

- 2025 Fogel, E.,* & Laugalis, V. R., & Mestas, J.* (Forthcoming November 2025). Examining How States are Extending Developmental Arguments that Banned Juvenile LWOP to Emerging Adults. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.

Conferences Attended

- 2021 Criminology Consortium Annual Meeting (CrimCon), Virtual
2021 Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators (TACJE), Virtual
2016 Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJAA) Adolescent Conference co-hosted with Florida Council for Community Health, Orlando, FL

Professional Memberships

- 2025 American Society of Criminology (ASC), Active Member
2025 Biopsychosocial Criminology Division, Active Member
2025 Corrections and Sentencing Division, Active Member
- 2022-24 American Society of Criminology (ASC), Student Member
2023-24 Biopsychosocial Criminology Division, Student Member
2023-24 Corrections and Sentencing Division, Student Member
2023-24 Developmental/Life-Course Criminology Division, Student Member
- 2022-24 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), Student Member
2023-24 Juvenile Justice Section, Student Member
2023-24 Restorative and Community Justice Section, Student Member
2023-24 Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship Section, Student Member
- 2022-24 Law and Society Association (LSA), Student Member
- 2021-23 Texas Association of Criminal Justice Educators (TACJE), Student Member

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- 2025-Present Historian, ASC Division of Corrections and Sentencing
- 2025-Present Mentoring Program Committee Member, ASC Division of Corrections and Sentencing
- 2025 College Curriculum Committee Alternate, Loyola University New Orleans
- 2023-Present Outreach Volunteer, ASC Division of Corrections and Sentencing

- 2022-2023 Treasurer, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Sam Houston State University
- 2022-2023 Chair, Fundraising Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Sam Houston State University. Organized fundraisers that raised over \$1200 for local organizations: SHSU Food Pantry and SAAFE House.
- 2021-present Member, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Sam Houston State University. Participated in fundraising and service activities.
- 2021-present Member, Service Committee, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology Graduate Student Organization (GSO), Sam Houston State University
- 2014 Volunteer Coach, Girls on the Run Northern Arizona, Prescott Valley, AZ
- 2013-2014 Member, Order of Omega, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2013 Chapter President, Alpha Sigma Tau, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2011-2014 Committee Member, Alpha Sigma Tau, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2012-2013 Writer and Editor, *The Eagle Eye*, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2024 ACJS Doctoral Summit, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- 2023-2024 Rolando, Josefa, and Jocelyn del Carmen Criminal Justice Scholarship, SHSU
- Summer 2023 The Graduate School General Scholarship, Sam Houston State University
- Spring 2023 The Graduate School General Scholarship, Sam Houston State University
- 2023 Criminal Justice Graduate Student Larry Hoover Summer Research Fellowship
- 2022-2023 Rolando, Josefa, and Jocelyn del Carmen Criminal Justice Scholarship, SHSU
- Summer 2022 The Graduate School General Scholarship, Sam Houston State University
- 2022 Criminal Justice Graduate Student Larry Hoover Summer Research Fellowship
- Spring 2022 The Graduate School General Scholarship, Sam Houston State University

- 2011-2014 Undergraduate Dean's List, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- 2011-2014 Scholarship Recognition Award, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University