



## Maryland Crime Research & Innovation Center

MCRIC

Greetings MCRIC Community,

The Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center is committed to engaging in research to inform crime reduction and prevention practices. To do so, we leverage a broad range of expertise from across the University of Maryland and our local and national community experts, to engage in innovative approaches to help keep Maryland communities safe. We are currently working on timely and critical issues concerning the intersection of behavioral health and public safety, community-based violence intervention efforts, pretrial detention, and firearm violence. MCRIC assists in these efforts by partnering with local communities and agencies, assisting and managing data integration, performing data analytics, evaluating program outcomes, and disseminating research for diverse audiences. If you want to learn more, visit [go.umd.edu/mcric](https://go.umd.edu/mcric) or you can reach us at: [mcric-contact@umd.edu](mailto:mcric-contact@umd.edu)

Bianca Bersani, PhD  
Director, Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center

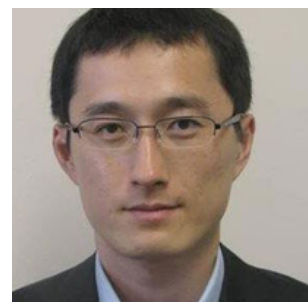
### Project Spotlight:

## MCRIC Research Affiliates Recognized with Prestigious NIJ Award

A UMD MCRIC team led by Drs. Kiminori Nakamura and Shuvra Bhattacharyya, and Ph.D. students Yujunrong Ma and Eung Joo Lee (now a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard) placed 3rd and 4th in two different categories in the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) Recidivism Forecasting Challenge.

The introduction of machine learning has renewed efforts to improve risk prediction in criminal justice settings, but it has also raised issues related to equity and other aspects of risk assessment technologies. The MNLB team (for Ma/Nakamura/Lee/Bhattacharyya) developed and submitted machine learning models to address these challenges.

The forecasting challenge results highlighted the team's models as some of the best in several recidivism outcome categories. Findings also demonstrated the continued relevance of age and criminal history in recidivism prediction, but also noted the importance of time since the person's last contact with the criminal legal system.



Dr. Kiminori Nakamura



Dr. Shuvra Bhattacharyya

# Project Spotlight Continued: Recidivism Forecasting

**“Continuing to leverage our capability to develop predictive technologies, we are hoping to help address public safety concerns with fairness and equity in mind, not only for corrections but also for other criminal justice agencies and beyond,”** said Dr. Nakamura.

The NIJ Recidivism Forecasting Challenge invites researchers, data scientists, and other experts to develop and submit models with cutting-edge algorithms that can predict recidivism more accurately and fairly than existing ones. By improving the accuracy and fairness of recidivism prediction, the Recidivism Forecasting Challenge hopes to provide crucial information about recidivism risk to correctional agencies and ultimately facilitate successful reintegration for previously incarcerated persons. To learn more about the NIJ Recidivism Forecasting Challenge and see the complete results, visit: <https://nij.ojp.gov/funding/recidivism-forecasting-challenge>

A technical report that describes the team’s solutions to the challenge can be viewed at: <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/305046.pdf>

## More News, Opportunities, & Announcements

- **Maryland's Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence:** MCRIC was contracted to develop the Strategic Plan for the new Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence, a statewide information repository for behavioral health treatment and diversion programs related to the criminal justice system. The Center of Excellence seeks to increase treatment and reduce the detention of individuals with behavioral health disorders involved in the criminal justice system, and provide technical assistance to local governments for developing effective behavioral health systems of care that minimize involvement with the criminal justice system for individuals with behavioral health disorders.
- **Body Worn Camera (BWC) Data Analytics:** A collaboration between MCRIC and the University of Maryland Police Department was selected for a grant from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services. The grant will support an innovative BWC pilot project that will leverage MCRIC research expertise in video data analytics and law enforcement operations and policy to develop a capability to automatically redact sensitive information from the video (e.g., civilian faces). This pilot makes an important step toward our goal of automatically detecting escalation and de-escalation patterns in police-involved interactions through the analysis of BWC footage data to enhance the safety and well-being of both officers and the public.

**If you have funding opportunities, news, and/or events that you'd like to share with the MCRIC community, please send them to [mcric-contact@umd.edu](mailto:mcric-contact@umd.edu).**

**MCRIC Website: [go.umd.edu/mcric](https://go.umd.edu/mcric)**

