Violence in America: Explaining Hate Crimes Against Latinos in the 21st Century

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Janice A. Iwama is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice, Law & Criminology at American University in Washington, D.C. Her research primarily focuses on examining how racially motivated hate crimes and racial profiling vary across different ecological settings. Specifically, she is interested in exploring how community conditions foster crime using spatial and temporal analytical techniques to improve our understanding on crime and prejudice and inform policy and practice. She earned her Ph.D. in Criminology and Justice Policy from Northeastern University. Dr. Iwama is currently serving as a co-Principal Investigator on a study to develop and implement a process for analyzing pedestrian and traffic stop data in Douglas County, Kansas to address racial profiling. She has previously collaborated on other research projects on racial profiling funded by federal and state agencies and provided testimony before the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration on these research findings. Additionally, she has also collaborated on research funded by the National Institute of Justice to explore hate crime against Latinos and immigrants and published research that explores the association between these incidents and neighborhood conditions. In 2016, Dr. Iwama also collaborated on a mixed methods study assessing the implementation of a state gun control policy to reduce violence. She has been interviewed by national and local news outlets on her research given recent concerns on racial profiling, hate crimes against Latinos and immigrants, and gun violence across the United States.

Dr. Iwama is a recipient of the Racial Democracy Crime and Justice Network fellowship and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Dorothy Bracey/Janice Joseph Minority and Women New Scholar Award in 2017. Previously, Dr. Iwama also received the American Society of Criminology Ruth D. Peterson Fellowship and the Outstanding Student Award from the American Society of Criminology’s Division of People of Color and Crime in 2014.

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