



Sarah L. Harper, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

August 2026

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San Antonio, TX, 78224

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Criminology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 2023
Dissertation: Dammed & Damned: Examining Hyperlitigation and the Vexatious Litigant Statute in Florida Courts
Chair: Dr. John K. Cochran
- M.S. Criminal Justice, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL 2017
Area Paper: Social Media Use and Perceptions of Youth Offending
Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Snyder
- B.A. Criminal Justice, University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL 2015

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor of Criminology 2023
Texas A&M University—San Antonio
Department of Criminology & Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences
- Internship Coordinator, Criminal Justice and Children & Society programs, 2017-2018
University of West Florida
Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, College of Professional Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Judicial Decision-Making Non-Attorneys in Court Access to Justice Civic & Legal Literacy

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Project Coordinator and Research Team Leader, Jaguars Researching Encounters Between Extremists, Law, Courts, & Officers (JAGREBELCO) 2024-Present
Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M University—San Antonio
- Participant Faculty, Summer Research Team Program for MSIs 2024
Host Center of Excellence: National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE)
Program Oversight: Oak Ridge Institute for Science & Education (ORISE); Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs
- Project Coordinator and Research Team Leader, Research Project on Access and Litigation Sanctions (RPALS) 2022-Present
Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M University—San Antonio;
Department of Criminology, University of South Florida—Tampa Campus
- Research Assistant, Reducing Revocation Project 2022-2023
National Center for State Courts, Blacksburg, VA

Research Assistant, Understanding Prosecutorial Discretion in Florida Courts (NIJ-2018-14220; Principal Investigator: Ojmarrh Mitchell)
National Institute of Justice W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship for Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

2019

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Hough, R., McCorkle, K., & **Harper, S.** An examination of investigative practices of homicide units in Florida. *Homicide Studies*, 23(2), 175-194.

2019

Manuscripts in Submission

Davis, M., Lopez, E., Watts, G., **Harper, S.** Employment for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities: Lessons learned from a university-business partnership program. Submitted to *Journal of Policy and Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*

2026

Harper, S. & Bumgarner, J. Examining the paradox of imposing sanctions on self-represented parties: A dynamic model of judicial discernment. Submitted to *Journal of Law & Courts*, revisions in progress

2026

Hough, R. & **Harper, S.** Operational dynamics of police foot pursuits: Officer experience and the interpretation of risk. Submitted to *Police Practice & Research*

2026

Manuscripts In Progress

Harper, S. 50 ways to stop the flood: Comparing statutes addressing hyperlitigation in United States state courts (data collection)

Harper, S., Florida's frequent filers: Assessing Florida's approach to the rise in difficult litigants in state courts (monograph proposal in progress)

Davis, M., Lopez, E., Watts, G., **Harper, S.** "I feel like a college student": Perspectives of students with intellectual disabilities in higher education (data analysis and manuscript drafting)

Newsletters, Blogs, White Papers, Industry Periodicals

Editor, *Crime & Grits* (Official newsletter of the Southern Criminal Justice Association)

2024-Present

- Issue X, Spring 2025
 - Special feature: *Grit & Growth: Makin' It Look Easy*
 - Content compilation and design
- Issue XI, Fall 2025
 - Special feature: *Grit & Growth: Lessons in Mentorship*
 - Content compilation and design
- Issue XII, Spring 2026
 - Special feature: *Grit & Growth: Conferences*
 - Content compilation and design
- Issue XIII, Summer 2026
 - Special feature: *Grit & Growth: No Zero Days*
 - Content compilation and design

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*face-to-face †online ‡online, synchronous

Texas A&M—San Antonio
Department of Criminology & Political Science
Instructor of Record

CRIM3335 Crime & Justice in Popular Culture*

CRIM3388 Courts & Criminal Procedure*†

CRIM5312 Media, Crime, and Policy (Graduate) ‡

CRIM2330 Theories of Crime Causation†

Graduate Student Research Supervisor

Thesis Co-Chair, Jaidyn Barrera (MS): *Coded Disadvantage: A Historical Analysis of Legal Language and Its Impact on Marginalized Communities*. (Proposal defended May 2026)

Thesis Chair, Ashlynn Cruz (MS): *Ethical True Crime Content: Motivations and Preferences of Content Creators and Gen Z Consumers* (Proposal defended May 2026)

Honors Course Contract Research Supervisor

2024

Cody Garcia: *Legal Consciousness, Perceptions of Courts, and Voting Behaviors*

1st place poster at 2024 San Antonio Honors Student Research Symposium;

2nd place poster at 2024 National Collegiate Honors Conference

Jazmine Villarreal: *Drip Check: Examining Formality and Informality in Speech and Attire in Court Settings*

Presented at 2024 National Collegiate Honors Conference

Clara Rodriguez: *Examining Youth Awareness of Juvenile Justice Processes*

1st place poster at 2025 Great Plains Regional Collegiate Honors Conference

University of South Florida

Department of Criminology

Instructor of Record

CCJ4934 Senior Seminar: Crime & Justice in Pop Media *†

CCJ4910 Directed Research*

IDS4914 Advanced Undergraduate Research Experience *

CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior †

CCJ3701 Research Methods in Criminology †

CCJ3502 Courts & Judicial Process †

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

CCJ4361 Death Penalty (Dr. John Cochran): *Cost of Trials & Jury Factors*

CCJ3014 Crime and Justice in America (Dr. Liz Cass): *Minority & Police Relations*

CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior (Dr. Chae Jaynes): *Social Control Theories*

University of West Florida

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice; Department of Legal Studies, Public Administration, & Sports Management

Instructor of Record

CCJ4940 Criminal Justice Internship

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

CCJ3678 Race, Gender, Ethnicity & CJ (Dr. Sara Evans): *Minority & Police Relations*

CCJ3014 Criminology (Dr. Frank Ferdik): *Learning & Control Theories*

CCJ4110 Policing (Dr. Richard Hough): *Police Accountability*

GRANTS, FUNDING, & FELLOWSHIPS

2026

Texas A&M University System Research Excellence Fund Collaborative Discovery Grant

- Funding Entity: Texas A&M University System Office of Research
- Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Eileen Huey (TAMU), Dr. Georges Naufal (Public Policy Research Institute, TAMU), Cynthia Alkon, JD, LLM (TAMU School of Law)
- Proposed project: Defense Counsel Type and Wrongful Convictions in Texas
- Amount requested: \$176,634 (not funded)

2025

Cibolo Strategic Partnership Grant

- Funding entity: City of Cibolo, TX
- Role: Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Danielle Fenimore (TAMUSA)
- Proposed project: Understanding and Supporting Civic Literacy in Cibolo, TX
- Amount requested: \$7,000 (not funded)

Summer Research Team Program for Minority Serving Institutions, Follow-On Funding

- Funding entity: Oak Ridge Institute for Science & Education and Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate, Office of University Programs
- Role: Principal Investigator
- Proposed project: Exploring Frontline Interactions with Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian Believers--Insights into De-escalation and Procedural Justice
- Amount requested: \$98,721 (awarded)
- Project Timeline: April 2025-October 2026

2023

Dissertation Completion Fellowship

- Funding entity: Graduate Studies, University of South Florida
- Role: Doctoral candidate fellow
- Project: Examining Vexatious Litigation in Florida State Courts
- Amount: \$9,000 (awarded)

2022

Doctoral Summit Fellowship

- Funding entity: Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
- Role: Doctoral candidate fellow/participant

College of Behavioral and Community Sciences Research Grant

- Funding entity: College of Behavioral and Community Sciences, University of South Florida
- Role: Project coordinator
- Project: Research Project on Access and Litigation Sanctions
- Amount: \$6,841 (awarded)

Recurrent Student Awards

Student Government Association Travel Grant

- Funding entity: Student Government Association, University of South Florida
- Role: Graduate student presenter at professional conferences
- Amount: \$500 each (awarded)
- Years awarded: 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022

Graduate Student Travel Grant

- Funding entity: Center for Research & Economic Opportunity, University of West Florida
- Role: Graduate student presenter at professional conference
- Amount: \$1000 (awarded)
- Year awarded: 2017, 2018

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025

Most Influential Faculty Award

Texas A&M University, San Antonio

Nominated by Distinguished Senior Award winner, Alex St. John

2022

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award

College of Behavior and Community Sciences, University of South Florida

Nominated by Dr. Elizabeth Cass

2022, 2021, 2020, 2018 (recurring)

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

Department of Criminology, University of South Florida

2019

Graduate Research Assistantship

Department of Criminology, University of South Florida

2017, 2016

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of West Florida

2017, 2016

John C. Pace Graduate Scholarship

University of West Florida

2015

Dean's List (undergraduate)

University of West Florida

2014

President's List (undergraduate)

University of West Florida

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* student co-author

Harper, S. & Bumgarner, J. (2026, September) *Discernment Without a Degree: Preliminary Findings from Interviews with Texas Justices of the Peace*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

- Harper, S.** (2026, March) *Examining the Paradox of Imposing Sanctions on Difficult Litigants: A Dynamic Model of Judicial Discernment*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Philadelphia, PA
- Harper, S., St. John, A.*, Villarreal, J.*, Diaz, S.*** (2026, March) *I Won't Do What You Tell Me: Attempting Procedurally Just Interactions with Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian (AGAA) Believers*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Philadelphia, PA
- Summers, M., Nielson, K., Oramas Mora, D., Mitchell, M., **Harper, S.** (2026, March) *Tips for Junior Faculty*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference Doctoral Summit, Philadelphia, PA (**invited talk**)
- Harper, S. & St. John, A.*** (2025, November) *Examining Procedural Justice in Courtroom Interactions with Anti-Government/Anti-Authoritarian (AGAA) Believers*. American Society of Criminology annual conference, Washington, DC.
- Diaz, S.* & **Harper, S.** (2025, September) *In Theory & Practice: Developing Training for Law Enforcement Interactions with Sovereign Citizens* (poster). Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Charleston, SC
- Villarreal, J.* & **Harper, S.** (2025, September) *Is All Conflict Resolution Created Equal?: Examining Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Tailored to Specific Populations* (poster). Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Charleston, SC.
- Harper, S., Diaz, S.*, St. John, A.*** (2025, September) *"You're Not My Real Judge!": Identifying Elements of Procedural Justice in Federal Court Hearings Involving Defendants with Anti-Government and Anti-Authoritarian Beliefs*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual meeting, Charleston, SC
- Harper, S. & Martinez, M.*** (2025, September) *Florida's Frequent Filers: Examining Applications of the Vexatious Litigant Statute Following Judicial Education and Awareness*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Charleston, SC
- Hough, R. & **Harper, S.** (2024, September) *Injuries and Conditions During Police Foot Pursuits*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Greenville, SC
- Harper, S. & Saunders, E.*** (2024, March) *Ability Check: What Stats are Nominating Committees and Voters Assessing in Applications for State Judgeships?*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Chicago, IL.
- Harper, S.** (2023, November) *Incorporating Civic and Information Literacy into Undergraduate Criminology Courses*, presented during Division of Cybercrime Teaching Workshop at the American Society of Criminology annual conference, Philadelphia, PA (**invited talk**)
- Harper, S.** (2023, September) *Take Your Ball and Go: Examining Barred Filers in Florida Courts*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Mobile, AL
- Harper, S., Gray, O.*, Moreno, A.*, Isleim, H.*, Craig, H.*, Hubner, E.*, Saunders, E.*** (2023, March) *Experiences with Difficult Self-Represented Litigants in Florida Civil Courtroom Workgroups*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, National Harbor, MD
- Harper, S., Gray, O.*, Shue, S.H.*, Toca, A.*, Moreno, A*, Isleim, H.*** (2022, November) *50 Ways to Stop the Flood: Examining State Court Strategies for Mitigating Hyperlitigation in the United States*. American Society of Criminology annual conference, Atlanta, GA
- Harper, S.** (2022, March) *Not a Monolith, Not a Case Study: Vexatious Litigants in Florida*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Las Vegas, NV
- Harper, S.** (2021, September) *Weaponizing Relief: Legal System Abuse in Florida*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, Daytona Beach, FL
- Harper, S.** (2020, November) *Vexatious Litigation Statutes and Costs in Florida*. University of South Florida Department of Criminology Graduate Student Research Symposium

- Harper, S., Mitchell, O., Sticco, T., Oramas-Mora, D.** (2019, November) *Understanding Prosecutorial Discretion in Florida Criminal Courts (full panel presentation)*. American Society of Criminology annual conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Harper, S.** (2019, March) *Pre-trial Release Terms in Florida Counties*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Baltimore, MD
- Harper, S. & Edwards, V.** (2017, November) *Hidden gaps: Accounting for informal civic engagement behaviors in criminology and social control studies*. Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations (ARNOVA) annual conference, Grand Rapids, MI
- Harper, S. & Snyder, J.** (2017, September) *Digital natives' social media use and perceptions of youth offending*. Southern Criminal Justice Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA
- Edwards, V., Bacot, H., Ledet, R. & Harper S.** (2016, June) *Beyond counting hours: A new approach to studying civic engagement and volunteerism*. Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC) annual meeting, Columbus, OH.
- Edwards, V. & Harper, S.** (2016, November) *A spectrum approach to the study of civic engagement and volunteerism*. Association for Research on Nonprofit and Voluntary Associations (ARNOVA) annual conference, Washington, D.C.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

As Faculty

Departmental Service

Moderator , <i>Death Penalty in Texas</i> panel	2025
Grader , Comprehensive Exam Committee (MSCCJ)	2025
Member , SACSOC Program Review Committee (BA, BS, BAAS CCJ)	2025
Co-Host (with Dr. Caitlin Ducate), Faculty Brown Bag: <i>Perusal and Other Pedagogical Strategies in Blackboard</i>	
Member , Institutional Effectiveness Plan & Report Committee (MSCCJ)	2023-2025
Member , Faculty Development Leave Application Review Committee	2024-2025
Organizer , Faculty Social Mixer for Spring Semester	2024
Host , Faculty Brown Bag: <i>Incorporating Information & Civic Literacy in Criminology & Political Science Courses</i>	2024
Faculty Representative , JagX New Student Orientation Mixer	2023
Member , Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee	2023

College Service

Faculty Address Speaker , Graduate Student Hooding Ceremony College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M—San Antonio	Spring 2025
Faculty Marshal , Graduate Student Hooding Ceremony College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M—San Antonio	Spring 2024
Member , Unity, Belonging, and Engagement Committee College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M—San Antonio	2023-2026

University Service

Member , Honors Program Advisory Council Texas A&M—San Antonio	2025-Present
Member , University Library Committee Texas A&M—San Antonio	2024-2026

Honors Contract Course Faculty 2024-Present
Honors College, Texas A&M—San Antonio
Students and projects supervised:

- CRIM3388 Spring 2024: Cody Garcia—Legal Consciousness, Perceptions of Courts, and Voting Behaviors (1st place poster at San Antonio Honors Student Research Symposium)
- CRIM3388 Spring 2024: Jazmine Villarreal—Drip Check: Examining Formality and Informality in Speech and Attire in Court Settings
- CRIM3388 Fall 2024: Clara Rodriguez—Examining Youth Awareness of Juvenile Justice Processes

Community Service

Adult Advisor, Cibolo Youth Advisory Council (affiliated with City Council) 2024-Present
Cibolo, TX
Participant, Citizen Police Academy (2024 Bravo Class) & Citizen Police Academy 2024
Alumni Association
Cibolo Police Department, Cibolo, TX

Student

President (AY 2021-2022); General Member 2018-2023
Criminology Graduate Student Organization, University of South Florida
Chair 2022
50th Anniversary Homecoming Student Committee
Department of Criminology, University of South Florida
Social Media Co-Coordinator 2021-2023
Department of Criminology, University of South Florida
Maintain departmental Twitter account for @USFCriminology
Graduate Student Representative 2022-2023
Graduate Committee, Department of Criminology, University of South Florida
Graduate Student Representative 2020-2021
Undergraduate Committee, Department of Criminology, University of South Florida
Doctoral Student Mentor 2020-2022
Department of Criminology, University of South Florida
Great American Teach-In Speaker 2018; 2020
Tampa Palms Elementary School & Liberty Middle School, Tampa, FL
Historian and Activities Coordinator 2016-2017
Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association, University of West Florida
Youth Ministry Leader and Small Group Co-Leader 2012-2018
Liberty Church—Blue Angel Campus, Pensacola, FL
Alumni 2011-Present
Zeta Psi Eta sorority, University of West Florida

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, PROFICIENCIES, AND CERTIFICATIONS

Apps & Software

- Adobe Creative Suite: Illustrator, InDesign, PhotoShop
- Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn analytics
- AI LLMs: Gemini, GPT-5, Co-Pilot
- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, OneNote, Publisher, Project, Power Automate
- GSuite: Classroom, Apps, Analytics, Trends, Forms
- Canva

Learning Management Systems & Pedagogy

- eLearning (D2L)
- Canvas
- ANGEL
- Blackboard
- Banner Production/Banner 9

Statistical Software

- SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science)
- STATA 16
- ArcMap GIS
- Tableau
- nVivo 13, 14, 15

Other Training, Skills, Professional Development

- Spanish (conversational, written, reading)
- Legal research, writing, and case preparation for family law (trial and appellate)
- Career/professional skill development advising and counseling
- Social media management for academic departments and organizations (Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Facebook)
- CITI Human Subjects & RCR Certification (current through 2028)
- Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (12 hours), by CPI, Inc
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Academia workshops (7.5 hours), ACJS Doctoral Summit, 2022
- Early Career Researcher workshop (3 hours), NCITE
- Grant Writing workshop (7 hours), Hanover Research
- Tenure & Promotion workshop for Assistant Professors (2 hours)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association	2025
Member	
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	2018-Present
Member, Minorities & Women Section	
Member, Law & Public Policy Section	
American Society of Criminology	2018-Present
Member	
Southern Criminal Justice Association	2017-Present
Social Media Coordinator, Membership Committee (2023)	
Chair, Student Poster Award Committee (2024)	
Director-at-Large (elected), Executive Board (elected 2024-2027 term)	

Chair, Records & Communication Committee

Editor, *Crime & Grits* newsletter

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action

2017

Member

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Behavior Technician

2015-2016

O.J. Semmes Elementary School, Escambia County School District, Pensacola, FL

- Collected student behavior data according to behavior intervention plans, Individual Education Plans (IEP), and classroom expectations;
- Provided input for development of Functional Behavior Assessment, Behavior Intervention Plans, and IEPs;
- Executed crisis interventions for students in behavior units and general education settings using CPI de-escalation techniques;
- Provided classroom accommodations and prescriptive instruction for students

Teaching Assistant/Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Paraprofessional

2014-2015

Jim Bailey Middle School, Escambia County School District, Pensacola, FL

- Provided ESE students with classroom-based and transition accommodations according to Individual Education Plans (IEP);
- De-escalated behaviors of ESE students with in self-contained classrooms and Adapted PE settings;
- Provided input for IEPs, Functional Behavior Assessments, and Behavior Intervention Plans;

MEDIA APPEARANCES & COVERAGE

- [Safety Measures - Adelante Magazine - Texas A&M University-San Antonio](#)
- [Adelante Fall 2024 Issue by Texas A&M University-San Antonio - Issuu](#)
- [Homeland Security-Funded Research Project Delves Into Growing Anti-Government Movement](#)

References

Dr. John K. Cochran, *Professor & Chair, Department of Criminology at University of South Florida—Tampa*
Dr. Kathrine Johnson, *Associate Professor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of West Florida*
Dr. Jessica Grosholz, *Associate Professor, Department of Criminology, University of South Florida—Sarasota/Manatee*
Dr. Caitlin Ducate, *Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M—San Antonio*