

KAT ALBRECHT
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TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Criminal law	Data law	Regulation
Criminal procedure	Data science	Property
Fear	Experiments	Environment

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS – ARTICLES

Data Justice: How SCALES Data is Transforming the Law. *Northwestern University Law Review* (forthcoming) (with David Schwartz, Adam Pah, Luis Amaral, Charlotte Alexander, Christopher Cotropia, Zachary Clopton, and Sarath Sanga)

“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)

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

Weaponizing Rhetoric to Legitimate Regulatory Failures, *Florida International University Law Review* (forthcoming) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

The Stickiness of Felony Murder: The Morality of a Murder Charge, *Mississippi Law Journal* (forthcoming) *peer reviewed

Architects of Genre: Creating Community in Digital Spaces, *Monstrum* (forthcoming) *peer reviewed

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

Public Records Aren’t Public: Systemic Barriers to Measuring Court Functioning & Equity, 113 *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 1 (2023) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

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

- *Media* – [interview](#) on Atlanta NPR station WABE
- *Media* – [research spotlight](#), The Serial Effect: Unpacking the Phenomenon of the True-Crime Podcast

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)
- *Media* – mentioned in Chicago Tribune [feature](#) on case processing delays

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

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)
- *Media* – mentioned in Chicago Tribune [feature](#) on case processing delays

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)

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

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)

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

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

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

PUBLICATIONS – BOOK CHAPTERS

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

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) (with Andrew Burns)

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

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

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* (2023)

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

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)

PUBLICATIONS – OTHER WRITING

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

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

National Science Foundation Whitepaper, [Open Knowledge Network Roadmap: Powering the Next Data Revolution](https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2022-09/OKN%20Roadmap%20-%20Report_v03.pdf), 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](https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2022/08/15/title-ix-policies-must-be-more-student-friendly-opinion), *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) archive of reviews and features available at: www.horrordna.com

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

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

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

A24 Horror (co-edited volume with Todd Platts and Erica Dymond) (Book project).

Horror Law (with Kaitlyn Filip) (Book project).

Opioid Overdose in the Micropolitan (with Andrew Burns and Tzu-Hao Wu) (Full manuscript available).

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

Fear the Law: Codifying Fear through the Objectification of the Law (with Andrew Burns and Sierra Bell)

Litigating the Racial Justice Act: The Pitfalls and Promise of Using Data to Make Your Case (with Cansu Colakoglu, Alexander Carney, Mark Iverson, and Darlene Comstedt) (job market paper)

GRANTS & AWARDS

Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science, **\$125,000**, 2018-2023

Organizer, South Florida (Florida Atlantic University), 2023

Organizer, Atlanta (Georgia State University, Georgia Tech), 2022 – 2023

Organizer, Chicago (Northwestern University), 2018 – 2021

Participant, Princeton (main site), 2017

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.

- Organizer, SCALES Open Justice Research Workshop, 2023

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.
- Co-Organizer, SCALES Open Justice Research Workshop, 2022

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.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Computational Law & Science Consulting, 2018 – Present

- Authoring memoranda to support data discovery in defense-side criminal matters
- Data building and analysis to measure racial disparity in criminal charging and sentencing in California for use in active cases
- Specializing in Racial Justice Act cases, special circumstance enhancements, and felony murder applications
- Expert testimony and analysis as a computational social science expert for RJA evidentiary hearings
- Data analysis in support of Senate Bill 1209 amending CA penal code section 1170.91 to provide sentence reconsideration for military veterans (law as of January 1, 2023)
- UC Hastings School of Law California Public Records (CPRA) Clinic Community Partner
- Quantitative Consultant for Boston University Antiracist Research Center
- Co-author of amicus brief in Commonwealth v. Fisher, SJC-13340

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND CONSULTING CLIENTS

Boston University Antiracist Research Center, 2022 – Present

McComas Legal, 2020 – Present

ProQuest Crime & Policy Module, 2023 – Present

Georgia Child Abuse Project, 2022 – Present

California Senate Bill 1209, 2022

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
Hennepin County Sex Offenders Unit, 2014 – 2016
University of Minnesota Pediatrics, 2013 – 2016
Food Protection and Defense Center, 2015 – 2016
National Science Foundation REU, University of Texas at Austin, 2015
National Science Foundation REU, University of Alabama Birmingham, 2014

TEACHING

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, Origins of Fear, Georgia State University, **\$5,000**, 2023
Course Development Grant, Intro. Comp. Social Science, Georgia State University, **\$5,000**, 2023
Writing Across the Curriculum Grant, Georgia State University, **\$2,000**, 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 TAUGHT & DEVELOPED

Georgia State University, 2021 – Present

- Research Methods in Criminal Justice
- Digital Criminal Law
- Origins of Fear
- Introduction to Computational Social Science for Policy Analysis

Northwestern University, 2020 – 2021

- Law and Society
- Sociology of Fear

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
- Law and Society
- Social Inequality: Race, Class, and Power
- School Policy

University of Minnesota, 2013 – 2016 (teaching assistant)

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

INVITED TALKS

Conspiratorial Beliefs and the Origins of Fear, *Georgia State Teaching and Learning Community Workshop* (2023) (with Andrew Burns)

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, *California Defense Practitioners Monthly Meetings* (2022) (with Brian McComas)

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

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, *American Society of Criminology* (2022) (with Andrew Burns)

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

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

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

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

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

Public Records Aren't Public, *Computational Legal Studies Conference*, Singapore Management University & MIT (2022) (with Kaitlyn Filip)

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

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

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

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

Law's Failure: Title IX Policies, Managerialized Rights, and Undergraduate Understanding, *Law and Society Association* (2020) (with Laura Beth Nielsen and Lydia Wuorinen)

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, *American Sociological Association* (2019) (with Andrew Burns)

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 Association* (2018)

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

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, Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis

BOOK REVIEWER

Routledge

GRANT REVIEWER

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Article Prize, Committee Chair, Law and Society Association, 2023

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

¹ Meeting ultimately cancelled due to Covid-19.

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

GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER COMMITTEES

MariTere Molinet (dissertation), Danye Negas Medhin (dissertation), Sierra Bell (area paper)

AFFILIATIONS

Legal Analytics Lab, Georgia State University, 2022 – Present

Criminology Open Advisory Board, 2022 – Present

Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Events Open Knowledge Network

Co-chair, data engineering team, crime ontology working group, 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

LANGUAGES/SOFTWARE

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