

# Matthew Almanza

E-mail: [almanza6@msu.edu](mailto:almanza6@msu.edu)

Phone: (517) 355-3452

School of Criminal Justice  
Michigan State University  
Baker Hall 655 Auditorium Rd, Room 421  
East Lansing, MI 48824

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. Criminal Justice**      Expected May 2021, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

**BS, Psychology**              May 2016, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN  
-Cumulative GPA: 3.97, GPA in Major: 3.98  
-Minors in Spanish, Forensic Sciences  
-Graduated with Highest Distinction

## RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

---

August 2016-Present      **Graduate Research Assistant, School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University- East Lansing, MI**

## AREAS OF INTEREST

---

Weapon carrying and Weapon Violence  
Street Code  
Self-defense  
Social Networks

## Publications

---

- Abad, D., **Almanza, M.**, Melde, C., Cobbina, J., & Heinze, J. (2020). A modified approach to in-school victimization, authoritative school climate, and feelings of safety. ACCEPTED. *Journal of Crime and Justice*.
- Cunningham, M., Cobbina, J., Melde, C., Abad, D., **Almanza, M.**, & Heinze, J. (2020). Attitudes towards police and weapon carriage among adolescents. UNDER REVIEW.
- DeBiasi, A., Carr, J., **Almanza, M.**, & Zwickle, A. (2020). A micro-place evaluation of the relationship between 'Risky places' and risk perceptions. UNDER REVIEW.
- Galasso, M., Abad, D., **Almanza, M.**, Melde, C., Cobbina, J., & Heinze, J. (in press). Youth perspectives on gangs, violence, and social media in a high crime city. In C. Melde & F. Weerman (Eds.), *Gangs in the Era of Internet and Social Media*. (pp.xx-xx). Springer Nature Switzerland AG.
- Li, C., **Almanza, M.**, Abad, D., & Melde, C. (2020). Do different factors explain low versus

high rate adolescent weapon carrying? ACCEPTED. *Victims & Offenders*.

## Research Experience

---

Aug 2016 - Present **Research Assistant** to Dr. Christopher Melde, School of Criminal Justice, Michigan State University.  
Research Assignments:  
*Safe School Transitions Project*- Responsible for data collection, including administering surveys and subsequent interviews of sample during 2016-2018. Currently responsible for publishing peer reviewed articles using collected data.  
*Comprehensive School Safety Initiative*- Responsible for inputting survey data into digital format in order to build dataset.  
*National Center for School Safety*- Responsible for creating annotated bibliography on the use of law enforcement in schools.

Aug 2015-May2016 *Undergraduate Research Assistant* to Dr. Ximena Arriaga. Department of Psychology, Purdue University.  
Research Assignments Completed:  
-Formatted, organized and developed reference sections for publications  
-Developed annotated bibliographies for research on relationship and dating violence  
-Assisted in research laboratory, bringing participants into lab and briefing/debriefing participants

## Research Skills

---

Survey development  
Annotated Bibliography writing  
Data entry, analysis, and reporting: R & SPSS  
SPSS Syntax  
Strong written and oral communication  
Strong analytical thinking, problem solving

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**Almanza, M.**, Abad, D., Melde, C., Cobbina, J., & Heinze, J. (November 2019). *Mediators of victimization and fear across neighborhood and school contexts*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

Abad, D., Melde, C., **Almanza, M.**, Galasso, M., Cobbina, J., & Heinze, J. (November 2019). The Role of Friends of Feelings of Safety during School Transitions. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

Galasso, M., Abad, D., & **Almanza, M.** (November 2019). Inner-City Youths on Gangs, Violence, and Social Media. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA.

**Almanza, M.**, Abad, D., Melde, & Esbensen, F.A. (November 2018). *Gang membership and victimization risk: Understanding the cognitive, emotional, and physical consequences of gangs in the life course*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

Abad, D., Galasso, M., **Almanza, M.**, Cunningham, M., Cobbina, J., Heinze, J., & Melde, C. (November 2018). Students' Perception of School Safety and the Transition to High School: Is there a honeymoon effect? – A qualitative analysis. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

Abad, D., **Almanza, M.**, Melde, C., Cobbina, J., & Heinze, J. (October 2018). *A modified approach to in-school victimization, authoritative school climate, and student feelings of safety*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association.

Melde, C., Abad, D., & **Almanza, M.** On the ir(rational) choice to join a gang: Lessons from decision sciences (2018). Eurogang Program of Research Meeting, hosted by Erasmus University, Almen, The Netherlands

## **UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

---

### **Graduate Dean's Student Advisory Council,**

Criminal Justice Graduate Student Representative – Fall 2018- Spring 2019

### **Multicultural Competency Workshop - Michigan State University**

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS, NOMINATIONS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

---

**Graduated with Highest Distinction-** Purdue University, 2016

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences