

Dr Zarina I. Vakhitova

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SUMMARY

Dr Zarina Vakhitova is an award-winning social scientist whose research focuses on the role of technology in facilitating, responding to and preventing crime. Her research integrates computational approaches, including Bayesian modelling, bibliometric audits, and experimental survey designs, with criminological theory to generate policy insights from complex social data. She is experienced in using AI-assisted workflows and large language models to enhance research productivity and analytical capacity.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Fellow (2024 – Present)

Senior Lecturer (2023 – 2024)

Lecturer (2019 – 2023)

School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia 2019 – Present

Principal Research Officer, Strategic Intelligence Unit

Queensland Police Service, Brisbane, Australia 2018 – 2019

Sessional Academic

Griffith College, Brisbane, Australia 2018 – 2019

Research Assistant

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia 2016 – 2019

Criminology Undergraduate Research Internship Program Coordinator

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia 2015 – 2016

Criminology Undergraduate Research Internship Program (CURIP) Supervisor

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia 2014 – 2015

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Criminology

Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia 2019

Master of Criminology and Criminal Justice, First Class Honours

Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia 2013

Associate of Arts, Criminology, with Distinction

Kwantlen Institute of Technology, Vancouver, Canada 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- [1] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Claudio Mezzetti, Clair Alston-Knox, et al. "Performance-enhancing drug use in sports: a Bayesian variable selection and profile regression approach to identifying risk factors and estimating prevalence". In: *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy* 21.25 (2026). DOI: 10.1186/s13011-025-00699-x.

- [2] Asher Flynn, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Lisa Wheildon, Bridget Harris, and Brady Robards. “Content Moderation and Community Standards: The Disconnect Between Policy and User Experiences Reporting Harmful and Offensive Content on Social Media”. In: *Policy & Internet* 17.3 (2025), e70006. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/poi3.70006>.
- [3] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Mary Iliadis, Asher Flynn, Bridget Harris, and Danielle Tyson. “Comparing Police Officers’ and Domestic Violence Victims’ Perspectives on Body-Worn Cameras”. In: *Justice Quarterly* 0.0 (2025), pp. 1–35. DOI: 10.1080/07418825.2025.2600365.
- [4] Mary Iliadis, Bridget Harris, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Delanie Woodlock, Asher Flynn, and Danielle Tyson. “How police body-worn cameras can facilitate misidentification in domestic and family violence responses”. In: *Trends and Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice [Electronic Resource]* 684 (2024), pp. 1–15.
- [5] Mine Özaşçılar, C. Çalıcı, and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. “Examining cybercrime victimisation among Turkish women using routine activity theory”. In: *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* 26 (2024), pp. 112–128. DOI: 10.1057/s41300-024-00201-y.
- [6] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Rob I. Mawby, and Nicola Helps. “Exploring the value of holiday preferences and routine activities for understanding tourist victimisation while on holiday”. In: *Security Journal* (2024). DOI: 10.1057/s41284-024-00430-8.
- [7] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Clair L. Alston-Knox, and Rob I. Mawby. “Online Routine Activities and Self-Guardianship against Cyber Abuse”. In: *Victims & Offenders* 18.4 (2023), pp. 623–645. DOI: 10.1080/15564886.2021.2022056.
- [8] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Mary Iliadis, Bridget Harris, Danielle Tyson, and Asher Flynn. “The merits and risks of body-worn camera footage in domestic and family violence incidents and legal proceedings: a study of police perceptions and experiences”. In: *Policing and Society* 33.2 (2023), pp. 170–186. DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2022.2082421.
- [9] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Rob I. Mawby, Nicola Helps, and Clair L. Alston-Knox. “Tourism and Crime: An Exploratory Study of Burglary From Tourist Accommodation From the Criminal Opportunity Perspective”. In: *Crime & Delinquency* 69.11 (2023), pp. 2164–2193. DOI: 10.1177/00111287221106962.
- [10] **Zarina I. Vakhitovaa**, Alise Go, and Clair L. Alston-Knox. “Guardians Against Cyber Abuse: Who are They and Why do They Intervene?” In: *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 48 (2023), pp. 96–122. DOI: 10.1007/s12103-021-09641-w.
- [11] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Clair L. Alston-Knox, Ellen Reeves, and Rob I. Mawby. “Explaining Victim Impact from Cyber Abuse: An Exploratory Mixed Methods Analysis”. In: *Deviant Behavior* 43.10 (2022), pp. 1153–1172. DOI: 10.1080/01639625.2021.1921558.
- [12] Kerry S. O’Brien, Rebecca M. Puhl, Janet D. Latner, Dermot Lynott, Jessica D. Reid, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, John A. Hunter, Damian Scarf, Ruth Jeanes, Ayoub Bouguettaya, and Adrian Carter. “The Effect of a Food Addiction Explanation Model for Weight Control and Obesity on Weight Stigma”. In: *Nutrients* 12.2 (2020). ISSN: 2072-6643. DOI: 10.3390/nu12020294.
- [13] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Rob I. Mawby, C. L. Alston-Knox, et al. “To SPB or not to SPB? A mixed methods analysis of self-protective behaviours to prevent repeat victimisation from cyber abuse”. In: *Crime Science* 9 (2020), p. 24. DOI: 10.1186/s40163-020-00134-5.
- [14] Danielle M. Reynald, Emily Moir, Amanda Cook, and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. “Changing perspectives on guardianship against crime: an examination of the importance of micro-level factors”. In: *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* 20 (2018), pp. 268–283. DOI: 10.1057/s41300-018-0049-4.
- [15] **Zarina I. Vakhitova** and Clair L. Alston-Knox. “Non-significant p-values? Strategies to understand and better determine the importance of effects and interactions in logistic regression”. In: *Plos One* 13.11 (Nov. 2018), pp. 1–32. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0205076.
- [16] **Zarina I. Vakhitova** and Peter J. Bell. “A script analysis of the role of athletes’ support networks as social facilitators in doping in sport”. In: *Crime Prevention and Community Safety* 20 (2018), pp. 168–188. DOI: 10.1057/s41300-018-0045-8.

- [17] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Julianne Webster, Clair Alston-Knox, Danielle Reynald, and Michael Townsley. “Offender–victim relationship and offender motivation in the context of indirect cyber abuse: A mixed-method exploratory analysis”. In: *International Review of Victimology* 24.3 (2018), pp. 347–366. DOI: 10.1177/0269758017743073.
- [18] Geoff Dean, Peter J. Bell, and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. “Right-wing extremism in Australia: the rise of the new radical right”. In: *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism* 11.2 (2016), pp. 121–142. DOI: 10.1080/18335330.2016.1231414.
- [19] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Danielle M. Reynald, and Michael Townsley. “Toward the Adaptation of Routine Activity and Lifestyle Exposure Theories to Account for Cyber Abuse Victimization”. In: *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 32.2 (2016), pp. 169–188. DOI: 10.1177/1043986215621379.
- [20] **Zarina I. Vakhitova** and Danielle M. Reynald. “Australian internet users and guardianship against cyber abuse: An empirical analysis”. English. In: *International Journal of Cyber Criminology* 8.2 (Jan. 2014), pp. 156–171. ISSN: 0974-2891.

Book Chapters

- [21] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. “Cyber Routine Activity Theory”. In: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. In press. Oxford University Press, 2024.
- [22] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Rob Mawby, and Mine Özaşçılar. “Tourism and Crime”. In: *The International Encyclopedia of Business Management*. Ed. by Vanessa Ratten. Elsevier, 2024. DOI: 10.1016/B978-0-443-13701.
- [23] Rob I. Mawby and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. “Researching the Relationship Between Tourism, Crime and Security: The Tourism Industry and the Disenfranchised Citizens”. In: *The Handbook of Security*. Ed. by Martin Gill. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022, pp. 581–601. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-91735-7_27.
- [24] Mary Iliadis, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Bridget Harris, Danielle Tyson, and Asher Flynn. “Police Body-Worn Cameras in Response to Domestic and Family Violence: A Study of Police Perceptions and Experiences”. In: *The Palgrave Handbook of Gendered Violence and Technology*. Ed. by Anastasia Powell, Asher Flynn, and Lisa Sugiura. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021, pp. 417–439. ISBN: 978-3-030-83734-1. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-83734-1_21.
- [25] Peter Bell, Geoff Dean, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, and Janet Ransley. “Research Methods”. In: *Corruption in Sport*. Ed. by Lisa A. Kihl. 1st ed. Routledge, 2018. Chap. 12, pp. 240–257. DOI: 10.4324/9781315677217.

Work in Progress

- [26] Rajeev Gundur, Volkan Topali, **Vakhitova, Zarina I.**, Harry Kangluo Liu, Michael Levi, Charlie Winter, and Alexandra Louise Anderson Baxter. “The Commercialization of Ransomware: From Spray-and-Prey to Big Game Hunting to the Ransom Bazaar”. (in press).
- [27] Ross Hendy and **Vakhitova, Zarina I.** “Does Routine Arming Increase Police Officer-Involved Shootings? Evidence from Australia (1970–2020)”. (in press).
- [28] **Vakhitova, Zarina I.** “Do Criminologists Read Each Other’s Work? A Longitudinal Analysis of Cross-Citation Patterns, 1960–2025”. (under review).
- [29] **Vakhitova, Zarina I.** “Surviving the Label: The Impact of Terminology on Public Sympathy and Support for Crime-Affected Individuals”. (under review).
- [30] **Vakhitova, Zarina I.** and Claudio Mezzetti. “Ransomware, Emotions, and the Decision to Pay: Evidence from a Factorial Experiment”. (in press).
- [31] Zachary Breig, Claudio Mezzetti, and **Zarina I Vakhitova**. “Ransomware Insurance”. Working paper, University of Queensland.
- [32] **Vakhitova, Zarina I.** “The Gender Citation Gap in Criminology: A Bibliometric Audit Across Intellectual Traditions”. Work in progress. 2026.

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

Technical Reports

- [33] Mary Iliadis, Bridget Harris, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, Delanie Woodlock, Asher Flynn, and Danielle Tyson. *Police body-worn cameras and domestic and family violence: An evaluation of use in Australia*. Final Report: Criminology Research Grant No. 35/20-21. Australian Institute of Criminology, 2024.
- [34] Asher Flynn, Lisa Wheildon, Brady Robards, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, and Bridget Harris. *Australian Users' Experiences with Control Features on Social Media Services and Online Dating Apps. Report for Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts*. Final Report. Australian Government, May 2023.
- [35] S. Meyer, N. Pfitzner, T. Bartlett, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, K. Fitz-Gibbon, and K. O'Brien. *Review of the Fast-Tracking Initiative in the Magistrates' Courts of Victoria*. Final report. 2019, p. 171.
- [36] S. Meyer, N. Pfitzner, T. Bartlett, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, K. Fitz-Gibbon, and K. O'Brien. *Review of the Fast-Tracking Initiative in the Magistrates' Courts of Victoria*. Summary report. 2019, p. 12.
- [37] Geoff Dean, David Bartlett, and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. *Community Profiles of Gold Coast City, Broadbeach, Coolangatta, Southport and Surfers Paradise ahead of the 2018 Commonwealth Games*. Final report. The City of Gold Coast, 2017.
- [38] Geoff Dean, **Zarina I. Vakhitova**, and Peter J. Bell. *The Ugly Face of the Beautiful Game: Systemic Corruption in Professional Soccer*. Technical report. Queensland Academy of Sport, 2017.
- [39] Geoff Dean, Peter J. Bell, and **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. *Right-Wing Extremism and the Rise of the New Radical Right in Australia*. Technical report. Queensland Social Cohesion Implementation Committee, 2016.

Invited Talks and Panels

- [40] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Citation Justice in Social Sciences". In: *Machine Collaborators Seminar Series*. Melbourne, Australia, 2026.
- [41] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Ransomware, Emotions, and the Decision to Pay: Evidence from a Factorial Experiment". In: *Te Puna Haumarua Seminar Series, University of Waikato*. Waikato, New Zealand, 2026.
- [42] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Do police responses to crime explain victims' willingness to report future crime incidents to the police?". In: *Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science. Swinburne University*. Melbourne, Australia, 2024.
- [43] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Explaining cyber abuse victimisation using Bayesian Model Averaging with stochastic search algorithm". In: *Bayesian Statistical Society (Australian branch) Annual Meeting*. Gold Coast, Australia, 2019.
- [44] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Invited panel member". In: *Queensland University of Technology Justice Society's "Careers in Cybercrime and Counterterrorism Forum"*. Brisbane, Australia, 2018.
- [45] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Regulating cybercrime: Challenges of cybercrime investigation and prosecution". In: *Monash University Seminar*. Melbourne, Australia, 2018.
- [46] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Using Bayesian Profile Regression in Cybercrime Research". In: *Statistical Society of Australia (QLD Branch) Meeting*. Brisbane, Australia, 2018.
- [47] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Using Bayesian Profile Regression in Identifying Clusters of Victims of Cyber Abuse". In: *Statistics Week, Griffith University*. Brisbane, Australia, 2018.
- [48] **Zarina I. Vakhitova**. "Using surveys in criminological research". In: *Social Science Research Methods Lecture Series, Griffith University*. Brisbane, Australia, 2016.

FUNDING

Period	Project Description	Amount (AUD)
2025	Tracking Islamophobia and its impacts on Australian Muslims lives. (<i>Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project grant</i>)	\$537,437
2025	Exploring the intersection of socio-economic well-being, crime and road safety: An analysis from the Social Disorganisation Perspective (with Alston-Knox, C., Strickland, C., Gazos, T.). <i>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (Australia)</i>	\$484,372
2023	Harnessing the power of ordinary people to prevent cyber abuse. (<i>Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Research Award (DECRA)</i>)	\$410,321
2023	Trauma-informed responses for sexual offence victims: protecting sensitive third-party evidence (with Iliadis, M., Salter, M., Woodlock, D.). (<i>Australian Institute of Criminology</i>)	\$60,087
2022	Delivering Research into Australian User Experience with Control Features on Social Media Services and Dating Platforms (with Flynn, A., Harris, B., Robards, B., Wheildon, L.). (<i>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</i>)	\$123,442
2020	Police body-worn camera technology in response to domestic and family violence: a national study of victim-survivor perspectives and experiences (with Iliadis, M., Harris, B., Tyson, D., Flynn, A.). (<i>Australian Institute of Criminology</i>)	\$67,348
2019	Evaluation Services for the Review of the Fast-Tracking Initiative in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria (with Meyer, S., McCulloch, J., Maher, J., Bartlett, T., O'Brien, K., Fitz-Gibbon, K., McGowan, J., Thomas, K.). (<i>Court Services Victoria</i>)	\$181,108
2017	The rise of right-wing extremism in Australia (with Dean, G., Bell, P.). (<i>Queensland Government</i>)	\$5,000
2016	Corruption within FIFA (with Bell, P.). (<i>Queensland Academy of Sport</i>)	\$10,000
2015	Crime Script Analysis of doping in sport (with Bell, P.). (<i>Queensland Academy of Sport</i>)	\$5,000
	Total	\$1,884,115

POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION

Current Supervisions

- Alina Abramenko, PhD, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2024 – Present. Primary supervisor.
- Sovannara Lim, PhD, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2024 – Present. Secondary supervisor.
- Tiansi Chu, PhD, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2025 – Present. Secondary supervisor.
- Kangqiao Xiang, PhD, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2025 – Present. Secondary supervisor.

Previous Supervisions

- You Zhou, PhD, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2022 – 2025. Secondary supervisor.
- Ms Jemima Middis, “Assessing the current threat of ransomware to Australian businesses, government agencies and organisations.”, Honours, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2022.
- Ms Alisa Go, “Guardians of cyberspace – who are they?”, Honours, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2022. Awarded “Best Criminology Thesis”.
- Mr Callum Stevens, “An exploratory mixed-method analysis of adopting self-protective behaviours by victims of cyber abuse from the lifestyles-routine activities theoretical perspective”, Honours, School of Social Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, 2022.

SERVICE

Editorial Boards

- Editorial Board member and an Associate Editor: Crime Prevention and Community Safety: An International Journal [2024 – Present]
(<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/journal/41300/about/editorial-board>)

Journal Reviews

Crime and Delinquency; Computers in Human Behavior; Journal of Family Violence; Journal of School Violence; Criminal Justice Review; Security Journal; Journal of Criminology; Nordic Journal of Criminology; Violence against Women; Asian Journal of Criminology; Journal of Mixed Methods Research; Crime Prevention and Community Safety; International Journal of Cybercriminology; Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Journal; Sage Open; Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect and others.

PROFESSIONAL HONOURS AND PRIZES

- “Outstanding Policing Research” prize from the Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology (Policing Thematic Group) for “The merits and risks of body-worn camera footage in domestic and family violence incidents and legal proceedings: a study of police perceptions and experiences” [2022]
- Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK. [2021]