

Sarah L. Harper, Ph.D.



Jan 2025

1 University Way, San Antonio, TX, 78224

Sarah.harper@tamusa.edu

210.784.2260

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminology

2023

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Dissertation: *Dammed & Damned: Examining Hyperlitigation and the Vexatious Litigant Statute in Florida Courts*

Chair: Dr. John K. Cochran

Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice

2017

University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL

Area Paper: *Social Media Use and Perceptions of Youth Offending*

Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Snyder

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Criminal Justice

2015

University of West Florida, Pensacola, FL

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Criminology

2023-Present

Department of Criminology & Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences

Texas A&M University—San Antonio

Internship Coordinator (CCJ and Children & Society programs)

2017-2018

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, College of Professional Studies

University of West Florida

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Legal System Abuse

Non-Attorney Participation in Court

Social Media & Criminological Theory

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Summer Research Team Program for MSIs, Participant Faculty

Summer 2024

ORISE/Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Office of University Programs
& National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE)

- Conducted ten-week pilot qualitative research project on procedural justice in encounters with anti-government violent extremists and judges
- Oversaw undergraduate research assistants, collaborated with senior research associate from DHS Center of Excellence to develop corpus of over 25,000 pages of legal documents
- Attended workshops for early career researchers, briefed DHS I&A experts on proposed training for encounters with anti-government extremists

Research Team Leader**2022-2024**

Research Project on Abuse of the Legal System (RPALS)

- Recruit and oversee group of undergraduate students (13 to date) for multiple research projects, publications, and presentations related to legal system abuse in state courts
- Provide mentorship and instruction in research design, data collection, writing, and analysis

Research Assistant**2022-2023**

National Center for State Courts

- Evaluation planning and data support for Reducing Revocations Project

Research Assistant**2019**

National Institute of Justice W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship for Research on Race and Crime (NIJ-2018-14220)

- Principal Investigator: Dr. Ojmarrh Mitchell
- Data collection for Florida Prosecutorial Discretion project
- Initial analysis and presentation of findings on discretion and sentencing outcomes between circuits

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Hough, R., McCorkle, K., & **Harper, S.** (2019) An examination of investigative practices of homicide units in Florida. *Homicide Studies*, 23(2), 175-194.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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

Harper, S., Florida's frequent filers: An examination of barred litigants in Florida circuit and appellate courts

TEACHING EXPERIENCE**Texas A&M—San Antonio**

Department of Criminology & Political Science

Courses Taught

CRIM3335 Crime & Justice in Popular Culture	In-person 16 week	2025
CRIM3388 Courts & Criminal Procedure	Online 16 week	2023; 2024
	Hybrid 16 week	
	In-person 16 week	
CRIM2330 Theories of Crime Causation	Online 8 week	2024
CRIM5312 Media, Crime, and Policy (Graduate)	Online 16 week, synchronous	2024

Student Research Advising and Supervision

Thesis Co-Chair, Jaidyn Barrera (MS): *Coded Disadvantage: A Historical Analysis of Legal Language and Its Impact on Marginalized Communities.* **2024-2025**

Honors Course Contract Faculty **2024-2025**

- CRIM3388 Spring 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)
- CRIM3388 Spring 2024: Jazmine Villarreal—Drip Check: Examining Formality and Informality in Speech and Attire in Court Settings (presented at 2024 National Collegiate Honors Conference)
- CRIM3388 Fall 2024: Clara Rodriguez—Examining Youth Awareness of Juvenile Justice Processes (presenting at 2025 Great Plains Regional Collegiate Honors Conference)

University of South Florida

Department of Criminology

Courses Taught

CCJ4934 Senior Seminar: Crime & Justice in Popular Media	Online 16 week In-person 16 week	2021; 2023
CCJ4910 Directed Research	Hybrid, 16 week	2022
CCJ3701 Research Methods in Criminology	Online 16 week	2020
CCJ3502 Intro to Courts & American Judicial Process	Online 3, 8, 16 week	2020-2023
CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior	Online 16 week	2021
IDS4914 Advanced Undergraduate Research Experience	Hybrid, alternate calendar	2022

Teaching Assistant

CCJ4224 Miscarriages of Justice (Dr. Lyndsay Boggess)	Online 16 week	2021
CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior (Dr. Chae Jaynes)	In-person 16 week	2018
CCJ4361 Death Penalty (Dr. John Cochran)	Online 16 week, synchronous	2020
CCJ3024 Survey of Criminal Justice System (Andy Franz, JD)	Online 16 week	2022

Guest Lectures

CCJ4361 Death Penalty (Dr. John Cochran)	Cost of Trials & Jury Factors	Fall 2019
CCJ3014 Crime and Justice in America (Dr. Liz Cass)	Minority & Police Relations	Fall 2019
CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior (Dr. Chae Jaynes)	Social Control Theories	Fall 2018

University of West Florida

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

Courses Taught

CCJ4940 Criminal Justice Internship Hybrid, 16 week **2017-2018**

Teaching Assistant

CCJ4110 Policing (Dr. Richard Hough) Online 8, 16 week **2016-2017**
In-person 16 week

CCJ4613 Homicide (Dr. Richard Hough) Online 8 and 16 week **2016-2017**

CCJ4931 Cold Case Investigation (Dr. Richard Hough) Online 8 week **2016**

PUP4004 Public Policy Analysis (Dr. Richard Hough) Online 8 week **2016**

Guest Lectures

CCJ3678 Race, Gender, Ethnicity & CJ (Dr. Sara Evans) Minority & Police Relations **2017**

CCJ3014 Criminology (Dr. Frank Ferdik) Learning & Control Theories **2017**

CCJ4110 Policing (Dr. Richard Hough) Police Accountability **2016**

GRANTS, FUNDING, & FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Research Team Program for MSIs Follow-On Funding (awarded) **2024**

ORISE/Department of Homeland Security

- Exploring Frontline Interactions with Sovereign Citizens & Anti-Government Extremists: Insights into De-escalation and Procedural Justice
- Project Timeline: February 2025-February 2026
- Amount awarded: \$98,721

Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$9,000) **2023**

University of South Florida

Doctoral Summit Fellowship **2022**

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

College of Behavioral and Community Science Research Grant (awarded) **2022**

University of South Florida

- Research grant to fund access to Westlaw databases for data collection with undergraduate research team
- Amount awarded: \$6,841

Student Government Association Travel Grants (\$500 each)	2018; 2019;
University of South Florida	2021; 2022
Center for Research & Economic Opportunity Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$1000)	2016
University of West Florida	

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award (winner, \$500)	2022
University of South Florida, College of Behavior and Community Sciences	
Graduate Teaching Assistantship	2018; 2020;
University of South Florida, Department of Criminology	2022
Graduate Research Assistantship	2019-2020
University of South Florida, Department of Criminology	
Graduate Teaching Assistantship	2016-2017
University of West Florida, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice	
John C. Pace Graduate Scholarship (\$500/semester)	2016-2017
University of West Florida	
Dean's List (undergraduate)	2015
University of West Florida	
President's List (undergraduate)	2014
University of West Florida	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

Faculty

Departmental Service

Member, Faculty Development Leave Application Review Committee **2024**

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

Organizer, Faculty Social Mixer for Spring Semester **2024**

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

Host, Faculty Brown Bag: *Incorporating Information & Civic Literacy in Criminology & Political Science Courses* **2024**

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

Faculty Representative, JagX New Student Orientation Mixer **2023**

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

Member, Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee **2023**
 Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M--San Antonio

College Service

Faculty Marshal, Graduate Student Hooding Ceremony **Spring 2024**
 College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M—San Antonio

Member, Unity, Belonging, and Engagement Committee **2023-Present**
 College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M—San Antonio

University Service

Member, University Library Committee **2024-Present**
 Texas A&M—San Antonio

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 analytics
- Basic HTML
- Microsoft Office Suite: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, OneNote, Publisher
- 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
- R: lavaan, ggplot packages
- Tableau
- nVivo

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

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 (2024-2027 term)	
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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; 	

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. Durant Frantzen, *Professor & Chair, Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M—San Antonio*