



NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 2, 2026
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS



NEXUS CONFERENCE OFFICERS



Helen Potts, PhD
NEXUS Director,
Conference Chair



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Academic Program
Coordinator



Zaira Garay
NEXUS Program
Intern



River McFarlane
Student Conference
Operations Coordinator

CISO XC FOUNDERS



Cecil Pineda, CISO
R1 RCM



Jaimin Shah, CISO
Apex Fintech Solutions



Randy Potts*, CISO
Real Time Resolutions

*Top 100 CISOs in the
US & Canada, 2024
(security current)

Our Mission

NEXUS -Network for Exploring the Intersection of Humans & Cybercrime

NEXUS bolsters an unparalleled intersection of students, cybersecurity professionals, scholars, and industry leaders in the creation of innovative industry-driven research focused uniquely on human and social behavior.

Our mission is to advance synergistic, interdisciplinary, and multifaceted research in cybercrime, cybersecurity, cyberterrorism, analytics, and artificial intelligence, answering cutting-edge challenges with research-driven solutions guided by leading cybersecurity professionals.

Through meaningful networking, mentorship, and knowledge exchange among students, scholars, industry leaders and cybersecurity professionals we strive to cultivate innovation, strengthen collaboration, and drive impactful responses to tomorrows evolving security threats.

Join NEXUS, the forefront of cyber innovation!



PREVIOUS RESEARCH

Presented at the CISO XC DFW Conference - Oct. 2025

1. *"Over-Trust vs. Over-Surveillance: The Politics of Loyalty in Modern Organizations"*, Spencer Austin, MA - Doctoral Student in History at SUNY Stonybrook
2. *"Cryptocurrency: Losses & Crimes"*, Jon Browning - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD
3. *"Algorithms & Adultization: A Case Study on Digital Risks to Minors"*, Natália Heringer MA - Doctoral Student in Sociology at UNT
4. *"Cybercrime Community: How 'Hanging Out' Online Facilitates Organized Crime"*, River McFarlane - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
5. *"PTSD/S, Stress, and Burnout in CISOs: The Impact of Strain and Resilience in Cybersecurity"*, Marley Nelson - Honors Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT
6. *"Digital Fraud and Aging: Identity Theft, Financial Consequences, and Coping Strategies among Older Americans"*, Momna Rani, M Phil - Doctoral Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts PhD
7. *"Implications of Artificial Intelligence-Based Suicide Prevention: Perceptions of Trust from Private vs. Public Use"* Evan Welch - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT

Presented at the International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research - March 2025

8. *"Cybercrimes: Cryptocurrency, NFTs, & Generative AI"*, Jon Browning - Undergraduate Student in Sociology at UNT & Helen Potts, PhD * awarded Best Paper at conference



SCHOLARSHIPS

**Endowed scholarship
started by CISO XC in
a \$40,000 donation!**

Join CISO XC supporting undergraduate, master, and doctoral students and faculty in building connections and industry-driven research connecting cybersecurity, AI, analytics, and human behavior.



NEXUS INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL



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Real Time Resolutions



Jon Brickey, PhD CISO
Mastercard



Royce Markose, CISO
Vistrada



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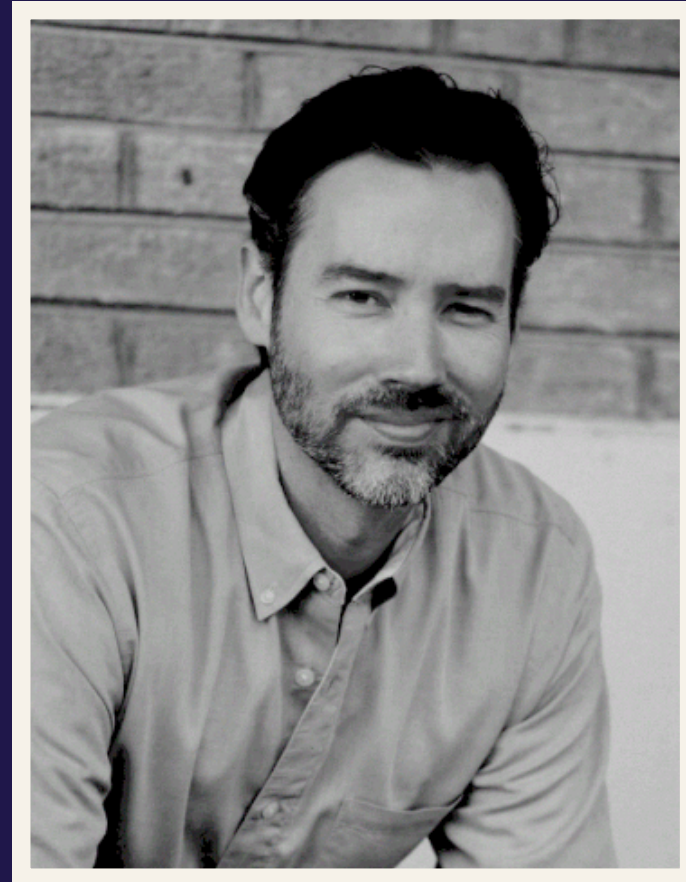


Najm Saqib, ISO
United Airlines



Jay Taylor, IS Advisor
Retired (VISA)

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Taylor Moore
Former CIA Intelligence Officer
& Department of Defense consultant
Author
TaylorMooreBooks.com



David Venable*
Former NSA Intelligence Officer,
Chairman & President of the Institute for
Strategic Risk and Security
*one of the most influential people in
cybersecurity, 2019 (*Security Magazine*)
ISRS.ORG



NEXUS ACADEMIC PARTNERS



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Outreach & Testing Supervisor,
Kind Clinic



S.R. Allen
Dallas Police Department

1st NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE

- NEXUS Inaugural Conference
- Welcoming students, academics, and cyber professionals
- Opportunities for networking, mentorship, and collaboration
- Topics include (but are not limited to):
 - Analytics & data science
 - Artificial Intelligence & machine learning
 - Criminology - theories, victimology, offender behavior, etc.
 - Cyberbullying, online harassment, doxxing, & deep fakes
 - Cybersecurity - policy, law, & ethics
 - Cybersecurity - education, awareness, & public engagement
 - Cyberterrorism, extremism, & radicalization
 - Global & geopolitical perspectives
 - Law enforcement, cybercrime investigation, & digital forensics
 - Psychology - mental health, behavior, & motivation, etc.
 - Sociology - social behavior, social networks, media, mental health, & norms, etc.



When:

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Where:

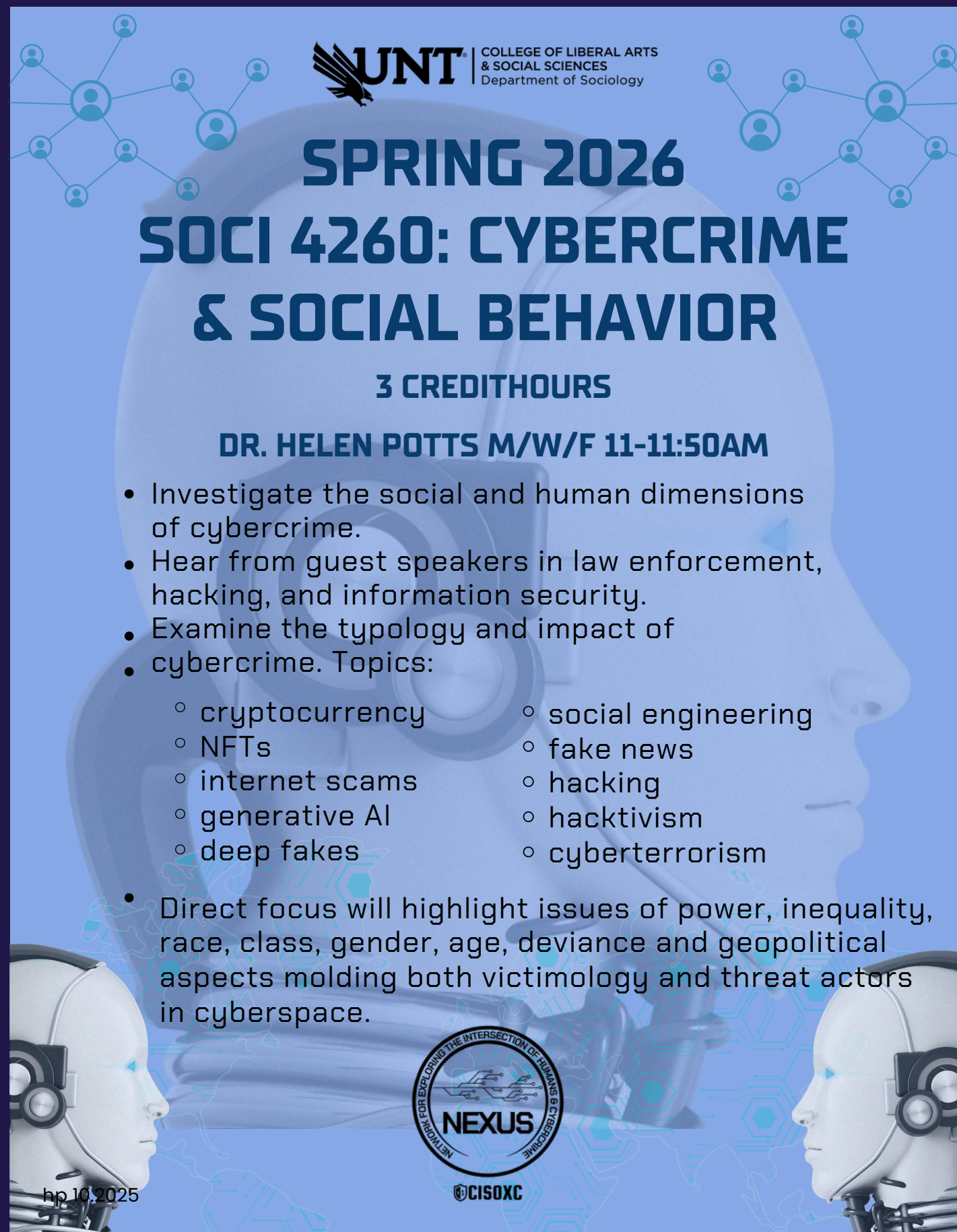
Gateway Center

801 N Texas Blvd

The University of North Texas

Denton, TX 76201

CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR COURSE & CERTIFICATE



UNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Sociology

SPRING 2026

SOCI 4260: CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

3 CREDIT HOURS

DR. HELEN POTTS M/W/F 11-11:50AM

- Investigate the social and human dimensions of cybercrime.
- Hear from guest speakers in law enforcement, hacking, and information security.
- Examine the typology and impact of cybercrime. Topics:
 - cryptocurrency
 - NFTs
 - internet scams
 - generative AI
 - deep fakes
 - social engineering
 - fake news
 - hacking
 - hacktivism
 - cyberterrorism
- Direct focus will highlight issues of power, inequality, race, class, gender, age, deviance and geopolitical aspects molding both victimology and threat actors in cyberspace.

NEXUS
NETWORK FOR EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF HUMANS & CYBERCRIME

CISOXC

hp.10.2025




UNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Sociology

CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CERTIFICATE*

*forthcoming 2026-2027 UG Catalog

A 12-hour interdisciplinary certificate on human behavior and social issues in cybercrime and cybersecurity. Topics include cryptocurrency, internet scams, NFTs, generative AI, deep fakes, fake news, hacking, hacktivism, & cyberterrorism.

Choose two courses from the following [6 hours]:

- SOCI 3133 - Cybercrime & Social Behavior
- SOCI 4600 - Internet & Society
- SOCI 4630 - Deviance & Control
- SOCI 4950 - Sociology Internship [Cybersecurity]

Choose two courses from the following [6 hours]:

- ECON 3300 - Webonomics
- PHIL 2600 - Ethics in Science
(University Core - Lang/Phil/Culture)
- PHIL 3450 - Philosophy of Technology
- PHIL 4200 - Science, Technology, & Society
(University Core - Component Area Option A)

NEXUS
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To make an advising appointment, contact Dr. Potts at Helen.Potts@unt.edu

Join the forefront of cyber innovation
with NEXUS!

INQUIRIES

Our website can be found at
<https://sociology.unt.edu/nexus/nexus.html>
Please reach out to helen.potts@unt.edu for
event information, sponsorship details,
logistics, and other information.

