

# Crime, Law, and Deviance News

Summer 2025

NEWSLETTER FOR THE CRIME, LAW, AND DEVIANCE SECTION  
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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## Finding Purpose and Building Community through Mentorship

Last August, I was profoundly moved to receive the Peterson-Krivo Mentoring Award from the Crime, Law and Deviance and the Sociology of Law sections of the American Sociological Association. This award prompted me to reflect on my passion for mentorship and strong belief in its power to transform individual lives, create deeply meaningful relationships, and build connection and collectivity in an often-individualized profession.

It's no exaggeration to say that my career in research is entirely due to the generous mentorship I was incredibly fortunate to receive. I wasn't one of those kids who always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. In college, I was bewildered by the students in my orbit who seemed to have a preternatural ability to know exactly where they were heading in life and how they were going to get there.

Overwhelmed by a vast array of disconnected interests and a fear of committing to the "wrong" path, I took as many introductory courses as allowed (Oceanography! Macroeconomics! German!). Upon graduating, I worked a wide range of jobs, struggling to figure out how to channel my energies and where I fit into the world. During this period, it didn't occur to me to seek out someone who could offer guidance or even just let me talk through the jumble of ideas in my head. I thought that I was supposed to know how to map out a career trajectory, and I felt embarrassed that I lacked direction and purpose.

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Megan Comfort  
Senior Research Sociologist at  
RTI & Faculty, Department of  
Medicine, University of California  
San Francisco

Eventually I wound up at a non-profit organization that operated the center for visitors at northern California's San Quentin State Prison. I was responsible for providing direct services for people coming to visit their incarcerated loved ones, helping them navigate logistical barriers, and running a childcare program that gave kids a chance to relax and play after spending the morning with their dads, uncles, or brothers in the prison. I loved my job and threw myself into it wholeheartedly. For the first time, I started to be able to see a more distant professional horizon, envisioning myself developing programming and advocacy for people with incarcerated loved ones and ultimately taking on leadership roles within the non-profit.

Then I met Dr. Olga Grinstead Reznick, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) who was planning to conduct a research study focused on women with imprisoned partners. I had no particular interest or skills in research, but I applied to be her project coordinator and was hired due to the relationships I already had established with San Quentin visitors. In this role, I trained peer educators and co-facilitated intervention activities with them. I learned how survey instruments and interview guides were developed. Dr. Reznick and I attended conferences and presented our findings. Each time I embarked on something that was new to me, I felt a keen lack of confidence – and time and time again, Dr. Reznick would help me map out the necessary steps to accomplish that component of the study and then ask me her signature question, "How can I support you in getting this done?" This query always made me feel both competent and cared for: my mentor had faith in my abilities to complete the work, but also saw her role in ensuring my progress. I wasn't in it alone.

I had never considered going to grad school because my undergraduate experience was so dispiriting. But as we entered the final year of the study, Dr. Reznick urged me to look at programs. Without her encouragement, I never would have obtained a Masters, let alone a PhD. During my doctoral program we submitted a proposal to conduct another study focusing on women visiting their partners at San Quentin, and I became her Project Director when it was funded. Five years later, she supported me in obtaining funding as a Principal Investigator on an NIH R01 grant and I was appointed an Assistant Professor at UCSF. Dr. Reznick was a Co-Investigator on that study, and we continued to collaborate until her retirement.

As this story makes clear, Dr. Reznick "saw me" in a way I desperately needed as a young person, helping me chart a path forward and empowering me to travel it by believing in my capabilities and challenging me to realize them while continually offering support. She nudged me out of my comfort zone when I needed to expand my horizons, offering me new ideas that built on my strengths. Importantly, she gave me space to grow and evolve, and over time we developed more reciprocity in our relationship. We are close to this day, and I credit our enduring friendship to her flexibility in embracing my transition from staff to junior colleague to peer.

Having learned from Dr. Reznick's example, mentorship is truly a joy for me and I relish infusing it across a range of professional relationships. I'm not at an academic institution, but I welcome students reaching out to talk about an idea or request a different perspective. I've had rewarding opportunities to provide encouragement when I've asked the person who was notably quiet in a meeting, or who came off mute a few times but never got to speak, for their thoughts. When working with community organizations, I love seeing the excitement on someone's face when I observe that they seem interested in research and ask if they've ever considered bringing their lived expertise to the field. These encounters may result in a brief interaction, a multi-year collaboration, or a lasting friendship.

When I have a sustained engagement with someone, I do my utmost to encourage them to be active in deciding what they want in their professional and personal lives, and then work alongside them to map out means of achieving those goals that feel feasible, constructive, and rewarding to them. I try to help people use areas in which they excel to support growth in the skills they want to improve. And remembering my instinctive dismissal of going to grad school, I strive to present options that someone might not have considered realistic or available to them. I firmly believe that I have as much to learn from people I am mentoring as they might from me, and I am attentive to voicing that to them and letting them know when they have taught me something or enlightened me in some way. In addition, I consider it my obligation to educate myself about experiences that are different from my own, be mindful of my own bias and privilege, and take ownership of my actions and mistakes.

The nomination letter for the Peterson-Krivo Mentoring Award was signed by nearly two dozen people who have brought immeasurable delight and fulfillment to my life as we've learned from and supported each other over the years. Mentorship not only got me started in research, but it has sustained me in a profession that can elevate individualism over the collective. Through seeing and championing each other, sharing wisdom, cultivating growth, and celebrating achievements, mentorship can build communities and fortify the collective. These practices feel more important now than ever, and I'm deeply grateful to draw on the relationships formed through mentorship to keep myself moving forward with purpose, commitment, and joy.

# ASA 2025 CLD Event Schedule

## **Sunday, August 10, 2025**

### **8:00-9:30 AM - Labor, Markets, and Work in the Criminal-Legal System**

Papers in this panel draw on theories of labor, work, and organizations to examine how organizational processes, labor markets, and workers' practices and subjectivities shape the development, maintenance and reproduction of the harm perpetuated by the criminal legal system.

### **10:00-11:30 AM - Queer Criminology in Precarious Sociological Climates**

This panel explores emerging efforts in queer criminology in the current social, political, and legal landscape, particularly as it intersects with concerns about work.

### **12:00-1:00 PM - Crime, Law, and Deviance Roundtables**

The section has organized 10 roundtables on papers ranging across CLD topic areas.

### **1:00-1:30 PM - Crime, Law, and Deviance Business Meeting**

All section members are welcome to join us in honoring this year's award winners at the business meeting.

### **2:00-3:30 PM - Sociology of Policing: Violence, Power, and the Future of Public Safety**

In this book forum, we will bring together four new books on the sociology of policing in the U.S. to grapple with the current inequities and crises as well as consider how sociology can help us to both explain and challenge police power.

### **6:30-8:30 PM - On Site Joint Reception**

All section members are welcome to join the section, along with several others, for this reception!

**For the full list of section and regular sessions of interest to CLD members, visit the ASA conference website:**

**<https://www.asanet.org/2025-annual-meeting/>**

# ASA CLD 2025 Award Winners

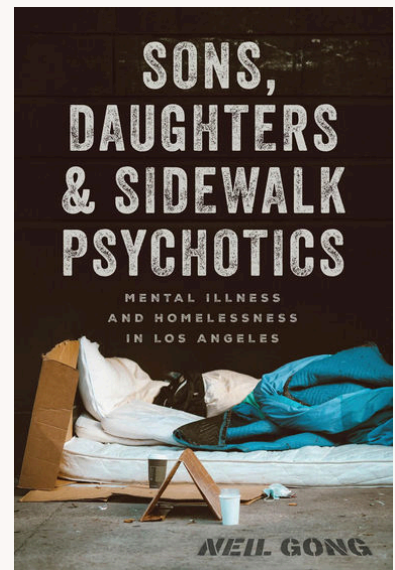
## Ida B. Wells–Barnett Distinguished Book Award

**Winner:** Neil Gong. 2024. *Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Mental Illness and Homelessness in Los Angeles*. University of Chicago Press.

Neil Gong's book, *Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Mental Illness and Homelessness in Los Angeles*, is a powerful ethnography that bridges the sociology of medicine with the fields of crime, law, and deviance. It explores how social class influences the way mental illness is defined and how society responds to it. While Gong's scholarship is already actively bridging these academic areas, much of the book's appeal lies in the creative ways he draws connections to other sociological subfields. For example, using Lareau's observed class-based differences in parenting as reflecting similar patterns to the class-differentiated response ("freedom" for the poor, constraint for the rich) that he sees among his research participants.

Although prior research has separately investigated mentally ill people experiencing homelessness and wealthier patients in institutional mental health settings, Gong's comparative approach reveals new insights into how social control operates across class lines. This combination makes the work both methodologically and theoretically original. Additionally, the book earned high marks from committee members for its focus on structural inequality, particularly in how it examines the intersection of class and disability.

Committee: Popy Begum, St. Louis University (Chair); Daanika Gordan, Tufts University; Joss Greene, University of California, Davis; Justin Sola, University of North Carolina



## James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award

**Co-winner:** David Knight. 2024. "Carceral Passages: Coming of Age in Prison America." *American Journal of Sociology*. [Link to Article](#)

Focusing on the lives of African American and Afro-Latino men who are imprisoned for long periods of time in the United States, Knight shows how confinement reshapes how people think of themselves. Differences in entry time and length of stay shaped distinct understandings of imprisonment as either an unsalvageable condition or as a time that could be put strategic use. Using compelling interview data and powerful prose, Knight brings us into the worlds and thoughts of those who interact at length with the American prison system.

**Co-winner:** Enrique Alvear Moreno. 2024. "Paradox of Sanctuary: How Punitive Exceptions Converge to Criminalize and Punish Latinos/as." *Law & Social Inquiry*. [Link to Article](#)

Turning the widely held conception that sanctuary cities necessarily contest the criminalization of migration, Moreno argues that their effects can be complex and contradictory. Using archival data on Chicago, Moreno shows how sanctuary policies simultaneously expanded immigrant rights while also activating a set of punitive exceptions that enabled expanded control of Latino undocumented workers, "criminals," and "gangs."

**Honorable Mention:** Hollie Nyseth Nzitatira and John Gasana Gasasira. 2024. "Identities and Interactions: Reentry and Reintegration after Incarceration for Genocide." *American Journal of Sociology*. [Link to Article](#)

What happens when perpetrators of genocide return home? This ambitious article takes on this question, interviewing 165 Rwandans who have been released and returned to their communities. While there is a wide body of literature that examines the experiences of survivors of genocide, Nzitatira and Gassasaria are unique in examining the lives of perpetrators. Their research indicates that most communities welcome those who were convicted back, conducting reentry rituals. But this acceptance is more widely available to those who are privileged, especially men with social standing.

Committee: Poulami Roychowdhury, Brown University (Chair); Liz Chiarello, Washington University in Saint Louis; Kelley Fong, University of California, Irvine; William Pridemore, University of Georgia

## Distinguished Student Paper Award

**Winner:** Iolanthe Brooks, "Shuffling Within the System: The Pervasive Uncertainty of Prison Transfers."

The award committee described this paper as a well-done mixed methods study, in which Brooks draws on in-depth interviews with formerly incarcerated people and an original dataset of data transfer records to document the multilevel impact on within-system shuffling. This is an empirically rich and timely paper that offers insight into the pervasive aspects of prison transfers.

**Honorable Mention:** Anne K. Johnson, Portland State University, "Drunk Hunters: Constituting Logics of Law Enforcement Phlebotomy."

In this paper, Johnson offers a unique and insightful study of the logics behind law enforcement phlebotomy. This is a very interesting paper on a very important topic that has received very little scholarly attention. The paper squarely pits tenants of the medical establishment (patient consent) against law enforcement priorities (public safety and surveillance). The paper is unique and raises a number of socio-legal questions that have not been applied to policing.

Committee: Shannon Malone Gonzalez, University of North Carolina (Chair); Tony Cheng, Duke University; Uriel Serrano, University of California, Irvine; Bryan Sykes, Cornell University

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## Albert J. Reiss, Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award

**Winner:** Dr. Dana L. Haynie, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, at The Ohio State University.

The 2025 Albert J. Reiss, Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award is presented to Dr. Dana L. Haynie, Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Ohio State University, in recognition of her pioneering contributions to the sociological understanding of crime, law, and deviance. Over a career spanning more than two decades, Dr. Haynie has transformed the field of criminology through her innovative application of social network analysis to critical areas such as youth delinquency, incarceration, online illicit drug markets, and far-right extremism. Her groundbreaking 2001 article in the *American Journal of Sociology*, which introduced a novel approach to analyzing how peer network structures influence delinquent behavior, remains one of the most influential works in the field, with over 1,400 citations. Dr. Haynie's research has consistently pushed methodological and theoretical boundaries, from her NIH- and NIJ-funded studies on prison networks to her NSF-supported work on the structure of online drug markets. Her scholarship not only deepens academic understanding but also informs public policy, including strategies for prison reform and disrupting online drug trafficking.

Beyond her research, Dr. Haynie has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to the field through service as co-editor of *Criminology*, an editorial board member of six other prestigious journals, past Chair of the ASA's Crime, Law, and Deviance section, and as an active mentor for the next generation of sociological criminologists, including hands-on training, collaboration, and extensive co-authorship with graduate students. Dr. Haynie's career embodies the spirit of the Albert J. Reiss, Jr. Distinguished Scholar Award, combining intellectual innovation, methodological rigor, and a profound influence on both scholarly inquiry and public policy. We are proud to honor Dr. Haynie for her lifetime of outstanding scholarship and enduring contributions to the study of crime, law, and deviance.

Committee: Mary Nell Trautner, University at Buffalo, SUNY (Chair); Brenden Beck, Rutgers University; Rachel Ellis, University of Maryland; Neil Gong, University of California, San Diego

**Congratulations to all of our award winners,  
and thank you to our committee members!**

# New Publications

## New Book:

### *Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing*

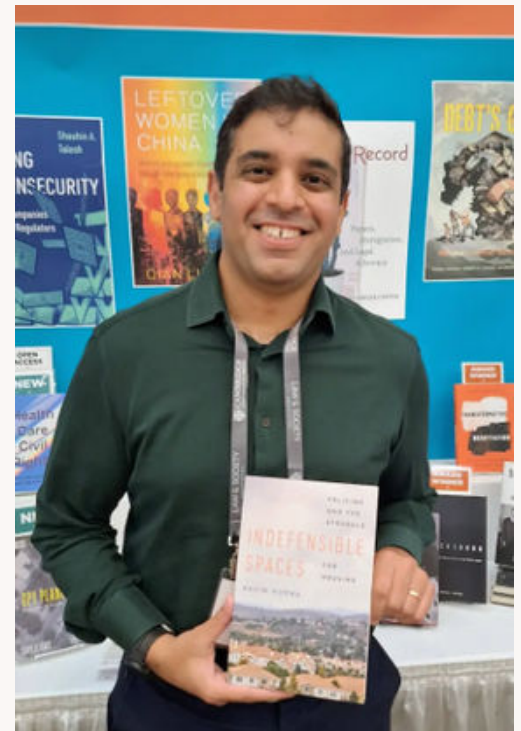
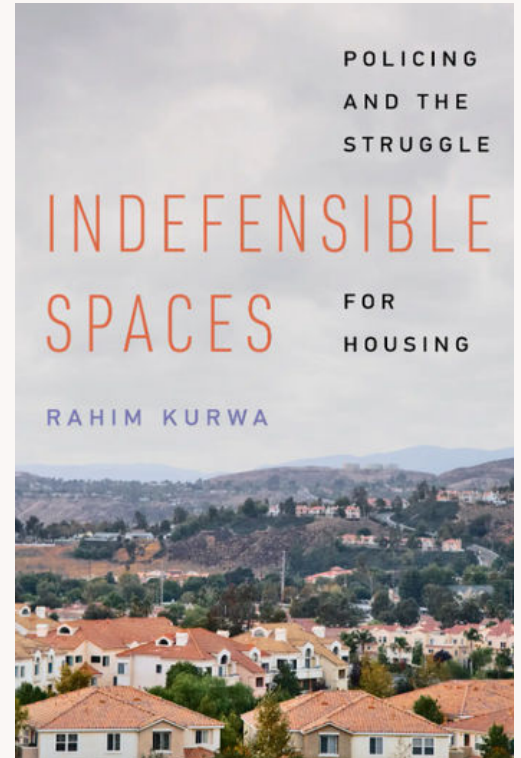
by Rahim Kurwa

## Link to Book

Racist policing and unaffordable housing are central crises of the early 21st century. *Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing* tells the story of how the two intersect in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County's northernmost outpost and a destination for those priced, policed, and evicted out of Los Angeles.

The book follows the valley's segregated development after World War II, and the resulting emergence of Sun Village, an all-Black town whose civil rights organizing challenged the valley's segregated neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. It traces how the valley sought to defend itself as a white space, finally landing on policing as a mechanism of resisting racial integration after a new wave of Black families were pushed out of Los Angeles and into the valley at the end of the 20th century.

*Indefensible Spaces* offers a case study of the national crisis of the policing of housing, told through a history of Black organizing and resistance in one of Los Angeles's most overlooked areas. The book shows how the policing of housing has rendered Black homes indefensible spaces, and how tenants and organizers across the valley have worked to overcome it, offering lessons for achieving housing justice across the country



## New Articles and Chapters

Davis, Andrew P., Michael Gibson-Light, Jessica Pfaffendorf, and Christian Alberg. Online first. "Incarceration, Stigma, and Labor Power: The Prison as Neoliberal Labor Governance Institution in 36 OECD Countries." *Social Science Research* 129. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2025.103177>

DuBois, Nicole, Claire W. Herbert, and E. Mae Sowards. 2025 "Criminalizing Homelessness Worsens the Crisis, Research Shows." Research Brief. National Alliance to End Homelessness. [https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis\\_NAEH\\_2-4-25.pdf](https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/CriminalizingWorsensTheCrisis_NAEH_2-4-25.pdf)

Gibson-Light, Michael and Philip Goodman. Online first. "The Consent of the Punished: Toward a Gramscian Theory of Penal Punishment, Labor, and Control." *Incarceration* 6. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26326663251341190>

Herbert, Claire W., and Michael Brown. 2025. "Colonial Logics in Rust Belt Revitalization: Rethinking State-Led Gentrification." *City & Community*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15356841251330239>

Kang, Megan. 2025. "Weaker the Gang, Harder the Exit." *Criminology* 63(4). <https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4984758>

McLeskey, Matthew H. Forthcoming. "Embedded and Embodied: How State Neglect of Lead Poisoning Contributes to Women's Green Victimization and Perpetuates Intersectional Inequalities." *Race & Justice: An International Journal*. [DOI: [10.1177/21533687251332246](https://doi.org/10.1177/21533687251332246).]

Piehowski, Victoria. 2025. "Medicalizing Violence: The Institutional Politics of Trauma in Veterans Treatment Courts." *Social Science & Medicine* 380(118170). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118170>

Román Alfaro, Andrea. 2025. "Making Sense of Violence Through Women's Experiences: Meaning-Making, Gendering and Racialization at Peru's Urban Margins." *The British Journal of Criminology*, azaf037, 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azaf037>.

Rubin, Ashley T., and Alena K. Shalaby. 2025 (forthcoming) "Stagnated, on the Verge of Breakthrough, or Both? The State of Big Theories of Legal Phenomena." *Law & Social Inquiry*, Vol. XX, Issue XX, pp. XXX-XXX. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/law-and-social-inquiry/article/stagnated-on-the-verge-of-breakthrough-or-both-the-state-of-big-theories-of-legal-phenomena/F78EC44AE3DDFA753497FE199D6896C8#article>

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## New Articles and Chapters

Sattler, S., Wood, S., Petersen, M. A., Seiffert, F., Mehlkop, G. (2025). Population-based estimates of different dosage types of psychedelic use across socio-demographic groups in Germany. *Scientific Reports* 15: 18952.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-025-03873-0>

Steel, Ryan T. 2025. "Painful Subjects, Desiring Relief: Experiencing and Governing Pain in a Medical Cannabis Program." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 66(1): 92-108.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00221465241240467>

Toulu-Shams, M., Folk, J.B., Del Cid, M.V., Lara Salas, J, Czopp, Alison, Gonzalez, J.C., Lundberg, T., Kerrison, E.M.T., Shumway, M., Wrixon, A., Salgado, R., & Berrick, J.D. (2025) Advancing Access to Substance Use Prevention for Foster Youth Through Digital Innovation: An Open Trial of FostrSpace with Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs. *BMC Health Services Research*, 25, 656. <https://rdcu.be/e1Bf2>

Weaver, Lesley Jo, Claire W. Herbert, Dylan J. Podrabsky, and Mackenzie L. Ní Flainn. 2025. "Co-Opting the 'Public' in Public Health: Homelessness and the Specious Logic of Discretionary Displacement in a Mid-Sized U.S. City." *Journal of Critical Public Health*.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2025.2455492>

Williams, Seth A. and Matthew R. and Lehnert. "Sociospatial Divisions and Neighborhood Crime: Housing Tenure as a Social Boundary." *Journal of Crime and Justice*:1-21.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2025.2505034>

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## Announcements

### Call for Submissions

First Publics Have you been rethinking how you're teaching crime, law, and deviance during the current moment? Do the challenges of AI and the evolving political environment have you thinking differently about your role and responsibility in the classroom? First Publics would love to hear from you! First Publics (edited by Sarah Shannon and Diana Graizbord) provides an online community of practice centered on teaching as an essential form of public sociology. Our collaborative editorial approach is driven by a desire to help writers express and elaborate their own experience of teaching as public sociology. Please consider submitting a Reflection or Class Note or proposing a Dialogue to First Publics. Check out our submission information and contact us with your ideas or questions: [firstpublicssociology@gmail.com](mailto:firstpublicssociology@gmail.com).

# Member Achievements

Liz Chiarello, Associate Professor of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis, received the Herbert Jacob Book Prize from the Law and Society Association for her book *Policing Patients: Treatment and Surveillance on the Frontlines of the Opioid Crisis* (Princeton University Press 2024).



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CLD Member William Pridemore is spending the month of June 2025 as a Barbara Huber Scholar in the Department of Criminology at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security, and Law in Freiburg, Germany.

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Meghan O'Neil (MSU School of Criminal Justice) received two (2) awards towards field research examining the legal needs of marginalized parents receiving addiction treatment to support long-term recovery and reduce recidivism:

- 2025 Assessing Legal Needs Among Marginalized Parents in Treatment for Substance Use Disorder. Role: Principal Investigator. Mentees: Nathan Elliston, Lucas Warren. Agency: Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Award, MSU. Amount: \$3,000
- 2025-2026 Assessing Legal Needs Among Marginalized Parents in Treatment for Substance Use Disorder. Role: Principal Investigator. Coinvestigators: Thomas Wojciechowski, Brittany Taylor. Agency: ACORN Addiction Consortium on Research & Education Network, MSU. Amount: \$10,000

# Graduate Student Spotlight

## Stella Korleki Ashong

Stella Korleki Ashong is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in the Sociology department at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Ghana and an MA in Applied Sociology from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff. Korleki's primary concentration is Criminology, with Women, Gender and Sexuality as her secondary concentration.

Teaching Interest: Criminal Justice, Criminology, Gender and Crime, Restorative Justice, Sociology of Gender, Sociological Theories, Society and Law, Society and Punishment

Research Interest: African Criminology, Gender-Based Violence, Harms, Restorative justice approaches to crime and conflicts and Punishments

More information can be found at:

<https://sociology.utk.edu/people/korleki-ashong/>



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## Matthew Blanton

Matthew Blanton is a PhD candidate in Sociology and Demography at the University of Texas at Austin. His dissertation, *Forced Migration From and Within Central America*, uses a mixed-methods approach to examine the long-term effects of historical violence on migration, the timing and dynamics of unaccompanied minor migration, and the health consequences of post-migration stressors. In a second line of inquiry, he studies the political and civic implications of religious change in Latin America.

His research has been published in *International Migration Review*, *Society and Mental Health*, and *The Sociological Quarterly*, and his public scholarship has appeared in *The Boston Globe* and *The Hill*. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the University of Texas Graduate School, and the Strauss Center for International Security and Law. More information about his work can be found at <https://www.matthewblanton.com>.



## Isaac Dalke

Isaac is completing his PhD in Sociology at the University of California-Berkeley and will be starting a joint postdoctoral fellowship in fall 2025 at the Northeastern University Network Science Institute and the Harvard Institute for Policing, Incarceration, and Public Safety. His dissertation investigates the development of community-based violence prevention efforts in California to shed light on dynamics of reform, resistance, and co-optation in the penal state. Using a mix of interviews, ethnographic observation, and historical methods, he shows how alternatives to policing have emerged and been incorporated into different levels of the state through nonprofit contracting.

Current website: <https://sociology.berkeley.edu/graduate-student/isaac-dalke>

Current affiliation: PhD Candidate in Sociology, University of California - Berkeley



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## Caylin Louis Moore

Caylin Louis Moore is a Doctoral Candidate in Sociology at Stanford University, a Ford Foundation and ASA MFP Fellow. His research examines how criminal classification contributes to the reproduction of inequality across the criminal legal system, with particular focus on criminal courts, prison reentry, parole, policing, and urban transformation processes such as gentrification. His dissertation, *Under Pressure: The Lifecycle of Criminal Classification*, utilizes over two years of ethnographic research at California reentry programs and in-depth interviews with formerly incarcerated men and women to analyze how the state (co)creates criminal status in its inhabitants. Caylin is the author of an award-winning book, *A Dream Too Big: The Story of An Improbable Journey from Compton to Oxford*, published by HarperCollins: Nelson Books. Caylin holds an M.Sc. in Latin American Studies from the University of Oxford, where he was a 2017 Rhodes Scholar. He received his B.S. in Economics from TCU in 2017.



More information can be found at: <https://caylinmoore.com/>

## **Crime, Law and Deviance Section Information**

Chair: Jennifer D. Carlson, Arizona State University

Chair-Elect: Holly Foster, Texas A&M University

Past Chair: Michelle Phelps, University of Minnesota

Section Secretary/Treasurer: Danielle Rudes, Sam Houston State University

Section Secretary/Treasurer-Elect: TBD June 2025

### Council Members:

April Fernandes, North Carolina State University

Joss Greene, University of California, Davis

Vanessa Panfil, Old Dominion University

Heather Schoenfeld, Boston University

Naomi Sugie, University of California, Irvine

Bryan L. Sykes, Cornell University

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