

# KLEJDIS BILALI

## Curriculum Vitae

University of South Florida  
Department of Criminology  
4202 E. Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620  
klejdis@usf.edu

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### EDUCATION

<b>University of South Florida, Tampa, FL</b> Doctor of Philosophy   Criminology	<b>Anticipated 2026</b>
<b>University of Central Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary, FL</b> Master of Arts   Clinical Psychology   Pre-Licensure Track	<b>August 2022</b>
<b>University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL</b> <b>Bachelor of Arts   Psychology</b> <b>Minor in Criminology</b> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	<b>December 2018</b>
<b>St. Petersburg College, Seminole, FL</b> Early College Program Dual Enrollment Program	<b>2015 – 2016</b> <b>2014 – 2015</b>

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### RESEARCH & CLINICAL INTERESTS

Human trafficking | Trauma and abnormal psychopathology | Mental health and developmental outcomes of child sex trafficking | Violence against women and children | Trauma-informed care

[Google Scholar](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [ORCID: 0000-0001-8152-7717](#) | [www.linkedin.com/in/klejdis-bilali-2a9899226](http://www.linkedin.com/in/klejdis-bilali-2a9899226)

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### PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS

Reid, J. A., **Bilali, K.**, Fox, B., & Diaz, J. (2023). Toward a typology of child sex traffickers: Using crime script analysis to inform prevention. *Victims & Offenders*.

Doody, S. J., Reid, J., **Bilali, K.**, Diaz, J., & Mattheus, N., (2021). In the post-COVID-19 era, is the illegal wildlife trade the most serious form of trafficking? *Crime Science*.

Reid, J. A., Fox, B., **Bilali, K.**, & Diaz, J. (2021). Personality traits and male vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation victimisation. *Criminal Behaviour & Mental Health*, 31(2), p. 120 -130. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbm.2189>

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

Reid, J. A., **Bilali, K.**, Cain, C. M., & Crook, K. (In press). Toward evidenced-based human trafficking prevention. In F. B. & E. V. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Practices*. Routledge.

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## **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

**American Society of Criminology** **November 2023**  
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

**Bilali, K.**, Walker, E., Crook, K., Reid, J., Ngo, F., Santos, M., & Chenneville, T. (November 2023). *Offering potentially trafficked individuals options now (OPTION): An evaluation of a Florida-based, youth trafficking specialty court*. [Panel Presentation]. Abstract accepted for presentation. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

**2023 Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JuST) Conference** **November 2023**  
*Washington, DC*

Valentine, C., **Bilali, K.**, Friedman, B., & Norfleet, K., (November 2023). *Journey homeward: An evaluation of a family reunification program for CSEC teens in foster care*. [60-minute presentation]. JuST Conference, Washington DC, USA.

**2023 Human Trafficking Summit** **October 2023**  
*Virtual Presentation*

Valentine, C., **Bilali, K.**, & Friedman, B., (October 2023). *Field testing and evaluation of a family reunification program for youth exploited in human trafficking*. [Webinar presentation]. 2023 Human Trafficking Summit.

**AIDS Impact Conference** **June 2023**  
*Stockholm, Sweden*

Chenneville, T., Francis, G., **Bilali, K.**, & Rodriguez, C. (June 2023). *Psychosocial screening of youth living with HIV in an integrated care setting before and after COVID-19*. [Poster presentation]. Stockholm, Sweden.

**Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences** **March 2023**  
*National Harbor, Maryland*

**Bilali, K.** (2023, March). *Fostering emotion regulation among sex trafficked youth: Clinical considerations of group psychoeducation*. [Panel presentation]. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Harbor, Maryland, USA.

**Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences** **March 2023**  
*National Harbor, Maryland*

Valentine, C., **Bilali, K.**, Reid, J., & Borja, B. (2023, March). *Update: Evaluation of a family reunification program for youth exploited in human trafficking*. [Panel presentation]. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Harbor, Maryland, USA.

**American Society of Criminology** **November 2022**  
*Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

Valentine, C., **Bilali, K.**, & Reid, J. A. (2022, November). *Field testing and evaluation of a family reunification program for girls exploited in human trafficking*. [Panel presentation]. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

**American Society of Criminology** **November 2022**  
*Atlanta, Georgia, USA*

Reid, J. A., **Bilali, K.**, & Fox, B. (2022, November). *Recruitment by child sex traffickers: Using crime scripting to inform prevention*. [Roundtable discussion]. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

**Southern Criminal Justice Association** **September 2022**  
*Asheville, North Carolina*

**Bilali, K.** (2022, September). *Unwinding the trauma bond between sex trafficked adolescents and sex traffickers: Clinical considerations of group psychotherapy*. [Panel presentation]. Southern Criminal Justice Association, Asheville, North Carolina, USA.

**Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences** **March 2022**  
*Las Vegas, NV, USA*

**Bilali, K.**, & Reid, J. A. (2022, March). *Family reunification of commercially sexually exploited teens in foster care: A clinical perspective*. [Panel presentation]. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, NV, USA.

**American Society of Criminology** **November 2021**  
*Chicago, IL, USA*

**Bilali, K.,** Diaz, J., Reid, J. A., & Fox, B. (2021, November). *Rural versus urban victim vulnerabilities for child sex trafficking* [Paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL, USA.

Reid, J. A., Fox, B., **Bilali, K.,** Diaz, J., Peek, J.T., Kilian, K. (2021, November). *Recruitment profiles of child sex traffickers: Using crime scripting to inform prevention*. [Paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL, USA.

### **USFSP Psychology Poster Expo**

**April 2021**

*University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA*

Hunt, A., **Bilali, K.,** Dimopoulos, D., Clements, T., Rodriguez, L. M., & Grossman, C. (2021, April). *Being happy, performing well and doing it autonomously: An investigation of the relationship of job autonomy and job performance via job satisfaction* [Poster presentation]. Psychology Poster Expo, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

### **International Association of Relationship Research**

**Summer 2020**

*South Kensington, London, UK*

**Bilali, K.,** Bradham, H., Loos, M., Lopez, S., Bilali, A., Rodriguez, L. M. (2020). *Resiliency moderates the associations between childhood sexual abuse and both emotion regulation and intimate partner violence* [Poster presentation]. Accepted for presentation at the International Association of Relationship Research, London, UK. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)

### **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium**

**Spring 2020**

*University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA*

Bradham, H., **Bilali, K.,** Lopez, S., Rodriguez, L. M., Waterman, E. A., Edwards, K. M., & Ullman, S. E. (2020, April). *Differences in social reactions by gender of victim & recipient conceptions in sexual assault from a disclosure recipient's view* [Poster presentation]. Student Research Symposium, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

Diaz, J., **Bilali, K.,** Reid, J. (2020, April). *Exploring traits linked to commercial sexual exploitation: Psychopathy v. impulsivity* [Poster presentation]. Student Research Symposium, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

Hunt, A., **Bilali, K.,** Dimopoulos, D., Clements, T., Rodriguez, L. M. (2020, April). *If you're happy and you know it, your job performance will show it: Job autonomy is related to job performance through job satisfaction* [Poster presentation]. Student Research Symposium, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

## 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Psychological Research Association

Spring 2020

New Orleans, LA, USA

Bradham, H., **Bilali, K.**, Lopez, S., Rodriguez, L. M., Waterman, E. A., Edwards, K. M., & Ullman, S. E. (2020, March). *Differences in social reactions by gender of victim & recipient conceptions in sexual assault from a disclosure recipient's view* [Poster presentation]. Accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association, New Orleans, LA, USA. (Conference canceled due to COVID-19)

## The American Psychology-Law Society Conference

Spring 2020

New Orleans, LA, USA

Diaz, J., **Bilali, K.**, Reid, J. (2020). *Exploring traits linked to commercial sexual exploitation: Psychopathy v. impulsivity* [Poster presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Research Symposium

Spring 2019

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA

**Bilali, K.**, Gralha, M., Lopez S., Robinson E., & Rodriguez, L. M. (2019, April). *Why don't victims of abusive relationships just leave? Utilizing the investment model to assess IPV victims' commitment to abusers* [Poster presentation]. Student Research Symposium, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

Gralha, M., Dimopoulos, D., Robinson, E., **Bilali, K.**, Lopez, S., Rodriguez, L. M. (2019, April). *Bare your heart or cork it up? Analyzing the impact of emotion suppression and ambivalence on relationships* [Poster presentation]. Student Research Symposium, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL, USA.

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## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### *Manuscript Reviewer*

- *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma*
- *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*
- *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody & Child Development*
- *Journal of Human Trafficking*
- *Psychology, Crime and Law*
- *Victims and Offenders*
- *SAGE Open*

### *Copy Editor*

Chesler, P. (2021). Andrea revised: Andrea Dworkin: The feminist as revolutionary by Martin Duberman. *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*, 6(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2021.06.01.07>

Caplan, P. (2021). A page-turner with a social conscience: Requiem for a serial killer by Phyllis Chesler. *Dignity: A Journal of Analysis of Exploitation and Violence*, 6(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.23860/dignity.2021.06.01.02>

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## **REVIEWS OF BOOK PROPOSALS**

- External expert on child sex trafficking for novel *The Girl in the Aphrodisiac Jacket* by Margo Hammond.
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## **GRANT PROPOSALS**

Reid, J. A., University of South Florida (Principal Investigator) & **Bilali, K.**, University of South Florida (Co-Principal Investigator) (2023-2025). *Florida Human Trafficking Victimization Survey*. Graduate Student Research Collaboration Award University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Requested \$22,000.

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## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Registered Mental Health Counseling Intern**

*University of South Florida (USF) Pediatric and Infectious Disease Program*  
(<https://health.usf.edu/care/pediatrics/services-specialties/infectious>)

- *USF Children's Medical Services, Tampa, FL*
- *USF Ybor Youth Clinic, Tampa, FL*
- *All Children's Hospital Outpatient Care Center, St. Petersburg, FL*

*January 2023 – Present*

*Supervising Psychologist: Dr. Tiffany Chenneville*

*Registered LMHC Intern Number: IMH23831*

- The *USF Pediatric and Infectious Disease Program* operates through three clinics, providing integrated care, including trauma-informed mental health services, to children and young adults diagnosed with infectious diseases.
- **Responsibilities**
  - Completed consultations, biopsychological intakes, and mental health screenings, and facilitated trauma-informed psychotherapy (in-person and via telehealth) with patients diagnosed with HIV.
  - Worked within an integrated team to best respond to patient needs, including providing recommendations and referrals for mental health evaluations.
  - Contributed to HIV research
    - Data collection, cleaning, management, and analysis
- Exposure to mood and stressor-based disorders among disadvantaged LGBTQIA+ patients.

## **Employed Clinical Psychology Intern**

*Images of Glory, Winter Park, FL*

*January 2021 – July 2022 (Employed since May 2021)*

*Supervising Mental Health Counselor: Ms. Brenda Friedman, LMHC*

*\* 160+ hours completed through practicum*

*\*\* ~1300+ (~500+ hours of direct client contact) completed through internship*

- *Images of Glory* is a non-profit organization that works to provide housing, education, and mental health services to juvenile victims of sex trafficking, aged 13 to 17.
- Responsibilities
  - Completing intake interviews, biopsychosocial assessments, and clinical progress notes
  - Developing and revising client treatment plans
  - Administering and scoring psychological assessments
  - Engaging in crisis intervention, elopement prevention, client emotional de-escalation
  - Administering suicide- and elopement-centered assessments and safety plans
  - Creating and facilitating weekly emotional de-escalation groups as well as trauma-focused group psychotherapy sessions aimed at unwinding the trauma-bond between victim and trafficker
  - Facilitating individual, group, and family reunification-centered therapy sessions
  - Participation in community service (e.g., church food drives)
- Exposure to mood, conduct, and stressor-based disorders
- Exposure to trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT), eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy (EMDR), mindfulness practice, experiential therapy (e.g., psychodrama)

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## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Assistantships**

#### **Graduate Research Assistant | USF Trafficking in Persons (TiP) Laboratory**

*USF-St. Petersburg, FL*

*Faculty Advisor: Dr. Joan Reid, Ph.D., LMHC*

*Summer 2020 – Present (Employed Summer 2020 – Summer 2021)*

- The objective of the TiP lab (<https://tiplab.cbcs.usf.edu/>) is to better examine the risk factors associated with human trafficking.
- Responsibilities
  - Collecting, organizing, and coding raw human trafficking data
  - Completing study initiation activities

- Creating annotated bibliographies and preparing literature reviews
- Creating observation and interview sheets necessary for transcribing data
- IRB submissions and grant application prep
- Participant recruitment and training
- Survey development and data management via Qualtrics
- Preparing manuscripts and poster presentations
- Participating in interviews with trafficked victims, justice practitioners, and court personnel
- Undergraduate/high school student research mentoring on trafficking-related research projects
- Current research projects
  - Field testing and evaluation of *Journey Homeward*: A family reunification program for youth exploited in human trafficking
    - As part of study recruitment, I developed and completed multiple 2-hour trainings for practitioners working with trafficked populations across the US.
  - Profiles of child sex traffickers: A forensic behavioral analysis
  - An evaluation of the *Offering Potentially Trafficked Individuals Options or Opportunities Now* (OPTION) court
  - Review and development of a child trafficking screening tool in collaboration with the FL Department of Child and Families

### **Employed Lab Manager & Research Assistant | Healthy Emotions and Relationship Theories (HEART) Laboratory**

*USF-St. Petersburg, FL*

*Faculty Advisor: Dr. Lindsey M. Rodriguez, Ph.D.*

*Employed Lab Manager: Summer 2019 – Summer 2020*

*Volunteer Research Assistant: Fall 2018 – Summer 2019*

- The objective of the HEART laboratory is to understand how empirically supported interventions can be utilized to better interpersonal relationships. Constructs primarily explored include attachment theory, emotion regulation strategies, intimate partner violence, trauma, and substance abuse.
- Responsibilities
  - Preparing study initiation activities (creating measure packets/annotated bibliographies)
  - Obtaining, entering, and managing participant data/emails
  - Distributing study recruitment materials, scheduling participants, and responding to participant needs
  - Administering SONA credit hours and participant compensation



- Coordinating meeting agendas, assigning lab tasks, and scheduling shifts for research assistants
- Training new research assistants/Mentoring undergraduate students
- Programming measures and beta-testing surveys via Qualtrics and Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Preparing manuscripts and research presentations

### **Employed Research Assistant | Preventing Alzheimer’s with Cognitive Training (PACT)**

#### **Laboratory**

*USF-St. Petersburg, FL*

*Principal Investigator: Dr. Jerri Edwards, Ph.D.*

*Co-Investigator: Dr. Jennifer O’Brien, Ph.D.*

*Employed Research Assistant: Summer 2019 – Fall 2019*

*Volunteer Research Assistant: Spring 2019*

- The PACT laboratory is based on a study that aims to assess whether computerized training exercises are able to reduce older adults’ risk of cognitive impairment. The University of South Florida system worked in collaboration with Michigan State University. The study was sponsored through a \$44.5-million grant via the National Institute of Aging.
- Responsibilities
  - Recruiting, screening, and scheduling participants
  - Administering memory screenings (e.g., the Modified Telephone Interview for Cognitive Status)
  - Beta-testing cognitive training exercises
  - Attending community health events around the Tampa Bay area and educating local senior citizens about brain health

### **Employed Research Assistant | Motivated Attention and Perception (MAP) Laboratory**

*USF-St. Petersburg, FL*

*Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jennifer O’Brien, Ph.D.*

*Summer 2018 – Fall 2019*

- The MAP laboratory revolves around visual perception and attention, and how sensory input and selective attention are impacted by expectations, motivation, and incentive salience. Cognitive processes are assessed via learning tasks involving operant conditioning, specifically imaginary monetary gains and losses. Electroencephalogram (EEG) data, specifically event-related potentials (ERPs), are analyzed.
- Responsibilities
  - Recruiting and screening participants
  - Collecting and cleaning ERP data via programs such as Neuroscan
  - Administering and rescoring memory assessments
  - Collecting sample kits for DNA analyses

- Creating and managing lab protocols

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Fully Funded Graduate Teaching Assistantships**

*University of South Florida, Tampa, FL*

*Courses:*

- *Crime and Justice in America (3014)* **Fall 2023**
- *Hate Crime (CCJ3120)* **Fall 2023**
- *Child Sex Trafficking (CCJ4933)* **Fall 2023**
- *Child Sex Trafficking (CCJ4933)* **Summer 2023**
- *Survey of Criminal Justice (CCJ3024)* **Spring 2023**
- *Theories of Criminal Behavior (CCJ3117)* **Fall 2022**
- *Survey of Criminal Justice (CCJ3024)* **Summer 2022**
  - TA Responsibilities:
    - Uploading lectures, assignments, and developing online course modules
    - Grading and providing student feedback
    - Responding to student needs
    - Recruiting guest lecturers
    - Teaching/Uploading lectures

### **Funded Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**Spring 2021**

*University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL*

*Courses:*

- *Abnormal Psychology (CLP3143)*
- *Social Psychology (PSY3074)*
- *Career Readiness II (SOP3004)*
- Responsibilities:
  - Grading and providing feedback on student discussion posts, papers, midterms, and finals
  - Facilitating weekly student study sessions
  - Observing and rating student performance in a department-sponsored job search simulation [*Career Readiness II (SOP3004)*]
  - Coaching for student improvement in career readiness competencies through the delivery of behavior-focused feedback [*Career Readiness II (SOP3004)*]

### **Volunteer Teaching Assistant**

**Spring 2020**

*University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL*

*Course: Social Psychology (SOP4004)*

*Instructor: Dr. Lindsey M. Rodriguez, Ph.D.*

- Responsibilities:
    - Presenting lectures
    - Helping the instructor prepare PowerPoint presentations
    - Mentoring undergraduate students who wish to pursue graduate studies
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### INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

Valentine, C., Walker, E., & **Bilali, K.** (January 2023). *Eradicating human trafficking in our own communities and beyond*. University of South Florida, Judy Genshaft Honors College Student Council. Invited talk.

Valentine, C. & **Bilali, K.** (December 2022). *An evaluation of a family reunification program for youth exploited in human trafficking*. Mel Greene Institute to Combat Human Trafficking. Invited talk.

**Bilali, K.** (Summer 2022). *Responses to child sex trafficking: Child-family reunification*. CCJ4933: Child Sex Trafficking. Guest lecture.

Valentine, C., **Bilali, K.**, Reid, J., & Friedman, B. (May 2022). *Journey homeward: Family reunification of commercially sexually exploited teens in foster care*. Florida Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. Invited talk.

**Bilali, K.**, Diaz, J., Franklin, S., & Reid, J.R. (November 2020). *Human trafficking. Global and local*. Student Coalition Against Human Trafficking. University of Tampa. Guest lecture.

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### MEDIA INTERVIEWS & COVERAGE

- “TIP Lab team shares human trafficking research with honors students,” <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/news/2023/tip-lab-jghcsc-presentation.aspx>
  - “USF lab will be the first in Florida to create human trafficking database” <https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2023/06/09/usf-lab-will-be-first-florida-create-human-trafficking-database/>
  - “Criminology faculty and students attend ACJS Annual Meeting” <https://www.usf.edu/cbcs/news/2023/2023-acjs-annual-meeting.asp>
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### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Member since 2022

Southern Criminal Justice Association

Member since 2022

American Society of Criminology (Division of Victimology)

Member since 2021

*Position: Co-chair of DOV mentoring committee*

*Fall 2021*

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## **ACADEMIC HONORS & FUNDED OPPORTUNITIES**

### **University of South Florida, Tampa, FL**

- Fully funded graduate student **Summer 2022 – Summer 2023**

### **University of Central Florida, Sanford/Lake Mary, FL**

- Recipient of the UCF Graduate Presentation Fellowship **Fall 2021**
- Recipient of the UCF Graduate Teaching Assistantship **Spring 2021**

### **University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, FL**

- *Summa Cum Laude* Graduate **Fall 2018**
- Outstanding Graduate Award Nominee **Fall 2018**
- Chancellor's Top 10% List **Fall 2016 – Fall 2018**
- Dean's List **Fall 2016 – Fall 2018**

### **St. Petersburg College, Seminole, FL**

- President's Honors List **2015 – 2016**
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## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.