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Dissertation Defense  
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Doctor of Philosophy, Criminal Justice

**Motherhood Incarcerated:  
A Comparative Analysis of Mother's V Non-  
Mother's Adjustments to Prison**

Maternal incarceration is increasing at pressing rates in the United States, but very little is understood about how these women adjust to prison in regards to their support systems. To better inform carceral policy, a descriptive study was completed to determine how mothers and non-mothers who are incarcerated differ in terms of their support systems and how their support systems may impact their adjustment to their time incarcerated. Low power analyses—due to a small sample size—altered proposed methodology, leading to the use of T-tests and two-way ANOVAs. Results illustrated that mothers and non-mothers reported similar support from outside prison and inside prison support systems, as well as similar adjustment. However, two-way ANOVAs found minute differences in adjustment patterns between mothers and non-mothers based on established support systems, namely that mothers tend to adjust better than non-mothers through these support systems. Results have implications for female carceral policy and call for future work to be completed to ensure the prioritization of the female prison experience in academic research.

Event Information

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

12:30pm

Zoom

Committee Members

Chelsey Narvey, Ph.D.

Eric Connolly, Ph.D.

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**Sam Houston State University**

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