

Kat Albrecht

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Research Interests

Computational methods, crime, fear, inequality and law

Education

- Ph.D. 2021 (anticipated) Sociology, Northwestern University
Committee: Andy Papachristos, Beth Redbird, Laura Beth Nielsen
- J.D. 2021 (anticipated) Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University
- M.A. 2018 Sociology, Northwestern University
Committee: John Hagan & Laura Beth Nielsen
- B.S. 2016 Sociology, University of Minnesota, Summa Cum Laude
Honors Thesis: Newsworthiness in Minnesota Homicide
Winner of Undergraduate Thesis Award

Refereed Publications

- 2020 Albrecht, Kat, and Brian Citro. "Data Control and Surveillance in the Global TB Response: A Human Rights Analysis." 2(1) *Law, Technology and Humans* 107.
- 2019 Weinberg, Jill D., Laura Beth Nielsen, and Kat Albrecht. "The Deserving Worker: Decisions about Workplace Accommodation by Judges and Laypeople." 41(3) *Law & Policy* 286-309.
- 2018 Schoenfeld, Heather, Rachel M. Durso, and Kat Albrecht. "Maximizing Charges: Overcriminalization and Prosecutorial Practices During the Crime Decline." In *After Imprisonment*; Austin D. Sarat Ed. (Emerald Publishing Limited).
- 2017 Pah, Adam., John Hagan, Andrew Jennings, Aditya Jain, Kat Albrecht, Adam Hockenberry, and Luis. Amaral. "Economic Insecurity and the Rise in Gun Violence at US Schools." 1(2) *Nature Human Behaviour* 1-6.

Other Writing

- Forthcoming Albrecht, Kat. Social Media: Harmful or Helpful? Anthology Chapter in Surveillance and Social Justice. Edited by Mike Kent and Leanne Mcree. Forthcoming.
- Forthcoming Albrecht, Kat. Forthcoming. Review of Appearance Bias and Crime, by Bonnie Berry, *Contemporary Sociology*. Forthcoming.

- 2020 Albrecht, Kat. Data Transparency & the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule. *Duke Center for Firearms Law Online*.
- 2020 Citro, Brian and Kat Albrecht. 2020. "Data Control and Surveillance in the Covid-19 Response." *Northwestern University Law Review Online*.

Original Databases and Policy Tools

- 2020 Quantifying Disparity: Racial Disparities in Police Arrests
Redbird, Beth, and Kat Albrecht. 2019. "Measuring Racial Disparities in Local and County Police Arrests." *Working Paper*, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University.

This dataset and related measures are created from a rigorous combination of several streams of institutional data. The data comes from FBI records of nationwide arrests, reported by 13,917 police agencies, including 2,908 county and 11,009 municipal police, from 1999 through 2015. The data has been translated into an interactive map (and accompanying Github) with two measures for disparity in arrest. The first is an Arrest Risk Ratio measure of racial differences which considers population size. The second is an Arrest Residual measure of racial differences which considers population size and factors that affect crime rates.

Open-source tool: [Racial Disparities in Police Arrests Map: A Policy Tool](#).

Working Paper: [Racial Disparity in Arrests Increased as Crime Declined](#). (WP-20-28). IPR.

Working Paper: [Measuring Racial Disparity in Local and County Arrests](#). (WP-20-27). IPR.

- 2017 Gun Violence at US Schools
Pah, Adam., John Hagan, Andrew Jennings, Aditya Jain, Kat Albrecht, Adam Hockenberry, and Luis. Amaral. "Economic Insecurity and the Rise in Gun Violence at US Schools." 1(2) *Nature Human Behaviour* 1-6.

Frequent school shootings are a unique US phenomenon that has defied understanding. Uncovering the etiology of this problem is hampered by the lack of an established dataset. Here we assemble a carefully curated dataset for the period 1990–2013 that is built upon an exhaustive review of existing data and original sources.

Data: [Gun Violence at US Schools](#)

Interactive map: [Interactive Gun Violence Map](#)

Works in Progress (Full manuscript available)

Redbird, Beth and Kat Albrecht. Quantifying Disparity: Developing New Measures of Racial Disparity in Arrest (Under Review).

Open-source tool: [Racial Disparities in Police Arrests Map: A Policy Tool](#).

Working Paper: [Racial Disparity in Arrests Increased as Crime Declined](#). (WP-20-28). IPR.

Working Paper: [Measuring Racial Disparity in Local and County Arrests](#). (WP-20-27). IPR.

Burns, Andrew and Kat Albrecht. Getting Jumped in Vacationland: The Complicated Rhetoric and Realities of Assault in a Small Town (Under Review).

Burns, Andrew and Kat Albrecht. Seeing the Shadow Users: How Harm Reduction Techniques Shape Institutional Data (Under Review).

Albrecht, Kat, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Lydia Wuorinen. Law Misunderstood: Title IX Policies, Managerialized Rights, and Undergraduate Understanding.

Michaelson, Anna and Kat Albrecht. The Expert Ear: Musical Training to Predict Genre Taste.

Albrecht, Kat and Janice Nadler. Predicting Punishment: Reader Responses to Crime News.

Fellowships

- 2020 – 2021 Global Impacts Fellow, Buffett Institute, (\$28,800 + tuition)
“Put a Tracker on it: Fear, Surveillance, and International Human Rights Law”
- 2020 – 2021 Social Networks & Health Fellow, Duke University via NIH grant
“Co-Presence and Drug Overdose Networks in Small-Town Ohio”
- 2019 – 2020 Research Affiliate, Duke Center for Firearms Law (\$7,500)
“Data Transparency & the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule”
- 2018 – 2020 Law and Sciences Fellow, Pritzker School of Law (\$170,000)

Grants and Awards

- 2020 ACJS Doctoral Summit, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- 2020 MacArthur Summer Research Grant, with Laura Beth Nielsen, NU (\$1,000)
- 2020 ASA Methods Section Travel Award (\$450)
- 2019 Fiction Research Award, with Kaitlyn Filip, Sisters in Crime (\$500)
- 2018 Richard R. Block Award, Homicide Research Working Group (\$500)
- 2018 Alumni Grant Award, with B. Redbird, Northwestern University (\$5,000)
- 2018 Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$2,400)
- 2017 Russell Sage Foundation, with Maria Rodriguez (\$2,500)
- 2017 MacArthur Summer Research Grant, with John Hagan, Northwestern Univ. (\$1,200)
- 2016 Northwestern University Quantitative Fellowship (\$2,500)
- 2016 Talle Family Scholar 2015-2016, University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Website: [The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science](#)

Chicago Location: [SICSS Chicago](#)

- 2020 Co-Organizer, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago (\$15,500)*
- 2020 TGS Co-Sponsorship Grant, NU (\$1,000)* un-used due to Covid-19
- 2019 Co-organizer, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago (\$15,500)
- 2018 Co-organizer, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago (\$15,500)

Additional financial support from The Kellogg School of Management, The Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems, The Community Data Science Collective, and The Science of Networks in Communities research group.

Teaching

2020 – 2021	Searle Teaching Certificate Program
2020	Instructor of Record, Northwestern University Law and Society
2016 – Present	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University <i>Winner of Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Grad Student TA</i> Undergraduate/Graduate Courses: Law and Society; Social Inequality - Race, Class, & Power; Introduction to Python Programming MBA Courses: Social Dynamics & Network Analysis; Human & Machine Intelligence Executive MBA Courses: Leadership
2013 – 2016	Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota <i>Winner of Outstanding Undergrad TA Award</i> Undergraduate/Graduate Courses: Sociological Research Methods; Sociology of Killing; Sociology of Race, Class, and Gender

Selected Research/Consulting Experience

2018 – Present	The Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative
2016 – Present	American Bar Foundation
2020	Golden Set Analytics
2019 – 2020	International Human Rights Clinic, Bluhm Legal Clinic
2018 – 2019	Northwestern Research Computing
2018	Karen Decrow Project (archival)
2017 – 2018	Institution of Population Research, Northwestern University
2017 – 2018	Safford Legal
2016 – 2018	Data Science Initiative, Northwestern University
2013 – 2016	University of Minnesota Pediatrics
2015 – 2016	Food Protection and Defense Center
Summer 2015	NSF REU, University of Texas at Austin
2014	World Suffering and Quality of Life (Copy-editing)
Summer 2014	NSF REU, University of Alabama Birmingham
2013	The Society Pages: Color Lines and Racial Angles (Copy-editing)

Experience in Criminal Justice

2020 – Present	Life without the Possibility of Parole Project with McComas Legal Data Science Consultant, Co-author This project began as a consultancy to provide statistical evidence on Life Without the Possibility of Parole (LWOP) to be used for specific litigation. It has grown into a data transparency project where we are submitting memos and letters to DAs and others, petitioning for large amounts of data, and creating public facing resources to understand bias in LWOP for young
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offenders. We are currently writing up scholarly our findings in the format of a law review article.

Outputs: Legal memorandums, statistical reports, ongoing law review article

- 2015 – 2019 Child Pornography Initiative with Hennepin County Sex Offender Unit
Research Intern, Research Consultant, Co-author
- Created and coded a database of all child pornography offenders from Adult Supervision in Hennepin County, MN with unit chief Hanna O’Neil. Transitioned to supervising other members of the research team and acting as a research consultant. Following data compilation, statistical analysis is being used to generate practitioner reports and a peer-reviewable journal article.
- Outputs: Database, practitioner reports, ongoing peer-review journal article
- 2013 – 2014 Center for Homicide Research, Minneapolis, MN
Research Intern
- Coded and maintained databases of Minnesota Homicides. Edited and authored technical reports about homicide.
- Outputs: Databases, Technical reports

Invited Talks

- 2020 Albrecht, Kat. 2020. *Sociology of Fear*. Unite the World with Africa Foundation.
- 2020 Albrecht, Kat. 2020. *Data Distortions and the Felony Murder Rule*. Duke Firearms Law Symposium.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat 2019. *Machine Learning and Data Driven Law*. Institute for Future Law Practice.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. 2019. *Computational Techniques to Study Homicide*. Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. 2018. *Building Big Data to Measure Legal Bias*. 5th Annual Computational Research Day, Northwestern University.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. 2018. *Fundamental Data Science to Investigate Social Problems*. Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems, Data Science Hack Nights.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 2020 Albrecht, Kat and Brian Citro. *Data Surveillance, TB & Human Rights Law*. 51st Union World conference on Lung Health. Forthcoming.
- 2020 Filip, Kaitlyn and Kat Albrecht. *Weaponizing Rhetoric: The Illegality of Pyramid Schemes*. National Communications Association. Forthcoming.

- 2020 Albrecht, Kat, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Lydia Wuorinen. *Law's Failure: Title IX Policies, Managerialized Rights, and Undergraduate Understanding*. Law and Society National Meeting.
- 2020 Albrecht, Kat. *Crime Doesn't Matter: Dynamic Longitudinal Measures of Legal Cynicism in Chicago*. American Sociological Association.
- 2020 Burns, Andrew and Kat Albrecht. *Getting Jumped in Vacationland: The Complicated Rhetoric and Realities of Assault in a Small Town*. American Sociological Association.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat and Brian Citro. *A Human Rights-Based Approach to TB in Prisons*. Regional Workshop on TB and Human Rights. Kyiv.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. *Comparative Methodology in Newsworthiness Research*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. *The Role of Race in Gun Violence in American Schools*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. *Modelling Gun Violence in Schools*. American Sociological Association.
- 2019 Albrecht, Kat, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Lydia Wuorinen. *Understandability and Title IX*. Law and Society National Meeting.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. *The Aspiration v. Attainment Gap: Race and Gun Violence in Schools*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting. In acceptance of the Richard R. Block Award.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. *Redefining Crime Categories*. American Society of Criminology Conference.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. *Prosecutorial Bias in Dyadic Homicide Sentencing*. Law and Society National Meeting.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. *Big Data Approaches to Homicide Research*. Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting.
- 2017 Albrecht, Kat. *Racial Disparity in Arrest Rates*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Section on Race and Policing.
- 2017 Albrecht, Kat. *Process Models of Homicide*. Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting.

Affiliations/Institutes

2020 – Present	Covid-19 Social Change Lab
2018 – Present	Law and Society Association
2017 – Present	American Sociology Association Sections: Methodology; Law; & Crime, Law, and Deviance; Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco
2017 – Present	Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies
2016 – Present	Amaral Complex Systems Lab, Northwestern University
2016 – Present	Homicide Research Working Group
2016 – Present	American Society of Criminology
2017	Princeton Summer Institute in Computational Social Science
2014 –2016	University of Minnesota Sociological Association, President

Related Service

Reviewer: Network Science; PlosOne; Crime, Law, and Social Change; Homicide Studies; Social Problems; Contemporary Sociology, Northwestern University Law Review

2020 – 2021	Society for the Study of Social Problems Local Arrangements Committee
2020 – 2021	Crime, Law, and Deviance Workshop Student Coordinator
2019 – 2021	American Sociological Association, Methodology Section Elected Student Representative, Co-organizer for Mid-Year Meeting 2020
2018 – 2021	Homicide Research Working Group Richard R. Block Awards Committee
2017 – 2021	Graduate Women Across Northwestern Service Chair, Academic Liaison
2017 – 2018	Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop Student Coordinator
2017 – 2018	Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates Graduate Student Mentor

Media Mentions

Policing & Disparity in Arrest Project

Steve Chapman (Chicago Tribune) [How Police and Prisons Blocked Black Progress](#)

School Gun Violence Project

AFP – [High Unemployment May Fuel US School Shootings: Study](#)

Seth Borenstein (AP) – [School Shootings Rise When Economy Struggles, Study Suggests](#)

Sam Wong (New Scientist) – [Higher Unemployment Linked to More Shootings at Schools](#)

Phys.org – [Shootings in US Schools are Linked to Increased Unemployment](#)

Erik Sherman (Forbes) – [Higher Unemployment May Drive School Shootings](#)

Douglas Belkin (WSJ) – [Study Finds Link in School Shootings: Jobless Rate](#)

Corky Siemaszko (NBC News) – [School Shootings and Jobless Rate May Be Linked, Study Finds](#)

Timothy Mclaughlin (Reuters) – [U.S. School Shootings Linked to Unemployment: University Study](#)

Tom Jacobs (Pacific Standard) – [School Gun Violence Is Linked to Economic Insecurity](#)

Rachel Becker (The Verge) – [School Shootings Go Up When Unemployment Rises](#)

James Dennin (.Mic) – [The Scary Link Between School Shootings and Unemployment Rates](#)

Roheeni Saxena (ArsTechnica UK) – [US School Shootings Follow Trends in the Unemployment Rate](#)

Evie Blad (Education Week) – [School Safety](#)

Languages/Software

Python, STATA, R, SPSS, Q/GIS, LATEX, Qualtrics, RedCap, Git