

# Why Here? Why Now?

## An Exploration of Chicago's 2016 Murder Spike

Political Science Capstone Colloquium Paper by: Emma Bellows

Research Question: Why did Chicago's Murder Rate Spike in 2016?

Research Method: Process Tracing

Proposed Explanations: 1. The "ACLU Effect" 2. The Release of Video of Laquan McDonald 3. The DOJ Investigation 4. Changes in CPD Leadership 5. New Gang Rivalries 6. Decreased Street Stops 7. Decreased Funding for Social Services 8. Gun Politics 9. Reduced Police Activity 10. The "Ferguson Effect"

Argument: Chicago's 2016 murder uptick is likely a combination of these explanations as well as other unidentified factors