

# Sarah L. Harper, Ph.D.

September 2024

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## 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

## FACULTY POSITIONS

### **Assistant Professor of Criminology** **2023-Present**

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

Texas A&M University—San Antonio

## 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.**, Gray, O., Shue, S.H., Toca, A., Moreno, A., Isleim, H. 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 &amp; Political Science

**Courses Taught**

<b>CRIM3388 Courts &amp; Criminal Procedure</b>	Online 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections); Hybrid 16 week (2 sections) In-person 16 week (1 section)	<b>2023; 2024</b>
<b>CRIM2330 Theories of Crime Causation</b>	Online 8 week, asynchronous (1 section)	<b>2024</b>
<b>CRIM5312 Media, Crime, and Policy</b>	Online 16 week synchronous (2 sections)	<b>2024</b>

**University of South Florida**

Department of Criminology

**Courses Taught**

<b>CCJ4934 Senior Seminar: Crime &amp; Justice in Popular Media</b>	Online 16 week, asynchronous (1 section); In-person 16 week (1 section)	<b>2021; 2023</b>
<b>CCJ4910 Directed Research</b>	Hybrid, 16 week (2 sections)	<b>2022</b>
<b>CCJ3701 Research Methods in Criminology</b>	Online 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections)	<b>2020</b>
<b>CCJ3502 Intro to Courts &amp; American Judicial Process</b>	Online 3, 8, 16 week, asynchronous (8 sections)	<b>2020-2023</b>
<b>CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior</b>	Online 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections)	<b>2021</b>
<b>IDS4914 Advanced Undergraduate Research Experience</b>	Hybrid, alternate calendar (2 sections)	<b>2022</b>

**Teaching Assistant**

<b>CCJ4224 Miscarriages of Justice</b> (Dr. Lyndsay Boggess)	Online 16 week, asynchronous (1 section)	<b>2021</b>
<b>CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior</b> (Dr. Chae Jaynes)	In-person 16 week (1 section)	<b>2018</b>
<b>CCJ4361 Death Penalty</b> (Dr. John Cochran)	Online 16 week, synchronous (2 sections)	<b>2020</b>
<b>CCJ3024 Survey of Criminal Justice System</b> (Andy Franz, JD)	Online 16 week, asynchronous (1 section)	<b>2022</b>

**Guest Lectures**

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

**University of West Florida**

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

**Courses Taught**

<b>CCJ4940 Criminal Justice Internship</b> Serving as Internship Coordinator	Hybrid (5 sections)	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>		
<b>CCJ4110 Policing</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	Online and in-person, 8 and 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections)	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>CCJ4613 Homicide</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	Online 8 and 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections)	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>CCJ4931 Cold Case Investigation</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	Online 8 week, asynchronous (1 section)	<b>2016</b>
<b>PUP4004 Public Policy Analysis</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	Online 8 week, asynchronous (1 section)	<b>2016</b>
<b>Guest Lectures</b>		
<b>CCJ3678 Race, Gender, Ethnicity &amp; CJ</b> (Dr. Sara Evans)	Minority and Police Relations	<b>2017</b>
<b>CCJ3014 Criminology</b> (Dr. Frank Ferdik)	Social Learning & Social Control Theories	<b>2017</b>
<b>CCJ4110 Policing</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	Administrative Decision-Making and Accountability in Police Departments	<b>2016</b>

#### GRANTS, FUNDING, & FELLOWSHIPS

<b>Summer Research Team Program for MSIs Follow-On Funding</b> (under review) ORISE/Department of Homeland Security		<b>September 2024</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Project: Exploring Frontline Interactions with Sovereign Citizens &amp; Anti-Government Extremists: Insights into De-escalation and Procedural Justice</li> <li>Project Timeline: January 2025-January 2026</li> <li>Amount requested: \$98,721</li> </ul>		
<b>Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship</b> (\$9,000) University of South Florida		<b>2023</b>
<b>Doctoral Summit Fellowship</b> Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences		<b>2022</b>
<b>College of Behavioral and Community Science Research Grant</b> (\$6,841) University of South Florida		<b>2022</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research grant to fund access to Westlaw databases for data collection with undergraduate research team</li> </ul>		

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

#### HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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

#### 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

**Host**, Faculty Brown Bag: *Incorporating Information & Civic Literacy in Criminology & Political Science Courses*  
Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M—San Antonio

**April 2024**

**Faculty Representative**, JagX New Student Orientation Mixer  
Department of Criminology & Political Science, Texas A&M—San Antonio

**August 2023**

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

**College Service**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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

**Community Service**

**Participant**, Citizen Police Academy (2024 Bravo Class) & Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association **2024-Present**  
 Cibolo Police Department, Cibolo, TX

**Student**

**President (AY 2021-2022); General Member** **2018-2023**  
 Criminology Graduate Student Organization, University of South Florida

**Chair**, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Student Committee **2022**  
 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

<b>Great American Teach-In Speaker</b>	<b>2018; 2020</b>
Tampa Palms Elementary School & Liberty Middle School, Tampa, FL	
<b>Historian and Activities Coordinator</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association, University of West Florida	
<b>Youth Ministry Leader and Small Group Co-Leader</b>	<b>2012-2018</b>
Liberty Church—Blue Angel Campus, Pensacola, FL	
<b>Alumni</b>	<b>2011-Present</b>
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

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

#### Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2018-present)

- Minorities & Women Section
- Law & Public Policy Section

#### American Society of Criminology (2018-present)

#### Southern Criminal Justice Association (2017-present)

- Membership Committee, *Social Media Coordinator* (2023)
- Executive Board (elected), *Director-at-Large* (2024-2027 term)

#### Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (2017)

### 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;

### 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*