



# NEXUS CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2026

APRIL 2, 2026  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS





# NEXUS CONFERENCE OFFICERS



Helen.Potts@unt.edu

Helen Potts, PhD  
NEXUS Director

Natália Heringer, MA  
Academic Program  
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



Randy Potts, CISO  
Real Time Resolutions



Jon Brickey, PhD CISO  
Mastercard



Royce Markose, CISO  
Vistrada



Travis Farral, CISO  
Archaea Energy



Steve London, IS Leader  
Honor Health



Christopher Marks, ISO  
Scout Motors



Najm Saqib, ISO  
United Airlines



Jay Taylor, IS Advisor  
Retired (VISA)





# NEXUS ACADEMIC PARTNERS



Michel Fathi, PhD  
Assistant Professor,  
Information Technology  
& Decision Sciences,  
UNT



Melissa Gosdin, PhD  
Qualitative Research Analyst,  
Center for Healthcare Policy &  
Research, UC Davis



Wendy Watson, JD, PhD  
Assistant Teaching Professor,  
Criminal Justice & Criminology,  
Ball State University

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



De'Amber Bullard  
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



**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.



## **CYBERCRIME & SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CERTIFICATE\***

\*forthcoming 2026-2027 UG Catalog

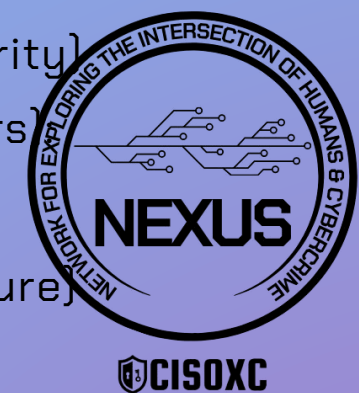
A 12-hour interdisciplinary certificate on human behavior and social issues in cybercrime and cybersecurity. Topics include cryptocurrency, internet scams, NFTs, generative AI, deep fakes, fake news, hacking, hacktivism, & cyberterrorism.

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]



To make an advising appointment, contact Dr. Potts at [Helen.Potts@unt.edu](mailto: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](mailto:helen.potts@unt.edu) for  
event information, sponsorship details,  
logistics, and other information.

