

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology** University of California, Los Angeles, 2013  
*Dissertation* “Challenging Mass Incarceration: A California Group's Advocacy for the Parole Release of Term-to-Life Prisoners”
- M.A. Sociology** University of California, Los Angeles, 2007
- B.S. Economics** University of Pennsylvania, 2001 (*magna cum laude*)
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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 – present **The Sentencing Project**  
*Director of Research, 2024-present*  
*Co-Director of Research, 2023 – 2024*  
*Senior Research Analyst, 2018 – 2023*  
*Research Analyst, 2013 – 2018*
- 2006 – 2013 **University of California, Los Angeles, Instructor and Teaching Assistant**
- 2004 – 2005 **Service Employees International Union, Local 1199, Researcher**
- 2003 **National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, Research Assistant**
- 2001 – 2003 **Monitor Group, Consultant**
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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 “America’s Incarceration Crossroads: Reversing Progress Amid Record-Low Crime Rates” (with Sabrina Pearce). The Sentencing Project.
- 2024 “Incarceration and Crime: A Weak Relationship” (with Kristen M. Budd). The Sentencing Project.
- 2024 “Media Guide: 10 Crime Coverage Dos and Don’ts.” The Sentencing Project.
- 2023-2024 “One in Five” Series
- “One in Five: How Mass Incarceration Deepens Inequality and Harms Public Safety” (with Luke Trinkka and Celeste Barry). The Sentencing Project.
- “One in Five: Racial Disparity in Imprisonment – Causes and Remedies” (with Celeste Barry and Luke Trinkka). The Sentencing Project.
- “One in Five: Disparities in Crime and Policing” (with Celeste Barry). The Sentencing Project.

“One in Five: Ending Racial Inequity in Incarceration.” The Sentencing Project.

Related Webinar: [“One in Five: Ending Mass Incarceration and its Racial Disparities.”](#) The Sentencing Project, February 8, 2024.

Related Book Chapter: “One in Five: Progress and Pushback in Lowering the Lifetime Likelihood of Imprisonment for Young Black Men.” In Curtis, A. (Ed., 2025). *Creating Justice in a Multiracial Democracy: New Will for Evidence-Based Policies That Work* (pp. 143-156).

2023 “Ron DeSantis Is Flat-out Wrong About the First Step Act” (with Liz Komar). *The Daily Beast*, June 2.

2023 “Ending 50 Years of Mass Incarceration: Urgent Reform Needed to Protect Future Generations.” The Sentencing Project.

2023 “Joe Biden Hasn’t Kept His Promise to Reduce the Prison Population” (with William Underwood). *The Daily Beast*, January 31.

2022 “How Many People Are Spending Over a Decade in Prison?” (with Ashley Nellis). The Sentencing Project.

Related Op-Ed: “DC Considers a Revamp to Its Criminal Justice System Based on Science.” *Washington Post*, October 18.

2022 “Felony Murder: An On-Ramp for Extreme Sentencing” (with Emma Stammen and Connie Budaci). The Sentencing Project and Fair and Just Prosecution.

Related Webinar: [“Punished for Presence: Reforming Felony Murder.”](#) The Sentencing Project, April 6.

Related Op-Ed: “‘Felony Murder’ Laws Impose Punishment That Doesn’t Fit the Crime or Keep Us Safer” (with Miriam A. Krinsky). *Market Watch*, May 4. Related Amicus Briefs: *Scott v. Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole*; *Sellers v. People (Colorado)*; *Commonwealth v. Shepherd (Massachusetts)*.

2021 “A Second Look at Injustice.” The Sentencing Project.

Related Op-Ed: “A Second Look at Unjust Prison Terms” *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 12.

Related Webinar: [“A Second Look at Injustice.”](#) The Sentencing Project, June 2.

2020 “Expanding Voting Rights to All Citizens” (with Kevin Muhitch). The Sentencing Project.

2020 “Decarceration and Community Re-Entry in the COVID-19 Era” (with Carlos Franco-Paredes et al.). *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*. September 29.

Related Webinar: [“The Public Health and Public Safety Foundations for Broad Prison Depopulation in a Pandemic.”](#) The Sentencing Project, May 20.

Related Op-Ed: “The CDC’s Role in the Urgent Health Crisis in Jails, Prisons and Detention Centers” (with Carlos Franco-Paredes). *InsideSources*, September 14.

- 2020 "Coronavirus Deaths Will Overwhelm California Prisons Without Swift Action." *Daily Journal*, April 7.
- 2020 "Cell Phones and 'Excessive Contact': The Contradictory Imperatives Facing California's Parole-Eligible Lifers." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 31(2), 159-181.
- 2019 "The Next Step: Ending Excessive Punishment for Violent Crimes." The Sentencing Project.  
Related Webinars: "[The Next Step.](#)" The Sentencing Project, July 17.
- 2017 "Opioids: Treating an Illness, Ending a War" (with Casey Anderson). The Sentencing Project.  
Related Op-Ed: "Trump's Opioid Crisis Failures Mean States Must Lead the Way." *Newsweek*, December 14.
- 2017 "Minimizing the Maximum: The Case for Shortening All Prison Sentences." In *Smart Decarceration: Achieving Criminal Justice Transformation in the 21st Century* (Edited by C. Pettus-Davis & M. Epperson). New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2017 "Federal Prisons at a Crossroads." The Sentencing Project.
- 2017 "Immigration and Public Safety" (with Josh Rovner). The Sentencing Project.  
Related Op-Ed: "Stiffening Immigration Enforcement is not the Answer to Reducing Crime" (with Alex Nowrasteh). *The Hill*, April 7.  
Related Letter: "Comments to the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice on Asylum Eligibility." The Sentencing Project, January 21, 2020.
- 2017 "Delaying a Second Chance: The Declining Prospects for Parole on Life Sentences." The Sentencing Project.  
"Delaying a Second Chance: Thirty-Two Jurisdiction Profiles." The Sentencing Project.  
Related Op-Ed: "Maryland Should Make Parole a Meaningful Part of Sentencing Again." *The Washington Post*, February 13.  
Related Webinar: "[Reviving Parole for Life Sentences.](#)" The Sentencing Project, Feb. 9.
- 2015 "Becoming Smart on Crime." *The News-Gazette*. April 26.
- 2015 "Black Lives Matter: Eliminating Racial Inequity in the Criminal Justice System." The Sentencing Project.  
Related article: "How Defense Attorneys Can Eliminate Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice." *The Champion*, June, 2018.
- 2014 "Support Grows to End Excessive Punishment." *The Daily Journal*, November 14.
- 2014 "Life, with a Possibility of Blocked Parole." *The Daily Journal*, September 25.

- 2014 "Race and Punishment: Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies." The Sentencing Project.  
Related Webinar: "[Race and Punishment.](#)" The Sentencing Project, October 1.
- 2014 "Fewer Prisoners, Less Crime: A Tale of Three States" (with Marc Mauer). The Sentencing Project.
- 2013 "Can We Wait 88 Years to End Mass Incarceration?" (with Marc Mauer). *The Huffington Post*. December 20.
- 2010 "'Cross-Cultural' Practices: Interpreting Non-African-American Participation in Hip-Hop Dance." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 33(9): 1580 - 1599.
- 2010 "Organizing Workers Along Ethnic Lines: The Pilipino Workers' Center." Pp. 49 - 70 in R. Milkman, J. Bloom, and V. Narro (eds.) *Working for Justice: The L.A. Model of Organizing and Advocacy*. Cornell University Press.
- 2006 "Strangeness at the Gates: The Peculiar Politics of American Immigration" (with Roger Waldinger). *International Migration Review* 40(3): 719 - 734.

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## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

Remarks to 4th annual session of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (EMLER). May 7, 2025

Remarks to Bipartisan Legislative Roundtable on Second Chances and Public Safety at SCI Coal Township. April 29, 2025

"In Support of An Act Concerning Sentence Modification Eligibility"  
[Testimony](#) to Connecticut Joint Judiciary Committee. February 25, 2025

"Second Look Sentencing Act"  
[Testimony](#) to Michigan House Criminal Justice Committee. March 19, 2024

"Safer Stronger Amendment Act of 2023"  
[Testimony](#) to DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety. June 27, 2023

"A Second Look at Injustice"  
Berkeley School of Theology. April 24, 2025  
National Consortium for Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. April 14, 2025  
New York University School of Law. March 20, 2025  
New York Chief Judge's New York State Justice Task Force. October 3, 2023  
Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by the American Bar Association. September 6, 2023  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Engage & Exchange Video Discussion Series. April 19, 2023  
Resentencing Task Force of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council. April 29, 2022  
Panelist on webinar organized by the Center on Media, Crime and Justice, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. December 3, 2020

- “Debating State Sentences for Violent Crime: How Tough is Tough Enough?”  
The Federalist Society, May 16, 2023
- “Do Long Sentences Improve Public Safety? What the Research Shows”  
Training for Prosecutors Alliance of California. April 20, 2023
- “Felony Murder: An On-Ramp for Extreme Sentencing”  
Speaker at National Association of Public Defenders’ annual conference. March 16, 2023  
Presentation to Connecticut Sentencing Commission. July 25, 2022
- “Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing: A New Tool for Expanding Justice”  
Panelist at American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section Annual Fall Institute.  
November, 18, 2022
- “Expanding Justice and Repairing Harm: The First Report on Prosecutor-Initiated Resentencing”  
Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by For The People. February 18, 2022
- “Revised Criminal Code Act of 2021”  
[Testimony](#) to DC Council’s Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety. November 4, 2021
- “Decarceration Mechanisms”  
Panelist at 2021 Virtual Summer Conference of Black Public Defender Association. June 18, 2021
- “Compassionate Release”  
Discussant on FAMM’s “Heart to Heart” [discussion series](#). April 21, 2021
- “Abolish Life Imprisonment”  
Bethesda Presbyterian Church (virtual). February 24, 2021
- “Eliminating Racial Inequality in the Criminal Justice System”  
Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. July 23, 2020  
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Defender Services Training Division. June 16, 2020  
Office of the Ohio Public Defender, Color of Justice. November 18, 2019  
Virginia Tech, Combating Racial Injustice Workshop. April 27, 2019  
American Humanist Association, Secular Social Justice. April 7, 2018  
Federal Defender Training. August 6, 2015 and April 6, 2017  
Princeton's Students for Prison Education and Reform Conference. April 16, 2016  
Ball State University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. April 2, 2016  
University of Utah Department of Political Science. October 17, 2016  
Boston University School of Public Health. February 3, 2016  
International Drug Policy Reform Conference. November 20, 2015  
Pennsylvania State University Black Law Students Association. October 15, 2015  
Bowie State University. October 1, 2015  
Ecumenical Advocacy Days National Gathering. March 18, 2015  
Connecticut African-American Affairs Commission. March 13, 2015
- “The Science of Incarceration: A Realistic Look at the Cost of Imprisonment”  
Panelist on [webinar](#) organized by Science/AAAS. December 12, 2019

“Can We Wait 75 Years to End Mass Incarceration?”

University of Rochester, Rochester Decarceration Research Initiative. March 27, 2019

George Mason University, Engaged with Mason. March 6, 2019

Washington Adventist University. April 12, 2018

“Progress and Persistence in the Incarceration of Women and Girls”

The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls, Free Her National Conference. September 29, 2018

“Opioids: Treating an Illness, Ending a War”

Central Connecticut State University. March 1, 2018

“Want to End Mass Incarceration? Reform Life Sentences”

Eastern State Penitentiary, Searchlight Series. April 4, 2017

“Redefining Life Sentences: How Legislators, Governors, and Parole Boards Have Increased the Wait for Parole in U.S. Prisons”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, June 21, 2017

“Life in America: The Growing Wait for Parole in U.S. Prisons”

American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 16, 2016

“Risk Assessment, Not Race Assessment”

Council of State Governments’ Second Chance Act Conference. December 18, 2015

“Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies”

Riverside Church in New York City. October 24, 2015

American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Conference. October 23, 2015

“American Justice: The Impact of Incarceration”

The Village Square at University of Missouri-Kansas City. April 29, 2015

“The States of Criminal Justice Reform”

Vermont Law School Law Review Symposium. October 3, 2014

“Ties that Double Bind: Conflicting Effects of Intimate Relationships on the Parole Prospects of California’s Term-to-Life Prisoners”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, May 31, 2014

“Ties That Bind: Conflicting Effects of Intimacy for California Prisoners”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 10, 2013

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, UCLA Sociology

2011 Race, Drugs, and Social Control: Mass Incarceration in America

2010 Race and Ethnicity in American Life

Teaching Assistant, UCLA Sociology

2009	Latin American Societies. Prof. Robert Jansen
2009	Death, Suicide, and Trauma. Prof. Stefan Timmermans
2008, 2007	A Global Perspective on Race and Ethnicity. Prof. Andreas Wimmer
2008, 2007	Contemporary Sociological Theory. Prof. Rogers Brubaker, Prof. Scott Washington
2006	Sociology of Mental Illness. Prof. Mel Pollner

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS**

2023 – present	District of Columbia Sentencing Commission, <i>Member</i>
2023	Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, <i>Advisory Committee Member</i>
2022	National Association of Sentencing Commissions, <i>Panel Organizer</i>
2016	“Prisons Today” Exhibit at Eastern State Penitentiary, <i>Advisor</i>
2015 – present	Scholars Strategy Network, <i>Member</i>
2014 – present	Law and Society Association's Punishment and Society Collaborative Research Network, <i>Member</i>

Last updated: December 2025.