

Jacob Stewart Church

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Employment

- August 2024-
Present Assistant Professor, The Department of Sociology and Political Science
Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama
- May 2023-
August 2024 Full-Time Instructor, The Department of Gender and Race Studies
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama
- 2021 to May 2023 Full-Time Instructor, The Department of Criminology and Criminal
Justice
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Education

- 2022** Ph.D., Sociology, Kent State University, Kent, OH.
Dissertation: "Focal Concerns Outside the Courtroom: The Practical
Constraints Influencing Judges and Prosecutors' Racially Disparate
Sentencing Decisions."
Committee Members: Dr. Tiffany Taylor (Co-Chair), Dr. Katrina Bloch
(Co-Chair), Dr. Christopher Dum, Dr. Starr Solomon, and Dr. Daniel
Chand
- 2017** MA., Sociology. Kent State University, Kent, OH
Thesis: "How Ohio Welfare to Work Program Managers Talk about
Welfare Fraud"
Committee Members: Dr. Tiffany Taylor (Chair), Dr. Clare Stacey, and
Dr. Christopher Dum
- 2013** B.A., Sociology. Boise State University, Boise, ID

Areas of Academic Interest

Social inequalities (race, class, and gender), work and organizations, welfare cash assistance programs, Criminal Justice and Criminology, and globalization.

Works in Progress:

- 2024** **Church, Jacob.** “The Effects of Structured Sentencing Policy: A Longitudinal Analysis of North Carolina Felons’ Sentencing Outcomes Given Sentencing Reforms.” (Final Revisions. Will be submitted Spring 2024).
- Briana Turgeon, Teirra James, Jacob Church, Ariel Vicars, Leonela Martinez Ramirez. “She Who Shall Not Be Named: Harry Potter Fans Reactions to J.K. Rowling’s Transphobia (conducting analysis. Will be submitted in Summer 2024).

Refereed Journal Articles:

- 2020** **Church, Jacob***, Kaitlyn Root, Taylor, Tiffany, and Kasey Ray. Forthcoming. ‘It’s all about Teaching Them Soft skills’: Cultural Capital and Ambiguity in Welfare-to-Work Soft Skills Discourse.” *Sociological Imagination*. 56(1):74-91.
- Bloch, Katrina, Tiffany Taylor, **Jacob Church**, and Alison Buck. “An Intersectional Approach to the Glass Ceiling: Gender, Race, and Share of Middle and Senior Management in U.S. Workplaces” *Sex Roles*. 84 (2021): 312-325. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-020-01168-4>
- 2019** Taylor, Tiffany, Briana Turgeon, Katrina Bloch, Alison Buck, and **Jacob Church** “Spatial Variation in U.S. Labor Markets and Workplace Gender Segregation: 1980-2005.” *Sociological Inquiry* 84(4):703-726. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12279>
- 2018** Gross, Christi L., **Jacob Church**, Tiffany Taylor, and Jackuelyn K. Towne-Roese. 2018. “‘Between a Rock and a Hard Place’: The Constraints of Welfare-to-Work Bureaucracies.” *Poverty & Public Policy* 10(1):39–56. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pop4.208>

Awards and Nominations

- Spring 2023** Nomination for Outstanding Commitment to Advising Award, The University of Alabama

Spring 2020 University Fellowship Awardee for 2020-2021, Kent State University
The University Fellowship is a competitive university-wide award aimed at assisting budding scholars complete their cutting-edge research. As an award winner, I received \$18,000 in the form of a graduate assistantship to complete work on my dissertation and my works in progress.

Spring 2019 Research Award, Kent State University Graduate Student Senate
This competitive award helps graduate students in completing their dissertation research. As an award winner, I received \$2,000 to attend and complete a summer ICPSR training on Hierarchical Linear Modeling in the summer of 2019.

Teaching Experience

Spring 2024 Sociological Theory (in-person)
Introduction to Sociology (in-person)
Social Psychology (online- asynchronous online instruction)

Fall 2023 Sociological Theory (in-person)
Race, Ethnicity, and Crime (in-person)
Research Methods in Criminal Justice (in-person)

Summer 2023 Social Problems (online)
Race, Ethnicity, and Crime (in-person)

Spring 2023 Social Psychology (Online)
Sociological Theory (in-person)
Race, Ethnicity, and Crime (in-person)

Summer 2022 Social Inequality in the Criminal Justice System (in-person)

Fall 2022 Introduction to Sociology (in-person)
Race and Ethnic Relations (in-person)
Sociological Theory (In-person)

Spring 2022 Sociological Theory (in-person)
Research Methods in Criminal Justice (in-person)

Fall 2021 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (in-person)
Introduction to Sociology (in-person)
Race and Ethnic Relations (in-person)

Spring 2021 Research Methods in Criminal Justice (AV-synchronous online instruction)
Introduction to Sociology (Hybrid- both synchronous online and in-person instruction)
Race and Ethnic Relations (AV)

Fall 2020 Researching Society (AV)

Summer 2020 Crime and Justice in Popular Culture (online)

Spring 2020 Researching Society (in-person)
Understanding Difference and Inequality (online)

Fall 2019 Researching Society (in-person)

Summer 2019	Issues in Law and Society Justice Studies (in-person)
Spring 2019	Understanding Difference and Inequality (online)
Spring 2018	Crime and Justice in Popular Culture (online)
Fall 2018	Understanding Difference and Inequality (online)
	Social Problems (online)
	Social Problems (in-person)

Additional Research and Teaching Experience

- Spring 2020** Gidden’s Structuration Theory, Lecture
Ran a graduate-level seminar for Dr. Tiffany Taylor’s Contemporary Theory course. This seminar discussed structuralism, structuration theories, and theories of race and gender structuration.
- 2017 to 2018:** Research Assistant, Dr. Tiffany Taylor
During this graduate assistantship, I collaborated with Dr. Taylor on research examining welfare cash assistance programs and research examining gender inequalities in private workplaces resulting in several publications and works in progress.
- 2016:** Graduate Assistant, Dr. Clare Stacey
Under the guidance of Dr. Stacey, I helped organize a large, regional undergraduate research conference, the Northeast Ohio Sociological Symposium.
- 2015 to 2022:** Welfare Research Group
An intensive research group focused on issues and topics surrounding Temporary Assistance for Needy Families provided by Ohio and North Carolina counties. As a senior member of the project, I have begun leading manuscript projects in addition to working with junior members to learn about the research project and the research process.
- 2015:** Graduate Assistant, Dr. Molly Merryman,
During this graduate assistantship, I assisted Dr. Merryman with her research project studying LGBTQ neighborhoods in Ohio. Through this project, I raised awareness of the history of LGBTQ neighborhoods in Ohio via community events and conducted qualitative interviews with those residing in these neighborhoods.
- 2015:** Graduate Assistant, Dr. Christopher Dum
Conducted teaching and research assistantship duties and facilitated class discussions in Dr. Dum’s Deviance course.
- 2013:** Intermountain Social Research Lab
An intensive research lab in which undergraduate students learn and conduct all steps of research: formation of theoretical and empirical

questions, proposal, creating an original interview instrument, conducting and transcribing interviews, conducting a literature review, and writing an original research paper.

Summer 2013: Research Assistant
Research assistant for STEM Station at Boise State University. Qualitative research experience gained.

Class Mentor
Class Mentor for Dr. Arthur Scarritt's Social Change class at Boise State University.

Refereed Presentations

Spring 2024 Turgeon, Brianna, **Jacob Church**, Teirra James, Leonela Martinez, Ariel Vicars, and Alicia Carter. "The-author-who-must-not-be-named: Transphobic social media posts and identity change in the Harry Potter fandom." Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Jacob Church. "Sentencing in a new era: Racial Disparities in North Carolina. Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, Louisiana

Fall 2020 **Church, Jacob.** "The Effects of Sentencing Policy: How North Carolina's Sentencing Reforms impact Black and White Offenders' Odds of Receiving a Charge Reduction." Winter Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society, San Diego, California.

Turgeon, Briana, Kaitlyn Root, **Jacob Church**, Kasey Ray. "Ohio Welfare Managers' Identity Work: Accounting for Poverty, Punishment and the Welfare Program." Winter Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society, San Diego, California.

2017: Taylor, Tiffany, **Jacob Church**, Katrina R. Bloch, and Alison R. Buck. "Taking an Intersectional Approach to the Glass Ceiling: Race and Women's Share of Management in US Workplaces." Annual Meeting of The Society for the Study of Social Problems. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Church, Jacob, Brennan Miller, and Katrina R. Bloch. "Race, Political Beliefs, and Charge Reductions: The Relationship between Political Beliefs and Charge Reductions." Annual Meeting of Society for the Study of Social Problems. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

2016: **Church, Jacob.** "Welfare Fraud Talk Among Ohio Welfare to Work Bureaucrats." Annual Meeting of Society for the Study of Social Problems. Seattle, Washington.

Taylor, Tiffany, **Jacob Church** and Kaitlyn Root. “It’s all about teaching them soft skills’: Ohio Works First Managers’ Soft Skills Discourse and Neoliberal Cultural Capital.” Annual Meeting of Society for the Study of Social Problems. Seattle, Washington.

2013: **Church, Jacob.** “University Marketing and Students’ Perception of a College Experience.” Annual Meeting of Pacific Sociological Association. Reno, Nevada.

Service

Fall 2023 to Present Committee Member, Sociology Major Committee
Department of Gender and Race Studies, The University of Alabama
Serve as a member of a committee to build a Sociology Major.

Fall 2023 to Present Committee Member, Graduate Student Council
Department of Gender and Race Studies, The University of Alabama
Helped standardize the department’s graduate curriculum, advised MA students on applying to PhD programs, and provided support to MA students teaching undergraduate courses.

Spring 2020 to 2023 Undergraduate Advisor
Criminology & Criminal Justice, The University of Alabama.
Each academic semester, I would meet with 200 undergraduate students. During the typical advising session, I ask students about their progress in the current semester, discuss their future academic and career goals, and ensure their plans for future courses complete their degree requirements.

Spring 2018 Committee member
Kent State University’s Graduate Student Senate Research Award Committee

Fall 2017 Committee member
Kent State University’s Graduate Student Senate Research Award Committee

2015- 2017: Social Chair of Alpha Kappa Delta (Theta Branch, Kent State University).

2015: Presider at Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Sociology Symposium. March 14th, 2015

Memberships in Professional Associations and Honors Societies

American Sociological Society

Sociologists For Women in Society

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Alpha Kappa Delta

Pi Gamma Mu