



Kelsey L. Kramer

Dissertation Defense
College of Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice
and Criminology
PhD Criminal Justice

**Establishing "Fat Criminology:" Assessing the
Impact of Body Size on Criminal
Sentencing Outcomes**

Individuals who are overweight or obese often face significant stigma and "anti-fat bias," leading to negative consequences across healthcare, employment, and beyond. While this bias is well-documented in other areas, it remains largely unexplored within the criminal legal system. This dissertation investigates the relationship between defendant body size (BMI) and criminal sentencing, utilizing data from Harris County. Findings reveal that as BMI increases, sentencing becomes more lenient, with gender and race/ethnicity serving as moderating factors. These results challenge prior research on anti-fat bias and underscore the need for more intersectional research, engaging in "Fat Criminology."

Event Information

November 7th, 2024

1:00 PM

Zoom

Committee Members

Dr. Ryan Randa

Dr. Miltonette Craig

Dr. Shelly Clevenger



Sam Houston State University

PUBLIC DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT