

## 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

- 2013 – present *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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## PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 "Federal Prisons at a Crossroads." Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Federal-Prisons-at-a-Crossroads.pdf>.
- 2017 "U.S. Prison Population Trends 1999-2015: Modest Reductions with Significant Variation." Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: [sent.pr/2rhoY4b](http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/US-Prison-Population-Trends-1999-2015.pdf).
- 2017 "Immigration and Public Safety" (with Josh Rovner). Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Immigration-and-Public-Safety.pdf>.
- Related Op-Ed: "Stiffening Immigration Enforcement is not the Answer to Reducing Crime" (with Alex Nowrasteh). *The Hill*, April 7.
- 2017 "Delaying a Second Chance: The Declining Prospects for Parole on Life Sentences." Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Delaying-a-Second-Chance.pdf>.
- "Delaying a Second Chance: Thirty-two Jurisdiction Profiles." Available at: <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/32-lifer-parole-policies.pdf>.
- Related Op-Ed: "Maryland Should Make Parole a Meaningful Part of Sentencing Again." *The Washington Post*, February 13.

- 2015 "Becoming Smart on Crime." *The News-Gazette*. April 26.
- 2015 "Black Lives Matter: Eliminating Racial Inequity in the Criminal Justice System." Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: [http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd\\_Black\\_Lives\\_Matter.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_Black_Lives_Matter.pdf).
- 2014 "Support Grows to End Excessive Punishment." *The Daily Journal*. Available at: <http://www.nazgolghandnoosh.com/GhandnooshDailyJournal2.pdf>.
- 2014 "Life, with a Possibility of Blocked Parole." *The Daily Journal*. Available at: <http://www.nazgolghandnoosh.com/GhandnooshDailyJournal.pdf>.
- 2014 "Race and Punishment: Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies." Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: [http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd\\_Race\\_and\\_Punishment.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/rd_Race_and_Punishment.pdf).
- 2014 "Fewer Prisoners, Less Crime: A Tale of Three States" (with Marc Mauer). Washington, DC: The Sentencing Project. Available at: [http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc\\_Fewer\\_Prisoners\\_Less\\_Crime.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc_Fewer_Prisoners_Less_Crime.pdf).
- 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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## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies Grant, UCLA, 2012

Chicano Studies Research Center Grant, UCLA, 2012

Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 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

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, 2008 (declined)

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA, 2007, 2006

Labor and Employment Research Fund Mini-Grant, UCLA, 2007

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2006

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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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## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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

“Eliminating Racial Inequality in the Criminal Justice System”  
Federal Defender Training, August 6, 2015 and April 6, 2017  
University of Utah Department of Political Science, October 17, 2016  
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  
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

“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 (now American Public 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

2016 “Prisons Today” Exhibit at Eastern State Penitentiary, *Core Advisor*

2015 – present Scholars Strategy Network, *Member*

2014 – present Law and Society Association's Punishment and Society Collaborative Research Network, *Member*

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## OTHER LANGUAGES

Native Farsi speaker, proficient in Spanish and French.

Last updated: June 2017.