

Professional Leave Report Cover Sheet

Name: Hollianne Marshall

Department: Criminology

College: COSS

Leave taken: Sabbatical Difference in Pay Professional Leave without Pay

Time Period: Fall
 Spring 2023
 Academic Year
 Other

Your report will be sent to your Dean for your PAF and to the Library Archives.

Section 1. Reporting on the Success of the Leave

a) an analysis of the accomplishments of the leave in relation to the objectives / goals of the original proposal;

During my sabbatical leave in the Spring of 2023, I was able to complete an important project that examines the changes in organized crime drug trafficking practices during the COVID 19-pandemic relative to the global changes in border policies and stay at home orders. The conditions for a natural experiment are useful to understanding best practice when controlling transnational organized crime. Currently, there has not been a comprehensive study on this issue, and we have never before experienced global border closures all at once which makes this a particularly interesting project. Many trade publications have been written by various law enforcement agencies giving an overview of current data, but academic research has been slow surrounding this issue. The leave was well spent engaging in this study and learning new things to add to my current knowledge and the existing literature.

The general objectives of this leave were:

- **To utilize time for focused research**
 - This objective was achieved with the time granted for sabbatical
- **To finish data collection**
 - This objective was achieved. I was able to collect data from 2018 through 2022 from various agencies in the United States and Europe (U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United Nations office of Drug Crime, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Europol) on their surveillance of drug trafficking. The purpose of this was to observe the changes to organized crime trafficking practices and patterns related to the changes in border security and stay at home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. These data include information on changes in smuggling and delivery methods, organized crime networks, as well as which organized crime groups are engaged in particular methods. These data also include information on drug type, drug pricing, commonly seized quantities, trafficking patterns, drug use, and demographic data. Because each agency tracks different data, I was able to take data from all over the world and condense various data points into one comprehensive dataset. These data will be useful to many law enforcement agencies in its raw form, but also through the analysis and publication.
- **To engage in data analysis**
 - This was achieved, and has revealed interesting results surrounding aspects of drug trafficking patterns, popular substances, and the organized crime groups that engage with this type of industry.

- **To complete a book-length manuscript for publication.**
 - This was achieved through additional time for writing. The manuscript is nearly complete and a book proposal with chapters has been sent out to publishers for review as of December 2023

The general objectives of my project were:

- **To contribute to the academic discourse on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking with new data and statistical models**
 - This objective was achieved. With global border closures, no one has yet engaged in data analysis of drug trafficking, or how trafficking patterns might change. Data show that organized crime groups switched modes of transportation (leaving air traffic and reverting to more maritime shipping for large quantities of cocaine), and utilizing drones for lighter weight substances (heroin/cannabis). Individual drug trafficking, at the street level, increasingly occurred via home delivery from grocery and other local goods and services deliveries. Methods of packaging and even the cooperation between organized crime groups and legitimate corporations to move illegal substances across the globe changed significantly. In particular, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a many large quantities of drugs were trafficked through boxes of medical equipment (ventilators and masks) as well as agricultural shipping (fertilizer, avocados and bananas, etc.). During this time, legitimate manufacturing was slowed, and in many cases stopped altogether. This changed the availability of “precursors,” which are ingredients necessary to manufacture illicit drugs (baking soda, batteries, etc.). The opportunity to engage in this research has created a significant understanding of how quickly the organized crime business models can change, even with higher level security. Completing this project enabled me to write substantial research, and complete the remaining 2 chapters of my planned book. The last 2 chapters address the new changes in border and travel policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of more surveilled movement, how this affects trafficking, how this affects the criminal organizations as a whole, and which new trafficking practices has emerged with a new structure of markets in the EU and the U.S. These chapters also address the impact of these changes on law enforcement. This will be part of a book tentatively titled *Border Security and Organized Crime: Criminological, Structural, and Political Impacts*.

I was also invited to present my findings from this project. First, at the University of Applied Sciences, Niederrhein, *Organizational and Systemic Changes in Drug Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Preliminary Analysis* (March 22, 2023). Next, I presented at the Inter-University Center Dubrovnik, *Analysis of Border Closures: Changes in Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking* (May 16, 2023).

- **To enhance public safety through new understandings of organized crime trafficking and networks and how to better combat this and reduce related violence.**
 - There are many insights that have come out of this data analysis that can assist law enforcement and border patrol officers globally. Because of this analysis, it can be easier to identify trafficking through the newer methods, especially when commercially shipping is assisted by larger legitimate corporations. This has also shed light on the increased use of the darknet for purchasing and shipping illegal substances. The use of the darknet has increased in the United States and Europe exponentially since 2019 and exploded during the years of 2020-2021 when borders were closed and/or more secure. I was able to analyze patterns of drug trafficking through the darknet, and even discover that the mail is still a prominent mode of delivery at present. During this time, I engaged with many different law enforcement agencies (Customs and Border Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation) to understand best practice, various legal boundaries (constitutional), and create longstanding relationships with these agencies for continued learning and research.

(b) a description of the modifications, if any, of the original proposal and the circumstances with which necessitated these modifications.

No modifications were needed to complete this project, agency data collection and publication lagged at points, but this self-corrected during the course of the project.

(c) the goals of the original proposal, that were not accomplished

N/A

Section 2. Benefits to you as a faculty member

Understanding organized crime has been a passion of mine for over a decade, I teach in this area and consistently publish in this area; this project has been one of my favorites and has increased my expertise in this subject area. To date, I have focused more on the social dynamics of organized crime neighborhoods in urban areas. This project allowed me to expand beyond these small micro level analyses into a more macro analysis of organized crime illicit business practices. I have been able to gain a better understanding of the organizational and network dynamics of transnational organized crime, provide me with new ideas for readings and projects for my students. This project has resulted in many opportunities to work with new law enforcement agencies and new faculty, expanding my network for future research and grant activities.

Because my specialization is in organized crime, this opportunity for leave to complete my project has afforded me more time for expertise on this subject matter, which is key to enhancing my teaching and staying current with my research. This leave has provided me with opportunities to teach on this topic at Fresno State and abroad, and also given me opportunities provide my expertise to law enforcement agencies.

Through what I have learned during this leave, and this project, I am able to include current non-traditional methods of trafficking and organized crime operations topics in the classroom. Much of this is not yet found in textbooks so, this leave has given me the opportunity to become current and timely with the changing organized crime industry.

Because I teach statistics for the Criminology department, I am able to use my methods of data collection and analysis from this project to teach the students using real-world applications. This project has a given me more insight in the realm of data and analytics, but has also become valuable for keeping students engaged and creating a better understanding of how data collection and statistical methods can be applied. This has strengthened not only attendance, but classroom engagement. Students are leaving class with stronger and current knowledge of organized crime and also data analysis. In my more traditional criminology classes, I was able to bring in more guest speakers from various federal agencies, as I utilized some of my time on this leave to network these connections. Students really enjoy learning engaging with law enforcement because this helps them shape their goals within this option of the Criminology major.

This project has led to what will likely be some interesting collaborations through grants with law enforcement agencies, as well as other academics who have expressed interest in including this topic of organized crime and drug trafficking in public health research.

Section 3: Benefit to the University

Engaging in this scholarly endeavor has benefitted the Department of Criminology as it increased my relationship and interaction with law enforcement agencies and crime data collection agencies, which is important to my position in the Law Enforcement option. The large-scale data collection and analyses has been beneficial to my research methods and statistics students as I will be able to develop new class projects from my data and research; the College of Social Sciences through enhancing student scholarship and engagement. Additionally, making global connections with law enforcement agencies and with professors and students at universities in Europe has created more opportunities for research and visibility of Fresno State, internationally. Publishing this research will also enhance my presence in the

criminological community and the international community as an academic and a representative of Fresno State.

In sum, this sabbatical leave allowed me to accomplish goals necessary to achieve promotion to full professor, finish working on a book length manuscript that has become an important project for me, and created an opportunity for focused work to sharpen my skills as a researcher and statistician. There has also been opportunity for focused knowledge that has already enhanced my course curriculum. This research was an opportunity to add to the academic discourse on the issues of transnational organized crime drug trafficking. This research sheds light on the benefits and draw backs of increased border security both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. New understandings of organized crime networks and methods of trafficking can enhance public safety by identifying new trafficking patterns and organizational changes. This could also have a significant impact on the reduction of organized crime and violence related to trafficking as a whole. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this important project through sabbatical leave.

Section 4. Original Proposal

See Attached.

Section 5. Seminar

I was invited to present research during this time.

- University of Applied Sciences, Niederrhein, *Organizational and Systemic Changes in Drug Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Preliminary Analysis* (March 22, 2023).
- Inter-University Center Dubrovnik, *Analysis of Border Closures: Changes in Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking* (May 16, 2023).

Section 1. The Proposal

I am applying for a sabbatical leave for the Spring of 2023. If granted, I would be able to complete an important project that examines the changes in organized crime drug trafficking practices during the COVID 19-pandemic relative to the global changes in border policies and stay at home orders. These conditions for a natural experiment are useful to understanding best practice when controlling transnational organized crime. Currently, there has not been a comprehensive study on this issue. Many trade publications have been written by various law enforcement agencies giving an overview of current data, but academic research has been slow surrounding this issue. Below is a brief summary of current and available academic research on this topic:

Current Research	Summary	Methods
De la Miyar, J. R. B., Hoehn-Velasco, L., & Silverio-Murillo, A. (2021). Druglords don't stay at home: COVID-19 pandemic and crime patterns in Mexico City. <i>Journal of Criminal Justice</i> , 72, 101745.	Looks at Mexico City changes in illicit business practice during the pandemic.	Traditional crime data No data related to trafficking Event study
Gomez, C. T. (2020). Organised Crime Governance in Times of Pandemic: The Impact of COVID-19 on Gangs and Drug Cartels in Colombia and Mexico. <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> , 39, 12-15.	Discusses the reliance of Columbian and Mexican communities on organized crime for protection, particularly in moments of confusion and fear.	Observation
Namli, U. (2021). Behavioral Changes among Street Level Drug Trafficking Organizations and the Fluctuation in Drug Prices Before and During the Covid-19 Pandemic. <i>American Journal of Qualitative Research</i> , 5(1), 1-22.	Focused on behavioral changes in street-level drug trafficking organizations and drug price fluctuations at the retail level during the COVID-19 in Germany	Narrative Analysis
Palamar, J. J., Le, A., Carr, T. H., & Cottler, L. B. (2021). Shifts in drug seizures in the United States during the	examined trends in drug seizures in the US from March 2019 through September 2020.	Secondary data analysis of seizure data in the United States

COVID-19 pandemic. <i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i> , 221, 108580.		
Pardo, B. (2021). Supplying synthetic opioids during a pandemic: an early look at North America. <i>International Journal of Drug Policy</i> , 93, 102833.	Discussing production of fentanyl in China and Mexico	Literature review on unregulated production in China and Mexico during pandemic. Discussion of drug policy implications.

My proposed research differs from the current publications because this will be quantitatively focused, accessing a wide range of data, and evaluating many networks and patterns of drug trafficking beyond single locations.

My previous publications focus on the social dynamics of organized crime communities in New York City and Chicago and the impact on neighboring communities. However, in recent years I have moved into the area of transnational organized crime trafficking, focused on several predominant organized crime groups in Europe (Russia, Italy, Armenia, etc.) and the “Golden Triangle” (Thailand, Laos, Myanmar). I have a few articles written already focused on issues with organized crime trafficking (that I have presented at various conferences in 2019 and 2020) and feel that now would be the best time to put this together into a book, particularly in lieu of the recent changes to border security and organized crime trafficking practices. These ideas fit together well for a thorough understanding of this issue.

This is my 8th year at Fresno State (with 1 year service credit) and during my time here I have spent 5 years running the graduate program for the Department of Criminology, as well as teaching a full course load, participating college and University service including Academic Senate, and maintaining my publication record and grant work to acquire tenure. However, as the scope of my research has grown larger, sabbatical leave will allow time to focus on my research and publications as I move toward my next promotion.

a. The general objectives of this leave are:

- To utilize time for focused research
- To finish data collection
- To engage in data analysis
- To complete a book-length manuscript for publication.

The general objectives of my project are:

- To contribute to the academic discourse on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking with new data and statistical models

- To enhance public safety through new understandings of organized crime trafficking and networks and how to better combat this and reduce related violence.
- b. Much of this manuscript has already been written over the last 2 years, and this is a summary of my plan for a book length manuscript to include the work I have been doing and the work I will do over the next year anticipating sabbatical. The first 3 chapters are complete, the 4th chapter is nearly completed.
- The first chapter of my book covers a general understanding of organized crime and transnational organized crime to provide a foundation for the rest of the book. This chapter highlights what is considered organized crime (including state sponsored crime), the most prominent transnational organized crime groups, and which trafficking industries are most common for each group. This chapter also discusses various transnational organized crime group hierarchies.
 - The second chapter looks at the method of trafficking preferred by a criminal organization, relative to the goods being trafficked. For example, cruise ships are often used for trafficking illegal arms and illicit substances, commercial airlines are used most often for trafficking humans. This chapter classifies and clarifies these trafficking methods and covers the extensive prior research on transnational trafficking networks.
 - The third chapter examines the various types of trafficking victims, victim experiences, and comparison of global policies on the handling of trafficking victims. Often victims of drugs and arms trafficking are ignored, and this chapter addresses this issue as well.
 - The Fourth Chapter of my book focuses on the evolution of border and seizure policies in the European Union (EU) and the United States (U.S.). Since the 1970s, border security has heavily increased all over the world, however in recent years, the European Union has been known for its “weak” or permeable borders as EU members travel freely between participating countries. This has enhanced the ability of transnational organized crime and trafficking to flourish, and this chapter discusses many of the relationships between border policies and the control of trafficking
 - The last 2 chapters plan to address the new changes in border and travel policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of more surveilled movement, how this affects trafficking, how this affects the criminal organizations as a whole, and which new trafficking practices has emerged with a new structure of markets in the EU and the U.S. These chapters will also address the impact of these changes on law enforcement

In order to begin these last chapters, I have been collecting data, since March 2020, from various agencies in the United States and Europe (U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Drug Enforcement Agency, Federal Bureau of

Investigation, United Nations office of Drug Crime, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, Europol) on their surveillance of drug trafficking. The purpose of this is to observe the changes to organized crime trafficking practices and patterns related to the changes in border security and stay at home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. These data begin in 2018 and will continue to be collected through the middle of 2022. These data include information on changes in smuggling and delivery methods, organized crime networks, as well as which organized crime groups are engaged in particular methods. These data also include information on pricing, commonly seized quantities, as well as demographic data. Preliminary data are indicating significant changes in illicit drug pricing, amounts seized and delivery methods, which are already interesting on their own. Because each agency tracks different data, this project will help condense various data points into one comprehensive dataset. These data will be useful to many law enforcement agencies in its raw form, but particularly once analyzed and published. The goal will be to have most data collected and preliminary chapters edited prior to sabbatical leave in Spring semester 2023.

This research is an opportunity to add to the academic discourse on the issues of transnational organized crime drug trafficking. New understandings of organized crime networks and methods of trafficking can enhance public safety by identifying new trafficking patterns and methods, and this could also have a significant impact on the reduction of organized crime and violence related to trafficking. This research can also shed light on the benefits and draw backs of increased border security both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, this research does not require additional resources or financial support from the University.

- c. The following is a summary of how my time will be spent during sabbatical of the Spring semester 2023:

Month	Activity
January 2023	Finalize Data Collection/Clean and Organize Data
February 2023	Data Analysis
March 2023	Write and Edit Results
April 2023	Complete Final 2 Chapters
May 2023	Final Edits/Manuscript ready for publication
June 2023	Book Manuscript Under Review

- d. Sabbatical leave is necessary for completion of this project in a timely manner, I would like to have my data and research published by the end of 2023 and this would be made possible with the reduced teaching load that will allow me to focus on this research. Without this sabbatical leave, the road to publication will be much longer. This leave is also necessary in order to help achieve my next promotion.
- e. Additionally, I am in preliminary talks with Dr. Tomasz Rawski at the University of Warsaw in the Department of Sociology, regarding participation in a visiting scholar program in Spring 2023 (pending COVID travel restrictions). Their work in studying social control aligns with my previous research in organized crime which is a topic they do not cover frequently at their university. This would give me an opportunity to work with their doctoral students, as well as an opportunity to visit with the Polish National Police to learn about their experience with European drug trafficking. This travel would be supported by the University of Warsaw, would be for 2-4 weeks during the Spring 2023 semester, and would not be a paid position. Should this visiting position not move forward because of travel restrictions and continued monitoring of the pandemic, I will still have opportunities to communicate virtually with European agencies regarding data collection. This opportunity arose recently and would likely be included in my endeavors because it has the possibility to enhance my project (and my teaching), but it is not necessary for the completion of my proposed project at this time.

Section 2: Benefit to Faculty Member

Understanding organized crime has been a passion of mine for over a decade, I teach in this area and consistently publish in this area; this project will only increase my expertise in this subject area. To date, I have focused more on the social dynamics of organized crime neighborhoods in urban areas. This project is allowing me to expand beyond these small micro level analyses into a more macro analysis of organized crime illicit business practices. Utilizing this leave for this research project will improve my ability to teach on the current issues of drug trafficking, and provide me with new ideas for readings and projects for my students. In short, this will increase my expertise in the field, which will increase the expertise I bring to the classroom. This project will give me opportunities to work with new law enforcement agencies and new faculty, expanding my network for future research and grant activities.

Section 3: Benefit to the University

Engaging in this scholarly endeavor will benefit the Department of Criminology as it increases my relationship and interaction with law enforcement agencies and crime data collection agencies, which is important to my position in the Law Enforcement option. The large-scale data collection and analyses will be beneficial to my research methods and statistics students as I will be able to develop new class projects from my data and research. Publishing this research

will enhance my presence in the criminological community and the international community as an academic and a representative of Fresno State. In sum, this sabbatical leave will allow me to accomplish goals necessary to achieve promotion to full professor, finish working on a book length manuscript that has become an important project for me, create an opportunity for focused work to sharpen my skills as a researcher and statistician, and opportunity for focused knowledge that can only enhance my course curriculum. This will all benefit the Department of Criminology, The College of Social Sciences, and the University in some capacity, particularly with no additional cost to the University for this research.

Section 4: Previous Leave

N/A