Parenting, Prison and Pups:
Using Animal-Assisted Therapy to Facilitate Family Reunification Between Female Inmates and Their Children

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• Participants

➢ Female inmates incarcerated at MCC (Metropolitan Correctional Center), a federal jail.

➢ Female inmates incarcerated at the WCDOC (Westchester County Department of Correction), a county jail.

❑ Participants must be a parent/grandparent who serve as one of the primary caregivers of a child/grandchild who is 24 years of age and younger.

❑ Participants must have a minimum of two months remaining on their sentence.

❖ **A partnership between Pace/Dyson College, MCC, WCDOC, & The Good Dog Foundation**

• Overall Goal/Purpose

➢ Prison-induced disruption to the mother-child bond puts inmate children at high risk for mental health issues and future incarceration. Parenting programs, including the evidence-based parenting curriculum we utilize (PIO-Parenting Inside-Out), is effective in helping mothers to restore bonds with their children.

➢ Significant data also exist to demonstrate the psychological benefits of utilizing dog-assisted therapy, especially with correction populations.

➢ This new program/study, giving female inmates AATL (animal-assisted therapy & learning) as part of an evidence-based parenting curriculum, is a novel and easily replicable way to help them restore the mother-child bond, improve self-esteem and diminish intergenerational offending patterns.

• Specific Research Aims

➢ Utilizing a pre and posttest quasi-experimental design, we hypothesize that female jail inmates who complete an evidence-based parenting program with AATL will have lower measures of stress, anxiety, depression, and disciplinary infractions, in addition to higher levels of self-esteem, increased contact hours with their children, more confidence in their parenting skills, and higher levels of engagement/retention, when compared with female inmates who complete the same parenting program without AATL.

➢ Pace students, on both campuses, as part of a civic engagement course, assist in curriculum delivery. Each semester, one student serves as a research assistant.

Understanding Advance-fee Scams with Text Analytics
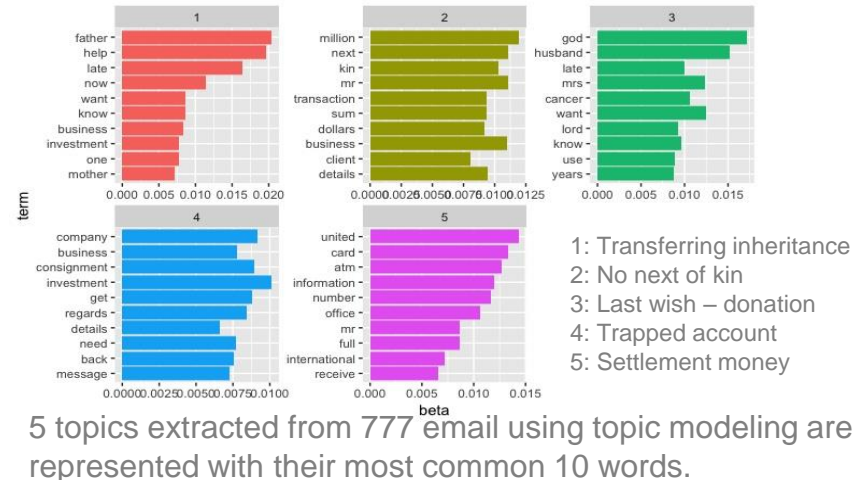
Participants:

Dr. Yegin Genc

Dr. Hasan T. Arslan

with

Ms. Harpreet Kour (Graduate Student at Seidenberg School of CSIS)

1: Transferring inheritance
2: No next of kin
3: Last wish – donation
4: Trapped account
5: Settlement money

5 topics extracted from 777 email using topic modeling are represented with their most common 10 words.

Goal:

Finding and exposing different approaches in advance-fee fraud schemes (a.k.a. Nigerian Prince Schemes) with text analytics   to:

- help Improve awareness and,

- create stronger defense mechanisms.

Research Foci:

- Extracting and representing the hidden semantic structures in email collections with topic modeling.

- Understanding the emotional context of these email with semantic analysis.