

# Sarah L. Harper, Ph.D.

October 2023

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## EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Criminology** 2023  
University of South Florida, Tampa, FL  
Proposed Dissertation: Dammed and 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 Courts      Social Media Interactions      Criminological Theory

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Team Leader** 2022-Present  
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. (anticipated March 2024) 50 ways to stop the flood: Comparing statutes addressing hyperlitigation in United States state courts

**Harper, S.**, (anticipated December 2023) 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**

<b>CRIM3388 Courts &amp; Criminal Procedure</b>	<i>Online 16 week, asynchronous (1 section); Hybrid 16 week (1 section)</i>	<b>Fall 2023</b>
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**University of South Florida**

Department of Criminology

**Courses Taught**

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

**Teaching Assistant**

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

<b>CCJ3024 Survey of the Criminal Justice System</b> (Andy Franz, JD)	<i>Online 16 week, asynchronous (1 section)</i>	<b>2022</b>
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#### Guest Lectures

<b>CCJ4361 Death Penalty</b> (Dr. John Cochran)	<i>Cost Analysis of Capital Cases &amp; Jury Factors</i>	<b>Fall 2019</b>
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<b>CCJ3014 Crime and Justice in America</b> (Dr. Liz Cass)	<i>Minority and Police Relations</i>	<b>Fall 2019</b>
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<b>CCJ3117 Theories of Criminal Behavior</b> (Dr. Chae Jaynes)	<i>Social Control Theories</i>	<b>Fall 2018</b>
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#### 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	<i>Hybrid (5 sections)</i>	<b>2017-2018</b>
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#### Teaching Assistant

<b>CCJ4110 Policing</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	<i>Online (asynchronous) and in-person, 8 and 16 week (2 sections)</i>	<b>2016-2017</b>
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<b>CCJ4613 Homicide</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	<i>Online 8 and 16 week, asynchronous (2 sections)</i>	<b>2016-2017</b>
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<b>CCJ4931 Cold Case Investigation</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	<i>Online 8 week, asynchronous (1 section)</i>	<b>2016</b>
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<b>PUP4004 Public Policy Analysis</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	<i>Online 8 week, asynchronous (1 section)</i>	<b>2016</b>
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#### Guest Lectures

<b>CCJ3678 Race, Gender, Ethnicity &amp; CJ</b> (Dr. Sara Evans)	<i>Minority and Police Relations</i>	<b>2017</b>
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<b>CCJ3014 Criminology</b> (Dr. Frank Ferdik)	<i>Social Learning &amp; Social Control Theories</i>	<b>2017</b>
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<b>CCJ4110 Policing</b> (Dr. Richard Hough)	<i>Administrative Decision-Making and Accountability in Police Departments</i>	<b>2016</b>
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#### GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

<b>Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$9,000)</b> University of South Florida		<b>2023</b>
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**Doctoral Summit Fellowship** 2022  
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

**College of Behavioral and Community Science Research Grant** (\$6,841) 2022  
University of South Florida

- Research grant to fund access to Westlaw databases for data collection with undergraduate research team

**Student Government Association Travel Grants** (\$500 each) 2018; 2019; 2021; 2022  
University of South Florida

**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; 2022  
University of South Florida, Department of Criminology

**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

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

### 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

**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

Promoting Active Learning Online (16 weeks), Association of College and University Educators, Fall 2024 cohort

**Statistical Software**

SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science)

STATA 16

ArcMap GIS

R: lavaan, ggplot packages

Tableau

nVivo

**Other Training & Skills**

Spanish (conversational, written, reading)

Legal research, writing, and case preparation experience for family law and estate/probate (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 Certification (current through 2025)

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (12 hours), by CPI, Inc

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in Academia workshops (7.5 hours), ACJS Doctoral Summit, 2022

**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-present)

**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 and analyzed 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 emotional, extreme, and/or disruptive behaviors of ESE students with pervasive physical, emotional/behavioral, social, developmental, intellectual, and learning disabilities in self-contained classrooms and Adapted PE settings;
- Assisted classroom teachers with prescriptive instruction curriculum in small group and one-to-one settings;
- Provided input for IEPs, Functional Behavior Assessments, and Behavior Intervention Plans;
- Assisted faculty and staff with implementation of specific student plans

**References**

John K. Cochran, Ph.D., *University of South Florida—Tampa Campus*  
 Kathrine Johnson, Ph.D., *University of West Florida—Emerald Coast Campus*  
 Jessica Grosholz, Ph.D., *University of South Florida—Sarasota/Manatee Campus*