

Karen M. Holt, Ph.D. (née Pepper)

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice (May 2015)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

The Graduate Center, CUNY

899 Tenth Avenue

New York, NY

Dissertation Title: Negotiating Limits: Boundary Management in the Bondage/Discipline/Sadomasochism (BDSM) Community

Master of Philosophy in Criminal Justice (September 2012)

The Graduate Center, CUNY

365 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York

Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology (May 2009)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

899 Tenth Avenue

New York, NY

Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Forensics track, Summa cum laude (January 2007)

DeSales University

2755 Station Avenue

Center Valley, PA

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice (2025- present)

Michigan State University

426 Auditorium Road

East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice (2019-2025)

Michigan State University

426 Auditorium Road

East Lansing, Michigan 48824

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Instructor of Criminal Justice (2013-2016)

Fixed-Term Instructor (2016-2019)

Michigan State University

426 Auditorium Road

East Lansing, Michigan 48824

Visiting Professor of Criminal Justice and Criminology (2012-2014)

Georgia Southern University

1332 Southern Drive

Statesboro, Georgia 30460

Teaching and Research Fellow (2009-2014)
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
899 Tenth Avenue
New York, New York 10019

GRANTS AWARDED

- 2024- present Co-Investigator. Thomas J. Holt (PI), Steve Chermak (Co-PI), Karen M. Holt (Co-PI), Julie M. Krupa (Co-PI), Rachel L. McNealey (Co-PI) and Ryan Scrivens (Co-PI). Addressing Cybercrime Training and Preparedness for the State of Michigan. U.S. Department of Education. Total award: \$1,000,000.
- 2024- present Principal Investigator. National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. Funded by the Bureau of Justice. Michigan State Police (FY2023, \$1,500,000). Offender Focused Investigations: Examining the Michigan Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Data. Subcontract to Michigan State University: \$445,000
- 2023-2024 Principal Investigator. National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. Funded by the Bureau of Justice. Michigan State Police (FY2018 additional funds. \$633,907). Offender Focused Investigations: Examining the Michigan Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Data. Subcontract to Michigan State University: \$250,118
- 2022-2023 Principal Investigator. National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative. Funded by the Bureau of Justice. Michigan State Police (FY2018 \$1,000,000). Offender Focused Investigations: Examining the Michigan Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI) Data. Subcontract to Michigan State University: \$260,191

SCHOLARSHIP

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Liggett-O'Malley, R. & Holt, K. (2025). "We Live Day By Day Now:" A Qualitative Analysis of Minor Focused Sextortion Victim-Survivor Impact Statements. Submitted to *Violence and Victims*.
- Holt, K. (2025). "I'm Not a Serial Killer:" Identity Management and the Serial Homicide Offender. *Deviant Behavior*.
- Hickmon, N. * & Holt, K. (2025). Examining the Role of True Crime Podcasts in Facilitating Cold Case Solvability. *Journal of Crime and Popular Culture*, 25(2), 40 – 56.
- Rimer, J & Holt, K. (2024). "I'm a Monster, But I'm Not a *Monster*:" Symbolic and Social Boundaries Among Child Sexual Exploitation Material Users. *International Criminal Justice Review*.
- Holt, K. (2024). "Invisible Deaths": A Critical Analysis of the Study of Prison Homicide. *Homicide Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10887679241238181>
- Liggett-O'Malley, R., Holt, K., Holt, T., & Rodriguez, J.* (2023). Minor-Focused Sextortion by Adults: A Crime Script Analysis of Newspapers and Court Records. *Criminology & Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12634>
- Maas, M.K., Cary, K.M. *, O'Malley, R., Holt, K., & Ratan, R. (2023). Sexual Experiences and Attitudes Vary by Patterns of Pornography Genre Preference Among Women. *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 49(6), 659-672. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0092623x.2023.2174225>
- Cross, C., Holt, K., & Holt, T. (2023). To Pay or Not to Pay: An Exploratory Analysis of Sextortion in the Context of Romance Fraud. *Criminology and Criminal Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17488958221149581>

- Holt, K., Rojek, A., Mason, M. *, & Rothman, L. (2022). “Who is Where?” Cold Case Investigation and Collaborations Between Law Enforcement and Academia. *Homicide Studies*, 27(4), <https://doi.org/10.1177/10887679221137583>
- Osuna, A.* & Holt, K. (2022). Pornography Use and Sexual Scripts Among Men Who Have Committed Sexual Offenses. *Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221115647>
- Cross, C. Holt, K., O’Malley-Liggett, R. (2022). If You Don’t Pay They Will Share the Pics: Exploring Sextortion in the Context of Romance Fraud. *Victims and Offenders*, 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2022.2075064>
- Rimer, J. & Holt, K. (2022). “It Was in Control of Me”: Notions of Addiction and Online Child Sexual Exploitation Material Offending. *Sexual Abuse*.
- Holt, K., Kissinger, J., Spickler, C., & Roush, V. (2021). Pornography Use and Sexual Offending: An Examination of Perceptions of Role and Risk. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 1-25. <https://doi-g.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1177%2F0306624X211049183>
- Holt, K., Holt, T., Cale, J., Brewer, R. & Goldsmith, A. (2021). Assessing the Role of Self-Control and Technology Access on Adolescent Sexting and Sext Dissemination. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 125. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2021.106952>
- DeJong, C., Holt, K., Helms, B.*, & Morgan, S. * (2021). The Framing of Transgender Homicide in the United States. *Critical Criminology*, 29(1), 131-149. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-021-09559>
- Liggett-O’Malley, R.*, Holt, K. & Holt, T. (2020). An Examination of the Involuntary Celibate (Incel) Subculture Online. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1-28. <https://doi.org.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1177%2F0886260520959625>
- Liggett, R.* and Holt, K. (2020). Cyber Sextortion: An Exploratory Analysis of Different Perpetrators Engaging in A Similar Crime. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1-26. <https://doiorg.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1177%2F0886260520909186>
- Steinmetz, K., Holt, T., and Holt, K. (2020). Decoding the Binary: Reconsidering the Hacker Subculture Through a Gendered Lens. *Deviant Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2019.1596460>.
- Holt, K. and French, G.* (2019). Exploring the Motherhood Experiences of Active Methamphetamine Users. *Crime, Law, and Social Change*, 73, 297–314. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10611-019-09862-5>.
- Holt, K., Liggett, R.*, Lee, J.R. *, and Holt. T. (2019). Examining Self-Reported Physical Contact with Minors Among Pedophile Support Forum Users. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 64(4), 299-314. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0306624X19873084>.
- Pizzaro, J.M., Holt, K. and Pelletier, K.* (2019). An Examination of the Situated Transactions of Firearm Homicides. *Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, 42, 613-625. <https://doi.org.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1007/s10865-019-00050-3>
- Holt, T., Lee, J.R. *, Liggett, R. *, Holt, K., and Bossler, A. (2019). Examining Perceptions of Online Harassment among Constables in England and Wales. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, 2(1), 24-39.

- Holt, K. (2018). Seductive Events: A Critical Examination of Youth Sexting. *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology*, 6(2), 229-246. <https://doi.org/10.21428/88de04a1.01f36bfl>
- Holt, K. (2018). An Examination of Harm in the BDSM Community. *Violence and Victims*, 33(4), 663-685. <https://doi.org/10.1891/0886-6708.VV-D-16-00194>
- Holt, K. (2016). Blacklisted: Boundaries, Violations, and Retaliatory Behavior in the BDSM Community. *Deviant Behavior*, 37(8), p. 917-930. <https://doi.org.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1080/01639625.2016.1156982>
- Holt, K. & Massey, C. (2013). Sexual Preference or Opportunity: An Examination of Situational Factors by Gender of Victims of Clergy Abuse. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 25(6), 606-621. <https://doi-org.proxy1.cl.msu.edu/10.1177%2F1079063211425690>

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- Burden, M. & Holt, K. (2024). Image-Based Sexual Abuse. Crime Victims Institute.
- Holt, K. (2024). The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: Technical Report for the Michigan State Police.

BOOKS

- Holt, K. & Clevenger, S. (2022). *Understanding Sex Offenses*. First Edition. Cognella, Inc.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

- Smith, T. & Holt, K. (2025). Image-Based Sexual Abuse: The Non-Consensual Disclosure of Intimate Images in a Global Context. *Palgrave Handbook of Social Problems*.
- Holt, K. (2024). "Child Sexual Exploitation Online." In T. Holt (ed). *Crime Online*. Carolina Academic Press.
- Holt, T. & Holt, K. (2024). "Cybercrime." In M. Kaufmann and H.M. Lomell's (eds). *Handbook of Digital Criminology*.
- Holt, K. (2023). "Sexual Assault Survivors and the Negotiation of Safe BDSM Play." In B. Simula & R. Bauer's (eds). *Pleasure, Power, and Pain: Understanding BDSM Practices, Identities, & Communities*. Oxford University Press.
- Holt, K. and Liggett, R.* (2020). "Revenge Pornography." In T. Holt and A. Bossler (eds). *The Palgrave Handbook of International Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance*. Palgrave.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- Holt, K (2020). "Rape." In Bumgarner, J. and Lewandowski, C. (eds). *Criminal Justice in America: The Encyclopedia of Crime, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections*. ABC-CLIO.
- Holt, K. (2020). "Sexual Assault." In Bumgarner, J. and Lewandowski, C. (eds). *Criminal Justice in America: The Encyclopedia of Crime, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections*. ABC-CLIO.
- Holt, K. (2014). "Sadism and Masochism." In Copes, H. & Forsyth, C. (eds). *The Encyclopedia of Social Deviance*. Sage Publications.
- Holt, K. (2014). "Fetishes." In Copes, H. & Forsyth, C. (eds). *The Encyclopedia of Social Deviance*. Sage Publications.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Holt, K. (2024). Editorial Introduction to Homicide Studies Special Issue: Critical Perspectives on Homicide. *Homicide Studies*.

Salman, S. & Holt, K. (2014). In Memorium: Jock Young. *The Critical Criminologist*, 22(2), 7.

Cubelis, M. & Pepper, K. (2011). Routine Activities and Sexual Offending. *Sex Offender Law Report*, 12(2), 1.

Holt, T.J. & Pepper, K. (2011). Web Resources Used by Individuals Aroused by Children. *Sex Offender Law Report*, 12(1), 1.

Pepper, K. (2010). Synthesizing the Literature: Juvenile Sex Offenders. *Sex Offender Law Report*.

Pepper, K. (2009). Sex Offender Variations in Criminal Offending Challenge Strict Classifications as Generalists or Specialists. *Sex Offender Law Report*, 10(6), 85.

PUBLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/NEWSLETTERS

Burden, M*. & Holt, K. (2024). Image-based Sexual Abuse. Crime Victims Institute.
<http://www.crimevictimsinstitute.org/>

Mason, M*. & Holt, K. (2021). Deepfake Pornography: New Forms of Image-Based Sexual Harm and Sexual Abuse. Michigan Chapter for the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.
<https://miatsa.org/2021/12/19/deepfake-pornography-new-forms-of-image-based-harm-and-sexual-abuse/>

Holt, K., Kissinger, J., Spickler, C., & Roush, V. (2020). The Role of Pornography in Sexual Offending: An Examination of Risks and Perceptions. Michigan Chapter for the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. <https://miatsa.org/2020/02/29/the-role-of-pornography-in-sexual-offending-an-examination-of-risk-and-perceptions/>

Holt, K. & Liggett-O-Malley, R*. (2020). Researching Sexual Violence: Explorations Online. Michigan Chapter for the Association of the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.
<https://miatsa.org/2020/10/12/researching-sexual-violence-explorations-online/>

REPORTS

Holt, K. (2020). An Examination of the Relationship Between Perceived Role of Pornography in Sexual Offenses and STABLE-2007 Risk Assessment Items.

*denotes student

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

Michigan State University College of Social Science Dean's Institutional Access Award (April 2025)

American Criminal Justice Sciences Ken Peak Innovations in Teaching Award (March 2024)

Michigan State Police Ardis Renkoski Advocacy Award (May 2023)

College of Social Science Faculty Teaching Innovation Award (Awarded April 2023)

City Pulse Lansing's Top of the Town Best College Instructors (Awarded November 2022)

Creating Inclusive Excellence Grant Funding \$15,000 (Awarded December 2021)

Faculty Award, Salute to Latinas: Fuerza de la Mujer (Awarded October 2021)

President's Distinguished Award, Bucks County Community College (Awarded March 2021)

Internal Funding from the School of Criminal Justice \$25,000 (Awarded June 2018)

Internal Funding from the School of Criminal Justice \$5,000 (Awarded May 2017)

Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship (John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY, (2009 – 2014)
Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for Outstanding Contributions to Forensic Psychology, U.S.
Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Behavioral Science Unit (Awarded 2008)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Krupa, J. M., Fisher, T., McNealey, R. L., Holt, K., Holt, T. J. (November 2025). Advancing the Evidence-Based on Law Enforcement Training: Initial Results from an Evaluation of a Cyber Investigations Training. Paper accepted for presentation at the Human Factor in Cybercrime Conference. East Lansing, MI.

Krupa, J. M., Holt, T. J., Fisher, T., McNealey, R. L., Holt, K. (November 2025). Empowering Justice System Actors in the Digital Age: Pilot Study Results from a Cyber Investigations Training. Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA.

Holt, K. & Liggett-O'Malley, R. (September 2025). Crime Scripts, Offender Tactics, and Victim Impacts of Minor-Focused Sextortion. Paper accepted for presentation at the Association for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Abuse. Orlando, FL.

Holt, K. & Liggett-O'Malley, R. (June 2025). Shattered Assumptions: Understanding the Psychological Impact of Minor-Focused Sextortion. Paper presented at the 4th Counter Fraud, Cybercrime and Forensic Accounting Conference. Portsmouth, U.K.

Holt, K. & Liggett-O'Malley, R. (July 2024). Sextortion Victim Impact Statements. Paper presented at the British Society of Criminology. Glasgow, Scotland.

Holt, K. (June 2024). "I Am Not a Serial Killer:" Identity Management and the Serial Homicide Offender. Paper presented at the Homicide Research Working Group. Clearwater Beach, FL.

Holt, T.J., & K. Holt. (September 2023). Assessing the network structures of CSEM offenders online. European Society of Criminology meetings, Florence, Italy.

Harrison, A. & Holt, K. (August 2023). "Mindhunting" in Practice: Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Offender-Focused Investigations. Presented at the Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference, Dallas, TX.

Harrison, A. & Holt, K. (July 2023). "Mindhunting" in Practice: Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Offender-Focused Investigations. Presented at the 13th Child Advocacy Conference. Detroit, MI.

Holt, K. & Rojek, A. (June 2023). Examining Unsolved Prison Homicides. Paper presented at the Homicide Research Working Group, North Augusta, SC.

Harrison, A. & Holt, K. (April 2023). "Mindhunting" in Practice: Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Offender-Focused Investigations. Presented at the End Violence Against Women International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, and Fighting for Change, Chicago, IL.

Holt, K. (November 2022). Studying Online Aspects of Juvenile Offending Using Longitudinal Data. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Rothman, L., Rojek, A., & Holt, K. (October 2022). Cold Cases and a University: A Collaborative Model. Paper presented at the International Association of the Chiefs of Police Conference. Dallas, TX.

Liggett-O'Malley, R., Holt, K., Holt, T., Rodriguez, J. (September 2022). Exploring Minor-Focused Sextortion Using Crime Script Analysis. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the European Society of Criminology. Malaga, Spain.

Osuna, A.* & Holt, K. (September 2022). Sexual Scripting Among Men Who Have Committed Sexual Offenses. Paper presented at the Midwest Association of Criminology Annual Meeting.

Cross, C. & Holt, K. (November 2021). Exploring Sextortion in the Context of Romance Fraud. Paper presented at the Annual Human Factor in Cybercrime Conference. Montreal, Quebec.

Rimer, J. & Holt, K. (November 2021). Users of Online Child Sexual Exploitation Material and Notions of “Addiction.” Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL.

Holt, K. & Holt, T. (September 2021). Assessing the Intersection of Self-Control, Opportunity, and Sexting Behaviors among Australian Youth. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the European Society of Criminology. Online conference.

Liggett, R., Holt, K., & Holt, T. (November 2020). An Examination of the Involuntary Celibate (Incel) Subculture Online. Paper to be presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Washington, DC. **CANCELLED DUE TO COVID.**

Holt, K., Kissinger, J., Spickler, C., & Rousch, V. (September 2020). The Role of Pornography in Sexual Offending: Risk and Perceptions. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. **ONLINE DUE TO COVID.**

Mitchell, K. M., Ratan, R., Maas, M. K., Holt, K., Slaker, J. S., & Gambino, A. (May 2020). People Report Lower Relationship Satisfaction After Watching Virtual Reality Pornography than Flat Screen Pornography. International Communication Association 70th Annual Conference, Gold Coast, Australia. **ONLINE DUE TO COVID.**

Maas, M., Cary, K.M., Liggett, R., Holt, K., Schneider, J., Ratan, R., and Mitchell, K.M. (November 2019). Popular Porn Genres Among Women: A Heterogeneous Approach to Examining Correlates of Pornography Use. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Denver, Co.

Mitchell, K.M., Ratan, R., Maas, M., Holt, K., Slaker, J.S., and Gambino, A. (November 2019). Virtual Reality Pornography is Associated with Greater Rape Myth Acceptance, Relationship Dissatisfaction, and Self-reported Addiction. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. Denver, Co.

Holt, K. (November 2019). The Role of Pornography in Sexual Offending: Past Use and Perceived Future Risks. Paper presented at Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

Liggett, R. and Holt, K. (November 2019). Cyber Sextortion: An Exploratory Analysis of Different Perpetrators Engaging in A Similar Crime. Paper presented at Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

Pizzaro, J., Holt, K., Pelletier, K., and Zeoli, A. (May 2019). An Examination of the Situational Dynamics of Multicide Events. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the Homicide Research Working Group. Clearwater, Florida.

DeJong, C., Holt, K., and LaSala, M. (April 2019). The Framing of Transgender Homicide in the United States. Paper presented at the Critical Criminology Conference. Ypsilanti, MI.

Holt, K., Liggett, R., Lee, J. and Holt, T. (February 2019). A Qualitative Analysis of Those Who Disclose Contact Among Online Pedophile Forums. Paper presented at the Western Society of Criminology. Honolulu, HI.

Holt, K., Liggett, R., Lee, J. and Holt, T. (November 2018). Examining the Pedophile Subculture Online. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.

Holt, K. (November 2018). Stories and Counterstories: Narratives of Resistance among Mothers Who Use Meth. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA.

Holt, K. (November 2017). Exploring the Experience of Motherhood among Active Methamphetamine Users. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA.

Holt, K. (November 2015). Slipping Behind the Id: Barriers to Consent in BDSM. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Washington, D.C.

Holt, K. (November 2014). Examining Predation and Protection from Victimization in a BDSM Subculture. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

Holt, K. (April 2013). Constructing Consent. Paper presented at the University of Kent, Common Study Programme in Critical Criminology. London, England.

Holt, K. (November 2012). Examining Coercion and Harm in a BDSM Subculture. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL.

Holt, K. & Holt, T. (March 2012). From Cyberspace to Subspace: A Qualitative Analysis of Dominatrix Advertisements Online. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Criminal Justice Sciences. New York, NY.

Pepper, K. & Holt, T. (November 2011). Exploring the Argot of Pedophiles Online. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. Washington, D.C.

Pepper, K. & Massey, C. (November 2010). Sexual Preference or Opportunity: An Examination of Situational Factors by Gender of the Victim. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

West, V., Gentry, K., Hiropolous, A. & Pepper, K. (November 2010). The Spatial Concentration and Dependence of Capital Sentencing. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA.

Pepper, K. (February 2010). Patterns of Sexual Offending in the Catholic Church. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Criminal Justice Sciences. San Diego, CA.

Pepper, K. and Terry, K. (November 2009). Serial Rapists: Specialized Sexual Offenders or Versatile Criminals? Poster presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Pepper, K. (May 2009). Serial Rapists: Specialized Sexual Offenders or Versatile Criminals? Paper presented at John Jay's Celebrating Student Research Event, New York, NY.

Neimeyer, E., Pepper, K., and Salfati, C.G. (November 2008). Avoiding Detection: An Examination of Adaptive and Maladaptive Behaviors in Serial Homicide. Poster presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, St. Louis, MO.

Miller, J., Pepper, K., Lee, D., and Jubilan, B. (March 2007). Effects of Aggression in Urinary Dopamine Levels in Male Mice. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Pepper, K. and McGrain, P. (November 2006). The Role of Deviant Fantasy in Sexual Offending. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Los Angeles, CA.

Pepper, K. and Van Horn, C. (April 2005). Looking into the Abyss: Attributions of Evil. Paper presented at the Lehigh Valley Undergraduate Psychology Conference. Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA.

INVITED TALKS

Holt, K. (2025). Understanding and Utilizing Offender Behavior. City of Flint Police Department: Standing Against Pedophiles and Predators While Honoring Individual Rights and Empowering Survivors. Flint, MI

Holt, K. (June 2025). Let's Talk About Sex: Candor, Curiosity and Continued Conversations. Ingham County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Summit. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (2025). Sexual Assault Kit Initiative: Findings from Michigan and Beyond. Ingham County Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Summit. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (February 2025). Sextortion Offenders. Presentation for Les3sex.com. Montreal, Quebec.

Holt, K. (November 2024). Understanding Sexual Offending. Presentation for the Sexual Assault Investigators Ontario Police. Niagara Fall, Ontario.

Holt, K. (August 2024). Enter the Mind of a Criminal. City of Flint Police Department: Standing Against Pedophiles and Predators While Honoring Individual Rights and Empowering Survivors. Flint, MI.

Holt, K. (2024). SAKI is About the Future. Wayne County Prosecutors Office. Detroit, MI.

Holt, K. (June 2024). SAKI is About the Future. Ingham/Jackson Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Summit. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (February 2024). Cold Case Offender-Focused Investigations. Town and Gown Series, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI.

Merritt, J. & Holt, K. (June 2023). "Mindhunting" in Practice: Multidisciplinary Collaborations in Offender-Focused Investigations. Ingham/Jackson Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Summit. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (June 2023). Offender-Focused Investigations: Education to Application. Ingham/Jackson Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Summit. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (March 2023). Sextortion. Greeks Take the Lead, Michigan State University Office for Prevention, Outreach, and Education.

Holt, K. (January 2023). Online Child Sexual Exploitation: Emerging Issues and Trends. State Court Administrators. Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect (GTF) Training Sub-Committee.

Holt, K. (December 2022). Exploring Minor-Focused Sextortion. Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect 26th Annual Summit. Detroit, MI.

Holt, K. (November 2022). Roundtable Discussion with Award Winning Teachers. School of Social Science Dean's Research Associate Program.

Holt, K. (April 2022). Understanding Sextortion. Les3sex.com Panel discussion. Online.

Holt, K. (June 2022). Child Sexual Abuse Investigation Two-Day Continuum Conference. Michigan State Court Administrator's Office.

Holt, K., Rojek, A., Rothman, L., Evans, R., & Zelinski, R. (May 2022). Updates: The Homicide of Mary Alice Ellicott. Presentation to the SuperSleuths.

Holt, K., Rojek, A., Rothman, L., Evans, R., & Zelinski, R. (2022). The Homicide of Mary Alice Ellicott. Presentation to the SuperSleuths.

Holt, K. (2021). Empowering Women and Girls through Creating an Inclusive Cyberspace. United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women. Online.

Holt, K. (2019). The Experience of Harm Among BDSM Participants: Implications for Title IX. Paper presented at Title IX Professionals Conference, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.

Ratan, R., Holt, K. and Maas, M. (2018). Time of Crisis in the Changing World of Social Media. Michigan State University Police Executive Development Series.

Holt, K. (2018). Sex Offender Rehabilitation and Treatment: Implications for Sex Trafficking. Michigan State University Visiting International Professional Program, East Lansing, MI.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

Holt, K. and Eddy, D. (July 2025). Scenario-based Death Investigation: Bridging Theoretical Evidence and Practical Application. Training for Law Enforcement, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI.

Holt, T. & Holt, K. (January 2025). Cybercrime Training for the Michigan Department of Corrections. Center For Cybercrime Investigation and Training. East Lansing, MI.

Holt, K. (September 2024). Inside the Mind: Understanding Sexual Offending. Presentation for the Michigan Department of Corrections Sex Offender Management Unit Conference. Whitmore Lake, Michigan.

Holt, K. and Eddy, D. (September 2024). Scenario-based Death Investigation: Bridging Theoretical Evidence and Practical Application. Training for Law Enforcement, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Allendale, MI.

Holt, K., Kissinger, J. & Spickler, C. (August 2024). Comfortably Uncomfortable: Destigmatizing Conversations About Sexuality and Sexual Abuse. State Court Administrators. Livonia, MI.

Holt, K. and Eddy, D. (July 2024). Scenario-based Death Investigation: Bridging Theoretical Evidence and Practical Application. Training for Law Enforcement, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI.

Pignataro, J., Suarez, C., & Holt, K. (February 2024). No body homicide: A case study. International Homicide Association Foundational Homicide Investigations Course. Cedar Springs, MI.

Rothman, L. & Holt, K. (October 2023). Cold Cases and a University. FIGG Webinar Series for Law Enforcement. QIAGEN HID Forensics.

Holt, K. & Spickler, C. (July 2023). Understanding Sexual Offenders. State Court Administrators. Lansing MI.

Holt, K., Merritt, J., & Rojek, A. (July 2023). Scenario-based Death Investigation: Bridging Theoretical Evidence and Practical Application. Training for Law Enforcement, Northern Michigan University.

Holt, K., Kissinger, J., & Spickler, C. (May 2023). Understanding Sexual Offenders. Training for the Michigan Parole Board.

Holt, K., Kissinger, J., & Spickler, C. (November 2022). Inside the Mind of the Sexual Offender. Training for the Michigan State Police.

Holt, K., Kissinger, J., & Spickler, C. (August 2022). Inside the Mind of the Sexual Offender. Training for the Michigan State Police.

Bess, E., Crocilla, T., & Holt, K. (August 2022). The Role of Pornography in Sex Offender Supervision and Treatment. Training for the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Holt, K. & Rojek, A. (July 2022). Victimology and Suspectology in Homicide Investigation. Scenario-based Death Investigation. Training for Law Enforcement, Northern Michigan University.

Bess, E., Crocilla, T., & Holt, K. (September 2021). The Role of Pornography in Sex Offender Supervision and Treatment. Training delivered to the Michigan Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

COURSES TAUGHT

GEO211 The Criminology of Lived Experience (Social Science Scholars course)

HIST455 The Criminology of Violence (Social Science Scholars course)

SOC203 Introduction to Criminological Theory (Undergraduate level course)

CJ304 01 Introductions to Corrections (Undergraduate level course)

CRJU 2131 Justice and Ethics (Undergraduate level course)

CRJU 3631 Criminal Justice Policy (Undergraduate level course)

CRJU 4231 Research Methods (Undergraduate level course)

CRJU 2131 Theories of Justice (Undergraduate level course)

CJ110 Introduction to Criminal Justice (Undergraduate level course)

CRJU 3533 Vulnerable Populations (Undergraduate level course)

CJ491 Sexual Offending (Undergraduate level course)

CSJU 202 Introduction to Cybercrime (Undergraduate level course)

CJ491 Violence and Victims (Undergraduate level course)

CJ427 Criminology and Public Policy (Undergraduate course)

CJ220 Criminology (Undergraduate level course)

CJ424 Crime, Mass Media, and Society (Undergraduate level course)

CJ493 Pornography and Sexual Offending

CJ890 Image-Based Sexual Abuse: Implications for Practice (Graduate level course)

CJ890 Qualitative Methods (Graduate level course)

CJ490 Offender Profiling (Undergraduate level course)

CJ490 Gender, Power, and Institutions (Undergraduate level course)

CJ490 Cold Case Investigation (Undergraduate level course)
CJ890 Sexual Offending (Graduate level course)
CJ890 Thematic Analysis (Graduate level course)
ISS327 Risk and Society (Undergraduate level course)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MENTOR (URAF)

Gabrielle French (Faculty Mentor) Summer 2017 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
Gabrielle French (Faculty Mentor) Fall 2017 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
Mya Trevino (Faculty Mentor) Summer 2020 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
Mya Trevino (Faculty Mentor) Fall 2020 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
Taylor Murdoch (Faculty Mentor) Fall 2023 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award
Alexa Banning (Faculty Mentor) Fall 2024 Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award

MASTERS THESIS COMMITTEES

Natalie Rivera, Michigan State University (Committee member). Type of Abuse and Help-Seeking: A Comparative Study of Latina Women Differing in Ethnic Identification. Proposal defended 3/20/24. Thesis defended 5/7/24.

Kayla Hoskins, Michigan State University (Committee member). Women Offenders' Response to Victimization and Trauma and its relationship with Satisfaction with Life, Mental Illness, and Substance Abuse. Proposal defended 1/27/2017. Thesis defended 8/3/2017.

Sklyer Morgan, Michigan State University (Committee member). The Media's Representation of Gender and Terrorism. Proposal defended 10/27/18. Thesis defended 4/24/2019.

Francesca Fanucchi, San Jose State University (Committee member). The Promotion of Extremist Ideologies Within Online Incel Communities. Proposal defended 11/17/2020. These defended 4/12/23.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Rachel Corsello. University of Cincinnati. (Committee member). Prevalence and Consequences of Abuse Within Insular Behavior Modification Programs. Proposal defended 9/2024.

Makayla Burden, Michigan State University. Military Sexual Trauma Among Female Veterans in Michigan. (Committee member.) Dissertation proposal defended 9/24/24.

Amanda Witwer. Michigan State University. Appellate Court Review of Sentencing Guideline Departures Through the Lens of Focal Concerns Theory. Dissertation proposal defended 1/31/25.

Daniella Ferrante. Michigan State University.

Yang Vincent Liu. Michigan State University. A Qualitative Inquiry of Digital Voyeurism (Toupai) Among Chinese Men Attracted to Men. (Committee Member.) Dissertation proposal defended 11/4/2024.

Brenna Helm, Michigan State University. Racial and Ethnically Motivated Crimes. (Committee member.) Dissertation proposal defense defended 11/20/23.

Elizabeth Adams, Michigan State University. "I Don't Got My Baby; I Don't Got Nobody": Parenting Problems and Ideologies Among Women on Probation and Parole. (Committee member.) Dissertation defended 10/19/23.

Jennifer Paruk, Michigan State University. Family Member and Intimate Partner Efforts to Prevent Firearm Access for Those at Risk of Harming Themselves or Others. (Dissertation chair.) Proposal defended 11/3/2022. Dissertation defended 7/13/23.

Roberta Liggett-O'Malley, Michigan State University. Connecting Neighborhoods and Psychosocial Development: Exploring Racial Disparities in Youth Violence. (Committee member). Proposal defended 10/29/2020. Dissertation defended 8/2/2021.

Kayla Hoskins, Michigan State University. Clients' Trauma Disclosure to Probation and Parole Agents and the Outcomes of Disclosure. (Committee member.) Dissertation defended 4/21/23.

Meagan Abel, Michigan State University. Media Framing of Mass Shootings. (Committee member). Proposal defended 10/13/2021. Dissertation defended 3/17/2023.

Amanda Osuna, Michigan State University. Understanding Vulnerability in the Student-University Trust Relationship. (Committee member). Proposal defended 8/31/2022. Dissertation defended 4/25/23.

ADVISING

GRADUATE ADVISING COMMITTEES

Amanda Osuna, Michigan State University (Chair)
Vince Liu, Michigan State University (Chair)
Makayla Mason, Michigan State University (Chair)

TEACHING ADVISING

James Carr, Michigan State University (Spring 2021)
Jin Lee, Michigan State University (Spring 2021)
Vince Liu, Michigan State University (Spring 2023, 2024)

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

Dean's Advisory Council for Diversity and Inclusion (2023- present)
Deans Engaged Learning Committee (2023 – present)
College of Social Science Dean Search (2022-2023)

SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

DEI Coordinator for the School of Criminal Justice (2023- present)
School of Criminal Justice Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee (co-chair, 2020-2022)
Undergraduate Committee, Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice (2020-present)
Tier II Writing Initiative Committee, Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice (2017-present)
Faculty advisor for MSU Student Cold Case Unit (2018-present)
Faculty director for Strengthening Teen Relationships and Inspiring Valuable Experiences (STRIVE) program (2015-2019)
Student Event: An Invitation to Murder: The Vidocq Society (Fall 2017)
Diversity and Inclusivity Committee, Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice (2017-2018)
STRIVE Program, Faculty Supervisor, Michigan State University (2015- 2018)
John Jay College of Criminal Justice Doctoral Program Admissions Committee (Fall 2011)
Common Studies Programme (Fall 2011)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Editorial board member for *Homicide Studies* (2022-present)

Peer reviewer for the following scholarly journals:

Global Crime
Journal of Forensic Psychology Research
European Journal of Criminology
Trauma, Violence, and Abuse
Behavior and Information Technology
Criminology and Public Policy
Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology
Journal of Criminal Justice
New Media and Society
Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology
Sexualities
Policing: An International Journal
Criminal Justice and Behavior
Archives of Sexual Behavior
Journal of Sex Research
Homicide Studies
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry
Deviant Behavior
Sexual Offending: Theory, Research, and Prevention
Computers and Human Behavior

Peer reviewer for the following book presses:

Oxford University Press
Routledge
Rutgers University Press
Rowan and Littlefield

Reviewer for the following foundations:

National Science Foundation
Fulbright Commission
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)

American Society of Criminology - Teaching and Pedagogy Committee (2019)

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect's Training and Child Death Investigation Protocol Subcommittee (2023 – present)
Cold Case Foundation (2021 – present)
Michigan State Police Cold Case Review Team (2020 – 2023)
Grant reviewer for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Victims of Crime Assistance: Sexual Assault Victim Services (2019)
Board of Directors, Small Talk, Children's Advocacy Center (2018- present)
Executive Board of Directors, Small Talk, Children's Advocacy Center (2021-present)
Board of Directors, Michigan Chapter of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (2020-present)

OUTREACH

STRIVE faculty member, Michigan State University & Ingham County Court (2015-2019)
ANCHOR program team member, Ingham County Family Court Division (2019-2020)
Presenter at Grand Valley State University Title IX Professionals Conference (May 2019)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
International Association of Homicide Investigators
Homicide Research Working Group
Cold Case Foundation
Society for Police and Criminal Psychology
Supersleuths
American Society of Criminology
Diversity Research Network
Michigan State Women of Color Community
Chicanx/Latinx Association at Michigan State University
Core Faculty Member of Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen) - Michigan State University
Research Consortium for Gender Based Violence – Michigan State University
Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA)
Michigan Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse (MI-ATSA)

MEDIA

SCHOOL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE FEATURES

<https://criminaljustice.msu.edu/news/2025-holt-css-award.html>
Innovation in Teaching Award: <https://cj.msu.edu/news/2023-rojek-holt-award.html>
Hispanic Heritage Month Feature: <https://cj.msu.edu/news/diversity-spotlight-holt.html>
Faculty Spotlight Series: <https://cj.msu.edu/news/fss-karen-holt.html>
Karen Holt Wins Award: <https://cj.msu.edu/news/2021-holt-award.html>
MSU and MSP Partner To Investigate Cold Cases: <https://cj.msu.edu/news/2022-cold-case.html>

WORK FEATURED IN ONLINE ARTICLES

<https://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2025/msu-professors-research-aims-to-hold-offenders-of-michigan-cold-case-sex-crimes-accountable> (2025)

[Michigan Department of Corrections gets cybercrime training at Michigan State University](#) (2025)

https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/stories/experts-people-we-trust-target-youth-for-sex,116205#google_vignette (2025)

https://statenews.com/article/2024/03/has-true-crime-become-sensationalized-msu-experts-students-weigh-in?ct=content_open&cv=cbox_latest (2024)

<https://www.wlns.com/news/sheriff-researcher-break-down-child-predator-stings/> (2024)

WLNS 6 News. (January 2023). Experts Say Sextortion Cases are On the Rise.
<https://www.wlns.com/news/experts-federal-officials-say-sex-tortion-cases-are-on-the-rise/>

Psychology Today. (August 2022). “Most Sex Offenders Do Not Rely on Scripts Learned From Porn.”
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/articles-heterodoxy/202208/most-sex-offenders-do-not-rely-scripts-learned-porn>

Michigan State University, MSU Police. (March 2022) “Sextortion and How to Prevent It.”
<https://police.msu.edu/2022/03/16/what-is-sex-tortion-and-how-to-prevent-it/>

The Saline Post. (April 2022). “Cold Case: MSU Students, State Police, and Retired SPD Officers Investigating 41-Year-Old Murder.” <https://thesalinepost.com/g/saline-mi/n/73459/cold-case-msu-students-state-police-and-retired-spd-officers-investigating-41>

WILX10 (April 2022). “Michigan State Police Seek Information in 1981 Homicide of 29-year-old Woman.” <https://www.wilx.com/2022/04/07/michigan-state-police-seek-information-1981-homicide-29-year-old-woman/>

MLive. (May 2022). CSI East Lansing? Michigan State Class Helping Police with 41-Year-Old Murder Case. <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-l-d&q=mlive+csi+east+lansing>

A&E True Crime Blog: Stories and News. (June 2022). “Sextortion in America: A Cybercrime That’s Stealing Money – and Taking Lives.” <https://www.aetv.com/real-crime/what-is-sex-tortion>

Michigan State University. MSU Police. (March 2022). “What is Sextortion and How to Prevent It.” <https://police.msu.edu/2022/03/16/what-is-sex-tortion-and-how-to-prevent-it/>

Futurity, Caroline Brooks (April 2020). “Watch Out for the Latest Internet Scam: Sextortion.” <https://www.futurity.org/sex-tortion-email-scam-2344122/>

The Independent (Fall 2020). “Sextortion Needs to Be Tackled Globally.” <https://m.theindependentbd.com/home/printnews/255367>

Bright Surf Science News (April 2020). “Protecting Yourself from the Latest Internet Sex Crime.” <https://www.brightsurf.com/news/article/042120507964/protecting-yourself-from-the-latest-internet-sex-crime.html>

AUTHORED ONLINE ARTICLES

The Saline Post (2022). “Finding the Alteration: A Cold Case Investigation in Saline.” <https://thesalinepost.com/g/saline-mi/n/76484/finding-alteration-cold-case-investigation-saline>

RADIO

ABC Adelaide, Australia (September 2021). Evenings with Peter Goers. [https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.abc.net.au/radio/adelaide/programs/evenings/__;!!HXCxUKc!lyKcJtLPNI7ORAHXIjdQAfmdULGp0xmLE9D8glkTUXPZQ0yiTef5bEjvQRvTa4Xa\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.abc.net.au/radio/adelaide/programs/evenings/__;!!HXCxUKc!lyKcJtLPNI7ORAHXIjdQAfmdULGp0xmLE9D8glkTUXPZQ0yiTef5bEjvQRvTa4Xa$)

PODCASTS

Michigan State University Center for Cybercrime Investigation Podcast (February 2025)
I Heart Radio (October 2024)

Violent Ends (September 2024)

Women and Justice. (March 2024).

Violent Ends. 100th Episode. (April 2, 2023).

Jamie Roxx’s Pop Roxx Radio. (April 2022). Episode 1225. “Cold Case Homicide Review Team.”

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.PopRoxxRadio.com__;!!HXCxUKc!hTtGSbsrxL1ciyewPRWc_C0NXdp-hRaJMDE9NdYyeHfSPVGsfRDu48RKLjt6jwEg\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http://www.PopRoxxRadio.com__;!!HXCxUKc!hTtGSbsrxL1ciyewPRWc_C0NXdp-hRaJMDE9NdYyeHfSPVGsfRDu48RKLjt6jwEg$)

<https://www.audacy.com/wwjnewsradio/podcasts/the-daily-j-30633/a-decades-old-michigan-murder-mystery-has-been-solved-but-was-it-solved-ethically-1524007404>

TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

Alysia Sofias. (April 2022). “Inside the Mind of Dana Uhle.”

WLNS, Sarah Al-Shaikh. (October 2021). "Sextortion Among Students."

<https://www.wlns.com/news/from-friend-request-to-money-request-cyber-sextortion-targeting-more-young-people-in-michigan/>

<https://www.wilx.com/2025/04/23/msu-professor-helps-with-sexual-assault-cold-cases/>