**Danielle Thomas**

Department of Criminology

University of South Florida

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**PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS**

Corrections

Prisoner Reentry and Recidivism

Prison Reform

Program Evaluation

Offender Decision-Making

Employment and Crime

CJ Practitioner Decision-Making

Qualitative Methodologies

**EDUCATION**

Anticipated May 2026 Ph.D. Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

May 2022 M.A. Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Thesis: *Examining the Effectiveness of a Life-Skills Program in*

*a Florida Prison Through a Social Bond and General Strain*

*Theory Perspective* (co-chairs: Dr. Kathleen Heide and

Dr. Jessica Grosholz, member: Dr. Chae Jaynes)

August 2020 B.A. Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

B.A. Psychology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

January 2021 – Present **Research Assistant**

Supervisors: Dr. Chae Jaynes, Dr. Mateus Santos

Project: Willingness to Hire and Aiding in Reentry

Department of Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

June 2021 – Present **Research Assistant**

Supervisors: Dr. Jessica Grosholz, Dr. Sandra Stone, and Dr. Sondra Fogel

Project: Understanding the reentry experiences of older formerly incarcerated individuals

Department of Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

Corts, M., Jaynes, C.M., Smith, K., **Thomas, D.M.,** Santos, M.R. Job Search Methodologies Among Those With and Without a Criminal Record: A Nationwide Comparative Analysis.

Santos, M.R., Jaynes, C.M., & **Thomas, D.M**. The Cost of a Criminal Record: Overcoming Barriers to Reentry.

Jaynes, C., Santos, M.R., & **Thomas, D.M.,** Burckley, J. Time Until Redemption: Overcoming Employment Barriers to Reentry.

Grosholz, J.M., Stone, S.S., Fogel, S., **Thomas, D.M.,** & Porcelli, T. Understanding the reentry experiences of older formerly incarcerated individuals.

**BOOK CHAPTERS IN PROGRESS**

**Thomas, D.M.** & Grosholz, J.M. “They’ve got a more positive outlook because they have goals”: Examining the importance of prison programming for older, life-sentenced incarcerated men.

Abstract accepted for publication in the 8th volume of the *Handbook on Prisons and Jails* published by the American Society of Criminology’s Division on Corrections and Sentencing.

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

*Awarded*

2022-2026 Graduate Student Success Fellowship, University of South Florida.

*Pending*

2022-2025 Jaynes, C. (PI), Santos, M.R. (co-PI), Blount, R., Thomas, D., Smith, K., Oderinde, A., Cochran, J. *Aiding in Reentry (AiR): Comprehensive Support for Reentering Individuals Pre- and Post-Release.* Pathway Home 3 (FOA-ETA-22-04). U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Funds Requested: $1,463,830.00.

I am funded to assist the PI’s in all aspects of this grant application which includes a collaborative effort with Sumter Correctional Institution (CI) and Polk CI to develop and evaluate an employment-based reentry program, as well as a partnership with Abe Brown Ministries, Ready4Work Hillsborough, and CareerSource Tampa Bay.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022).Evaluating the effectiveness of the LIFERS program at Sumter Correctional Institution. Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology meetings, Atlanta, GA.

Stone, S.S., Grosholz, J.M., Fogel, S., **Thomas, D.M.**, & Porcelli, T.N. (2022). Understanding the Connection Between Housing and Family Reunification Challenges for Older, Formerly Incarcerated Individuals. Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology meetings, Atlanta, GA.

Porcelli, T.N., Grosholz, J.M., Stone, S.S., Fogel, S., & **Thomas, D.M.** (2022). Elderly, Unemployed, and Disadvantaged: The Realities of Older, Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Seeking Financial Stability. Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology meetings, Atlanta, GA.

Grosholz, J.M., Stone, S.S., Fogel, S., **Thomas, D.M.**, & Porcelli, T.N. (2022). “Health is everything”: Understanding health and healthcare challenges for formerly incarcerated individuals. Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology meetings, Atlanta, GA.

Grosholz, J.M., Stone, S.S., Fogel, S., **Thomas, D.M.**, & Porcelli, T.N. (2022). Leaving Prison When Older: How Communities can Prepare for Older Formerly Incarcerated Individuals. Paper to be presented at the Palm Beach Reentry Summit, West Palm Beach, FL.

Corts, M., Jaynes, C.M., **Thomas, D.M.,** Smith, K., Thakkar, S. (2022). Job Search Methodologies Among Those with and without a Criminal Record: A Nationwide Comparative Analysis. Paper presented at the *USF Summer Research Institute* in Tampa, FL.

**Thomas, D.M.**, Porcelli, T.N., Grosholz, J.M., Stone, S.S., & Fogel, S. (2022). Understanding the reentry experiences of older formerly incarcerated individuals. Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meetings in Las Vegas, NV.

**INVITED TALKS**

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022, June 24). Presented at a Reentry Seminar at Zephyrhills Correctional Institution.

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022, June 21). Presented in a Reentry 2.0 Meeting.

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022, April 5). Talk given to the Pasco County Reentry Alliance Meeting.

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022, March 30). Educational Pathways. Presented in Dr. Colby Valentine’s CCJ 4010: American Correctional Systems course. University of South Florida, Department of Criminology, Tampa, Fl.

**Thomas, D.M.** (2022, February 7). Educational Pathways. Presented in Dr. Chae Jaynes’s CCJ 4934, Seminar in Criminology: Aiding in Prison Reentry (“Bulls Air”) course. University of South Florida, Department of Criminology, Tampa, Fl.

**VULNERABLE POPULATION EXPERIENCE**

May 2022 Completed an Alternatives to Violence (AVP) Program basic workshop at Sumter Correctional Institution, Bushnell County, FL

June 2021 – Present Currently interviewing older formerly incarcerated individuals around the Tampa Bay region

September 2021 – January 2022 Thesis data collected from 40 incarcerated individuals at Sumter Correctional Institution, Bushnell County, FL

January 2020 – Present Trained Florida Department of Corrections volunteer

**SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

**University of South Florida**

January 2021 – January 2022 Graduate Student Mentor

Department of Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

**COMMUNITY**

June 2022 Attended a Safe and Sound Hillsborough County meeting

February 2022 – Present Attend the Pasco County Reentry Alliance meetings

April 2022 Attended the Tampa Bay Reentry Roundtable Summit

October 2021 Attended the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution Reentry Seminar

**RESEARCH SOFTWARE EXPERTISE**

NVivo

Stata

SPSS

Microsoft Office – Word, Excel, PowerPoint