

Dylan Sears

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Manhattan, Kansas

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Race & Ethnicity | Cultural & Critical Criminology | Police & Vigilantism | Hauntology

Education

Kansas State University

- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology **Expected:** 2026
- Master of the Arts in Sociology **Achieved:** 2022
 - Thesis: *Hold the (Thin Blue) Line: Theorizing White Vigilante Violence as Counterinsurgency*

Oklahoma State University

- Bachelor of the Arts in Sociology **Achieved:** 2019

Tulsa Community College

- Associate of the Arts in Sociology **Achieved:** 2017

Academic Experience

Kansas State University
Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2020 - Present
Manhattan, Kansas

As Instructor:

- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Spring 2025
- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Fall 2024
- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Summer 2024
- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Spring 2024
- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Fall 2023
- SOCIO 211 Intro to Sociology Spring 2023
- CRIM 460 Youth and Crime Fall 2022

As Teaching Assistant:

- Social Research Methods with Dr. Corina Medley Spring 2022
- Comparative Social Theories with Dr. Gerad Middendorf Fall 2021
 - Guest Lecture: *Theodor Adorno and the Culture Industry*
- Urban Sociology with Dr. Frank Weyher Fall 2021
- Intro to Sociology with Dr. Corina Medley Spring 2021
- Intro to Sociology with Dr. Jeremy Briggs Fall 2020

Publications

In progress:

“Violent Revitalization: Specters of Dark Tourism in Tulsa’s Greenwood”

“Good Kid, Mad City: on the Political Meaning of Kyle Rittenhouse”

Accepted/Published:

Book Chapters:

Sears, D. (2025). “The Police Have Often Attempted to Pre-empt Cases of Political and Religious Violence Through Covert Intelligence.” In M. Hart, J. B. Lamb, A. Lynes, J. Treadwell, & C. Kelly (Eds.), *50 Facts Everyone Should Know About the Police*. Bristol University Press.

Linnemann, T. and Sears, D. (2025). “Cultural Criminology.” In K. D. Haggerty & L. Presser (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Critical and Cultural Criminological Theory*. Oxford University Press.

Book Review:

Sears, Dylan. 2025. “Book Review: Gratuitous Angst in White America: A Theory of Whiteness and Crime.” *Crime, Media, Culture* 17416590251326715. doi: [10.1177/17416590251326715](https://doi.org/10.1177/17416590251326715).

Presentations

Sears, D. (2024). *Violent Revitalization: Specters of Dark Tourism in Tulsa’s Greenwood*. American Society of Criminology Conference, San Francisco, CA, United States.

Sears, D. (2023). *Good Kid, Mad City: on the Political Meaning of Kyle Rittenhouse*. American Society of Criminology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

Professional Experience

Manhattan Public Library	May 2024 - Present
Library Assistant (LA2), Circulation	Manhattan, Kansas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shelved, faced, and organized books in adult fiction, non-fiction, YA, and children’s according to the Dewey Decimal SystemAssisted patrons at the circulation desk in signing up for library cards, requesting ILL’s, and checking books outTrained on Polaris ILS in processing damaged, lost, and missing items, placing blocks on patron accounts, and applying and removing charges from patron accounts	
Crime, Media, Culture	December 2022 – December 2024
Editorial Assistant	Manhattan, Kansas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Screened journal submissions for proper formatting and anonymityCorresponded with authors about their submissionsAssigned accepted articles to journal editors for next step in process	
City Year Tulsa	June 2019 - May 2020
AmeriCorps Member	Tulsa, Oklahoma
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Maintained a case load of 36 7th gradersTaught 20 students in 7th grade mathematics to foster academic growthQuantitatively evaluated student growth through course grade data collectionInterpreted data from assessments and in-class performance to better adapt tutoring structure to the student’s individual needsQualitatively assessed student growth in Social-Emotional Learning using Aperture DESSA	

Pawnee Nation Attorney General's Office Student Intern	October 2018 - May 2019 Pawnee, Oklahoma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified 15 Native American tribal organizations in the region surrounding Pawnee, Oklahoma Contacted tribal organizations to inquire about their tribal probation practices Conducted interviews with 10 tribal organizations about their probation programs Compiled qualitative interview data about probation programs Analyzed data for spaces of growth in developing a tribal probation consortium 	
Walmart Supply Chain T3 Certified Trainer, Orderfiller, Quality Assurance	February 2013 - June 2019 Ochelata, Oklahoma
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained 50 employees on heavy industrial equipment Quantitatively maintained inventory of warehouse product Reevaluated 5 struggling employees' workflow for areas of growth Mediated conflicts between employees and management to find spaces for compromise 	

Academic Service

Kansas State University Library Services Committee Graduate Student Council Representative	2020 - 2022 Manhattan, Kansas
Kansas State University Dean of Libraries Search Committee Graduate Student Council Representative	2020 - 2021 Manhattan, Kansas
Kansas State University Honor Council Graduate Student Council Representative	2020 - 2021 Manhattan, Kansas
Oklahoma State University Sociology Club Vice President	2018 - 2019 Stillwater, Oklahoma

Honors and Awards

American Society of Criminology Division of Critical Criminology and Social Justice Graduate Student Paper Award (Co-Winner) "Good Kid, Mad City: On the Political Meaning of Kyle Rittenhouse"	2024
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Graduate Teaching Award \$500 for Spring 2023	2022 - 2023
Timothy R. Donoghue Graduate Scholarship \$1,500 for Fall 2020 and \$1,500 for Spring 2021 \$1,500 for Fall 2021 and \$1,500 for Spring 2022	2020 - 2022
Phi Theta Kappa Scholar Undergraduate community college honor society	2015