

## Matthew Robert Kafafian

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[Google Scholar](#)  
Updated: 10/2024

### Academic Positions

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#### *University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)*

2023—Present      *Assistant Professor*, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ)  
2023—Present      *Co-Director*, Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab, SCCJ

### Education

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PhD.                      Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
May 2023, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
M.S.                      Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
May 2018, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
B.A.                      West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV  
Criminology with minor in Political Science, Dec. 2015

### Research Areas

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Victimization; Human Trafficking; Criminological Theory; International and Comparative Research

### Scholarship/Research

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(\* Indicates current or former mentored student co-authors)

#### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

Botchkovar, E., **Kafafian, M.**, Timmer, A., Antonaccio, O., & Hughes, L., Johnson, R. (2024).  
*When the World Falls Apart: How People Make Decisions in the Times of War. Crime & Delinquency.*

Martin, L., Mathias, C., Abeyta, S., **Kafafian, M.**, Barrick, K., Farrell, A. (2023) *Mechanisms of Recruitment into Sex Trafficking Operations: A Systematic Review to Support Prevention. Global Crime*, 1 -24.

**Kafafian, M.**, Botchkovar, E., Antonaccio, O., & Hughes, L. (2023). “My Neighborhood is Watching Me”: The Role of Neighborhood Processes in the Offending and Self-Control-Crime Nexus. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

**Kafafian, M.**, de Vries, I., Farrell, A., Goldfarb, S., & Bouchard, E. (2021). *Understanding factors associated with re-referral of youth for commercial sexual exploitation. Child Abuse & Neglect*, 117, 105092.

**Kafafian, M.**, Botchkovar, E. V., & Marshall, I. H. (2021). *Moral Rules, Self-Control, and School Context: Additional Evidence on Situational Action Theory from 28 Countries. Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 1-29.

de Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, Goggin, K., Bouchard, E., Goldfarb, S., & Farrell, A. (2020). *Enhancing the identification of commercial sexual exploitation among a population of high-risk youths using predictive regularization models. Child maltreatment*, 1077559519889178.

Farrell, A., Dank, M., de Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, Hughes, A., & Lockwood, S. (2019). *Failing victims? Challenges of the police response to human trafficking. Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(3), 649-673.

### ***Other Publications/Technical Reports***

Farrell, A., Dank, M., **Kafafian, M.**, Lockwood, S., Pfeffer, R., Hughes, A., & Vincent, K. (2019). *Capturing human trafficking victimization through crime reporting. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.*

### ***Manuscripts Under Review***

**Kafafian, M.**, de Vries, I., \*Asiedu, C., Farrell, A, Bouchard, B. *Changing Risk Profiles for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors since the Covid-19 Pandemic in the United States. R&R at Child Maltreatment.*

### ***Manuscripts In Preparation***

**Kafafian, M.**, Botchkovar, E., Antonaccio, O., & Hughes, L., Johnson, R. *Investigating the Link Between Victimization Experiences During Conflict and Violent Offending, Non-Violent Offending, and Alcohol Use.* In preparation for the *British Journal of Criminology*.

de Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, Farrell, A., \*Milner, E., Bouchard, E. *Victimization Networks and Victimization Exposure: The Case of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors.* In preparation for the *American Journal of Public Health*.

**Kafafian, M.,** Abeyta, S., de Vries, I., \*Milner, E., Farrell, A., Bouchard, E. *A Network Analysis Approach to Understanding Risk and Vulnerability to CSE.*

## Grants (Funded/Under Review)

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### *Internal Funding*

2024 *Principal Investigator*, A Pilot Evaluation of Data for Project Harmony to Support the Identification and Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Omaha. Funded by the College of Public Affairs and Community Service at the University of Nebraska at Omaha for \$1,000 (Awarded).

### *External Funding*

2024 *Co-Investigator*, (*Principal Investigators: Dr. Teresa Kulig and Dr. Tara Richards*). An Implementation and Outcome Evaluation of the Missing and Anti-Trafficking Youth Services Program. National Institute of Justice FY24 Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons, O-NIJ-2024-171960. Amount \$898,227 (UNDER REVIEW).

2024 *Co-Investigator*, (*Principal Investigators: Teresa Kulig, Tara Richards, Amy Farrell, and Joan Reid*). A National Review of Multidisciplinary Teams addressing Child Sexual Exploitation. National Institute of Justice FY24 Research on Multidisciplinary Teams, O-NIJ-2024-172031. Amount: \$1,499,977 (AWARDED).

## Research Experience

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### *SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha*

2023—Present *Co-Director*, Victimology Victim Studies Research Lab (VVSRL), working on community engaged research related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSE).

### *Violence Justice Research Lab, Northeastern University*

2018—2023 *Child Trafficking Database Project*, Previously Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the project is concerned with the development and implementation of statewide database

for sexually exploited children in cooperation with the Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

2022—2023

*MPTC Human Trafficking Training Study*, Development, Administration, and Analysis of Pre and Post Surveys for the Massachusetts Police Training Commission (MPTC)

2022

*Child Trafficking Community Risk Project*, Development of a tool to measure risk and vulnerability for commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSE) at the community level.

2019—2019

*Child Welfare Multidisciplinary Team Evaluation*, Analysis of Multidisciplinary teams for human trafficking in the state of Massachusetts. Roles have included developing of qualitative coding structure and qualitative analysis. In addition to quantitative analysis of survey data.

2017—2018

*UCR Evaluation: Capturing Human Trafficking Victimization through Crime Reporting*, funded by the National Institute of Justice, the study sought to better understand the accuracy of official statistics of human trafficking with the goal of a prevalence estimate of human trafficking in the United States. Roles on the project included qualitative interviews, qualitative analysis, quantitative data collection, quantitative analysis for technical reports and publications, and archiving of quantitative data for ICPSR.

## Teaching

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<i>University</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Role</i>
UNO	Qualitative Research Methods (PhD)	Instructor
UNO	Human Trafficking (UG)	Instructor
UNO	Criminology (UG)	Instructor
Northeastern	Global Criminology (Graduate; Online)	Instructor
Northeastern	Criminology (UG)	Instructor
Northeastern	Global Criminology (UG)	Teaching Assistant
Northeastern	Analyzing Crime & Justice Data (UG)	Teaching Assistant
Northeastern	Gender and Crime (UG)	Teaching Assistant

## Invited Presentation and Workshops

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Kafafian, Matthew and Amy Farrell. 2022, May. *Risk to CSEC: What we learned from the child trafficking database in Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Children's Alliance 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference.

Kafafian, Matthew. 2022, January. *What we learned about Risk and Vulnerability to CSEC from Suffolk County, MA*. Statewide Massachusetts CSEC Coordinator Leadership Meeting.

## Conference Presentations

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Botchkovar, E., **Kafafian, M.**, Timmer, A., Antonaccio, O., & Hughes, L., Johnson, R. (2023) When the World Falls Apart: How People Make Decisions in the Times of War. *American Society of Criminology*.

de Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, Farrell, A. (2023) Exploring Social Domains of Risk for CSEC. *American Society of Criminology*.

**Kafafian, M.**, Botchkovar, E., Antonaccio, O., & Hughes, L., Johnson, R. (2022) Understanding War Trauma and its Association with Future Violence in Ukraine: The GST Perspective. *American Society of Criminology*

Farrell, A., **Kafafian, M.**, Asiedu, C., de Vries, I. Exploring Referrals and Risk Profiles for the Commercial Exploitation of Minors Before and During Covid-19 in the United States. *American Society of Criminology*.

Maass, K., Farrell, A., **Kafafian, M.**, Abeyta, S., Yom, T., McKenna, F. Development of an Index Measuring Community Level Risk. *American Society of Criminology*.

De Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, & Farrell, A. (2019). Enhancing the identification of commercial sexual exploitation among a population of high-risk youths using predictive regularization models. *American Society of Criminology*

**Kafafian, M.** (2018). *Techniques of Neutralization and Racism*. *American Society of Criminology*.

Wills, C., De Vries, I., **Kafafian, M.**, Farrell, A. (2018). *Multidisciplinary Responses to Child Trafficking*. *American Society of Criminology*.

Farrell, A., Dank, M., Lockwood, S., **Kafafian, M.**, McDevitt, J. (2018). *Tracking Human Trafficking Through Crime Reporting*. *American Society of criminology*.

**Kafafian, M.** (2017). *Is a True Global Diffusion of a Human Rights Standard Possible? An Analysis of State Party Reports through The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.* American Society of Criminology. *American Society of Criminology.*

## **Professional and Community Service**

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### ***Journal Reviewer***

*Journal of Human Trafficking*

*Journal of School Violence*

*The Information Society*

*Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*

*International Criminology*

*International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*

*Victims & Offenders*

### ***External Committees and Service Activities***

2024—Present      *Member, Anti-Trafficking Youth Initiative: Prevention Sub-Committee, Project Harmony.*

2024—Present      *Member, Anti-Trafficking Youth Initiative: Prosecution Sub-Committee, Project Harmony.*

### ***School, College, and University Service Activities***

2024                      *Committee Member, Faculty Search, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fall 2024.*

2024                      *Faculty Panelist, Navigating the Challenges of Graduate School, Research and Professional Development Graduate Student Seminar and Speaker Series, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Scheduled October 2024.*

2024                      *Co-Coordinator, Doctoral Student Academic Job Market Seminar Series, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Spring 2024.*

2023                      *Faculty Participant, Doctoral Student ASC Colloquium, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fall 2023.*

2023                      *Faculty Panelist, The Job Market Part I & II, Research and Professional Development Graduate Student Seminar and Speaker Series, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fall 2023.*

2023 *Faculty Participant*, Speed Networking Event, Research and Professional Development Graduate Student Seminar and Speaker Series, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Spring 2024.

***Dissertation and Thesis Committees***

2024—Present *Committee Member* (Doctoral Student: Emily Milner), Doctoral Dissertation, SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. April 2024 to present.

***Directed Readings and Independent Study***

2024 Directed Reading for Theory Comprehensive Exam Prep (Doctoral Students: Alvi Ali, Trey Bussey, Brenna Dunlap, Dakota Schroll, John Ursino. Three Credits), SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Spring 2024

2023 Honors Contract (Undergraduate Student: Grace Zeigler), SCCJ, University of Nebraska at Omaha. Fall 2023

**Professional Organizations** 

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2016—Present American Society of Criminology