

**Melanie F.P. Soderstrom, Ph.D., J.D.**

Curriculum Vitae

September 2025

Texas State University  
School of Criminal Justice and Criminology  
Hines Academic Center  
601 University Drive  
San Marcos, TX 78666

melsoderstrom@txstate.edu

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

- 2022-Present Assistant Professor. School of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Texas State University.
- 2021-22 Project Manager. *Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support, and Services*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SM084700). University of Central Florida.
- 2019-20 Adjunct Instructor. Department of Criminal Justice, University of Central Florida.
- 2018-22 Project Coordinator. *Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support, and Services*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SM081374). University of Central Florida.
- 2016-18 Project Coordinator. *Seminole County System of Care Expansion*. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SM059935). University of Central Florida.
- 2015-16 Graduate Research Assistant. *Brevard County Public Schools Climate and Safety Study*. National Institute of Justice (2014-CK-BX-0014). University of Central Florida.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant. Department of Criminal Justice, University of Central Florida.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

- 2014-15 Assistant Public Defender. Hampton Public Defender's Office. Hampton, VA.
- 2010-13 Assistant Public Defender. Newport News Public Defender's Office. Newport News, VA.
- 2010 Third Year Student Practice Extern. Hampton Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Hampton, VA.
- 2009 Law Clerk Intern. Seminole County Public Defender's Office. Sanford, FL.

## EDUCATION

- 2022 Ph.D. in Criminal Justice, University of Central Florida  
Dissertation: *The Expansion of School Resource Officers in a Florida County: A Mixed Methods Study*
- 2016 M.S. in Criminal Justice, University of Central Florida
- 2010 J.D., College of William & Mary
- 2007 B.A. with Honors in Foreign Language Combination, Minor in Political Science, University of Central Florida

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

School-to-Prison Pipeline  
Youth Mental Health  
Policy and Program Evaluation

Juvenile Justice System  
Practitioner Training  
Mixed Methods

## REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

(\* Denotes graduate student)

- In press **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Shallenberger, A.\* “It takes a special cop to be an SRO”: School resource officers’ perceptions of selection for the position. *Police Practice and Research*.
- 2025 Gryglewicz, K., Childs, K. K., **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Elligson, R. L., & Lockwood, A. Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training outcomes among public safety professionals serving high-risk youth. *Children and Youth Services Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2025.108546>
- Soderstrom, M. F. P.** “Being a pain in the ass is not a criminal offense”: A qualitative exploration of school resource officers’ arrest behaviors. *Journal of Crime & Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2025.2539438>
- Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Childs, K. K. School policing and involuntary commitment examinations of students under Florida’s Baker Act. *Journal of School Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2025.2531974>
- Soderstrom, M. F. P.** A qualitative exploration of school resource officer training in a Florida school district. *Policing: An International Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJPSM-06-2024-0092>
- 2024 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** & Bumgarner, J. Instructors’ challenges facilitating Mental Health First Aid with law enforcement. *Police Practice and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2024.2406836>

**Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Childs, K. K., & Gryglewicz, K. An evaluation of Youth Mental Health First Aid training with law enforcement officers. *Psychological Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000901>

**Soderstrom, M. F. P.** Formalizing and expanding school resource officer presence: Examining influences on student arrests. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 94. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2024.102236>

- 2023 Childs, K. K., Bryson, S. L., **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Reed, A.\* An assessment of the internal structure of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) using two samples of high-risk adolescents. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 156. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chidyouth.2023.107365>
- 2020 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Childs, K. K., & Frick, P. J. The role of protective factors in the predictive accuracy of the Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY). *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 18(1), 78-95. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1541204019837329>
- 2018 Gryglewicz, K., Childs, K. K., & **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** An evaluation of Youth Mental Health First Aid training in school settings. *School Mental Health*, 10(1), 48-60. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-018-9246-7>

## ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRY

- 2020 Basham, S. L., & **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** Concealed carry laws. In C. Lewandowski, & J. Bumgarner (Eds.), *Criminal justice in America: The encyclopedia of crime, law enforcement, courts, and corrections* (pp. 89-92). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

## PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL REPORTS

- 2023 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** *Implementing MHFA with Law Enforcement Officers: A Multi-Methodological Study*. Final Report. Prepared for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

## GRANTS

### Funded

- 2021-23 *Implementing YMHA Training with Law Enforcement Officers: A Mixed Methods Study*. PI: **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Amount: \$5,000.
- 2018-21 *Central Florida Pathways to Awareness, Support and Services*. PI: Gryglewicz, K. Co-PIs: Childs, K. K. & **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SM081374). Amount: \$375,000.

## Unfunded

- 2022 *Collateral Consequences of School Safety Policies: Involuntary Commitment Apprehensions and Juvenile Court Decisions in Florida Counties*. PI: Childs, K. K. Co-PIs: Peck, J. H. & **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** National Institute of Justice. Amount: \$722,144.

## **PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

(\* Denotes graduate student)

- 2025 (In preparation) **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Shallenberger, A.\* What should be considered when selecting school resource officers? Insights from a qualitative study. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- (In preparation) Childs, K. K., **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Peck, J. H. Juvenile justice referrals in the wake of school safety legislation: A time series analysis. American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- 2024 Sanborn, B. J., Plunkett, F., **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Stocker, D. K., & Smith, J. Q. What do we know about school resource officers? Roundtable. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** Assessing the training requirements of school resource officers: A qualitative study. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2022 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.** A mixed methods exploration of an SRO program's impact on student arrests. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- Soderstrom, M. F. P.** An SRO program's impact on school-based involuntary commitment apprehensions under Florida's Baker Act. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2019 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Peck, J. H. Examining geographic variations in contemporary juvenile court processing: An update to 'Justice by Geography'. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Baker, T., & Gordon, J. A. Factors Exacerbating and Ameliorating the Reentry Concerns of Youthful Offenders. Southern Criminal Justice Association, Nashville, TN.
- 2018 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Bryson, S. L., & Childs, K. K. Community-based research in juvenile justice: Experience and challenges of working with child-serving agencies. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

**Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Childs, K. K., & Frick, P. The role of protective factors in mitigating the risk of juvenile reoffending. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans, LA.

2017 Childs, K. K., Gryglewicz, K., & **Soderstrom M. F. P.** An evaluation of Youth Mental Health First Aid training in school settings: Are school personnel prepared to work with vulnerable students? American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

2016 **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, Childs, K. K., & Stewart, C. Risk and protective factors predicting problem behaviors in adolescence. American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

#### University Conference Presentation

2024 Lockwood, A.\*, Gryglewicz, K., Childs, K. K., **Soderstrom, M. F. P.**, & Elligson, R.\* Youth Mental Health First Aid Training: An evaluation of effectiveness following completion among service providers and police. College of Community Innovation and Education Research and Impact Showcase. University of Central Florida.

#### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND DISCUSSIONS**

2023 **Soderstrom, M.F.P.** “Women Practitioner Experiences in the Justice System.” Women, Crime, and Justice Undergraduate Course. Department of Sociology and Criminology. University of Iowa.

**Soderstrom, M. F. P.** Facilitating MHFA with law enforcement officers: What should instructors know? Invited conference presentation for NatCon23, Los Angeles, CA.

#### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

##### Texas State University

Juvenile Justice (Undergraduate, face-to-face)

The Courts and Criminal Procedure (Undergraduate, face-to-face and online)

Current Legal Issues in Criminal Justice (Master’s, face-to-face)

##### University of Central Florida

Research Methods in Criminal Justice (Undergraduate, remote face-to-face)

Legal Aspects of the Criminal Court Process (Undergraduate, face-to-face)

#### **MASTER’S THESIS COMMITTEE**

Present                      Member, Chloe Felices-Perrier, Texas State University

2024-25                      Member, Jon’Dasha Price, Texas State University

## DOCTORAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM PAPER COMMITTEE

Present	Member, Romy Zingraff, Texas State University
	Member, George Garza, Texas State University
2024-Present	Member, Andrew Carroll, Texas State University
	Member, Moe Miller, Texas State University
2023-25	Member, Josh Davis, Texas State University
2023-24	Member, Alison Jarzombek-Torralva, Texas State University

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

2023-24	Member, Katlyn Casagrande, Texas State University - <i>Who's Got It Worse?: Comparing Incarcerated Persons' Experiences of Psychological Distress Symptoms in Jails and Prisons</i>
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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### To the Department/School

2025	Member, Faculty Hiring Committee
2023-24	Member, Doctoral Program Advising Committee, School of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Texas State University
2023	Member, Alumni Awards Committee, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Central Florida
2022-23	Faculty meetings scribe, School of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Texas State University
2021-22	Vice President, UCF Criminal Justice Graduate Students Association
2009-10	Founding Executive Editor, <i>William &amp; Mary Business Law Review</i>
	Notes Editor, <i>William &amp; Mary Journal of Women and the Law</i>
2008-10	Board Member, William & Mary Public Service Fund
2008-09	Editorial Staff, <i>William &amp; Mary Journal of Women and the Law</i>

### To the University

2023-Present            Liaison, Texas Municipal Courts Education Center

Pre-Law Advisor, Texas State University

### To the Discipline

Present                Program Committee Topic Chair, Policing: Operations, Personnel, and Training. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2027 Annual Meeting.

2023-24                Program Committee Topic Chair, Juveniles and the Police. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences 2024 Annual Meeting.

### Journal Manuscript Peer Reviewer

*Health Science Reports*

*Injury Epidemiology*

*International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*

*Journal of Crime & Justice*

*Journal of Criminal Justice Education*

*Journal of Mental Health*

*Journal of School Violence*

*Police Practice and Research*

*Race and Justice*

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

2023    Recipient. Outstanding Dissertation Award. Division of Policing, American Society of Criminology.

Fellow. Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network's 2023 Summer Research Institute. School of Criminal Justice. Rutgers University.

Nominee. Outstanding Dissertation Award. College of Community Innovation and Education. University of Central Florida.

2021    3MT Competition Finalist. College of Graduate Studies. University of Central Florida.

2020    Doctoral Research Support Award. College of Graduate Studies. University of Central Florida. (\$1100)

2019    Doctoral Summit Fellow. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

- 2010 The College of William & Mary School of Law Post-Graduate Public Service Fellowship (\$3000)
- 2010 The College of William & Mary School of Law Community Servant Award
- 2009 The College of William & Mary School of Law Public Service Fund Summer Fellowship (\$3000)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 UDOIT Right! Accessibility Tools in Canvas. Webinar. Office of Distance and Extended Learning. Texas State University.
- 2025 Top Hat Engage: Virtual Edition workshop. Top Hat.
- 2024-25 Pre-Law Advisor Newcomers Training. Law School Admission Council.
- 2024 Intentional Course Design in the Age of AI workshop. Top Hat.
- 2024 Top Hat Summer Camp. Top Hat.
- 2024 Categorical Data Analysis Seminar. Statistical Horizons.
- 2024 AccessLex Spring Sync Workshop. AccessLex Institute.
- 2024 Successfully Supervising Master's Students. Workshop. Graduate College. Texas State University.
- 2024 Tips on helping students to communicate professionally with law school representatives. Webinar. Law School Admission Council.
- 2024 What LSAT Dual Mode Means for You webinar. Law School Admission Council.
- 2024 Plus, Guided Journey Program webinar. Law School Admission Council.
- 2023 Mock Admissions Panel. Law School Admission Council.
- 2023 Grant Awards: What a Texas State PI Should Know. College of Education Research Office. Texas State University.
- 2023 Top Hat: Getting Started. IT Assistance Center. Texas State University.
- 2023 Teaching Online @ Texas State. Office of Distance and Extended Learning. Texas State University.
- 2023 Law School Waitlists webinar. Law School Admission Council.
- 2023 Grant Writing and Grant Finding: Advice for Faculty at an HSI. Faculty Development. Texas State University.
- 2023 YuJa Advanced: Features for Canvas. Division of Information Technology. Texas State University.
- 2023 YuJa Basics. Division of Information Technology. Texas State University.
- 2022-23 Scholarship & Teaching Excellence Program (STEP). Faculty Development. Texas State University.
- 2022 Introduction to Thematic Analysis webinar. NVivo.
- 2022 Making Word Documents Accessible to Individuals with Disabilities workshop. Division of Information Technology. Texas State University.
- 2022 Optimizing Your Online Presence workshop. College of Graduate Studies. University of Central Florida.
- 2022 NVivo Core Skills. NVivo Academy and QSR International.



- 2021 Emerging Research Using the FYSAS webinar. Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Florida International University.
- 2021 Research Computing and Data Workshops Series. UCF Libraries, Graduate and Research IT, and Advanced Research Computing Center. University of Central Florida.
- 2021 Time Series Analysis Seminar. Statistical Horizons.
- 2020 Zoom Essentials. Center for Distributed Learning. University of Central Florida.
- 2019 Doctoral Summit. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.
  
- 2017 ADL5000. Online course delivery certification. Center for Distributed Learning. University of Central Florida.
- 2017 Essentials of Webcourses@UCF. Center for Distributed Learning. University of Central Florida.
- 2017 Graduate Associate Training. Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning. University of Central Florida.
- 2016-17 Doctoral student professional development series. Department of Criminal Justice. University of Central Florida.

## **SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, 2017-Present  
 Section: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

American Society of Criminology, 2016-Present  
 Division: Policing  
 Division: Qualitative Research

Latina/o/x Criminology, 2019-Present

Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network, 2023-Present

Southern Criminal Justice Association, 2019-Present

Southwest Association of Pre-Law Advisors, 2023-Present

Virginia State Bar, 2010-Present