

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology** University of California, Los Angeles, 2013  
*Dissertation* “Challenging Mass Incarceration: A California Group's Advocacy for the Parole Release of Term-to-Life Prisoners”
- M.A. Sociology** University of California, Los Angeles, 2007
- B.S. Economics** University of Pennsylvania, 2001 (*magna cum laude*)
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023 – present *Co-Director of Research*, The Sentencing Project
- 2018 – 2023 *Senior Research Analyst*, The Sentencing Project
- 2013 – 2018 *Research Analyst*, The Sentencing Project
- 2006 – 2013 *Instructor and Teaching Assistant*, University of California Department of Sociology
- 2004 – 2005 *Researcher*, Service Employees International Union, Local 1199
- 2003 *Research Assistant*, National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University
- 2001 – 2003 *Consultant*, Monitor Group
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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 “One in Five: How Mass Incarceration Deepens Inequality and Harms Public Safety” (with Luke Trinko and Celeste Barry). The Sentencing Project.  
Related Webinar: [“One in Five: Ending Mass Incarceration and its Racial Disparities.”](#) The Sentencing Project, February 8.
- 2023 “One in Five: Racial Disparity in Imprisonment – Causes and Remedies” (with Celeste Barry and Luke Trinko). The Sentencing Project.
- 2023 “One in Five: Disparities in Crime and Policing” (with Celeste Barry). The Sentencing Project.
- 2023 “One in Five: Ending Racial Inequity in Incarceration.” The Sentencing Project.
- 2023 “Ron DeSantis Is Flat-out Wrong About the First Step Act” (with Liz Komar). *The Daily Beast*, June 2.
- 2023 “Media Guide: 10 Crime Coverage Dos and Don'ts.” The Sentencing Project.

- 2023 "Ending 50 Years of Mass Incarceration: Urgent Reform Needed to Protect Future Generations." The Sentencing Project.
- 2023 "Joe Biden Hasn't Kept His Promise to Reduce the Prison Population" (with William Underwood). *The Daily Beast*, January 31.
- 2022 "How Many People Are Spending Over a Decade in Prison?" (with Ashley Nellis). The Sentencing Project.  
Related Op-Ed: "DC Considers a Revamp to Its Criminal Justice System Based on Science." *Washington Post*, October 18.
- 2022 "Felony Murder: An On-Ramp for Extreme Sentencing" (with Emma Stammen and Connie Budaci). The Sentencing Project and Fair and Just Prosecution.  
Related Webinar: ["Punished for Presence: Reforming Felony Murder."](#) The Sentencing Project, April 6.  
Related Op-Ed: "'Felony Murder' Laws Impose Punishment That Doesn't Fit the Crime or Keep Us Safer" (with Miriam A. Krinsky). *Market Watch*, May 4. Related Amicus Briefs: Scott v. Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; Sellers v. People (Colorado); Commonwealth v. Shepherd (Massachusetts).
- 2021 "A Second Look at Injustice." The Sentencing Project.  
Related Op-Ed: "A Second Look at Unjust Prison Terms" *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 12.  
Related Webinar: ["A Second Look at Injustice."](#) The Sentencing Project, June 2.
- 2020 "Expanding Voting Rights to All Citizens" (with Kevin Muhitch). The Sentencing Project.
- 2020 "Decarceration and Community Re-Entry in the COVID-19 Era" (with Carlos Franco-Paredes et al.). *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. September 29.  
Related Webinar: ["The Public Health and Public Safety Foundations for Broad Prison Depopulation in a Pandemic."](#) The Sentencing Project, May 20.  
Related Op-Ed: "The CDC's Role in the Urgent Health Crisis in Jails, Prisons and Detention Centers" (with Carlos Franco-Paredes). *InsideSources*, September 14.
- 2020 "Coronavirus Deaths Will Overwhelm California Prisons Without Swift Action." *Daily Journal*, April 7.
- 2020 "Cell Phones and 'Excessive Contact': The Contradictory Imperatives Facing California's Parole-Eligible Lifers." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 31(2), 159-181.
- 2019 "The Next Step: Ending Excessive Punishment for Violent Crimes." The Sentencing Project.  
Related Webinars: ["The Next Step."](#) The Sentencing Project, July 17.
- 2017 "Opioids: Treating an Illness, Ending a War" (with Casey Anderson). The Sentencing Project.

- Related Op-Ed: "Trump's Opioid Crisis Failures Mean States Must Lead the Way." *Newsweek*, December 14.
- 2017 "Minimizing the Maximum: The Case for Shortening All Prison Sentences." In *Smart Decarceration: Achieving Criminal Justice Transformation in the 21st Century* (Edited by C. Pettus-Davis & M. Epperson). New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2017 "Federal Prisons at a Crossroads." The Sentencing Project.
- 2017 "Immigration and Public Safety" (with Josh Rovner). The Sentencing Project.
- Related Op-Ed: "Stiffening Immigration Enforcement is not the Answer to Reducing Crime" (with Alex Nowrasteh). *The Hill*, April 7.
- Related Letter: "Comments to the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice on Asylum Eligibility." The Sentencing Project, January 21, 2020.
- 2017 "Delaying a Second Chance: The Declining Prospects for Parole on Life Sentences." The Sentencing Project.
- "Delaying a Second Chance: Thirty-Two Jurisdiction Profiles." The Sentencing Project.
- Related Op-Ed: "Maryland Should Make Parole a Meaningful Part of Sentencing Again." *The Washington Post*, February 13.
- Related Webinar: "[Reviving Parole for Life Sentences.](#)" The Sentencing Project, Feb. 9.
- 2015 "Becoming Smart on Crime." *The News-Gazette*. April 26.
- 2015 "Black Lives Matter: Eliminating Racial Inequity in the Criminal Justice System." The Sentencing Project.
- Related article: "How Defense Attorneys Can Eliminate Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice." *The Champion*, June, 2018.
- 2014 "Support Grows to End Excessive Punishment." *The Daily Journal*, November 14.
- 2014 "Life, with a Possibility of Blocked Parole." *The Daily Journal*, September 25.
- 2014 "Race and Punishment: Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies." The Sentencing Project.
- Related Webinar: "[Race and Punishment.](#)" The Sentencing Project, October 1.
- 2014 "Fewer Prisoners, Less Crime: A Tale of Three States" (with Marc Mauer). The Sentencing Project.
- 2013 "Can We Wait 88 Years to End Mass Incarceration?" (with Marc Mauer). *The Huffington Post*. December 20.
- 2011 Review of *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip-Hop* by Michael Jeffries. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 34(11): 1998 - 1999.

- 2010 "‘Cross-Cultural’ Practices: Interpreting Non-African-American Participation in Hip-Hop Dance." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 33(9): 1580 - 1599.
- 2010 "Organizing Workers Along Ethnic Lines: The Pilipino Workers’ Center." Pp. 49 - 70 in R. Milkman, J. Bloom, and V. Narro (eds.) *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy*. Cornell University Press.
- 2006 "Strangeness at the Gates: The Peculiar Politics of American Immigration" (with Roger Waldinger). *International Migration Review* 40(3): 719 - 734.

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## ACADEMIC GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies Grant, UCLA, 2012  
 Chicano Studies Research Center Grant, UCLA, 2012  
 Haynes Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2011  
 Graduate Fellowship, Sociology, UCLA, 2005, 2010  
 Elena and Gregg Davis Foundation Grant, 2010  
 Quality of Graduate Education Summer Stipend, UCLA, 2009, 2008  
 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2007, 2006  
 Labor and Employment Research Fund Mini-Grant, UCLA, 2007

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## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Redefining Life Sentences: How Legislators, Governors, and Parole Boards Have Increased the Wait for Parole in U.S. Prisons." Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, June 21, 2017.
- "Life in America: The Growing Wait for Parole in U.S. Prisons" (with Ashley Nellis). American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 16, 2016.
- "Minimizing the Maximum: The Case for Reducing Lengths of Stay for All Prisoners." Washington University in St. Louis Smart Decarceration Initiative Inaugural Conference, St. Louis, September 25, 2015.
- "Seeing Like an Advocate: Perceiving Success Amidst Ambiguous or Negative Outcomes." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 19, 2014.
- "Ties that Double Bind: Conflicting Effects of Intimate Relationships on the Parole Prospects of California’s Term-to-Life Prisoners." Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, May 31, 2014.
- "Ties That Bind: Conflicting Effects of Intimacy for California Prisoners." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 10, 2013.

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## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

- "Safer Stronger Amendment Act of 2023"  
[Testimony](#) to DC Council’s Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety. June 27, 2023

“A Second Look at Injustice”

New York Chief Judge’s New York State Justice Task Force. October 3, 2023

Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by the American Bar Association. September 6, 2023

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Engage & Exchange Video Discussion Series. April 19, 2023

Resentencing Task Force of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council. April 29, 2022

Panelist on webinar organized by the Center on Media, Crime and Justice, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. December 3, 2020

“Debating State Sentences for Violent Crime: How Tough is Tough Enough?”

The Federalist Society, May 16, 2023

“Do Long Sentences Improve Public Safety? What the Research Shows”

Training for Prosecutors Alliance of California. April 20, 2023

“Felony Murder: An On-Ramp for Extreme Sentencing”

Speaker at National Association of Public Defenders’ annual conference. March 16, 2023

Presentation to Connecticut Sentencing Commission. July 25, 2022

“Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing: A New Tool for Expanding Justice”

Panelist at American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section Annual Fall Institute.

November, 18, 2022

“Expanding Justice and Repairing Harm: The First Report on Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing”

Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by For The People. February 18, 2022

“Revised Criminal Code Act of 2021”

[Testimony](#) to DC Council’s Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety. November 4, 2021

“Decarceration Mechanisms”

Panelist at 2021 Virtual Summer Conference of Black Public Defender Association. June 18, 2021

“Compassionate Release”

Discussant on FAMM’s “Heart to Heart” [discussion series](#). April 21, 2021

“Abolish Life Imprisonment”

Bethesda Presbyterian Church (virtual). February 24, 2021

“Eliminating Racial Inequality in the Criminal Justice System”

Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. July 23, 2020

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Training Division. June 16, 2020

Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Color of Justice. November 18, 2019

Virginia Tech, Combating Racial Injustice Workshop. April 27, 2019

American Humanist Association, Secular Social Justice. April 7, 2018

Federal Defender Training. August 6, 2015 and April 6, 2017

Princeton's Students for Prison Education and Reform Conference. April 16, 2016

Ball State University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. April 2, 2016

University of Utah Department of Political Science. October 17, 2016

Boston University School of Public Health. February 3, 2016

International Drug Policy Reform Conference. November 20, 2015  
Pennsylvania State University Black Law Students Association. October 15, 2015  
Bowie State University. October 1, 2015  
Ecumenical Advocacy Days National Gathering. March 18, 2015  
Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission. March 13, 2015

“The Science of Incarceration: A Realistic Look at the Cost of Imprisonment”  
Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by Science/AAAS. December 12, 2019

“Can We Wait 75 Years to End Mass Incarceration?”  
University of Rochester, Rochester Decarceration Research Initiative. March 27, 2019  
George Mason University, Engaged with Mason. March 6, 2019  
Washington Adventist University. April 12, 2018

“Progress and Persistence in the Incarceration of Women and Girls”  
The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Free Her  
National Conference. September 29, 2018

“Opioids: Treating an Illness, Ending a War”  
Central Connecticut State University. March 1, 2018

“Want to End Mass Incarceration? Reform Life Sentences”  
Eastern State Penitentiary, Searchlight Series. April 4, 2017

“Risk Assessment, Not Race Assessment”  
Council of State Governments’ Second Chance Act Conference. December 18, 2015

“Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies”  
Riverside Church in New York City. October 24, 2015  
American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Conference. October 23, 2015

“American Justice: The Impact of Incarceration”  
The Village Square at University of Missouri-Kansas City. April 29, 2015

“The States of Criminal Justice Reform”  
Vermont Law School Law Review Symposium. October 3, 2014

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Instructor, UCLA

2011 Race, Drugs, and Social Control: Mass Incarceration in America  
2010 Race and Ethnicity in American Life

### Teaching Assistant, UCLA

2009 Latin American Societies. Prof. Robert Jansen  
2009 Death, Suicide, and Trauma. Prof. Stefan Timmermans  
2008, 2007 A Global Perspective on Race and Ethnicity. Prof. Andreas Wimmer  
2008, 2007 Contemporary Sociological Theory. Prof. Rogers Brubaker, Prof. Scott Washington  
2006 Sociology of Mental Illness. Prof. Mel Pollner

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2023 – present District of Columbia Sentencing Commission, *Member*
- 2023 Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, *Advisory Committee Member*
- 2022 National Association of Sentencing Commissions, *Panel Organizer*
- 2016 “Prisons Today” Exhibit at Eastern State Penitentiary, *Advisor*
- 2015 – present Scholars Strategy Network, *Member*
- 2014 – present Law and Society Association's Punishment and Society Collaborative Research Network, *Member*

Last updated: February 2024.