

Ashley E. Rodriguez

Department of Sociology and Criminology
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EDUCATION

- Expected 2027 Ph.D., Criminology, Pennsylvania State University
- 2024 M.A., Criminology, Pennsylvania State University
Master's Thesis: *Economic threat or economic hardship? The role of local socioeconomic conditions on sentencing outcomes*
- 2022 B.S., Criminology, Law and Society with Honors (Major),
Data Analysis (Minor), George Mason University
Honors Thesis: *An explanatory study on how news reporters use Twitter to report on 25 recent mass shooting events*
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Court Actor Decision-Making, Racial Disparities in Case Processing, Pretrial Case Processing, Sentencing, Courtroom Workgroups, Mixed Methods

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024 – present Co-Primary Investigator with Joe Risi on “Who’s on your case? An Examination of Pennsylvania Courtroom Workgroups” project, Pennsylvania State University
- 2022 – present Graduate Research Assistant, Pennsylvania State University
- 2024 – 2024 Focus Group Facilitator, Innovation Day 2024: Bridging Correctional Research and Practice, The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (PA DOC) & Penn State University's Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC)
- 2020 – 2022 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Early Justice Strategies Lab, George Mason University
- 2022 – 2022 Office of Scholarship, Creative Activities, & Research (OSCAR) Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, George Mason University
- 2021 – 2021 NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates, University of South Carolina

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Rodriguez, A. E., Lowder, E. M., & Frye, P. (2025, Mar). Risk perception and risk communication: Multi-actor perspectives on pretrial decision-making. *Behavioral Sciences & the Law*.

Lowder, E. M., Lawson, S. G., Ruhland, E., **Rodriguez**, A. E., Frye, P., & McPherson, M. (2025, Feb). Development and validation of a tool to measure relative disadvantage and disproportionate risk of criminal-legal system involvement. *Justice Quarterly*.

Ulmer, J., Zajac, G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2024, Dec). Geographic arbitrariness in capital punishment: Death as an inhabited institution. *American Sociological Review*.

BOOK CHAPTER

Lowder, E. M., **Rodriguez**, A. E., & Diaz, C. L. (2023, Oct). Effective bail reform strategies drawn from a limited evidence base. In Verona, E., & Fox, B. (Eds.), *Handbook of Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Practices*. Routledge.

REASERCH REPORTS

Lowder, E. M., Carlisle, H. J., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Dec). Proposed racial equity metrics. Report prepared for the Racial Equity Work Group, Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.

Lowder, E. M., Carlisle, H. J., **Rodriguez**, A. E., McPherson, M., Lawson, S., Kamara, Z., & Ruhland, E. (2022, Dec). Understanding drivers of racial disparities in criminal-legal processing: Interim progress report. Report prepared for the Racial Equity Work Group, Indiana Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.

Lowder, E. M., Lawson, S. G., Foudray, C. M. A., Vibhute, H., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Aug). Differences in the predictive accuracy of IRAS-PAT assessments as a function of age, sex, and race: An updated report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.

Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Vibhute, H., Lawson, S. G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Jun). Vigo County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.

Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Vibhute, H., Lawson, S. G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Jun). Starke County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.

- Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Vibhute, H., Lawson, S. G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Feb). St. Joseph County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.
- Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Vibhute, H., Lawson, S. G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2022, Jan). Tipton County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.
- Wilson, D. B., Lowder, E. M., Phalen, P., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2021, Aug). National Institute of Justice's Forecasting Recidivism Challenge: Team "DEAP" (Final Report). Report prepared for the National Institute of Justice's Forecasting Recidivism Challenge.
- Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Lawson, S. G., McPherson, M., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2021, Jun). Grant County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.
- Lowder, E. M., Foudray, C. M. A., Lawson, S. G., McPherson, M., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2021, May). Porter County: IRAS-PAT validation final report. Report prepared for the Pretrial Committee, Indiana Office of Court Services, Indiana Judicial Center.
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MANUSCRIPTS

SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

Rodriguez, A. E., Metcalfe, C., & Hills, I. (Under review). Detention decision-making as a collective process: How courtroom workgroups shape initial appearance outcomes in real time.

IN PROGRESS

Rodriguez, A. E. Economic threat or economic hardship? The role of local socioeconomic conditions on sentencing outcomes.

Rodriguez, A. E., & Galvin, M. A. Gender and focal concerns theory. In Stamatel, J. P. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender*. Sage.

Rodriguez, A. E., & Metcalfe, C. Individual court actors and their collaborations: A social network analysis of initial appearance decisions.

Rodriguez, A. E., & Ulmer, J. Do moral communities play a role in criminal sentencing? Evidence from Pennsylvania.

Rodriguez, A. E. & Ulmer, J. The feedback loop of police activities and court activities between 2001 to 2019: A time series analysis.

Rodriguez, A. E. Racial and ethnic disparities in case processing over time: A direct and indirect approach.

Zottola, S. A., Desmarais, S. L., Queen, C., Stewart, D. K., **Rodriguez**, A. E., Lowder, E. M., & Monahan, J. (Pending resubmission). A model of pretrial release decision-making.

Yu, D., Kuo, A., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. The effect of old age status on sentencing.

PRESENTATIONS

Rodriguez, A. E., & Metcalfe, C. (Submitted). Individual court actors and their collaborations: A social network analysis of initial appearance decisions. Paper will be presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., United States.

Risi, J., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2025, Mar). Who's on your case? An examination of Pennsylvania courtroom workgroups. Poster presented at the Pennsylvania State University Graduate Exhibition, State College, PA, United States.

Rodriguez, A. E. (2024, Nov). Economic threat or economic hardship? The role of local socioeconomic conditions on sentencing outcomes. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Fransico, CA, United States.

Risi, J., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2024, Oct). Who's on your case? An examination of Pennsylvania courtroom workgroups. Paper presented at the Pennsylvania State University Criminal Justice Research Center Speaker Series, State College, PA, United States.

Rodriguez, A. E., Hills, I., & Metcalfe, C. (2023, Nov). Pandemic justice: A grounded theory examination of disparities in virtual bond hearings. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Ulmer, J., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2023, Nov). Changes in the age distribution of arrests in Pennsylvania and their impact on the age sentencing relationship. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Lowder, E. M., Lawson, S. G., Ruhland, E., **Rodriguez**, A. E., Frye, P., & McPherson, M. (2023, Nov). Development and validation of a tool to measure relative disadvantage and disproportionate risk of criminal-legal system involvement. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Ulmer, J., Zajac, G., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2023, Aug). Geographic arbitrariness in capital punishment: Death as an inhabited institution. Paper presented at the Society of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Lowder, E. M., & **Rodriguez**, A. E. (2023, Mar). Risk perception and risk communication: Drivers of pretrial decisions in a multi-stakeholder sample. Paper presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

- Rodriguez, A. E. & Lowder, E.M.** (2022, Nov). Effects of presentation of pretrial risk probabilities on pretrial release decisions. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.
- Wilson, D., Lowder, E. M., Phalen, P., & **Rodriguez, A. E.** (2022, Nov). The pros and cons of machine-learning model stacking for predicting criminal justice outcomes. Lightning session presented at the American Society of Criminology Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States.
- McPherson, M., Lowder, E.M., **Rodriguez, A. E.**, Kent, A.R., & Bigham, E.G. (2022, Nov). Granting mercy: Legal and extralegal factors contributing to gubernatorial clemency success. Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, United States.
- McPherson, M., Lowder, E., **Rodriguez, A. E.**, & Kent, A. (2022, Jun). The role of mental health and substance use in clemency seekers' perceptions of crime and desistance. Paper presented at the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services conference, Berlin, Germany.
- Rodriguez, A. E. & Lowder, E. M.** (2022, May). Effects of presentation of pretrial risk probabilities on pretrial release decisions. Poster presented the Office of Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact.
- Rodriguez, A. E. & Lowder, E. M.** (2022, Apr). Effects of presentation of pretrial risk probabilities on pretrial release decisions. Paper presented at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- McPherson, M., Foudray, C. M. A., **Rodriguez, A. E.**, & Lowder, E. M. (2021, Nov). Use of sanctions, incentives, and graduated supervision in pretrial supervision outcomes. Poster presented at the American Society of Criminology Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Rodriguez, A. E.**, Powell, A., Hills, I., Metcalfe, C., Worrell, A., & Berry, P. (2021, Aug). Pandemic justice: A grounded theory examination of disparities in virtual bond hearings. Poster presented at the University of South Carolina's 2021 Virtual Summer Research Symposium for Undergraduate Researchers (held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- Rodriguez, A. E. & Dong, B.** (2021, May). An exploratory study on how news reporters use Twitter to report on 25 recent mass shooting events. Poster presented at the Office of Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research's Spring 2021 Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact (held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
- Rodriguez, A. E.**, Foudray, C. M. A., & Lowder, E. M. (2021, May). Racial differences in pretrial supervision failure and arrest outcomes. Poster presented at the Office of Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research's Spring 2021 Celebration of Student Scholarship and Impact (held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Rodriguez, A. E., Foudray, C. M. A., & Lowder, E. M. (2021, May). Racial differences in pretrial supervision failure and arrest outcomes. Poster presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting, Orlando, Florida (held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

GUEST LECTURES

- Spring 2025 Lecture: *A Social Networks Approach to Examining Court Actor Roles in Initial Appearance Decisions: An R Tutorial*. Spatial Networks & Computational Criminology (CRIM 597), the Pennsylvania State University, PA
- Spring 2024 Lecture: *Court Actors and their Workgroups*. Law and Society (CRIM 467), the Pennsylvania State University, PA
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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- 2024 The Pennsylvania State University Social Data Analytics (SoDA) Accelerator Award Seed Grant
 – Awarded \$3,000
- 2024 The Pennsylvania State University Criminal Justice Research Center (CJRC) Summer Research Award
 – Awarded \$2,000
- 2022 George Mason University Department of Criminology, Law, and Society’s Outstanding Undergraduate Award
- 2022 George Mason University OSCAR Student Excellence Award
 – Awarded \$500
- 2022 George Mason University Department of Criminology, Law, and Society’s Academic Excellence Award
- 2022 George Mason University College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS)’ Outstanding Student Award
- 2021 Funding from George Mason University OSCAR for *Effects of Presentation of Pretrial Risk Probabilities on Judges’ Pretrial Release Decisions* project
 – Awarded \$1,000
- 2021 George Mason University Department of Criminology, Law and Society’s nominee for the CHSS Senior of the Year Award

- 2021 National Institute of Justice’s Forecasting Recidivism Challenge Award
– Year 2 Female Parolees – 4th Place Small Team Category
– Year 2 Average Accuracy – 4th Place Small Team Category
– Year 3 Male Parolees – 1st Place Small Team Category
– Year 3 Average Accuracy – 2nd Place Small Team Category
– Total team award of \$18,000
- 2021 Honorable Mention for George Mason University CHSS Excellence in Research Award
- 2021 Honors Distinction in Criminology, Law and Society from George Mason University Department of Criminology, Law and Society
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UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2024 – present Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology,
Criminology Student Paper Competition Chair
- 2024 – present Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology,
American Society of Criminology Practice Talks Facilitator
- 2024 – present Pennsylvania State University, Criminal Justice Research Center,
Criminology Speaker Series Facilitator
- 2022 – 2024 Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology,
Criminology Student Paper Competition Committee Member
- 2022 – 2023 Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology,
Data and Coding Committee Member
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PEER REVIEWER

- 2025 *Journal of Criminal Justice*
2025 *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2022 – present American Society of Criminology (ASC)