

**CYBERSECURITY &  
DIGITAL CRIME PREVENTION:**

# Building Global Readiness for Mega Events

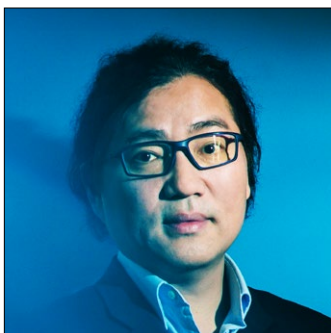
**JUNE 1-3, 2026**  
Mendoza, Argentina, and Virtual





Global mega events, such as the FIFA World Cup, present heightened risks related to cybersecurity threats and digitally enabled crime. These risks include cyberattacks, cryptocurrency-related financial crime, identity theft, online fraud, and technology-facilitated human trafficking—many of which are increasingly augmented by artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

There is a growing need for coordinated global readiness to prevent, investigate, and prosecute cybercrime and digital offenses associated with large-scale international events. To address this, the 2026 International White Hat Conference gathers law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial offices, experts in cybersecurity and AI, cryptocurrency investigators, industry professionals, policymakers, and academic researchers from around the world and harnesses their collective expertise.



Through evidence-based research, prosecutorial and investigative case studies, and cross-sector dialogue, the conference focuses on emerging technologies, threat intelligence, legal and regulatory frameworks, and operational strategies to strengthen cybersecurity preparedness and digital crime prevention efforts.

Made possible by our global sponsors, the 2026 International White Hat Conference is hosted by Boston University Metropolitan College's Criminal Justice Graduate Programs and the Center for Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity in partnership with the Government of Mendoza, the CLICLEX Lab, private sector organizations, and academic partners in Argentina. We look forward to collaborating with you on innovative solutions to cybercrime issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyung-shick Choi".

**Dr. Kyung-shick Choi**

Director, Center for Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity  
Professor of the Practice and Director, Cybercrime & Cybersecurity Programs  
Boston University Metropolitan College



### Sheraton Mendoza

Primitivo de la Reta 989  
Mendoza, Argentina  
Tel:+54 261 441 5500

Note that all meeting times are  
Argentina Standard Time  
(ART) UTC/GMT -3 hours.

For speaker bios, visit

[live.bu.edu/whitehat/speakers](https://live.bu.edu/whitehat/speakers).

## Monday, June 1, 2026

12:00-13:00

### Team Registration

13:00-23:00

### Cybercrime Investigation Challenge

- Challenge Completes at 23:00, Monday, June 1 (10 hours)

23:00-23:30

### Closing and Technical Debrief

- Dr. Sinchul Back, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity & Sociology Department, University of Scranton, USA; Capture the Flag (CTF) Committee
- Dr. Marlon Mike Toro-Alvarez, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity & Sociology Department, University of Scranton, USA; CTF Committee
- Ana Beher, Technical Assistant, Boston University, USA
- Yuanyuan "Cuvee" Zhou, Technical Assistant, Boston University, USA

## Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Michael Jenkins, Chair, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity & Sociology Department, University of Scranton, USA

09:30-10:00

### Opening Remarks

- Moderator: Dr. Michael Jenkins (MC)
- Dr. Lou Chitkushev, Senior Associate Dean, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA
- Dr. Kyung-shick Choi, Founder of the White Hat Conference; Director of Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity Programs, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA
- Alfredo Cornejo, Governor of the Mendoza Province, Argentina
- Magíster Mercedes Rus, Minister of Security and Justice of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina
- Dr. Rafael García Borda, General Academic Director, CLICLEX, Argentina

10:05- 11:00

### Keynote: Future Challenges in Global Gatherings such as the FIFA World Cup

- Moderator: Dr. Michael Jenkins (MC)
- Dr. Félix Antonio Barrios Juárez, Director General of the Spanish National Cybersecurity Institute (INCIBE); cybersecurity expert and former member of the Board of the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO), leading national initiatives in cybersecurity innovation, incident response, and digital capacity building across Spain and Europe

11:00-11:30

### Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

### Panel 1: Cyber Intelligence and Digital Crime Prevention

- Moderator: Dr. Jae-Sung Lee, Assistant Professor, Justice and Community Studies, Miami University, USA
- Dr. Jonathan Gottfried, Regional Cybersecurity & Digital Crime Advisor, US Embassy, Panama
- Magíster Mercedes Rus, Minister of Security and Justice of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina
- Ing. Alejandro Sabolansky, Organization of American States (OAS)

13:00-14:00

### Lunch

## White Hat Conference Agenda (cont.)

14:00-15:30

### Panel 2: Large-Scale Cyberattacks and Infrastructure Resilience

- Moderators: Dr. Insun Park, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice Studies, University of Akron, USA
- Ing. Montse Guardia Güell, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Spain (Online)
- Mónica Espinosa Garcés, Catalan Cybersecurity Agency, Spain
- Ing. Leandro Biskupovich, Undersecretary of Technology Applied to Security, Ministry of Security and Justice, Mendoza, Argentina

15:35-17:05

### Panel 3: Illicit Financial Flows and Parallel Economies

- Moderator: Sanghee Dobson, BCFS Health and Human Services, USA
- Dr. Irena Vodenska, Professor of Finance; Director, Finance Programs; Chair, Department of Administrative Sciences, Boston University, USA
- Ing. Karina Gibert, Dean, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC), Spain
- Dr. Ida López, President, Association of State Lotteries of Argentina (ALEA)

17:05-17:35

### Coffee Break

17:35-19:00

### Panel 4: Digital Piracy and Data Exploitation

- Moderator: Iliia Kolochenko, Founder, CEO, and Chief Architect, ImmuniWeb, Switzerland
- Dr. Victor Hugo Portillo, Legal Counsel, LALIGA Latin America
- Dr. Sergio Piris, Telecom Argentina Secretary General, CERTAL
- Dr. Jorge Bacaloni, President, La Alianza

19:00-19:20

### Closing Remarks

- Dr. Lou Chitkushev, Senior Associate Dean, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA
- Dr. Kyung-shick Choi, Founder of the White Hat Conference; Director of Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity Programs, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA
- Patricia Bullrich, National Senator of Argentina
- Magíster Mercedes Rus, Minister of Security and Justice of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina
- Dr. Rafael García Borda, General Academic Director, CLICLEX, Argentina
- Josep Vives Portell, Official Delegate of the Government of Catalonia to the Southern Cone and Representative for Strategic International Affairs

## Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Michael Jenkins, Chair, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity & Sociology Department, University of Scranton, USA

09:00-11:00

### CIC Competition: Team Presentations (Top 3 Finalists, 20 Minutes Each) and Expert Witness Panel

- Moderators: Dr. Michael Jenkins (MC) and Dr. Jennifer LaPrade, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Texas at Arlington, USA
- Judges: Dr. Kyung-shick Choi (South Korea), Dr. Lou Chitkushev (USA), and Dr. Iliia Kolochenko (Switzerland)

11:00-11:30

### Coffee Break

## White Hat Conference Agenda (cont.)

<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<p><b>Presentation of Awarded Papers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderators: Dr. Katalin Parti, Associate Professor, Sociology, Virginia Tech, USA, and Alfonso Martel Seward, Director, CLICLEX, Argentina             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Place—Matthew Stern (Boston University)</li> <li>• 2nd Place—Emaediong Akpan (Virginia Tech)</li> <li>• 3rd Place—Chanwoo Shin (Boston University)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>12:45-13:45</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:50-15:20</b>	<p><b>Panel 5: Cryptoassets, Money Laundering, and Digital Fraud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Mijin Kim, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice Sciences, Illinois State University, USA</li> <li>• Gabriela García Cobos, Head Prosecutor of the Economic and Cybercrime Unit of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Mendoza, Argentina</li> <li>• Dr. Alberto Mendoza, Financial intelligence Unit (UIF), Argentina</li> <li>• Arran McWhirter, Director of Capacity Building, CAT Labs, USA</li> <li>• Carlos Jaramillo, Regional Director for Latin America, Chainalysis; Specialist in Blockchain Intelligence and Financial Crime Investigations</li> </ul>
<b>15:25-16:55</b>	<p><b>Panel 6: Incident Response and Digital Forensics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Iliia Kolochenko, Founder, CEO, and Chief Architect, ImmuniWeb, Switzerland</li> <li>• Adrián Eduardo Acosta, Chief, Argentine Federal Police; Vice President, INTERPOL Working Group for the Americas of Cybercrime Unit Heads, Argentina</li> <li>• Horacio Azzolin, Head of the Cybercrime Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Argentina</li> <li>• Alejandro Liberman, Grupo Werthein</li> </ul>
<b>16:55-17:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>17:30-18:30</b>	<p><b>Conservatory: Legal Experts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Ricardo Ferrer Picado, Chair of the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (RANDOT) of the Organization of American States (OAS); National Security Advisor of the Argentine Republic</li> <li>• Belén Arribas, President of the International Federation of Computer Law Associations (IFCLA); Member of ENATIC, Spain</li> <li>• Juan Manuel Olima Espel, Secretary for Institutional Coordination, Office of the Attorney General, Argentina; Head of the Secretariat for Comprehensive Analysis of International Terrorism (SAI)</li> <li>• Francisco Pont Vergés, Secretary for Criminal Policy at the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Former Judge</li> <li>• Dr. Carlos Christian Sueiro, Attorney and Clerk Secretary of the Official Defender's Office before the Supreme Court of Argentina; Specialist in Criminal Law, University of Buenos Aires (UBA), Argentina</li> </ul>
<b>18:35-19:05</b>	<p><b>Award Ceremony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Michael Jenkins (MC)</li> <li>• Award Presentation: Dr. Kyung-shick Choi, Founder of the White Hat Conference; Director of Cybercrime Investigation &amp; Cybersecurity Programs, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA</li> <li>• Honorary Gift Presentation: Dr. Rafael García Borda, General Academic Director, CLICLEX, Argentina</li> </ul>
<b>19:10-19:40</b>	<p><b>Closing Ceremony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Dr. Michael Jenkins (MC)</li> <li>• Dr. Lou Chitkushev, Senior Associate Dean, Boston University Metropolitan College, USA</li> <li>• Alfredo Cornejo, Governor of the Mendoza Province, Argentina</li> <li>• Dr. Rafael García Borda, General Academic Director, CLICLEX, Argentina</li> <li>• Dr. Margarito Ortega Ballesteros, Rector, Universidad de Ixtlahuaca CUI, Mexico</li> </ul>



The White Hat Cybercrime Investigation Challenge is a pathway to assess and promote common goals, needs, and interests related to technical skills and legal expertise required for a comprehensive, high-level cybercrime investigation education. Boston University has developed an evidence-based digital case scenario framework that provides participants with realistic scenarios reflecting major cybercrime cases.

The 2026 Cybercrime Investigation Challenge will take place both virtually and in person. The aim of this challenge is to create effective training for cybercrime investigation, test the best practices that meet the needs of all law enforcement levels, and establish training guidelines for computer forensics and digital evidence.

College students and practitioners will work in teams to engage in activities focused on digital forensics and cybercrime investigation. On June 1, teams will participate in a 10-hour challenge. On June 3, the top three teams will have the opportunity to present their findings at a mock trial and provide expert testimony.

#### Awards

- First Place Winner: \$1,000 prize
- Second Place Winner: \$500 prize
- Third Place Winner: \$300 prize



Teams, comprising students and a faculty coach, will be judged on original, unpublished papers presented at the 2026 White Hat Conference. Papers may be on any topic from any academic discipline but must focus on cybercrime and cybersecurity.

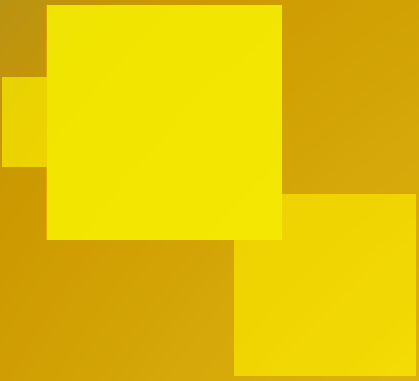
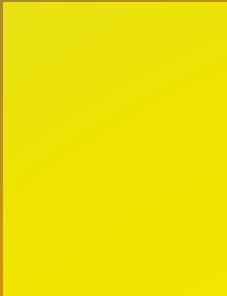
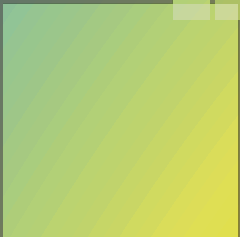
The winning team of each participating institution will receive the White Hat Conference Cybercrime Prevention and Response Award. The winning papers will also be considered for publication in the *International Journal of Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity's* (IJCIC) special issue in 2026.



*The International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime* is a peer-reviewed journal launched by the Center for Cybercrime Investigation & Cybersecurity in 2018. The IJCIC provides empirical research articles, policy reports, case studies, and book reviews that highlight the origins, patterns, causes, motivations, and trends of cybersecurity and cybercrime in a contemporary era, while also providing new methods and approaches to existing issues within the field. By exploring theoretical and practical implications for a wide range of audiences, including academics and industry experts currently working in the field, the journal offers unique opportunities for bridging these audiences and initiating discussions that enhance theory, method, and practice within the growing field of cybersecurity and cybercrime.

Learn more about the journal at [vc.bridgew.edu/ijcic](https://vc.bridgew.edu/ijcic).








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