

VESLA M. WEAVER

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor
Co-Director, American Prison Writing Archive
Johns Hopkins University ♦ Krieger School of Arts and Sciences
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(Last Updated 1/26)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2017- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology (2021-)
Co-Director of the [American Prison Writing Archive](#) (2021-)
Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Political Science and Sociology (2017-2021)

2012-17 Yale University, New Haven, CT
Associate Professor (with tenure), 2016-, Political Science and African American Studies
Assistant Professor, 2012-2015, Political Science and African American Studies
Founding Director, 2015-, ISPS Center for the Study of Inequality (I-CSI)
Faculty Affiliate, The Justice Collaboratory, Yale Law School

2007-12 University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Assistant Professor, Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics and Miller Center of Public Affairs

EDUCATION

2007 Ph.D., Political Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
Joint Degree Programs in Government & Social Policy

2001 B.A., Government, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
Phi Beta Kappa

AFFILIATIONS

Member, Justice Collaboratory, Yale Law School
Faculty Board, The Chloe Center for the Critical Study of Racism, Immigration, and Colonialism

RESEARCH

Books[Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control](#)

University of Chicago Press, May 2014 (with A. Lerman).

Winner of the American Political Science Association's **Dennis Judd Best Book in Urban Politics Award**. Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Ethics, Punishment & Society*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Criminal Justice Review*, *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, *American Prospect*, and by the *Prison Policy Institute*.

[Creating a New Racial Order: How Immigration, Multiracialism, Genomics, and the Young can Remake Race in America](#). Princeton University Press, March 2012 (with J. Hochschild and T. Burch).

Named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2012. Reviewed in *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of American History*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, and *Contemporary Sociology*.

[The State From Below: Racial Authoritarianism in US Democracy](#). Book Project in progress.

“We Had to Fight Everything, Including Ourselves”: Black Police Political Organizations and Resistance to Racial Authoritarianism. Ms. in progress.

Articles[Black-Led Political Mobilization and the US Carceral State: How Tracing Community Struggles for Safety Transforms the Policing Narrative](#). (w. D. Knight), *Annual Review of Criminology*, 8 (2025): 25-52.[“They Make Money Off Chaos”: Understanding Racially Extractive Police Regimes through a Subjugated Lens](#). (with M. Chaudhary & G. Prowse), *Journal of Urban Affairs* 46.8 (2024): 1570-1594.[A People’s Abolition: How policed communities describe and enact liberatory futures](#). (with M. Chaudhary & G. Prowse), *Social Science Quarterly* 102.7 (2022): 3058-3072. [in Freedom Dreams Symposium].[My Group or Myself? How Black, Latino, and White Americas Choose a Neighborhood, Job, and Candidate when Personal and Group Interest Diverge](#). (w. J. Hochschild and S. Piston) *Perspectives on Politics* 19.4 (2021): 1184-1204.[Withdrawing and Drawing In: Political Discourse in Policed Communities](#). (with G. Prowse and S. Piston), *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 5.3 (2020): 604-647.[Racial authoritarianism in US democracy](#). (with G. Prowse) *Science* 369.6508 (2020): 1176-1178. Reprinted in *Readings in American Politics*, 6th ed. (by K. Kollman)[The State from Below: Distorted Responsiveness in Policed Communities](#).

(with G. Prowse and T. Meares), *Urban Affairs Review* 55.5 (2020): 1423-1471.

[De-Policing America's Youth: Disrupting Criminal Justice Policy Feedbacks That Distort Power and Derail Prospects.](#) (with A. Geller) *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 685.1 (2019): 190-226.

[Too Much Knowledge, Too Little Power: An Assessment of Political Knowledge in Highly-Policed Communities.](#) (with G. Prowse and S. Piston) *Journal of Politics* 81.3 (2019): 1153-1166. Symposium on Race and Law Enforcement.

[The Great Decoupling: The Disconnection between Criminal Offending and Experience of Arrest Across Two Cohorts.](#) (with A. Papachristos & M. Zanger-Tishler) *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 5.1 (2019): 89-123.

[Police Are Our Government: Politics, Political Science, and the Policing of Race-Class Subjugated Communities.](#) (with J. Soss), *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 565-591.

[Is the Significance of Race Declining in the Political Arena? Yes, and No.](#) (with J. Hochschild). *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 38.8 (2015): 1250-1257.

[Staying out of Sight? Concentrated Policing and Local Political Action.](#) (with A. Lerman). *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 651.1 (2014): 202-219.

[The Electoral Consequences of Skin Color: The "Hidden" Side of Race in Politics.](#) *Political Behavior* 34.1 (2012): 159-192.

Supported by a grant from the Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences. Data at: <http://tessexperiments.org/study/weaver208>

[Destabilizing the American Racial Order.](#) (with J. Hochschild & T. Burch). *Daedalus* (Spring 2011): 151-165.

[Political Consequences of the Carceral State.](#) (with A. Lerman). *American Political Science Review* 104.4 (2010): 817-833.

['There's No One as Irish as Barack O'Bama': The Policy and Politics of American Multiracialism.](#) (with J. Hochschild). *Perspectives on Politics* 8.3 (2010): 737-759.

Winner of Best Paper Award from the APSA Public Policy section.

[Between Reconstructions: Congressional Action on Civil Rights, 1891-1940.](#)

(with J. Jenkins and J. Peck). *Studies in American Political Development* 24.1 (2010): 57-89.

[Frontlash: Race and the Development of Punitive Crime Policy.](#) *Studies in American Political Development* 21.2 (2007): 230-265.

*Second most cited article in SAPD.

[The Skin Color Paradox and the American Racial Order.](#) (with J. Hochschild). *Social Forces* 86.2 (2007): 643-670.

Chapters &
Reports

[Why Black Demands for Public Safety Leads to More Police and Prisons – A Conversation between Elizabeth Hinton and Vesla Weaver.](#) The Notebook. Vol. 1 (2024).
<https://www.justicehappenshere.yale.edu/the-notebook>

[“RACIAL INEQUALITY IN PUNISHMENT AND POLICING IN THE UNITED STATES: A REPORT,”](#) Inequality Uncovered Project, Lipman Center for Journalism on Civil and Human Rights, Columbia Journalism School. (with D. Knight, 2023).

Jefferson, Hakeem, José Luis Gandara, Cathy J. Cohen, Yanilda M. González, Rebecca U. Thorpe, and Vesla M. Weaver. [“Beyond the Ballot Box: A Conversation About Democracy and Policing in the United States.”](#) *Annual Review of Political Science* 26 (2023): 1-32.

Policing Narratives in the Black Counterpublic, in *The Ethics of Policing: An Interdisciplinary Perspective*, B. Jones & E. Mendieta, eds., NYU Press (2021): 149-178.

[Learning from Ferguson: Welfare, Criminal Justice, and the Political Science of Race and Class](#) (with J. Soss), APSA Taskforce on Racial Inequality in the Americas. (2016).

[Detaining Democracy? Criminal Justice and American Civic Life.](#) (with J. Hacker and C. Wildeman). *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 651.1 (Jan. 2014): 6-21.

[Black Citizenship and Summary Punishment: A Brief History to the Present, Theory and Event](#) 17.3 (2014).

A Tradeoff Between Democracy and Deterrence? An Empirical Investigation of Prison Violence and Inmate Advisory Councils (with A. Lerman), in *Democratic Theory and Mass Incarceration*, I. Loader, A. Dzur, and R. Sparks, eds., Oxford University Press, 2016.

The Carceral State and American Political Development. (with A. Lerman). In *Oxford Handbook of American Political Development*, R. Lieberman, S. Mettler, and R. Valelly, eds., 2016.

Race and Crime in American Politics: From Law and Order to Willie Horton and Beyond. (with A. Lerman). In *Oxford Handbook of Race, Ethnicity, Immigration and Crime*, S. Bucerius and M. Tonry, eds., 2014.

Unhappy Harmony: Accounting for Black Mass Incarceration in a Post-Racial America. In *Beyond Discrimination: Racial Inequality in a Post-Racial Era*, F. Harris & R. Lieberman, eds. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2013.

The Significance of Policy Failures in Political Development: The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Growth of the Carceral State. In *Living Legislation: Durability, Change, and the Politics of American Lawmaking*, J. Jenkins and E. Patashnik, eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

Racial Classification and the Politics of Inequality. (with J. Hochschild) In *Remaking America: Democracy and Public Policy in an Age of Inequality*, S. Mettler, J. Soss, and J. Hacker, eds., New York: Russell Sage, 2007.

Reviews

[More security may actually make us feel less secure.](#) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115.39 (2018): 9649-9651.

[The Untold Story of Mass Incarceration.](#) Book review of James Forman's *Locking Up Our Own* and John Pfaff's *Locked In*. *Boston Review*. (2017)

Perspectives on Politics Trialogue: Marie Gottschalk's *Caught: Race, Neoliberalism, and the Future of the Carceral State and American Politics* and Naomi Murakawa's *The First Civil Right*, (2015).

[The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America.](#) By Khalil Gibran Muhammad. *Perspectives on Politics* (2012).

Justice In America: The Separate Realities of Blacks and Whites. By Mark Peffley and Jon Hurwitz. *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2011).

More than Words: How 'Law and Order' Invigorated Conservatism, Did Irreparable Damage to Liberalism, and Ushered in a New Political Order. Review of Michael Flamm, Law and Order: Street Crime, Civil Unrest, and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1960s. *The Forum*. (July 2008)

Public Writing

["We listened to people in highly policed U.S. communities: Here's what we learned."](#) (with G. Prowse) *The Washington Post*, 17 June, 2020.

["Today's protests were predicted by a 50-year-old report"](#) (with G. Prowse) *Vox* 24 June 2020.

["The Kavanaugh hearings show who we afford a second chance and who we don't"](#). *Vox*, 28 September, 2018.

[Why white people keep calling the cops on black Americans](#) *Vox*, 29 May, 2018.

[Did Blacks Really Endorse the 1994 Crime Bill?](#) (with E. Hinton and J. Kohler-Hausmann), *New York Times*, 13 April 2016.

"The next four years: Criminal justice," *Yale Alumni Magazine* (Jan. 2017).

[The Missing Lesson of Ferguson: Conduct ≠ Contact](#), *Balkinization Blog* (2015)

Why Starbuck's is a Great Place to Talk About Race, *Take Part* (with B. Hopper)

[Charging Media for Using Police-Shooting Video May Be the Price of Equal Justice](#), (with B. Hopper) *The Conversation*, 22 April 2015. Reprinted in *The New Republic* and *Newsweek*.

[The Missed Opportunity of Robert Woodson: One conservative black activist's campaign for community crime control.](#) *The Marshall Project*, 25 Feb. 2015.

[High incarceration may be more harmful than high crime.](#) *Baltimore Sun*, Dec. 21, 2014.

[Protest is Democracy at Work.](#) (with A. Lerman) *Slate*, 23 Dec. 2014.

[The Only Government I Know: Citizenship, Democracy, and the Carceral State](#), *Boston Review*, May/June 2014.

[Recognize, Revalue, and Rid.](#) (with K. Matos) *Yale Daily News*, 25 Feb. 2014.

[Is the United States a Racial Democracy?](#) (with J. Stanley) *New York Times*, 12 Jan. 2014.

Democracy Spoiled: National, State, and Local Disparities in Disenfranchisement through Uncounted Ballots. (with C. Edley, Jr., P. Klinkner, and J. Benson). 2002.

The Incarceration Generation: When Parents Go to Prison, What Happens to Their Children? 2001. *FOCUS*, monthly magazine of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. 29(8): 5-6.

Podcasts, &

Interviews

PBS/American Experience documentary, [The Riot Report](#), aired on PBS in 2024

JHU Magazine, [“Writing Within Prison Walls”](#) (2024)

Baltimore Magazine, [“The American Prison Writing Archive Moves to Baltimore”](#) (January 2024)

New York Times, [“For the American Prison Writing Archive, a ‘Shadow Canon’ Sheds Light”](#) (Arts Section feature article), 2023

Johns Hopkins University, *Arts and Sciences Magazine*, [“Justice For All?”](#) (Spring 2023)

WYPR “On The Record” broadcast, [“Bearing witness to incarceration,”](#) (April 2023)

New Dawn podcast (Race and Capitalism Project at the University of Chicago), [“Anti-Black Violence and the Ongoing Fight for Freedom”](#) (2020)

Scholars Strategy Network, No Jargon podcast, [“Black Lives Matter, Police, and America’s Democracy”](#) (2020)

Niskanen Center, The Science of Politics Podcast, [“How Overpoliced Communities Become Politically Engaged”](#) (2020)

Financial Times, Behind the Money podcast, [“A history of police funding”](#) (2020)

WYPR, [“Can Protest Yield Police Reform?”](#) (2020)

Pacific Standard, [“Millennials Are More Likely to Face Arrest Than Gen X’ers”](#) (2019)

Boston Review podcast, [“Abolish the Police? Is policing a public good gone bad?”](#) (2017)

*Other Interviews and appearances on Slate’s Gabfest, PBS, C-Span Book TV, ThinkProgress, National Public Radio, BlogginheadsTV, Washington Post’s Monkey Cage, Voice of America, BlogtalkRadio on the Tavis Smiley Network, St. Louis Public Radio, WNYC, among others.

Major coverage in the [Wall Street Journal](#), [The Nation](#), [USA Today](#), [Time Magazine](#), [Vox](#), [New York Times](#) (on policing and the [fate of the republic](#) and Amanda Taub's [The Interpreter](#) and Jamelle Bouie's articles, ["Where Democracy Isn't Very Democratic"](#) and ["We Construct and Reconstruct Race"](#)), [The Marshall Project](#), [The New Republic](#), [The Chicago Tribune](#), [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#), [The Gothamist](#), the [Urban Institute](#), and the [Center for American Progress](#).

AWARDS

2024 Mellon Foundation Grant, (\$250,000) to support a national convening on ethics and practices related to carceral archives, (#2401-18196).

2022 Mellon Foundation Presidential Initiatives grant, Prison Witness Collective, (\$2,336,000), co-PI with Doran Larson (7/1/2022-6/30/2025), G-2202-12152

Inequality Research Group Fellow, Ira A. Lipman Center at Columbia Journalism School

2021 Brookings Institution, Nonresident Senior Fellow (2021-22)

SNF Agora Institute Faculty Grants Program, Awarded (\$5,000) for project "Democracy Confined: Using the American Prison Writing Archive to Understand Civic Exclusion and the Lived Experience of Democracy" (with Stuart Schrader)

2020 Visiting Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Cincinnati (declined)

2019 21st Century Cities Initiative, Applied Research Seed Grant (\$15,000)

The Justice Collaborative, Inaugural Fellow

2018 Astor Visiting Lecturer, University of Oxford

Gilman Scholars, Johns Hopkins University

2016 Andrew Carnegie Foundation Fellowship, \$200,000, Faces of American Democracy

2015 Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Award, \$149,466 (Award # 83-15-16), "They Treat Us Like a Different Race": A Multi-City Project on Class-in-Race Inequality (with J. Hochschild).

Dennis Judd Best Book Award 2015 (for *Arresting Citizenship*)

2014 Public Voices Fellowship, Yale University

2011 UVA Research Grant for Support in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

UVA Mead Honored Faculty

2010 UVA Summer Research Support Award

2009 UVA Page-Barbour Fund for Interdisciplinary Initiatives Grant (\$15,000)

Best Paper Award from the APSA Public Policy Section (with J. Hochschild)

2008 Best Dissertation Award, APSA Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics

Finalist, Politics and History section Best Dissertation Award

UVA Research Grant for Support in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

2007 Excellence in Diversity Fellowship, University of Virginia

2006 Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences Grant

2005 Brookings Institution Fellowship, Governance Studies

2004 Winner of the Special Competition, Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

European Network on Inequality Research Fellowship, London School of Economics

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Spring & Fall)

2003	National Science Foundation Pre-Dissertation Fellowship Center for American Political Studies seed grant.
2002	Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Doctoral Fellow
2001	Ford Foundation Pre-dissertation Fellowship Harvard Graduate Prize Fellowship American Political Science Association Minority Fellow Emmerich-Wright Prize for most outstanding undergraduate thesis Graduated with Highest Distinction
2000	Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, American Political Science Association

INVITED PRESENTATIONS & KEYNOTES (Last 6 Years Only)

- Princeton University, Social Policy Program (2025)
- Russell Sage Foundation, "Democracy at the Margins" private convening (2025)
- Columbia University-NYU Carcerality, Law, and Punishment Workshop (2024)
- University of Denver, Scrivner Institute of Public Policy, Josef Korbel School of International Studies (2024)
- Princeton University, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics conference on race and policy feedback (2024)
- Keynote address, The University at Albany's Michael J. Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center, 22nd Annual Lecture (2024)
- Harvard University, Politics of Victimization conference, (co-author presented)
- Mellon Foundation private learning conversation on Carceral Studies (2024)
- Yale University, Urban Ethnography Workshop (2023)
- Cornell University, PRICE seminar (2023)
- Stanford University, CASBS (2023)
- Yale University, Black Voices for the Future (2023)
- Columbia School of Journalism (2023)
- Harvard University Institute on Policing, Incarceration, and Public Safety, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, The Idea of Prison Abolition panel (2022)
- Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation (2021)
- Rutgers University, Sociology Department (2021)
- Boston University, Political Science Department (2021)
- Harvard Radcliffe Institute, "The Police Report Card: Translating Research to Policy" (2021)
- Columbia University, Institute for Latin American Studies "Police Violence in Comparative Perspective" (2021)
- Billie Holiday Center for Liberation Arts, Helena Hicks Emancipation School (2021)
- University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies (2020)
- UC Berkeley, Center for the Study of Law and Society (2020)
- Yale University, Political Violence and Its Legacies workshop (2020)
- University of Oregon, Wayne Morse Center, Public Affairs Speaker Series (2020)
- UW-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs & Department of Political Science American Politics workshop (2020)
- College of the Holy Cross, McFarland Center for Religion, Ethnics and Culture (2020)
- Harvard Inequality & Social Policy Program, "5 Big Ideas in Inequality: Criminal Justice" (2020)

- Apple University, Race and Justice in America series (2020)
- MIT, American Politics Speaker Series (2019)
- Princeton University, Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, "The Politics of Policing" (2019)
- Harvard Law School, "Progressing Reform of Fees and Fines: Towards a Research and Policy Agenda" (2019)
- Georgetown University McCourt School (2019)
- University of Maryland, College Park, Race and Ethnic Politics Conference (2019)
- Brown University Watson Institute, ["Cities, Citizens and Governance Lecture", keynote](#) (2019)
- The 14th Amendment Sesquicentennial Symposium, NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Thurgood Marshall Institute, Emory School of Law (2019)
- Mead Lecture, Trinity College (2019)
- Marquette University Forum, "Democracy in Troubled Times" (2019)
- *Postponed due to pandemic: Northwestern University, Social Policy; London School of Economics, Race Matters keynote; American University, American government speaker series; Georgetown University, American politics speaker series; Harvard University, Radcliffe Institute, Inequality and Local Participation

PANEL PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC REMARKS (Last 6 Years Only)

- Opening remarks for DC Dox film festival at Hopkins Bloomberg Center for Alabama Solution film, <https://dcdoxfest.com/films/the-alabama-solution/> (2025)
- Panelist, [Stories that Matter screening of Daughters film at Hopkins Bloomberg Center](#) (2025);
- Participated in symposium, "Punishment at the Crossroads," Yale Law School, on Judith Resnik's book Impermissible Punishments (2025)
- Panelist, Trans Justice in the Carceral System, Critical Diaspora Studies and Chloe Center (2025)
- Presenter, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, "In the Shadow of Democracy: Theorizing the Dark Ghetto" (2024)
- [Andrew Ross, Tomasso Bardelli, and Aiyuba Thomas book Abolition Labor at Red Emma's Bookstore](#) – in conversation with Vesla Weaver (2024);
- [Discussant of Doran Larson's book, Inside Knowledge, at Red Emma's Bookstore](#) (2024);
- Panelist, Harvard Radcliffe Institute workshop, Robert Sampson, "Rethinking Criminal Propensity and Character: Social Change and Inequalities in Coming of Age in America, 1995-2020" (2022)
- Panelist, Multiracial Democracy workshop, Harvard, Steve Levitsky & Daniel Ziblatt (2021)
- Participant, Reimagine America convening (2022)
- Participant, Law and Society Annual Meeting roundtable, "Abolitionist Epistemologies" (2021)
- Panelist, American Political Economy Research Conference (Jacob Hacker & Paul Pierson), theme panel, "Race, Power, and the American Political Economy" (2021)
- Panelist, Columbia University, Institute of Latin American Studies and Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Afro-Americas in Dialogue Series, Police Violence in Comparative Perspective (2021)
- Panelist, University of Pennsylvania, SNF Paideia Program, Racism and Anti-Racism in Contemporary America series, "The Criminal Justice System: Policing and Public Safety." (2021)
- Panelist, Reginald S. Lewis Museum Roundtable on the Anniversary of Breonna Taylor's death: "Do You See Me: The Injustice of Breonna Taylor and Black Women." (2021)
- Harvard's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Rapid Response Impact Initiative Network on the Future of Justice led by Danielle Allen (gave talk on racialized definitions of public safety) (2021)
- Panelist, Stanford University, "Race and the American Criminal Justice System: Where do we go from here?" Zoom Webinar (2020)

- Panelist, University of Chicago, Race and Capitalism Project and the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, "Anti-Black Violence and the Ongoing Fight for Freedom" (2020)
- Panelist, Annual Reviews Shot of Science, "Racial Justice, Policing, and Protest" (2020)
- Presenter, Women's March Action, People, Politics and Drinks event (2020)
- Panelist, Cornell University, American Democracy Collaborative, Democracy 20/20 "Already Authoritarian? Policing, State Violence, and Democracy" (2020)
- Panelist, Stanford University, Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force, "Critical Conversations: Race in Global Affairs" series, "Policing, Rule of Law, and Democracy" (2020)
- Panelist, SNF Agora Institute, "Election 2020 and its Meaning for Our Democracy" (2020)
- Panelist, SNF Agora Institute Conversations, "Anger, Injustice, and a Crisis of Democracy" (2020)
- Politics & Prose Live!: Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson – Let Them Eat Tweets: How the Right Rules in an Age of Extreme Inequality – in conversation with Vesla Weaver (2020)
- Presenter, Park School of Baltimore, Betamore (2019) and Brain sPark (2020)
- Presenter, "Empowering Youth Voices," Marquette University (2019)
- Presenter, Parklawn Assembly of God, breakfast with community partners in Milwaukee, Marquette University Office of Community Engagement (2019)
- Panelist, University of Virginia Law School, "Prison Rebellion, Prison Reform" (2019)
- Roundtable participant, Justice and Injustice: Political Science Perspectives on Crime and Punishment Mini-Conference, What We Know and What We Don't: Methodological Approaches to Crime and Punishment, 2019 APSA Annual Meeting
- Roundtable participant, Racial Conflict in the United States, 2019 APSA Annual Meeting
- Speaker, Scholars Strategy Network Business Meeting, 2019 APSA Annual Meeting

KEY LEADERSHIP

American Prison Writing Archive (APWA), Co-Director and PI since 2021

The APWA is the largest and first fully searchable digital archive of non-fiction essays by imprisoned people writing about their experience inside U.S. prisons and jails today. The APWA currently hosts about 4000 essays from forty-seven states, four hundred prison facilities, and 1000+ authors. The archive now has submissions from 1800 authors with 6,268 essays in our physical holdings.

Through a grant from the Mellon Foundation Presidential Initiatives, we migrated the archive from its origin at Hamilton College to Johns Hopkins, where we have expanded our reach, impact, and ability to grow the archive, and continue to ensure incarcerated authors can document life inside and benefit materially from their writings. The Archive now has a staff of 8, supports 7 APWA fellows (formerly incarcerated authors), many student interns, and several advisors inside prison. We have helped forge a network of other prison archives through holding an Archives of Prison Witness convening in October 2024, bringing together over 100 people who lead organizations, archives, and community groups related to prison public memory projects to create a network and set of principles for ethical work with carceral archives. In addition to housing a public, searchable digital archive of over 4000 writings, the Archive has a forthcoming guest edited volume with *Haymarket Press*, featuring 49 incarcerated authors, [Harm and Punishment](#), and has collaborated to bring APWA essays to a public audience through [a commissioned original work and musical performance, "Songs from Inside"](#), with In the Stacks and the Peabody Institute. [The Writing on the Wall](#) (TWOTW), an artwork installation featuring writings from prisons around the world, was on display at the Hopkins Bloomberg Center in Washington, DC. during February and March 2025. A partnership between [Incarceration Nations Network](#) (INN) and the American Prison Writing Archive (APWA), this special edition of TWOTW installation sought to bring together visions from incarcerated authors around political life, democracy, disenfranchisement, and justice featuring a curated selection of writings from the APWA. Writings about the APWA can be found in *Inquest*, ["A](#)

[Platform for Prison Witness](#) , JHU Magazine, ["Writing Within Prison Walls"](#) (2024) , Baltimore Magazine, ["The American Prison Writing Archive Moves to Baltimore"](#) (January 2024), New York Times, ["For the American Prison Writing Archive, a 'Shadow Canon' Sheds Light"](#) (Arts Section feature article), among others.

Co-PI, Portals Policing Project. www.portalspolicingproject.com

Founding Director, **The ISPS Center for the Study of Inequality (I-CSI)**, Yale University, 2015-2017.

Member, **Executive Session on Community Corrections**, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and National Institute of Justice (2013-2016). Co-wrote the consensus document, [Toward an Approach to Community Corrections for the 21st Century](#).

Senator, FAS Faculty Senate, elected to three-year term in first ever system of faculty governance (2015-2017) Executive Council Member, Faculty Senate (2015-2016), elected to one-year term on 6-person council, chaired the Committee on Elections. Conducted and analyzed the Diversity and Inclusion survey in 2016 and co-wrote the [Report on Faculty Diversity and Inclusivity in FAS](#).

Co-Founder. **Symposium on the Politics of Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity (SPIRE)**. A biannual conference to provide young faculty of color and scholars interested in race and ethnic politics a robust forum for presenting their work and a community of scholars while advancing the frontiers of racial politics research.

Member, Presidential Taskforce on Racial Inequality in the Americas, American Political Science Association (2014-2016). Co-wrote the report [Learning from Ferguson: Welfare, Criminal Justice, and the Political Science of Race and Class](#)

Detaining Democracy? Criminal Justice and American Civic Life. Yale University, November 8-9, 2012. Co-organized with Jacob Hacker and Chris Wildeman. Papers were published in a special issue that we edited of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (Jan. 2014).

ACADEMIC & PUBLIC SERVICE

National Service (recent)

Board Service:

- Board of Directors, *Annual Reviews* (2022-2025), serve on governance and nominations cmte
- Faculty Board, The Chloe Center for the Critical Study of Racism, Immigration, and Colonialism (2020-)
- Series Advisor, Weight of the World, A Televised Anthology Series with fictional present-day storylines whose dialogue is solely derived from the original transcripts of the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) interview of formerly enslaved African-Americans during 1936-1938
- Editorial Board Member: *Perspectives on Politics* (2015-2025); *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* (2014-2024); *Political Behavior* (2014-2024); *Theoretical Criminology* (2018-2022); *Polity* (2020-2024); *Cambridge Studies in Gender and Politics* (advisory board) (2022-2024)

Working Group Member:

- Archon Fung and Norm Eisen, Brookings Institution/Ash Center democracy pillars and reviving conversations (2025-)
- Qualitative Data Lab planning group with Deva Woody, Brown University (2025-2026)

- Columbia University Justice Lab, Square One Project Roundtable on the Future of Justice Policy (2020)
- Member, Economic Justice Advocates of Color Network with Liberation in a Generation
- Member, Harvard, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Rapid Response Impact Initiative Network on the Future of Justice (2020-2021)
- Roosevelt Institute private convening on developing support for an intersectional progressive agenda
- Social Science Research Council, Scholarly Borderlands, Working Group on Big Data and Historical Social Science, 2018-2019
- Russell Sage Foundation Advisory Committee for Race, Ethnicity and Immigration Program and special initiative on Immigration (2020-)
- Presidential Taskforce on Racial Inequality in the Americas, American Political Science Association (2014-2016)
- Advisory Council Member, Center for Community Change, Putting Families First: Good Jobs for All campaign (2015)
- Social Science Research Council, initiative on the Decent City (2014)
- Regional Leader, Scholars Strategy Network (2013-2015)

Panel Moderator:

- NXTHVN for the Justice Collaboratory second volume of [The Notebook](#) release (2025)
- Songs from Inside, In the Stacks post-performance panel at the Bloomberg Center (2025)
- Moderator, Georgetown Law, Howard University, and Lab @DC, Reimagine Police Stops Series (2020)
- Moderator, Scholars Strategy Network, event on Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson's American Amnesia (April 2016)

Informal Consultant:

- Freedom Together Foundation – Progressive Vision Project (2025)
- Correctional Association of New York (CANY) on their survey of incarcerated people (2025)
- Attended private gathering of Zo Media Productions, LLC: A Revolutionary Cooperative for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Artists to provide advice (2025)
- Institute to End Mass Incarceration private online convening (2025)
- Consulting with NYCLU on jury disenfranchisement complaint (2022)
- Consulted with Elizabeth Warren campaign chief policy advisor, Sasha Baker
- Consulted with the Marshall Project on their polling of prison inmates
- Meeting with CT Gov. Dannel Malloy over Second Chance Society proposals (Dec. 2014)

Guest lecture/visit:

- Interview for Edovo course that will be seen in several prisons done by Nicole Morse (2025)
- DeAnza Cook, Ohio State University, history course at Southeastern Correctional Institution through Ohio Prison Education Project (Fall 2025); Dana Greene & Monica Bell's course at Yale Law School, Law and Vitality (fall 2024); Ajenai Clemons introduction to policy course guest lecture, University of Denver (2024); Delivered lecture in Jacob Hacker's The Politics of U.S. Public Policy course, Yale University (2023); Delivered two full lectures Gwen Prowse's course on Black Politics at Tulane University (2023); Dana Greene & Elizabeth Hinton's course at Yale, Justice & Society (2022); Tahir Duckett & Christy Lopez practicum course at Georgetown Law school, Decentering Police (2022); Guest lecture in Hakeem Jefferson's Introduction to American Politics & Policy course, Stanford University (2021); David Knight's University of Chicago racial politics course (2021), and Robbie Shilliam & Sasha White's course on race and public health (2021); Guest Lecture, Jacob Hacker's undergraduate course,

Politics of U.S. Public Policy, Yale University (2020); Jennifer Hochschild's graduate American Politics Field Seminar, Harvard University (2020)

Manuscript Workshop or Author Meets Critics Panelist:

- Princeton, Darius Cozart 3rd year paper external reviewer (2025)
- UC Irvine, Elizabeth Jordie Davies book manuscript conference (2025)
- SUNY Albany, Justin Zimmerman book manuscript conference (2025)
- Johns Hopkins Agora Institute, Matthew Denney book manuscript conference (2025)
- Syracuse University, Jenn Jackson book manuscript conference (2021)
- University of Michigan, Nicole Yadon and Mara Ostfeld Book manuscript conference (2020)
- Harvard Kennedy School, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and Ash Center, "Book Talk: Authoritarian Police in Democracy: Challenges for Latin America and the US" (based on Yanilda Gonzalez book) 11/20
- APSA Annual Meeting, Author Meets Critics on Michael Hanchard's The Spectre of Race (2019)
- APSA Annual Meeting, Author Meets Critics on Chloe Thurston's The Boundaries of Homeownership (2019)
- University of Virginia, Christopher Berk, "Democracy in Captivity" book manuscript review (2019)
- Brown University, Anton-Lippitt Conference on Domingo Morel's Takeover (2018)
- Harvard Kennedy School of Government Ash Institute Manuscript Review for Yanilda Gonzalez's book ms., "Authoritarian Coercion by Democratic Means: The Paradox of Police Reform in Latin America" (2017)
- Brown University Political Theory Project manuscript workshop for Brandon Davis, "Predation in State and Nation: Carceral Contact and Political Spillage" (2017)
- Harvard Kennedy School Manuscript Review for Avidit Acharya, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen's book, "Southern Slavery and its Political Legacy: How America's Peculiar Institution Continues to Affect American Politics Today" (2015)

Book jacket Endorsements:

Javier Auyero & Katherine Sobering, Ismail White & Cheryl Laird, Hannah Walker, Jamila Michener, Julilly Kohler-Hausmann, Jesse Rhodes, Domingo Morel, Frank Baumgartner, Avidit Acharya, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen, Chris Zepeda-Millan, Chris DeSante and Candis Watts Smith, Yanilda Gonzalez, Doran Larson, Josh Page and Joe Soss

Referee/Reviewer:

American Journal of Political Science, American Politics Research, American Political Science Review, Cambridge University Press, Carnegie Fellows, University of Chicago Press, Du Bois Review, Guggenheim Foundation, Journal of Politics, Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics, Journal of Urban History, Law and Society Review, Law and Social Inquiry, MacArthur Foundation, National Science Foundation, Nature, Oxford University Press, Perspectives on Politics, Political Behavior, Political Research Quarterly, Princeton University Press, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Public Opinion Quarterly, Punishment and Society, Routledge, Russell Sage Foundation, Science, Social Currents, Social Problems, Sociological Perspectives, Studies in American Political Development, Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, Theoretical Criminology, Urban Affairs Review, Washington Center for Equitable Growth.

American Political Science Association and American Sociological Association:

- American Political Science Association, Hanes Walton career award, Committee Chair (2023)

- Executive Council Member: APSA's Race, Ethnicity, and Politics section (2015-); APSA's Urban and Local Politics section (2016-)
- Interview for *American Political Science Review* blog, "[Conversations with Authors: Institutionalized Police Brutality](#)," based on article by Beatriz Magaloni, 2020
- Mentor, American Sociological Association, Inequality program (2019)
- Member, E.E. Schattschneider Award Committee for best dissertation in American Politics, American Political Science Association (2018)
- Chair, APSA Section on Public Policy, Best Paper 2014 Award Committee
- Section co-chair, Politics and History, 2011 APSA Annual Meeting
- Steering Committee, Ralph Bunche Summer Institute

Johns Hopkins University (service)

- Co-Lead of Cluster, Fannie Gaston-Johansson Faculty Excellence Program, Center for Africana Studies (2022-2025)
- faculty Board member, Chloe Center for the Critical Study of Racism, Immigration, and Colonialism, formerly Program in Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship (RIC) (2020-); lead of graduate committee (2025-)
- Canvassed political science department faculty to gather input and priorities for the next dept Chair (2025)
- Presentation in political science department seminar series on the American Prison Writing Archive (2024)
- Nexus Awards reviewer (2023)
- Right to the City speaker (2024)
- Mentor, Associate Professor Dawn Teele (2024)
- Guest visit, Stuart Schrader's undergraduate Antiracism class (2023); Josh Sharfstein's Public Health Policy summer course (2022); Presentation in series Epidemic/Endemic by Johns Hopkins Center for Medical Humanities & Social Medicine, on Policing, Incarceration, and Health (2021); Guest lecture, Professor Ryan Calder's Introduction to Sociology course (2019)
- Moderate event of Johns Hopkins undergraduates with gubernatorial candidate Wes Moore (2022)
- Moderator, 21CC Initiative at Johns Hopkins, The New Haven Debt Map: Debt and Vulnerability In An American City (2021)
- Advisor to visiting scholar Mihir Chaudhary (2020-21)
- Presenter, "Global Groundings: Evaluating Walter Rodney's Legacies," The Arrighi Center for Global Studies (2020)
- Moderator, "The Future of Education in Prison," Freedom Education series, funded by the Provost's Professional Development Innovation Initiative for programming that helps PhD students consider non-academic careers (2020)
- Search Committee Member, Director of the Center for Africana Studies (2019)
- Chair, Living Hopkins: "Policing in Baltimore" Roundtable (2019)
- Member, Presidential Frontier Awards committee, 2017 and 2018
- Faculty member, Social Policy Faculty Committee, 2017-20Bloomberg Distinguished Professors Lunch and Learn presentation (2018)
- Medical School, Lisa Cooper's Jam Session Presentation (2018)
- Sociology Department, faculty presentations of research to graduate students (2018) (2021)
- Presentation to the Johns Hopkins President's Parents Roundtable in New York City (2018)
- Panelist, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Annual Conference in Athens, "Disrupting Polarization: New Forums for Dialogue (2018)

- Presentation of Portals for the Johns Hopkins Board of Trustees meeting (2018)
- Panelist, Johns Hopkins University, Public Safety Initiatives, Discussion Series, "Constitutional Policing and Police Accountability" (2018)
- Panelist, Johns Hopkins University, Policing Workshop
- Discussant, JHU Workshop on Social Policy and Inequality, 21st Century Cities Initiative, paper by Jamila Michener (2018), paper by Bruce Western (2019)
- Moderator, "Life Sentences: A Conference on Incarceration and the Humanities," (Nov. 2017)
- Presentation to political science undergraduate steering committee and potential majors (2019)

Yale University (service)

- Chair, Search committee in Race, Ethnicity, and Migration tenure-track job, Political Science (2016)
- Council Member, Yale Women's Faculty Forum (2015-2017)
- Faculty Affiliate, Yale Law School, Justice Collaboratory (2015-)
- Advisory Board member, Yale ISPS Policy Lab (2016-2017)
- Committee, Yale Poynter Fellowship (2016-2017)
- African American Studies Curriculum Committee (2016-2017)
- Graduate Admissions Committee, African American Studies (2016)
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science and African American Studies (2012-13)
- Senior Social Scientist Search Committee, African American Studies (2012-13)
- Marshall, Mitchell, Rhodes scholarship committee (2012) (2014)
- Guest lecturer, The Politics of US Public Policy (J. Hacker), Racial Formations (E. Alexander), Affirmative Action (I. Shapiro), Inequality and American Democracy (J. Hacker), Race and Punishment (J. Forman, Jr.), Contesting Injustice (L. Wood), Introduction to Politics (S. Stokes), Introduction to Politics (S. Kalyvas)
- Panelist/Discussant/Moderator:
- Yale FAS Senate panel on Academic Expertise in the Trump Era (2017)
- Battleground: Three Experts on the 2016 Election's Key Race and Media Dynamics, Yale University (Oct. 2016), Moderator
- Discussant, Yale Law School, Critical Race Theory conference (Nov. 2016)
- Policing Post-Ferguson, Yale Law School (April 2015), Moderator
- Yale Law School, Arthur Liman Public Interest Colloquium, Detention on a Global Scale: Punishment and Beyond, panel on "Democracy and Detention" (April 2015)
- "Charleston and its Aftermath: History, Symbols, Policy," Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery Resistance, and Abolition, Yale University (Sept. 2015)
- "Arresting Patterns" conference, Yale University Art Gallery and Artspace, panel on Decarcerating America. (Sept. 2015)
- Yale University, Ferguson and Beyond Teach-In (March 2015)
- Yale University, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration panel, "Policing and Incarceration" (Jan. 2015)
- "The Next Four Years: A Policy Agenda for the Second Obama Term," Yale ISPS (2013)
- "The Progressives' Century: Democratic Reform and Constitutional Government in the United States," Yale University (2013), Moderator
- "How to Choose a Dissertation" panel for graduate students in the social sciences, Yale (2012)

University of Virginia (service)

- Founder, Working Group on Racial Inequality. University of Virginia. Supported with funds from Page Barbour.

- Co-organizer, The Problem of Punishment: Race, Inequality, and Justice. Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia. April 16-17, 2009. (Co-organizers Deborah McDowell and Claudrena Harold.)
- Politics Department: Advisory Committee (2008-2010, 2011-12), Graduate Committee, American Politics Study Group (2007-2012), American Politics Search Committee (2008) (cancelled)
- Miller Center of Public Affairs: Organized “Constructing a New Political Order” Colloquium series, Governing American in a Global Era (2007-2012), Predoctoral Fellowship Selection Committee (2009), Presidential Oral History Project Search Committee (2008, 2010)
- Batten Policy School Search Committee in American Politics (2009)
- Harrison Undergraduate Research Award Committee (2009)
- UVA Carter G. Woodson Institute, African-American Studies Curriculum Committee (2007-09)

TEACHING & ADVISING

Courses:

- The American State From Above and Below, Undergraduate
- Hopkins Seminar on Racial Politics, Graduate
- The Sociology of Policing and Resistance in Race-Class Subjugated Communities, Undergraduate
- Introduction to Social Policy: Baltimore and Beyond, Undergraduate
- Racial Inequality, Policy, and Politics, Undergraduate
- Race and Ethnic Politics in the United States Graduate and Undergraduate
- Social Policy and Inequality in the United States Undergraduate lecture
- Race and the Politics of Punishment Graduate and Undergraduate
- American Political Development

PhD Committees:

- Raychel Gadson, co-chair, “Three Essays on Grassroots Organizing and Political Influence in Baltimore,” 2025
- Kathleen Nganga, reader, “When Cities Win: How Local Government’s Reclaim Power in the Face of State Preemption,” 2025
- Steph Saxton, chair, “Gold, Coal, and Oysters: Economic Booms, Elite Fracture, and the Origins of Police Departments,” 2024
- Pyar Seth, co-chair, “The Spectral Defect: Death, Diagnosis, and Determinism Across the Atlantic World,” Interdisciplinary Humanistic Studies, 2024 [now asst prof at Notre Dame]
- Gwen Prowse (Yale), chair, “Racialized Disaster in American Political Development.”
- Ramon Garibaldo (Yale), co-chair, “*La lucha de cada día*: Immigrant Justice Organizing and the Political Remaking of Illegality in the U.S.” [now asst prof at Chicago]
- Sabrina Axster, “Arresting Movement: The Political Economy of Immigration Detention in Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom”
- Quinn Lester, “The Victims of Democracy: Abolitionist Democracy from Davis to Du Bois”
- Tommaso Bardelli (Yale), chair, “Hidden Labors: Households, Markets, and State Power in an American City.”
- Michael Weaver (Yale), “Publicity and the De-legitimation of Lynching.” [now asst prof at University of British Columbia]
- Sophie Jacobson (Yale), “Who should pay? Who should provide? American Childcare Preferences in Comparative Perspective” [postdoc at Harvard Inequality in America Initiative]

Undergraduate Advising & Senior Thesis, Pre- and Post-doc mentorship:

2025: Hailey Tomlinson, Kanisha Harrell (senior theses); Lesleigh Taylor, Mentor for Pre-doctoral Fellow
2024: Kaitlyn Jung (senior thesis); Danae Bradley, Mentor for CAS Postdoctoral fellow (2024-2026)
2023: Josiah Jacobs, Mentor for Pre-doctoral Fellow at Hopkins (2023-2025); Pyar Seth, Health Policy Research Scholar, mentor
2021-22: with Stuart Schrader, Oversee 4 independent studies (2021-22) doing research with the American Prison Writing Archive; capstone projects presented at the RIC Living Behind Bars event in October 2022
2021: Halle Teart, senior thesis advisor
2020: Tim Shade, senior thesis advisor; Taharat Sheikh, Woodrow Wilson fellowship advisor
2019: Jack White, Independent Study; President's Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mentor, Fernando Tormos
2018-19: Bridget Carolan, Wilson Fellows project (Hopkins)
2017: Libby Dimenstein, Patrick Doolittle, Lena Gankin; Dahl Fellow Michael Zanger-Tishler
2016: Anna Baron (winner of best senior essay in American Politics), Malik Gerdes, William Searcy; Libby Dimenstein; Sarah Grossman-Kahn, Jackson Beck
2015: Devon Fiorino, Sofia Langatova, Michelle Zhang (senior thesis)
2014: Joshua Eisenstat, Ezra Ritchin (second reader and informal advising)
2013: Jake Amatudra, Emily Wanger (winner of the William Pickens prize for best essay)
2012: Samuel Bendinelli
UVA: Carolina Ferrerosa and Michael Hankinson

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, Professor Christopher Edley, Jr. (2002-03)
Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, AL (2002)
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, DC (2001)
Democratic National Committee, Office of African American Outreach, Washington, DC (1999)
U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, DC (1998)