

Kat Albrecht

kalbrecht@gsu.edu | www.katalbrecht.org | 847-544-1770

Research Interests

data law, data distortions, computational methods, bias, decision-making, understanding, fear

Academic Positions

2021 Assistant Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice
Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University

Education

Ph.D. 2021 Sociology, Northwestern University
Committee: Andy Papachristos, Laura Beth Nielsen, Bob Nelson
Dissertation: Data Distortions and the Quantification of Fear

J.D. 2021 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

Legal Consulting Work

2017 – Present Computational Science Consultant/Expert

Over the past several years I have worked consistently in California as a computational legal consultant and expert for the defense. I have consulted in several counties in California, including Santa Clara, Santa Barbara, Orange, and San Francisco. My work consists of compiling social scientific and data evidence to present in court. I principally work on cases involving Life Without the Opportunity of Parole (LWOP), felony murder or gang enhancements, and Native American law and tribal affiliation. While I principally act as a computational expert, preparing models and data-driven outputs for active cases, I also have served as a social science expert. Clients sometimes contract me for one case, but more often for a series of cases in a related domain.

Recent/Current Clients: Brian McComas (Law Office of B.C. McComas, LLP), William Safford (Safford Legal), Jerry Fong (Law Offices of Jerry Fong). More information available upon request.

Refereed Articles & Chapters

- Accepted Hawilo, Maria, Kat Albrecht, Meredith Rountree, and Tom Geraghty. "How Culture Impacts Courtrooms." *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice*.
- Accepted Filip, Kaitlyn and Kat Albrecht. Including but Not Limited To, Personal Injury, Disability and Death: The Problems of University Liability Waivers for COVID-19 Protections. *Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy*.
- Proposal Accepted Burns, Andrew and Kat Albrecht. "Seeing the Shadow Users: How Covid-19 is Worsening the Opioid Epidemic." *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences issue on The Social and Political Impact of COVID-19 in the US*. In revisions with special issue.
- Accepted Albrecht, Kat. Social Media: Harmful or Helpful? Anthology Chapter in Surveillance and Social Justice. Edited by Mike Kent and Leanne Mcree. Forthcoming.
- 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

- 2021 Albrecht, Kat. Review of Appearance Bias and Crime, by Bonnie Berry, *Contemporary Sociology*.
- 2020 Albrecht, Kat. Data Transparency & the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule. *Duke Center for Firearms Law*.

2020 Citro, Brian and Kat Albrecht. 2020. "Data Control and Surveillance in the Covid-19 Response." *Northwestern University Law Review Online*.

Works in Progress (Full Manuscripts Available)

Albrecht, Kat and Kaitlyn Filip. Weaponizing Rhetoric to Legitimate Regulatory Failure (Under Review).

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

Albrecht, Kat, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Lydia Wuorinen. Misunderstanding Law: Undergraduates' Analysis of Campus Title IX Policies (Under Review).

Michelson, Ann and Kat Albrecht. Learning to Listen: Types of Musical Knowledge and Genre Preferences.

Pah, Adam, Kat Albrecht, and John Hagan. Is School Gun Violence Contagious? Misreading a Medical Metaphor.

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

[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.](#)

Stallings, Carrie and Kat Albrecht. The Law of the Land: Disparity in Native American Arrest.

Fellowships

2020 – 2022	Social Networks & Health Fellow, Duke University via NIH grant <i>“Co-Presence and Drug Overdose Networks in Small-Town Ohio”</i>
2020 – 2021	Global Impacts Fellow, Buffett Institute, (stipend + tuition) <i>“Put a Tracker on it: Fear, Surveillance, and International Human Rights Law”</i>
2019 – 2020	Research Affiliate, Duke Center for Firearms Law (\$7,500) <i>“Data Transparency & the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule”</i>
2018 – 2020	Law and Sciences Fellow, Pritzker School of Law (tuition)

Grants and Awards

2021	Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Open Knowledge Network (SCALES OKN) Grant
2021	Sociology Department Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$500)
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](#)

2021	Lead Organizer, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Chicago (\$8,200)*
2020	Lead 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	Lead 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 recruited 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.

* Change in funding amount due to running a fully virtual institute during Covid-19

Teaching

2020 – 2021	Searle Teaching Certificate Program
2021	Instructor of Record, Georgia State University Research Methods (spring)
2020 – 2021	Instructor of Record, Northwestern University <i>Winner of Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Grad Student Instructor</i> Law and Society, Sociology of Fear

- 2016 – 2021 Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University
Winner of Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Grad Student TA
- Undergraduate/Graduate Courses: Law and Society; Social Inequality - Race, Class, & Power; Introduction to Python Programming; School Policy
 MBA Courses: Social Dynamics & Network Analysis (x3); Human & Machine Intelligence (x13)
 Executive MBA Courses: Leadership and Organizations
- 2013 – 2016 Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota
Winner of Outstanding Undergrad TA Award
- Undergraduate/Graduate Courses: Sociological Research Methods (x4);
 Sociology of Killing; Sociology of Race, Class, and Gender

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 Luís 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](#)

Selected Research/ Computational Consulting Experience

2021	UK Court Coding Project
2018 – 2021	The Northwestern Neighborhood & Network Initiative
2016 – 2021	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
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

Invited Talks

2021	Albrecht, Kat. 2021. Pre-Conference Workshop on Computational Criminology at American Criminological Society Annual Meeting 2021.
2021	Albrecht, Kat. 2021. Invited Speaker at Data Science for Public Good Conference. Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics.
2020	Redbird, Beth and Kat Albrecht. 2020. <i>Racial Disparity in Arrests Increases as Crime Rates Decline</i> . One Book Northwestern.
2020	Albrecht, Kat. 2020. <i>Sociology of Fear</i> . Unite the World with Africa Foundation.
2020	Albrecht, Kat. 2020. <i>Data Distortions and the Felony Murder Rule</i> . Duke Firearms Law Symposium.
2019	Albrecht, Kat 2019. <i>Machine Learning and Data Driven Law</i> . Institute for Future Law Practice.

- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. 2019. *Computational Techniques to Study Homicide*. Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. 2018. *Fundamental Data Science to Investigate Social Problems*. Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems, Data Science Hack Nights.

Selected Conference Presentations

- 2021 Stallings, Carrie and Kat Albrecht. *The Law of the Land: Disparity in Native American Arrest*. American Sociological Association.
- 2021 Albrecht, Kat and Janice Nadler. *Predicting Punishment: Reader Responses to Crime News*. American Sociological Association
- 2021 Albrecht, Kat and Kaitlyn Filip. *Weaponizing Rhetoric to Legitimate Regulatory Failure*. Law and Society Association.
- 2021 Stallings, Carrie and Kat Albrecht. *False Equivalence: Reductionist Assumptions about Disparity in Native American Arrest*. The Newberry Consortium for American Indian Studies.
- 2020 Albrecht, Kat and Andrew Burns. *Co-Presence Networks in Drug Overdose*. The Criminology Consortium.
- 2020 Albrecht, Kat and Brian Citro. *Data Surveillance, TB & Human Rights Law*. 51st Union World conference on Lung Health.
- 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. *Comparative Methodology in Newsworthiness Research*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.

- 2019 Albrecht, Kat. *Modelling Gun Violence in Schools*. American Sociological Association.
- 2018 Albrecht, Kat. *The Aspiration v. Attainment Gap: Gun Violence in Schools*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting.
- 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

- 2021 – Present Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Open Knowledge Network (SCALES OKN)
- 2018 – Present Law and Society Association
- 2017 – Present American Sociology Association
Sections: Methodology; Law; & Crime, Law, and Deviance; Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco
- 2016 – Present Homicide Research Working Group
- 2016 – Present American Society of Criminology
- 2017 – 2021 Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies
- 2016 – 2021 Amaral Complex Systems Lab, Northwestern University
- 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

Grant Reviewer: Sloan Foundation

2021 – 2022	Homicide Research Working Group Program Committee
2021	ASA Methodology Section Mentorship Program Mentor
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, SPSS, Q/GIS, LaTeX, Qualtrics, RedCap, Git, basic R