

ANNA D. ZIENCINA, PhD

SENIOR RESEARCHER

Dr. Anna Ziencina has consulted on numerous cases across the country, spanning the gamut of wrongful death to patent litigation, within a wide variety of industries, including oil and gas, finance, and information technology. She is based in Austin, Texas, and, thus, has extensive experience with juries across the state of Texas. Although Dr. Ziencina is routinely involved in in-person jury research and consulting, she has particular expertise in online jury research.

Dr. Ziencina earned her Ph.D. in Legal Psychology and her M.A. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Texas at El Paso, where her research broadly focused on juvenile legal decision-making. Throughout her graduate career, she conducted studies on adolescents' and parents' understanding of the law, the impact of incarceration on adolescent social development, and adolescent engagement in risk-taking behavior—in addition to studies in areas of social influence and adherence to the law. During this time, Dr. Ziencina also provided consultation on the development and evaluation of a re-entry program for juvenile offenders processed through the El Paso Juvenile Probation Department.

Dr. Ziencina has taught courses in advanced and introductory statistics and has honed skills in research methods, survey construction, statistical analysis, data interpretation, and the application of research findings to recommendations for procedural and policy changes within legal settings. Her experience with, and training in, research methodology has primed her with a strong foundation in multi-method research design, including the design and implementation of structured interviews, daily diary questionnaires, physiological data collection, and quantitative and qualitative surveys geared towards both community and justice-involved populations.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (Legal Psychology); The University of Texas at El Paso
- M.A. (Experimental Psychology); The University of Texas at El Paso
- Graduate Certificate (Quantitative Methods); The University of Texas at El Paso
- B.A. (Psychology); California State University, Fullerton

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

- Consultant, EDGE Litigation Consulting, LLC
- Consultant, El Paso Juvenile Probation Department

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Psychology-Law Society
- Association for Psychological Science

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Anna D. Ziencina, PhD (cont.)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

"Comparing justice-involved and community adolescents' emotional well-being and feelings of social connection during COVID-19: A daily diary study of adolescents' social contact" (2025), *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, with Drs. April Gile Thomas, Adam K. Fetterman, Natasha Chlebus, Nicholas D. Evans, and Caitlin Cavanagh.

"Drug use homophily in adolescent offenders' close friendship groups" (2022), *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, with Drs. April Gile Thomas, Hannah I. Volpert-Esmond, Laurence Steinberg, Paul J. Frick, and Elizabeth E. Cauffman.

"Age as a curvilinear moderator for parental solicitation and adolescent risk behavior" (2022), *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, with Drs. April Gile Thomas and Isabelle Clough.

"Adolescents' and parents' knowledge of laws pertaining to adolescent sexual behavior: The role of perceived policy fairness on adolescents' willingness to violate the law" (2022), *Youth Justice*, with Drs. April Gile Thomas, Isabelle Clough, and Adam D. Fine.

"Maturity of judgement and adolescents' adherence to CDC guidelines during COVID19" (2022), *Child: Care, Health & Development*, with Drs. April Gile Thomas, Isabelle Clough, and Caitlin Cavanagh.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"Parental monitoring effort predicts risk-taking differently for younger and older adolescents" Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Salt Lake City, UT, March 2023.

"Adolescent substance use through a multilevel modeling framework" The University of Texas at El Paso Psychology Department Colloquium Series, El Paso, TX, March 2022.

"Gender homophily and criminal offending among justice-involved boys" American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 2022.

"How familism buffers the association between adolescents' perceived life expectancy and offending" American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 2022.

"Can girls help boys say no to drugs? How gender homophily relates to adolescent offenders' substance use frequency" Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, New Orleans, LA, March 2022.

"Stability amongst chaos: Family support moderates perceived life expectancy and self-reported offending" Justice on the Border Virtual Conference, October 2020.

"Effort is half the battle: Maternal attachment moderates parental solicitation and adolescent risk behavior" The University of Texas at El Paso Psychology Department Colloquium Series, El Paso, TX, September 2020.

"Parental attachment matters: Maternal trust moderates resistance to maternal influence and youth risk behavior" Association for Psychological Science Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, May 2020.

"When aspirations fall short: Pessimism as a moderator for violent offending in adolescence" American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 2020.

"When parental monitoring backfires: The influence of maternal alienation on parental monitoring and adolescent risk behavior" Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 2020.

"Mindfulness correlates of stress and anxiety in a trauma-exposed sample" Western Psychological Association Annual Convention, Pasadena, CA, April 2019.

"Mindfulness correlates of PTSD and depression symptoms: Potential treatment implications" Anxiety and Depression Association of America Annual Conference, Washington, D. C., April 2018.