

Aurélie OUSS

Last update: February 2026

Department of Criminology
571 McNeil Building
3718 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6286

Website: aouss.github.io
Email: aouss@upenn.edu

Employment

- 2025– Associate Professor of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania
2021–2025 Janice and Julian Bers Assistant Professor of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania
2017–2021 Jerry Lee Assistant Professor of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania
2013–2017 Post-doctoral fellow, University of Chicago Crime and Education Lab

Affiliations / Short-term visits

- 2024 Visiting scholar, Sciences Po Paris (Economics Department)
2024 – Co-head of the police and justice research group at IPP (Paris School of Economics)
2023 Duke Distinguished Visitor (Economics Department)
2023 – NBER Faculty Research Fellow
2022 – JPAL affiliate
2021 – Faculty Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Crime and Justice Policy Lab

Education

- 2009-2013 PhD in Economics, Harvard University
2006-2007 Master in Economics, Paris School of Economics
2004-2005 B.A., Econometrics and Sociology. ENS Cachan and Paris-X
2004-2009 Ecole Normale Supérieure (Ulm). Departments of Social Sciences

Accepted and Published Papers

1. “A (Plea) Offer You Can Refuse” with David Abrams, Viet Nguyen and Julia Reinhold, accepted at the ***Journal of Legal Studies***
2. “Prosecutorial Policies and Courtroom Workgroups” with Viet Nguyen, ***Justice Quarterly*** (2026).
3. “Barriers to Adopting Predictive Algorithms: a Criminal Justice Field Experiment” with David Abrams, Brian Collopy, Megan Stevenson and Colin D. Sullivan, forthcoming at ***American Criminal Law Review***
4. “The Role of Case Management in Misdemeanor Prosecution” with Lindsay Graef, forthcoming at ***Criminology***
5. “Conviction, Incarceration and Recidivism: Understanding the Revolving Door” with John-Eric Humphries, Kamelia Stavreva, Megan Stevenson and Winnie van Dijk, forthcoming at the ***Quarterly Journal of Economics***.
6. “Officer-Involved: The Media Language of Police Killings” with Bocar Ba, Patrick Bayer and Jonathan Moreno-Medina, ***Quarterly Journal of Economics***, 140.2 (2025).
7. “Prosecutor-Driven Reform and Racial Disparities” with Francesca Arruda Amaral and Dalila Ozier, ***Criminology and Public Policy*** (2025).

Accepted and Published Papers (continued)

8. "The Importance of Base-Rates in Differential Impact: A Bail Reform Case-Study" with Megan Stevenson, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 181. (2025).
9. "Labor Mobility and the Problems of Modern Policing" with Jonathan Masur and John Rappaport, *New York University Law Review*. 99.128 (2024).
10. "Systemic Failure to Appear in Court" with Lindsay Graef, Sandy Mayson and Megan Stevenson, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 172.1 (2023).
11. "Does Cash Bail Deter Misconduct?" with Megan Stevenson, *AEJ: Applied*, 15.3 (2023).
12. "Jobs, News and Re-offending after Incarceration" with Roberto Galbiati and Arnaud Philippe, *The Economic Journal*, 131 (2021).
13. "Behavioral Nudges Reduce Failures to Appear for Court" with Alissa Fishbane and Anuj Shah. *Science*, 370 (2020).
14. "Misaligned Incentives and the Scale of Incarceration in the United States" *Journal of Public Economics*, 191 (2020).
15. "Is Police Behavior Getting Worse? The Importance of Data Selection in Evaluating Police Conduct" with John Rappaport. *Journal of Legal Studies*, 49.1 (2020).
16. "No Hatred or Malice, Fear or Affection: Media and Sentencing" with Arnaud Philippe, *Journal of Political Economy*, 126.5 (2017).
17. "When Punishment Doesn't Pay: 'Cold Glow' and Decisions to Punish" with Alex Peysakhovich, *Journal of Law and Economics*, 58.3 (2015).
18. "What Works in Reducing Reoffending?" chapter in *Lessons from the Economics of Crime*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press (2013).

Working Papers

1. "Incarceration and Wealth" with John-Eric Humphries, Cecile Macaire, Megan Stevenson and Winnie van Dijk
2. "Prison Peer Effects and the Public Safety Tradeoff" with Arnaud Philippe

Teaching

University of Pennsylvania:

Evidence Based Crime Policy (Masters / PhD)
Capstone Research in Criminal Justice Policy (Undergraduate)
Applied Empirical Methods (Undergraduate)

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

2025	Arnold Ventures – \$906,731, “Building Prosecutorial Infrastructure to Understand Criminal Justice Reform”, <i>Joint with Lindsay Graef</i>
2025	Arnold Ventures – \$197,513, “Declining to Prosecute and Reducing Supervision: The Impacts of Prosecutor-Driven Reforms”, <i>Joint with Lindsay Graef and Marit Rehavi</i>
2024	Arnold Ventures – \$608,671, “Does incarceration reduce crime or redirect it?”, <i>Joint with Emma Harrington, Hannah Shaffer, and Megan Stevenson</i>
2024	Arnold Ventures – \$656,237, “The economic impact of criminal convictions”, <i>Joint with John Eric Humphries, Megan Stevenson and Winnie van Dijk</i>
2024	Mark Kleiman award, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2023	Russell Sage Foundation – \$151,373, “Prosecutor-Driven Criminal Justice Reform and Socioeconomic Wellbeing”
2023	Runner up for the best paper, Society for Judgment and Decision Making
2023	Data Science Initiative – \$49,682
2023	Klein Family Social Justice – \$48,097
2022	Arnold Ventures – \$205,789, “Long-term socioeconomic impacts of incarceration”, <i>Joint with John Eric Humphries, Megan Stevenson and Winnie van Dijk</i>
2021	Best Publication Award, Behavioral Science and Public Policy Association
2021	Runner up for the Best Junior French Economist Prize
2021	AEJ: Policy Excellence in Reviewing Award
2020 - 2023	Arnold Ventures – \$2,510,509, “Prosecutors and Criminal Justice Reform”, <i>Joint with Greg Ridgeway</i>
2017 - 2019	JPAL North America – \$117,966, “Nudging Chicago Youth to Consider and Plan Safe Activities”, <i>Joint with Anuj Shah</i>
2016 - 2017	Robert R. McCormick Foundation – \$470,000, “Overcoming Dangerous Defaults”
2015 - 2017	MacArthur Foundation – \$500,000, “Applying Behavioral Science to Crime Policy”. <i>Joint with Anuj Shah and Jens Ludwig</i>
2015	Economics of Crime prize, 6th Economics of Crime Transatlantic Workshop
2012	NBER / NSF Crime Fellow
2011 - 2013	Inequality and Criminal Justice Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School
2010 - 2013	Considine Law and Economics Fellowship, Harvard Law School
2010 - 2011	Douglas Dillon Fellowship, Harvard University, <i>full tuition and stipend</i>
2009 - 2010	Harvard University Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University
2004 - 2009	École Normale Supérieure <i>full fellowship</i>

Conference Presentations and Invited Seminars (including scheduled)

2025	UCLA Luskin, ALEA, NBER, University of Washington (economics), Georgetown University (public policy), RAND
2024	UCLA Economics, Minneapolis FED, UIC, Sciences Po Economics, Linnaeus University, Stanford Law School, University of Chicago Law School, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
2023	Duke Economics, Princeton Economics, Tinbergen Institute (Amsterdam), Smith College
2022	Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, Paris School of Economics, ETH Zurich, University of Reading, NHH (Bergen), Chicago/LSE Conference on the Economics of Crime and Justice, Bocconi (CLEAN group), Sciences Po (LIEPP), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, LSE (Policing and Crime workshop),

Conference Presentations and Invited Seminars (continued)

2021	Cornell University, University of Michigan Law School, Penn Law School, Texas Economics of Crime Workshop, Conference in Empirical Legal Studies
2019	ENS Lyon, NBER Summer Institute, Hertie School of Government, University of Austin Law School, SEA, ALEA
2018	Texas A & M, West Virginia University, APPAM, ALEA, Workshop on the origins of our moral and political ideologies and preferences (Toulouse Institute for Advanced Studies)
2017	NBER Summer Institute, Penn CHIBE, Penn Law School, Transatlantic Workshop in the Economics of Crime, CELS
2016	Northwestern Law School, Penn Criminology
2015	University of Chicago Harris School, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy, Workshop for Junior Empirical-Legal Scholars
2012	Harvard Law School, Calvo Armengol Memorial Conference in Social Economics, CELS
2011	CESifo Summer Institute

Professional Service

Reviewer: American Economic Review, American Journal of Criminal Justice, American Law and Economics Review, AEJ: Applied Economics, AEJ: Economic Policy, AEJ: Microeconomics, AER: Insights, Criminology, Criminology and Public Policy, Criminal Justice Policy Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, European Journal of Law and Economics, Experimental Economics, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law Economics and Organization, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, JPAL, Justice Quarterly, Law & Policy, Law & Social Inquiry, National Science Foundation, PLOS One, PNAS, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Russell Sage Foundation, Stanford Law Review, Yale Law Journal.

Organizer: Transatlantic Workshop in the Economics of Crime (2018-present)

Conference Selection Committee: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), American Law and Economics Association Conference (ALEA), Conference in Empirical Legal Studies (CELS), European Association of Law and Economics (EALE)

Undergraduate Chair (2024-present)

Students / pre-docs advised and placements

Francesca Arruda de Amaral: PhD at Harvard Kennedy School
Priyanka Goonetilleke: Northwestern Law School
Lindsay Graef: Quattrone Center at Penn Law School
Viet Nguyen: Center for Justice Innovation
Julia Reinhold: PhD at Penn Economics