

Dr. Melanie Clark Mogavero

Melanie Clark Mogavero, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at Georgian Court University in New Jersey. Dr. Mogavero has been a professor for over ten years and is passionate about teaching students and future practitioners how to work effectively with people with mental health conditions, autism, and disabilities. Her teaching and research focus on areas directly relevant to law enforcement training, including procedural justice, restorative practices, crisis response, and victimology. Her recent research includes examining police interactions with autistic individuals and how social media influences public perceptions of law enforcement.

Dr. Mogavero has developed and taught courses in criminology, victimology, sex crimes, law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice, and mental health and criminal justice. She is the author of *"Mental Health, Neurodiversity, and Criminal Justice: A Guide for Students and Practitioners,"* which provides evidence-based strategies for effectively interacting with individuals with mental health conditions, autism, and disabilities within the justice system.

Dr. Mogavero has been working with and volunteering for individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions for over 20 years. Her background includes direct service in crisis intervention, case management, and special education, along with community collaboration through organizations like POAC Autism Services and The Arc of Ocean County. Since 2018, she has been volunteering as a consultant, providing her knowledge and expertise to help autistic adults and their families navigate the criminal justice system. Dr. Mogavero combines academic knowledge with practical experience. Her work focuses on improving communication, promoting fairness, and increasing safety and understanding between law enforcement and the communities they serve.