

CONFERENCE TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING: RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY Conference Agenda

DAY 1

8:30 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

WELCOME & ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

(10 minutes)

Kevin Clement

Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships
Borders, Trade and Immigration Institute
512.626.5413 | KClement@uh.edu

WELCOME

(10 minutes)

Craig Glennie, PhD

Director,
Borders, Trade and Immigration Institute
832.842.8861 | clglenni@central.uh.edu

8:50 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

OPENING REMARKS

(20 minutes)

Matt Slinkard

Executive Chief of Police
Houston Police Department
713.308.1569 |

9:15 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: AN OVERVIEW

(30 minutes)

Lisa Caselli,

CBP Officer/Program Manager
Blue Lightning Initiative // Carrier Liaison Program
External Engagements and Initiatives // Admissibility and Passenger Programs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
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Synopsis:

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for labor, services, or a commercial sex act. Human traffickers use various forms of force, fraud, and coercion to control and exploit victims. These forms include imposing debt, fraudulent employment opportunities, false promises of love or a better life, psychological coercion, and violence or threats of violence. The crime of human trafficking hinges on the exploitation of another person. People often falsely believe “human trafficking” implies victims must be moved from one place to another to qualify as a victim. Human trafficking does not require transportation to be considered a crime. It is a crime that can be committed against an individual who has never left his or her hometown.

9:45 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

BREAK

10:10 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(30 minutes)

Jack Staton

Senior Executive (retired)
Homeland Security Investigations
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
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Synopsis:

Jack Staton, a former Senior Executive with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), will discuss his 26-years of experience in combatting human smuggling and trafficking. The discussion will focus on the importance of information sharing between non-governmental organizations and law enforcement, including the important role technology can play in identifying victims. Mr. Staton will also discuss his response, while he was serving as the HSI Special Agent in Charge, to the 2019 mass migration of Unaccompanied Alien Children and Family Units in El Paso, Texas.

11:00 am Tuesday, 20 September 2022

PANEL: WHY IS HOUSTON A NATIONAL HUB FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING – AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT.

(60 minutes)

Moderator: **Jessica Vaughan**, Director of Policy Studies at the Center for Immigration Studies

Panelist: **Sheriff Andy “AJ” Louderback**, Executive Director, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance

Panelist: **Deputy Attorney General Josh Reno**

Synopsis:

A discussion of the factors that make Houston a Human Trafficking hub. To include 1) the city has all the infrastructure the cartels and TCOs need to succeed in this nefarious trade, including a thriving stolen vehicle market, transportation, fuel depots, stash houses, relay stops, and 2) certain federal policies, namely current border and immigration enforcement policies, are facilitating the human trafficking.

12:00 pm Tuesday, 20 September 2022

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 pm Tuesday, 20 September 2022

THE COLORADO PROJECT:

(60 minutes)

Kara Napolitano

Research and Training Manager
Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking
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VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

Synopsis:

In 2010, Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT) began a Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) process to comprehensively end human trafficking in the state of Colorado. In 2018, LCHT replicated the original methodology by conducting a longitudinal follow-up of the first iteration of The Colorado Project. Now in 2022 we are preparing to launch our third iteration of this project with a new lens on equity. The research described here is intended to determine ways to measure a social movement's effort to effect positive social change seeking to end human exploitation.

CBPR allows space for locally led and informed research endeavors--what the community needs as opposed to academics who may not understand community interests and strengths. This presentation explores how a nonprofit organization deeply embedded in the anti-human trafficking movement can produce original research.

The findings of our second report identified seven emerging promising practices: 1) Supporting the movement in developing evaluation; 2) Acknowledging root causes; 3) Providing trauma-informed behavioral health resources; 4) Recognizing health professionals as crucial players in protection; 5) Having survivors inform the community response; 6) Problem-solving courts; 7) Increased intentional and equitable inclusion in partnerships. Now in 2022 we are looking to see if and how things have shifted in Colorado, what new actions we can take to prevent human trafficking, protect survivors, prosecute traffickers, and effectively partner across sectors to end human trafficking.

This presentation will discuss the resulting Action Plan, developed by a diverse group of survivors,

practitioners, law enforcement, and advocates as well as key takeaways on how Colorado has moved the needle on anti-trafficking efforts. LCHT hopes that other states will be able to replicate this model.

2:30 pm Tuesday, 20 September 2022

PANEL: THE TRAFFICKING OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

(60 minutes)

Jessica Vaughan,

Director of Policy Studies,
Center for Immigration Studies
774.291.9005 | Jmv@cis.org

Moderator: **Jessica Vaughan**, Director of Policy Studies at the Center for Immigration Studies

Panelist: **Jon Anfinen**, President of the Border Patrol Council in Del Rio Sector

Panelist: **Robert Law**, Director, Center for Homeland Security and Immigration

Synopsis:

A panel of experts will present information on incidents of human trafficking involving unaccompanied minors who cross the border illegally, the processes and policies that govern how these cases are handled, and the unique vulnerabilities of this particular group of migrants.

3:30 pm Tuesday, 20 September 2022

BREAK

4:00 pm, Tuesday, September 20, 2022

PANEL: INFORMATIONAL AND RESEARCH NEEDS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(60 minutes)

Jessica Vaughan,

Director of Policy Studies,
Center for Immigration Studies
774.291.9005 | Jmv@cis.org

Synopsis:

Emphasis on the need for more robust information sharing between survivor advocates, local law enforcement and federal authorities, as well as more transparency from state and federal governments on the scale of trafficking.

5:00 pm Tuesday, 20 September 2022

CLOSING

DAY 2

8:30 am, Wednesday, September 21, 2022

MINDING THE GAP: HOW INNOVATIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ARE USED (OR NOT USED) TO COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(50 minutes)

Laurie Giddens, Ph.D, University of North Texas
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Stacie Petter, Ph.D, Wake Forest University

Synopsis:

Law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses increasingly use information technology to counter human trafficking. These information technologies use artificial intelligence techniques to detect potential sex trafficking activity or incorporate other technological advancements to disrupt the traffickers' ability to recruit victims or conduct business transactions. For these technologies to produce benefits to society and provide justice for victims, those with the authority to remove traffickers from society (e.g., law enforcement officers and prosecutors) must adopt and use the information technologies when investigating human trafficking cases. Yet, the presence of innovative information technology does not guarantee that the technology will be used or will achieve its intended outcome. In this session, we discuss our current research investigating the barriers and constraints that inhibit effective adoption, implementation, and use of innovative information technologies in law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we shed light on the need for partnerships among technology developers, law enforcement agencies, and businesses that are essential for the effective use of information technology. Finally, we discuss areas of future research examining the use of information technologies in the fight against human trafficking.

9:30 am Tuesday, 20 September

BREAK

10:00 am, Wednesday, September 21, 2022

ADVANCES IN BIOMETRICS

(50 minutes)

Chris Chamberlin,
Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM)
Department of Homeland Security

Synopsis:

Focus is on the use of biometrics to combat identify human trafficking victims.

11:00 am, Wednesday, September 21, 2022

MARITIME SENSORS FOR THE DETECTION OF MIGRANT SMUGGLING

(50 minutes)

Hady Salloum

Director

Maritime Security Center

A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

Stevens Institute

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Synopsis:

Extensive research for passive acoustic methods for surface and subsurface threat detection has been conducted in the Maritime Security Center (MSC), a DHS Science and Technology National Center of Excellence for maritime and port security. The goal of Stevens Institute of Technology, MSC's lead institution, is to examine basic science issues and emerging technologies to improve the security of ports as well as coastal and offshore operations. Stevens has developed various low-cost systems for illegal boat detection that include underwater acoustic sensors. This presentation addresses prospective applications for using these systems for of migrant smuggling detection. Systems discussed will be a low-cost suite used for boat detection and a smart acoustic buoy

12:00 pm Wednesday, September 21, 2022

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

MODELING SMUGGLING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: IMPROVING OUR ABILITY TO IDENTIFY ILLEGAL MOVEMENT AT THE U.S. SOUTHERN BORDER

(30 minutes)

Wendy Stickle, PhD (START at the University of Maryland)

Synopsis:

Dr. Wendy Stickle of University of Maryland a has been doing human trafficking research for over a decade and has served in the past as the chair and co-chair of Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, where she was intimately involved in Montgomery County's efforts to combat human trafficking (she still sits on the commission as a member at large). Dr. Stickle most recently helped START develop a trans border human trafficking/smuggling model in support of our DARPA research. DARPA's SIGMA+ program is developing a transnational human trafficking and smuggling model to facilitate early interdiction.

2:00 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

DETECTING HUMAN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING: A GRAPH ANALYTICS APPROACH TO DETECTION

(30 minutes)

Steve Sin, PhD (START at University of Maryland)

Synopsis:

Dr. Steve Sin of University of Maryland leads and works on adversary behavior modeling research at START, and currently serves as the director of Unconventional Weapons and Technology Division at START. Most recently, Dr. Sin and his team at START have been supporting the development of SIGMA+ advanced intelligence analytics. The aim of SIGMA+ advanced intelligence analytics is to detect potential threat activities in the earliest stage possible by analyzing several datasets simultaneously utilizing graph analytics. In short, the end user enters a "template of activities" that are of interest to the end user into the system, and the system's search algorithm attempts to detect if there are any matches in the datasets the system has access to. Originally developed with the intent to support the domestic countering weapons of mass destruction (CWMD) mission space, SIGMA+ advanced intelligence analytics development team (which includes Dr. Sin and his START team) - known within SIGMA+ program as the Adversary Modeling Working Group (AMWG) - has been working with stakeholders at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to adapt the methodology to assist in detecting trans-border human smuggling and trafficking.

2:30 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

BREAK

3:00 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

USING DIGITAL EXHAUST TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

(50 minutes)

Joel Aud, (Lean Tail Labs)

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Synopsis:

In our digital world, every business process, including illegal transactions, produces digital data not directly related to the business function. This secondary digital data is "digital exhaust," which can be exploited through mass data analysis to provide data derived, actionable intelligence to identify assets and disrupt criminal networks and enterprises.

4:00 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

INTERSECT RESPONSE PLATFORM SYNOPSIS

(50 minutes)

Guido Hajenius

Co-Director of Programs
iEmpathize

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The intersect response platform is a victim-centered and empathetic approach using an immersive online and in-person training library to equip youth and adult participants. The intersect response platform will provide tools to safely recognize and respond to exploitation - actively identifying where exploitation is happening, when it is happening.

The intersect response platform seeks to help individuals:

- Identify their intersection with exploitation,
- Provide practical skills and equip participants with an online platform focusing on prevention and response, and
- Collaborate across multi sectors to develop community action plans.

Using original film, photography, survivor voices, and interactive activities, the platform allows us to contextualize content and engage communities from within the spaces that we live and work.

5:00 pm Wednesday, 21 September 2022

CLOSING

DAY 3

8:30 am Thursday, 22 September

SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATIONS

(30 minutes)

Michael Aspland

Executive Director
Institute for Homeland Security
Sam Houston State University
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Synopsis:

SNA is a collection of theories and methods that focuses on the relationships between individuals and groups. It is an effective approach to understanding how criminal networks operate. This brief is informational, explaining how to use SNA as an investigative tool to understand HT networks. This method allows investigators to aggregate multiple data sets (for example, cell phone records, RMS data, financial transactions) and create a social network “map” of the HT group. The intelligence

products derived provide insights to identify potential informants, pinpoint key individuals whose removal (arrest) will fracture the networks and answer other investigative questions. The brief will include an overview of the Gephi software package and present cases where SNA informed disruption strategies.

9:00 am Thursday, 22 September

NETWORK AND POLICY ANALYSIS OF THE GLOBAL FLOWS OF TRAFFICKING ACROSS THE U.S. BORDERS

(30 minutes)

Maria Burns, PhD

Borders Trade and Immigration (BTI) Institute, University of Houston

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Synopsis:

Dr. Maria Burns will present her decade-long research on global human trafficking by the use of big data analytics and online data scraping techniques. The findings will demonstrate (1) the geographical network of trafficking victims entering the U.S. (2) the role of open vs. closed borders, and (3) the legal loopholes that transnational criminal networks use to lure their victims into crossing the U.S. Borders. Finally, (4) a policy analysis model will reveal the current status of Federal Legislation, while evaluating vulnerabilities and areas to be further developed.

9:30 am Thursday, 22 September

BREAK

10:00 am Thursday, 22 September

DeliverFund: TARGET-CENTRIC INTELLIGENCE METHODOLOGY

(50 minutes)

Sal Hernandez

Deputy Chief Operations (US)

DeliverFund

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Human trafficking occurs online and across jurisdictional boundaries, making the crime difficult to investigate. Collaboration and shared intelligence across law enforcement agencies are critical to effectively investigate and respond to human trafficking. With over 400 law enforcement partners, DeliverFund develops the essential public-private partnerships with law enforcement agencies, technology companies, and researchers to combat human trafficking. In this session, we discuss how DeliverFund is addressing current needs in response to human trafficking by combining a target-centric intelligence methodology with modern data technologies to provide a scalable and sustainable human trafficking solution to our law enforcement partners. DeliverFund will discuss its analyst-curated human trafficking intelligence database that has been developed over the past seven years.

This database serves as the foundation for our three proprietary technology platforms, P.A.T.H., PATHFinder, and L.T.I.P.

- **P.A.T.H (Platform for Analysis and Targeting of Human Trafficker)** provides the opportunity to collaborate and deconflict with other investigators across the country regardless of jurisdiction and geography. Investigators and analysts on the platform are able to visually map out the human trafficking network for the law enforcement agency. All information in the platform is open-source and can be used in the prosecution of human traffickers.
- **PATHFinder** is a tool which finds the links between commercial sex advertisements associated with human trafficking investigations. PATHFinder is the most comprehensive tool of its kind and has data from over 96 million advertisements over 20 commercial sex advertising sites. PATHFinder can query up to 1 million pieces of data attached to your investigation and provide the connections within 30 seconds.
- **L.T.I.P (Labor Trafficking Intelligence Platform)** is an intelligence collection and analysis platform used to provide law enforcement with credible intelligence on labor trafficking. The platform has the ability to ingest indicators from open-source intelligence and human sources. This information, combined with the embedded link analysis, allows an analyst to identify labor trafficking indicators at any point in the labor supply chain, from sourcing to labor destination.

11:00 am Thursday, 22 September

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEAFOOD SLAVERY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

(50 minutes)

JoAnn DiGeorgio-Lutz, PhD,
Texas A&M Galveston

Synopsis:

Dr. DeGeorgio-Lutz will speak on the issue of human trafficking and seafood slavery in Southeast Asia and the multiple conditions/factors that perpetuate this activity. She will outline connections to U.S. markets and the connection to fish as a multi-billion dollar a year industry. The presentation will include discussion of the mechanisms in place to combat seafood slavery and ways to raise awareness about this modern-day form of human trafficking.

12:00 pm Thursday, 22 September

OPEN DISCUSSION

(60 minutes)

Moderator: **TBD**

Synopsis:

Time set aside for open discussion

1:30 pm Thursday, 22 September 2022

CLOSING

