

Christian Jordan-Michael Howell

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University of South Florida
8350 N Tamiami Trail, C251
Sarasota, FL 34243

Education

- 2021 Ph.D. Criminology, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
Dissertation: *Self-protection in cyberspace: Assessing the processual relationship between thoughtfully reflective decision making, protection motivation theory, cyber hygiene, and victimization*
- 2024* M.S. Cybersecurity Intelligence and Information Security, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
- 2024* Cyber Intelligence Graduate Certificate, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
- 2023 Strategic Intelligence Graduate Certificate, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
- 2017 Digital Forensics Graduate Certificate, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
- 2016 M.A. Criminology, University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida
Thesis: *The restrictive deterrent effect of warning banners in a compromised computer system*
- 2014 B.A. Criminal Justice and Criminology, East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, Tennessee
Honor's Thesis: *The media's effect on the public's reaction to international versus domestic terrorism*

Research Interests

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| Privacy and Data Protection | Cyber Threat Intelligence | Human-Centric Security |
| Machine Learning and AI for Security | Digital Forensics and Incident Response | Network Security and Intrusion Detection |

* Graduation date set for December 2024.

Academic Positions

- 2022–Present Assistant Professor
 Department of Criminology
 University of South Florida

- 2023–Present Adjunct Instructor
 School of Information Systems and Management
 University of South Florida

- 2021–2022 Assistant Professor
 Intelligence and National Security Studies
 University of Texas at El Paso

- 2019–2022 Associate Director
 Evidence-Based Cybersecurity Research Group
 Georgia State University

- 2018–2022 Adjunct Instructor
 M.S. Cybersecurity
 University of South Florida

Teaching Experience

Graduate Courses

- Criminal Law and Social Policy
- Criminological Theory
- Cyber Victimization
- Cybercrime and Criminal Justice
- Digital Evidence Recognition and Collection
- Information Security and IT Risk Management
- Introduction to Digital Evidence
- Network Forensics
- Open-Source Intelligence Analysis
- Research Methods
- Technology Adoption and Crime

Undergraduate Courses

- Cybercrime Investigation
- Cybersecurity
- Cyber Victimization
- Digital Forensics
- Honors Seminar in Ethics: Cybersecurity Ethics
- Introduction to Cybercrime
- Patterns of Criminal Behavior
- Statistics for Security Studies
- Theories of Criminal Behavior

Professional Training

- 2020-2022: NSF Funded: Training in Law Enforcement Intelligence and Evidence Collection within Darknet Environments

- 2023: Homeland Security-Funded: Training in Darknet Intelligence and Evidence Gathering

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Cybersecurity Publications (By Relevance)

- Kamar, E., **Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., & Berenblum, T. (2022). The moderating role of thoughtfully reflective decision-making on the relationship between information security messages and smishing victimization: An experiment. *Justice Quarterly*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2022.2127845>
- Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., Burruss, G., Perkins, R., Ouellet, M., & Wu, Y. (2022). Risk avoidance behavior on darknet marketplaces. *Crime & Delinquency*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221092>
- Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, & Burruss, G. (2021). Restrictive deterrence and the scope of hackers' reoffending: Findings from two randomized field trials. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 125, 106943. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2021.106943>
- Howell, C. J.**, Fisher, T., Muniz, C., Maimon, D., & Rotzinger, Y. (2023). A depiction and classification of the stolen data market ecosystem and comprising darknet markets: A multidisciplinary approach. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862231158005>
- Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, Perkins, R., Muniz, C., & Berenblum, T. (2021). A routine activities approach to evidence-based risk assessment: Findings from two simulated phishing attacks. *Social Science Computer Review*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393211046339>
- Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, Jacques, S., & Perkins, R. (2020). Situational awareness and public wi-fi users' self-protective behaviors. *Security Journal*, 35, 154–174. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-020-00270-2>
- Ouellet, M., Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, & Wu, Y. (2022). The network of online stolen data markets: How vendor flows connect digital marketplaces. *British Journal of Criminology*, 62(6), 1518–1536. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azab116>
- Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, Moloney, M., & Park, Y. (2020). An examination of email fraudsters' modus operandi. *Crime & Delinquency*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128720968504>
- Howell, C. J.**, Burruss, G., Maimon, D., & Sahani, S. (2019). Website defacement and routine activities: Considering the importance of hackers' valuations of potential targets. *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 42(5), 536–550. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2019.1691859>
- Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., Cochran, J., Jones, H., & Powers, R. (2017). System trespasser behavior after exposure to warning messages at a Chinese computer network: An examination. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 11(1), 63–77. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.495772>
- Perkins, R., Ouellet, M., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2022). The illicit hacking ecosystem: A network analysis of website defacement groups. *Social Science Computer Review*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08944393221097881>

- Burruss, G., **Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., & Wang, F. (2022). Website defacer classification: A finite mixture model approach. *Social Science Computer Review*, 40(3), 775–787. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0894439321994232>
- Burruss, G., **Howell, C. J.**, Bossler, A., & Holt, T. (2019). Self-perceptions of English and Welsh constables and sergeants' preparedness for online crime: A latent class analysis. *Policing: An International Journal*, 43(1), 105–119. <https://doi.org/10.1108/PIJPSM-08-2019-0142>
- Perkins, R., **Howell, C. J.**, Dodge, C., Burruss, G., & Maimon, D. (2022). Malicious spam distribution: A routine activities approach. *Deviant Behavior*, 43(2), 196–212. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2020.1794269>
- Wang, F., **Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., & Jacques, S. (Accepted). The restrictive deterrent effect of warning messages sent to active romance fraudsters: An experimental approach. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*.
- Shadmanfaat, S., **Howell, C. J.**, Muniz, C., Cochran, J., Kabiri, S., & Fontaine, E. (2020). Cyberbullying perpetration: An empirical test of social learning theory in Iran. *Deviant Behavior*, 41(3), 278–293. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2019.1565513>
- Shadmanfaat, S., Richardson, D., Muniz, C., Cochran, J., Kabiri, S., & **Howell, C. J.** (2021). Cyberbullying against rivals: Application of key theoretical concepts derived from situational action theory. *Deviant Behavior*, 42(12), 1549–1564. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2020.1762452>
- Shadmanfaat, S., **Howell, C. J.**, Muniz, C., Cochran, J., Kabiri, S., & Richardson, D. (2018). The predictive ability of self-control and differential association on sports fans' decision to engage in cyberbullying perpetration against rivals. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 12(2), 362–375. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3365618>

Other Publications

- Kabiri, S., Sharepour, M., **Howell, C. J.**, Wellen, H., Smith, H., Cochran, J., Shadmanfaat, S., & Andersen, T. (2023). Violations of emergent norms regarding COVID-19 mitigation and social hygiene practices: An application of Agnew's general theory of crime. *Crime & Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221130961>
- Kabiri, S., Shadmanfaat, S. M., Perkins, R. C., Wellen, H., **Howell, C. J.**, Cochran, J. K., & Smith, H. (2023). Aggressive spectators in sporting milieus: A test of situational action theory. *Global Crime*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2023.2214795>
- Kabiri, S., Shadmanfaat, S., Andersen, T., Rotzinger, Y., **Howell, C. J.**, Smith, H., & Cochran, J. (2022). Personal control and antisocial coaching: A test of self-control and control balance theories. *Deviant Behavior*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2022.2092785>
- Kabiri, S., Shadmanfaat, S., **Howell, C. J.**, Donner, C., & Cochran, J. (2022). Performance enhancing drug use among professional athletes: A longitudinal test of social learning theory. *Crime and Delinquency*, 68(5), 867–891. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128719901111>

Shadmanfaat, S., Kabiri, S., Miley, L., **Howell, C. J.**, Muniz, C., & Cochran, J. (2020). Performance enhancing drug use among professional athletes: Testing the applicability of key theoretical concepts derived from situational action theory. *Journal of Sport and Social Issue*, 44(4), 336–355. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0193723520919812>

Research Reports

Howell, C. J. & Maimon, D. (2023). Darknet markets generate millions in revenue selling stolen personal data, supply chain study finds. *The Conversation*.

Howell, C. J. & Maimon, D. (2023). Predicting which hackers will become persistent threats. *AT&T Cybersecurity*.

Howell, C. J. & Tremblay, L. (2023). An assessment of ransomware distribution on darknet markets. *AT&T Cybersecurity*.

Kamar, E., & **Howell, C. J.** (2023). Online predators target children’s webcams, study finds. *The Conversation*.

Ouellet, M., Maimon, D., Wu, Y., & **Howell, C. J.** (2022). Open-source intelligence in online stolen data markets: Assessment of network disruption strategies. *Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis: A DHS Center of Excellence*.

Maimon, D., & **Howell, C. J.** (2020). The coronavirus pandemic moved life online – a surge in website defacing followed. *The Conversation*.

Book Chapters

Perkins, R., & **Howell, C. J.** (2021). Honeypots for cybercrime research. In A. Lavorgna, & T. Holt (Eds.), *Researching cybercrimes* (pp. 233–261). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-74837-1_12

Howell, C. J., & Burruss, G. (2020). Datasets for analysis of cybercrime. In T. Holt, & A. Bossler (Eds.), *The palgrave handbook of international cybercrime and cyberdeviance* (pp. 207–219). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-78440-3_15

External Funding

2020–2022 CyberTraining: EBCS-TMPS:
An Evidence Based Cybersecurity Training and Mentorship Program for Students
Role: Collaborator and Instructor
National Science Foundation
\$298,189

2019–2021 Open-Source Intelligence in Online Stolen Data markets:
Assessment of Network Disruption Strategies
Role: Collaborator and Project Manager
Department of Homeland Security
\$350,000

Internal Funding

- 2023 Interdisciplinary Research Grant
Assessing Hackers' Motivations, Modus Operandi, and Pathways to Offending
Role: Principal Investigator
University of South Florida
\$20,000
- 2023 Pioneer Research Grant
Holistic Cybersecurity: The Advancement of AI to Create a Safer Cyberspace
Role: Principal Investigator
University of South Florida
\$20,000

Invited Consultations

Pasco Sheriff's Office Cybersecurity Symposium
Expert Panelist (2022)

NSF D-ISON Workshop: Building Community to Use Intelligence from Online Underground Markets
Expert Panelist and Co-Facilitator (2021)

The Cybersecurity Revolution by the Human-Centric Cybersecurity Partnership
Expert Panelist (2021 and 2022)

Media Coverage

Cybercrimeology. (2023). "Darknet Honeypots: Innovating Research into Online Criminal Markets."
<https://cybercrimeology.com/episodes/darknet-honeypots-innovating-research-into-online-criminal-markets>

Dark Reading. (2023). "How Noob Website Hackers Can Become Persistent Threats."
<https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/noob-hackers-become-persistent-threats>

ITSP Magazine. (2021). "From Ancient Tomb Traps to Modern-Day Honeypots | Intrusion Detection And Deception: The Role Of Honey Pots And Human Nature In Cybersecurity Education."
https://itspmagazine.simplecast.com/episodes/from-ancient-tomb-traps-to-modern-day-honeypots-intrusion-detection-and-deception-the-role-of-honey-pots-and-human-nature-in-cybersecurity-education-redefining-security-with-assistant-professor-c-jordan-howell-author-chris-sanders-and-student-william-vkRvkeOK?utm_source=itspmagazine&utm_medium=web

Just the News. (2023). "As Cybercrime Surges, Cybersecurity 'Quarterback' CISA Seeks to Mold Election Integrity Debate."
<https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/cybersecurity/satas-cybercrime-surges-cybersecurity-quarterback-cisa-acts-mold>

Just the News. (2023). "NFL Lures Millions to TikTok Despite Rising Security, Privacy Concerns About Chinese Platform."
<https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/cybersecurity/sunfl-expands-market-reach-tiktok-amid-rising-security-privacy>

KCBS Radio. (2023). "Cyber Hygiene: What Happens When Your Data is Stolen and How to Avoid it."
<https://omny.fm/shows/kcbsam-on-demand/cyber-hygiene-what-happens-when-your-data-is-stole>

KCBS Radio. (2023). "How AI Chatbots are Improving Cybersecurity against Child Pornography." <https://www.audacy.com/podcast/kcbs-radio-on-demand-011f4/episodes/how-ai-chatbots-are-improving-cybersecurity-against-child-pornography-8eb97>

Medium. (2023). "Article of the Day: Tracking the Career of Website Hackers." <https://medium.com/hybrid-analyst/article-of-the-day-tracking-the-career-of-website-hackers-5a7e9c158461>

NY Post. (2023). "Predators Using Popular Video Meeting Platform to Lure Kids: Report." <https://nypost.com/2023/02/17/predators-using-video-conference-platform-to-lure-kids-report/>

The Criminology Academy. (2023). "Episode 71. Cybercrime and Darknet Markets with C. Jordan Howell." <https://thecriminologyacademy.com/episode-71-howell/>

The National Desk. (2023). "Online Predators Can Take Control of Your Child's Webcam, Experts Warn." <https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/online-predators-can-take-control-of-your-childs-webcam-experts-warn-teens-kids-children-families-cybercrime-cybersecurity-sexual-abuse-exploitation-internet-safety>

Conference Presentations

Howell, C. J. Darknet ecosystem: Selling stolen identities online. Presented at the Annual Cyber Florida Conference. Tampa, FL.

Pourbehzadi, M., Javidi, G., Sheybani, E., & **Howell, C. J.** (2022). Implementing AI in forecasting cybersecurity threats. Presented at Informs Conference on Security. Arlington, VA.

Howell, C. J., Fisher, T., Burruss, G., & Muniz, C. (2022). Identity theft prevention: An experimental evaluation of prospect theory. Presented at the Annual Conference on the Human Factor in Cybercrime. Clearwater, FL.

Howell, C. J., Muniz, C., Fisher, T., & Rotzinger, Y. (2022). Cyber hygiene and online victimization avoidance: Findings from a simulated smishing attack. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Howell, C. J., Maimon, D., Ouellet, M., & Muniz, C. (2022). Darknet market disruption: A proactive approach. Presented at the American Criminal Justice Society Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

Muniz, C., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2022). Prospect theory and identity theft victimization: Findings from a simulated smishing attack. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Perkins, R., Antonaccio, O., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2022). The dissection of a hacking milieu: A multilevel network analysis. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Muniz, C., & **Howell, C. J.** (2022). Online identity theft victimization. Presented at the Western Society of Criminology Conference. Honolulu, HI.

- Fisher, T., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2022). Darknet market characteristics: An examination of longitudinal trends in the illicit online ecosystem. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Howell, C. J.** (2021). Hacking archives as a source of cybercrime data: A validity check. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Burruss, G., & **Howell, C. J.** (2021). Measuring the human factor in cybercrime studies. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Perkins, R., Ouellet, M., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2021). The social dynamics of website defacers. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Hoffman, C., Perkins, R., **Howell, C. J.**, Antonaccio, O., & Maimon, D. (2021). The attack trajectories of website defacers: A group-based analysis. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Wu, Y., Ouellet, M., Maimon, D., & **Howell, C. J.** (2021). The mobility of online stolen data markets: How vendor flows shape the digital marketplace structure. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Berenblum, T., Maimon, D., Muniz, C., Perkins, R., & **Howell, C. J.** (2021). Phishing the university: Findings from two simulated attacks. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Wang, F., **Howell, C. J.**, Maimon, D., & Jacques, S. (2020). The restrictive deterrent effect of warning messages sent to active romance fraudsters: An experimental approach. Presented at the Annual European Society of Criminology Conference. Virtual.
- Howell, C. J.**, Burruss, G., Holt, T., & Bossler, A. (2019). Are there cybercops: A latent class analysis of British police and the response to cybercrime. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Howell, C. J.**, Burruss, G., & Fisk, N. (2019). Understanding cybercrime: A theoretical approach. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Fontaine, E., Shadmanfaat, S., Cochran, J., Kabiri, S., **Howell, C. J.**, & Muniz, C. (2019). An empirical examination of social learning theory's utility in explaining cyberbullying perpetration in a cross-cultural sample. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Perkins, R., **Howell, C. J.**, & Dodge, C. (2019). Assessing the macro-level correlates of spam distribution using a routine activities framework. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA.
- Law, C., Richardson, D., Muniz, C., & **Howell, C. J.** (2019). Social disorganization and online sex work: An analysis. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. San Francisco, CA.

- Burruss, G., **Howell, C. J.**, & Maimon, D. (2019). Website defacer classification: A finite mixture model approach. Presented at the Annual Conference on the Human Factor in Cybercrime. Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- Howell, C. J.**, Burruss, G., & Maimon, D. (2019). Motivation matters: The predictive ability of routine activity theory on motivation specific forms of website defacement. Presented at the Annual Cyber Florida Conference. Tampa, FL.
- Perkins, R., Dodge, C., **Howell, C. J.**, & Burruss, G. (2019). Assessing the macro-level correlates of spam distribution using a routine activities framework. Presented at the Annual Cyber Florida Conference. Tampa, FL.
- Howell, C. J.**, Burruss, G., Maimon, D., Sahani, S., & Shah, A. (2018). The influence of cyber-threats on website defacement. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Burruss, G., Maimon, D., Sahani, S., Shah, A., & **Howell, C. J.** (2018). Deterring website defacement: Preliminary findings from a field experiment. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Sahani, S., **Howell, C. J.**, Shah, A., Maimon, D., & Burruss, G. (2018). The impact of motivation on targets of web defacements. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Shah, A., Maimon, D., **Howell, C. J.**, Sahani, S., & Burruss, G. (2018). Web defacement hacks and attackers' use of social media platforms: Preliminary findings. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Richardson, D., **Howell, C. J.**, & Law, C. (2018). The influence of city-level structural factors on cyber prostitution. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Law, C., & **Howell, C. J.** (2018). Online sex solicitation: An analysis. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Perkins, R., **Howell, C. J.**, & Muniz, C. (2018). Cyber victimization: An analysis. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Atlanta, GA.
- Howell, C. J.**, Cochran, J., Meade, C., Kremling, J., Smith, M., Bjerregaard, B., & Fogel, S. (2017). The effect of contextual factors on capital sentencing outcomes. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Kleppe, A., Meade, C., **Howell, C. J.**, Cochran, J., Smith, M., Bjerregaard, B., & Fogel, S. (2017). County-level contextual factors and death sentencing outcomes. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Philadelphia, PA.
- Law, C., Cochran, J., **Howell, C. J.**, Meade, C., Kremling, J., Smith, M., Bjerregaard, B., & Fogel, S. (2017). The influence of contextual factors on capital sentencing outcomes for female offenders. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Dodge, C., **Howell, C. J.**, & Meade, C. (2017). The influence of contextual factors on arrest rates in North Carolina. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

Howell, C. J., Kabiri, S., Masoomah, S., & Cochran, J. (2017). Cyberbullying against rival athletes: A complementary model of self-control and differential association. Presented at the Annual European Society of Criminology Conference. Cardiff, Wales.

Howell, C. J., Maimon, D., Cochran, J., Powers, R., & Jones, H. (2016). The restrictive deterrent effect of warning banners in a compromised computer system. Presented at the Annual American Society of Criminology Conference. New Orleans, L.A.