

Kat Albrecht

55 Park Place, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303
kalbrecht@gsu.edu | www.katalbrecht.org

Academic Appointments

Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice and Criminology, Aug. 2021 – Present

Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
J.D., 2022

Northwestern University
Ph.D. (Sociology), 2021
M.A. (Sociology), 2018
Dissertation: “Data Distortions and the Quantification of Fear”
Committee: Andrew Papachristos, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Robert Nelson

University of Minnesota
B.S. (Sociology of Crime, Law, and Deviance), summa cum laude, 2016
Honors Thesis: “Newsworthiness in Minnesota Homicide”
Winner of Undergraduate Thesis Award

Fellowships

Criminal Justice Administrative Records System
CJARS Fellow, 2022 – 2023
Project: “A Nation-wide Analysis of Criminal Case Processing”

Duke University Social Science Research Institute
Social Networks and Health Fellow, 2020 – 2022
Project: “Co-Presence and Drug Overdose Networks in Small-Town Ohio”

Duke University Center for Firearms Law
Funded Research Affiliate, 2019 – 2020
Project: “Data Transparency and the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule”

Buffett Institute for Global Affairs
Global Impacts Fellow, 2020 – 2021
Project: “Put a Tracker on it: Fear, Surveillance, and International Human Rights Law”

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Law and Sciences Fellow, 2018 – 2020

Research/Computational Consulting Projects

Felony Murder

I have recently also been engaged by the Boston University Center for Antiracist Research as a consultant to work on the quantitative/data elements of their new initiative in drafting new law around the felony murder. This contracted work is set to run through December of 2023. I have also been invited to join an amicus brief on felony murder in Massachusetts.

Racial Justice Act

My work consists of compiling social scientific and data evidence to present in court. I principally work on Racial Justice Act, Life Without the Opportunity of Parole (LWOP) cases, and other serious/violent felonies. While I principally act as a computational expert, preparing models and data-driven outputs for active cases, I have also served as a social science expert. In 2022, my data analytics were featured in 2 cases that led to releases for long-term incarcerated individuals. We are presently authoring an amicus brief in California.

Senate Bill 1209

Data analysis for Senate Bill 1209 which amends California Penal Code section 1170.91 to provide sentence reconsideration for a defendant convicted of a felony offense that is or was a member of the United States military who may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of the defendant's military service, to consider that circumstance as a factor in mitigation when imposing a sentence, regardless of whether they were sentenced prior to January 1, 2015. Became law January 1, 2023.

Other Selected Research/Computational Consulting Experience

Georgia Child Abuse Project, 2022 – 2023

UK Court Coding Project, 2021

Northwestern Neighborhood and Network Initiative (N3), 2018 – 2021

American Bar Foundation, 2016 – 2021

Golden Set Analytics, 2020

International Human Rights Clinic, Bluhm Legal Clinic, 2019 – 2020

Northwestern Research Computing, 2018 – 2019

Karen DeCrow Project (archival), 2018

Data Science Initiative, Northwestern University, 2016 – 2018

University of Minnesota Pediatrics, 2013 – 2016

Food Protection and Defense Center, 2015 – 2016

National Science Foundation REU, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2015

Academic Publications in Law

Data Justice: How Innovative Data is Transforming the Law, *Northwestern University Law Review* (Lead article, symposium, forthcoming 2024) (with Adam Pah, Dave Schwartz, Charlotte Alexander and others)

“If I See a Burmese Python, I’m Gonna Kill that Shit”: How Changing the Object of the Law Affects Support for Legal Regulation, *UC Irvine Law Review* (forthcoming 2023)

Virtual Justice: Measuring Perceptions of Fairness in Civil and Criminal Courts, *Loyola University of Chicago Law Journal* (forthcoming 2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

The Unequal Burdens of Data Production and Analysis in Criminal and Civil Court, *Contexts Magazine* (forthcoming 2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

Data Transparency, Compounding Bias, and the Felony Murder Rule, *Mississippi Law Journal* (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

Public Records Aren’t Public: Systemic Barriers to Measuring Court Functioning & Equity, *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (forthcoming 2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

[The Serial Effect](#), 53 *New Mexico Law Review* 29 (2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

[Liebeck v. Frivolity: The Contemporary Influence of an Iconic Case](#), 4 *Corporate and Business Law Journal* (2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

[Law Misunderstood: Undergraduates’ Analysis of Campus Title IX Policies](#), *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* (2022) (with Laura Beth Nielsen and Lydia Wuorinen) *peer reviewed

[Justice Delayed: The Complex System of Delays in Criminal Court](#), 53 *Loyola University of Chicago Law Journal* 747 (2022) (with Maria Hawilo, Thomas Geraghty, and Meredith Rountree)

- Re-printed as an excerpted essay in the American Bar Association Handbook, *The State of Criminal Justice* (forthcoming 2023)

[How Culture Impacts Courtrooms: An Empirical Study of Alienation and Detachment in the Cook County Court System](#), 112 *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice* 171 (2022) (with Maria Hawilo, Thomas Geraghty, and Meredith Rountree)

- Re-printed as an excerpted essay in the American Bar Association Handbook, [The State of Criminal Justice](#) (2022)

[The Oracle Testifies: Facial Recognition Technology in Criminal Courtrooms](#), 61 *University of Louisville Law Review* (2022) (with Jessica Gabel Cino, Heather Kleider-Offutt, Beth Stevens, Robert Evans, & Emma Riedley)

[Regulating Harm: Tensions Between Data Privacy & Data Transparency](#), 8 *Journal of Regulatory Compliance* 115 (2022) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

[Including but Not Limited To, Personal Injury, Disability and Death: The Problems of University Liability Waivers for COVID-19 Protections](#), 31 *Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy* 89 (2021) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

[The Deserving Worker: Decisions about Workplace Accommodation by Judges and Laypeople](#), 41 *Law & Policy* 286–309 (2019) (with Jill Weinberg and Laura Beth Nielsen) *peer reviewed

Academic Publications in Criminology & Social Science

Data Commodification: Is the Power of Social Media Worth the Price? in *Surveillance and Social Justice* (Mike Kent and Leanna McCrea, eds.) (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

Learning to Listen: Types of Musical Knowledge and Genre Preferences, *Music and Arts in Action* (forthcoming 2023) (with Anna Michelson) *peer reviewed

From Candy to Contact Killer: Moral Panic and the Fentanyl Overdose Myth, in *Lizards, Illuminati & Deepfakes: Conspiracy Theories at Play in Popular Culture* (Robert Spinelli, ed.) (forthcoming 2023) (with Andrew Burns) *peer reviewed

[Localized Syndemic Assemblages: COVID-19, Substance Use Disorder, and Overdose Risk in Small-Town America](#), *The Russell Sage Journal of the Social Sciences* issue on The Social and Political Impact of Covid-19 in the US (2022) (with Andrew Burns) *peer reviewed

[Assigning Punishment: Reader Responses to Crime News](#), 13 *Frontiers in Psychology* (2022) (with Janice Nadler) *peer reviewed

[Getting Jumped in Vacationland: The Complicated Rhetoric and Realities of Assault in a Small Town](#), *Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology* (2022) (with Andrew Burns) *peer reviewed

[Data Control and Surveillance in the Global TB Response: A Human Rights Analysis](#), 2(1) *Law, Technology, and Humans* 107 (2020) (with Brian Citro) *peer reviewed

[Maximizing Charges: Overcriminalization and Prosecutorial Practices During the Crime Decline](#), in *After Imprisonment* (Austin Sarat, ed.) *Emerald Publishing Limited* (2018) (with Heather Schoenfeld and Rachel Durso) *peer reviewed

[Economic Insecurity and the Rise of Gun Violence at US Schools](#), 1 *Nature Human Behavior* 1–6 (2017) (with Adam Pah, John Hagan, Aditya Jain, Adam Hockenberry, and Luís Amaral) *peer reviewed

Academic Publications in Horror

Streaming Soviet Russia: Tropes and Atmosphere in Indie Russian Horror Games, *Baltic Horror* (Fernando Gabriel Pagnoni Berns, ed.) *peer reviewed

Practical Magic: The Role of Practical Special Effects in Creating Fear, in *A Critical Companion to Wes Craven* (Fernando Gabriel Pagnoni Berns and John Darowski, eds.) *Lexington Books* (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

Genre Tropes and Cinematic Risk-taking in the Conjuring Universe, in *Critical Conversations in Horror Studies* (Todd Platts, ed.), *Edinburgh University Press* (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

Truths, Lies, and Suspiciously Large Snakes, in *Creature Features in the Classroom* (Cristy Tidwell and Bridgette Barclay, eds.), *Lever Press* (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

Computationally Mapping the Gothic Impulse, *Monstrum* (forthcoming 2023) *peer reviewed

The Science of Fear, Horror Homeroom special issue on horror literature (forthcoming 2023)

Other Writing

National Science Foundation Whitepaper, [Open Knowledge Network Roadmap: Powering the Next Data Revolution](#), NSF. Available at https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2022-09/OKN%20Roadmap%20-%20Report_v03.pdf (2022) (Co-author)

[Make Title IX Policies More Student-Friendly](#), *Inside Higher Ed*. Available at: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/08/15/title-ix-policies-must-be-more-student-friendly-opinion> (2022) (with Laura Beth Nielsen)

Horror DNA

Staff Writer (2022 – Present).

Features

- [Definitively Ranking the Scariest Zoombies](#) (2023)
- [Top 10 Unconventional Shark Movies to Really Sink Your Teeth Into](#) (2023)

Games

- [Hunt A Killer – Mine Games](#) (2023)

Books

- [Snow Shark](#) (2023)
- [The Nest](#) (2023)
- [As the Night Devours Us](#) (2022)
- [Blood Bank: A Charitable Anthology](#) (2022)

Films

- [Free to a Bad Home](#) (2023)
- [Consecration](#) (2023)
- [Don't Look at the Demon](#) (2023)

- [Firenado](#) (2023)
- [The Christmas Tapes](#) (2022)
- [The Rise of the Beast](#) (2022)
- [Don't Fuck in the Woods 2](#) (2022)
- [Croc!](#) (2022)
- [Deadstream](#) (2022)

Book Review, "Appearance Bias and Crime by Bonnie Berry," *Contemporary Sociology* (2021).

Blog Post, "Data Transparency and the Disparate Impact of the Felony Murder Rule," *Duke University Center for Firearms Law* (2020).

Blog Post, "Data Control and Surveillance in the Covid-19 Response," (with Brian Citro), *Northwestern University Law Review of Note*. (2020).

Works In-progress

Horror Law (with Kaitlyn Filip) (Book project)

Opioid Overdose in the Micropolitan (with Andrew Burns and Tzu-Hao Wu)

Is School Gun Violence Contagious? Misreading a Medical Metaphor (with Adam Pah and John Hagan)

Weaponizing Rhetoric to Legitimize Regulatory Failure, (with Kaitlyn Filip), Pre-print available at: <https://www.crimrxiv.com/pub/s8erpr3p/release/1>

Law of the Land: Tribal Sovereignty and Legally Legitimated Resource-Based Social Control, (with Carrie Stallings), Pre-print available at: https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cj_facpub/40/

Grant Activity

Open Courts Innovation Seed Grant. SCALES Access to Justice Workshop. Co-PI (with Ryan Little, Jonathan Ashley, Kaitlyn Filip, and Sean Mussenden). \$10,000. 2022.

Research Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) challenge grant. Criminal Litigation Events and Activity Research (CLEAR) Initiative. Co-PI (with Charlotte Alexander, Lauren Sudeall, Bill Sabol, and Adam Pah). \$250,000. 2022.

NSF Subaward. Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Open Knowledge Network, Senior Personnel, \$101,394, 2021.

- Subaward of the NSF funded Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation EventS Open Knowledge Network (SCALES OKN), total award \$6 million, 2020.

Sociology Department Research Grant, Northwestern University, \$500, 2021.

ACJS Doctoral Summit Selectee, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, 2020.

MacArthur Summer Research Grant (with Laura Beth Nielsen), \$1,000, 2020.

American Sociology Association Methods Section Travel Award, \$450, 2020.

Fiction Research Award (with Kaitlyn Filip), Sisters in Crime, \$500, 2019.

Richard R. Block Award, Homicide Research Working Group, \$500, 2018.

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University, \$2,400, 2018.

Russell Sage Foundation Pilot Award through SICSS (with Maria Rodriguez), \$2,500, 2017.

Northwestern University Quantitative Fellowship, \$2,500, 2016.

Talle Family Scholar, University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, 2015.

Summer Institutes and Workshops (Organizer)

Summer Institutes

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Site Organizer

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

SICSS Chicago, Organizer, 2018 – 2021

[Chicago Location: SICSS Chicago](#)

Funded by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (\$54,700 cumulatively)

SICSS Atlanta, Organizer, 2022 – 2023

[Atlanta Location: SICSS Atlanta](#)

Funded by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation & National Science Foundation (\$31,000 cumulatively)

SICSS South Florida, Co-Organizer, 2023

Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$15,000 cumulatively)

Additional financial support recruited from The Kellogg School of Management, The Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems (NICO), The Community Data Science Collective, the Science of Networks in Communities group (SONIC), The Graduate School at Northwestern University, and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University.

SCALES Open Justice Research Workshop

Atlanta Workshop co-organizer, 2023

Virtual Workshop co-organizer, 2022

Teaching Experience

Pedagogy Training

Faculty Teaching and Learning Communities, Georgia State University
Teaching Critical Thinking in the Endemic Era of Misinformation, 2022 – 2023
Teaching Skills in Response to a Changing Job Market, 2021 – 2022
Searle Teaching Certificate Program, Northwestern University, 2020 – 2021

Pedagogy Grants & Awards

Course Development Grant, Intro. Computational Social Science, Georgia State University, 2023
Writing Across the Curriculum Grant, Georgia State University, 2022
Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Grad Student Instructor, Northwestern University, 2020
Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Grad Student TA, Northwestern University, 2017
Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Minnesota, 2013

Courses

Georgia State University, 2021 – Present

- Research Methods in Criminal Justice (Undergraduate, minimester and regular semester)

Northwestern University, 2020 – 2021

- Law and Society (Undergraduate)
- Sociology of Fear (Undergraduate)

Northwestern University, 2016 – 2021 [teaching assistant]

- Leadership and Organizations (Executive MBA)
- Human and Machine Intelligence (x13) (MBA)
- Social Dynamics and Network Analysis (x3) (MBA)
- Introduction to Python Programming (Graduate/Undergraduate)
- Law and Society (Undergraduate)
- Social Inequality: Race, Class, and Power (Undergraduate)
- School Policy (Undergraduate)

University of Minnesota, 2013 – 2016 [teaching assistant]

- Sociological Research Methods (x4) (Undergraduate)
- Sociology of Killing (Undergraduate)
- Sociology of Race, Class, and Gender (Undergraduate)

Selected Invited Talks and Workshops

“Workplace Harassment in Law Enforcement,” Leadership Advancement for Women in Law Enforcement Program (2022).

“Data Distortions and the Felony Murder Rule,” *Purdue University* (2022).

“Integrated Justice Platform,” Workshop on Open Knowledge Network at *The Knowledge Graph Conference* (2022).

“Litigating the Racial Justice Act,” (with Brian McComas), *California Defense Practitioners Monthly Meetings* (2022).

“California Public Record Act Requests & Life Without the Opportunity of Parole,” (with Brian McComas), *UC Hastings Progressive Law Conference* (2021).

Pre-conference workshop on Computational Criminology at *American Criminological Society Annual Meeting* (2021).

Invited Speaker at Data Science for Public Good Conference. *Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics* (2021).

“Sociology of Fear.” *Unite the World w/ Africa Foundation* (2020).

“Data Distortions and the Felony Murder Rule.” *Duke Firearms Law Symposium* (2020).

“Machine Learning and Data Driven Law.” *Institute for Future Law Practice* (2019).

“Computational Techniques to Study Homicide.” Workshop at *Homicide Research Working Group Annual Meeting* (2019).

“Fundamental Data Science to Investigate Social Problems.” *Northwestern Institute on Complex Systems, Data Science Hack Nights* (2018).

Selected Conference Presentations

“Overdose Networks and the Interactions of Space and Place,” (with Andrew Burns) *American Society of Criminology* (2022).

“Data Transparency, Compounding Bias, and the Felony Murder Rule,” *Homicide Research Working Group* (2022).

“The Serial Effect,” (with Kaitlyn Filip) *Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference* (2022).

“Pop-torts: Perceptions of Frivolity in Consumer Protection Cases” (with Kaitlyn Filip) *Law and Society Association* (2022).

“Codifying Fear: Measuring How Fear Reifies Environmental Law,” *American Sociological Association* (2022).

“Fentanyl Contact Overdose Myths,” (with Andrew Burns) *Society for the Study of Social Problems* (2022).

“Public Records Aren’t Public,” (with Kaitlyn Filip), *Computational Legal Studies Conference* (SMU) (2022).

“Weaponizing Rhetoric to Legitimize Regulatory Failure,” (with Kaitlyn Filip), *Law and Society Association* (2021).

“Predicting Punishment: Reader Responses to Crime News,” (with Janice Nadler), *American Sociological Association* (2021).

“Data Surveillance, Tuberculosis, and Human Rights,” (with Brian Citro), *51st Union Conference on Lung Health* (2020).

“Co-Presence in Drug Overdose,” (with Andrew Burns), *The Criminology Consortium* (2020).

“Law’s Failure: Title IX Policies, Managerialized Rights, and Undergraduate Understanding,” (with Laura Beth Nielsen and Lydia Wuorinen), *Law and Society National Meeting* (2020).

“Crime Doesn’t Matter: Dynamic Longitudinal Measures of Legal Cynicism in Chicago,” *American Sociological Association* (2020).

“Getting Jumped in Vacationland: The Complicated Rhetoric and Realities of Assault in a Small Town,” (with Andrew Burns), *American Sociological Association* (2019).

“Comparative Methodology in Newsworthiness Research,” *American Society of Criminology* (2019).

“Modeling Gun Violence in Schools,” *American Sociological Association* (2019).

“The Aspiration v. Attainment Gap: Gun Violence in Schools,” *American Society of Criminology* (2018).

“Redefining Crime Categories,” *American Society of Criminology* (2018).

“Prosecutorial Bias in Dyadic Homicide Sentencing,” *Law and Society National Meeting* (2018).

“Big Data Approaches to Homicide Research,” *Homicide Research Working Group* (2018).

Affiliations

Legal Analytics Lab, Georgia State University, 2022 – Present

Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Events Open Knowledge Network (SCALES OKN)

Co-chair, data engineering team, 2021 – Present

Law and Society Association, 2018 – Present

American Sociological Association, 2017 – Present

Homicide Research Working Group, 2016 – Present

American Society of Criminology, 2016 – Present

Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies, 2017 – 2021
Amaral Complex Systems Lab, Northwestern University, 2016 – 2021
Princeton Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2017

Service to the Profession

Article Reviewer

Network Science; PLOS ONE; Crime, Law, and Social Change; Homicide Studies; Social Problems; Contemporary Sociology, Northwestern University Law Review, Journal of Crime and Justice, Deviant Behavior, Law and Society Review

Book Reviewer

Routledge

Grant Reviewer

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Professional Organizations/Workshops

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Symposium, Co-Organizer, Forthcoming 2023
Treasurer (appointed by steering committee), Homicide Research Working Group, 2022
UC Hastings School of Law, California Public Records Clinic, Community Partner, 2021 – 2022
Conference Program Committee, Homicide Research Working Group, 2021 – 2023
Chris Rasche Award Committee, Homicide Research Working Group, 2022
Mentor, American Sociological Association Methodology Mentorship Program, 2021
Richard R. Block Award Committee, Homicide Research Working Group, 2018 – 2021
Graduate Representative, American Sociological Association, Methodology, 2019 – 2021
Student Coordinator, Crime, Law, & Deviance Workshop, Northwestern University, 2020 – 2021
Conference Program Committee, ASA Methodology Mid-Year Meeting, 2020¹
Service Chair, Academic Liaison, Graduate Women Across Northwestern, 2017 – 2021
Student Coordinator, Applied Quant. Methods Workshop, Northwestern University, 2017 - 2018

Advisory Boards/Committees

Criminology Open
Racial Data Lab Advisory Committee

Departmental Committees

3rd year review committee (clinical line), Georgia State University, 2022
Faculty search committee (tenure track line), Georgia State University, 2021
Ad-hoc Committee on Workshops in Sociology, Northwestern University, 2021

University-Wide Committees

Policy analytics search committee (tenured, admin line), Georgia State University, 2022

¹ Meeting ultimately cancelled due to Covid-19.

Languages/Software

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