

University of Chicago
Department of Sociology
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Aaron Stagoff-Belfort

EDUCATION

University of Chicago
Ph.D., Sociology, 2023–
M.A., Sociology
Dissertation: “Governing Against the City: Police Unions and the Limits of Police Reform”
Committee: Robert Vargas (chair), Geoffrey Wodtke, Julian Go, Gerard Torrats-Espinosa (Columbia)

Wesleyan University
B.A., College of Social Studies, 2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Policing, Urban Sociology, Race & Ethnicity, Inequality, Quantitative Methodology

EMPLOYMENT & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Scholar, Justice Policy Lab at Brown University Watson Institute, 2026–
Graduate Student Research Scholar, Policing Project at NYU School of Law, 2025–
Research Assistant, UChicago Justice Project, 2023–
Program Associate, Redefining Safety Program, Vera Institute of Justice, 2019–2023
Research Assistant, *New York Times*, 2017–2018

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron, Jon Ben-Menachem* & Brenden Beck. 2025. “Can Speed Cameras Make Streets Safer? Quasi-Experimental Evidence From New York City.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

• Press: Vital City, Streetsblog NYC. In the top 5% of all research outputs scored by Altmetric. 99th percentile Attention Score compared to outputs of the same age.

Pope, Leah G., **Aaron Stagoff-Belfort**, et al. 2023. “Competing Concerns in Efforts to Reduce Criminal Legal System Entanglement among People with Serious Mental Illnesses: Findings from a Multi-City Study on Misdemeanor Arrests.” *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research* 50(5-6).

Compton, Michael T., Leah G. Pope, Amanda Warnock, Nili Gesser, **Aaron Stagoff-Belfort**, et al. 2023. “Contexts Shaping Misdemeanor System Interventions with People Affected by Mental Illnesses: Findings from a Multi-City System Mapping Exercise.” *Health and Justice* 11.

Compton, Michael T., Adria Zern, Leah G. Pope, Nili Gesser, **Aaron Stagoff-Belfort**, et al. 2022. "Misdemeanor Charges Among Individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses: A Statewide Analysis of More Than Two Million Arrests." *Psychiatric Services*.

*Denotes graduate student coauthor

BOOK CHAPTERS

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron & Jason Tan de Bibiana. 2024. "Being in the Wrong Place: Criminal Trespass and Criminal Legal System Entanglement." *Entangled: How People with Serious Mental Illnesses Get and Stay Caught up in Misdemeanor Systems*, Leah G. Pope, Amy C. Watson, Jennifer D. Wood, and Michael T. Compton, eds. Washington, DC: APA Publishing.

UNDER REVIEW

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron, Ángela Zorro Medina & Robert Vargas. "The Diffusion of Policing Alternatives in U.S. Cities After the George Floyd Protests." *Second-Revise-and-Resubmit at American Sociological Review*.

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron. "The Institutional Production of Housing Instability: Neighborhood Exposure to Intensive Low-Level Policing and Extractive Landlord Practices." *Revise-and-Resubmit at American Sociological Review*.

- 1st Place Prize, Midwest Sociological Society Graduate Student Paper Competition

WORK IN PROGRESS

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron & Devin Green. "The Rise of Police Unions and Civil Rights Backlash, 1960–1976."

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron. "Police Overtime and Use of Force."

Stagoff-Belfort, Aaron & Ángela Zorro Medina. "Policing Cop Enclaves: Racial Bias and Officer Residential Context."

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Jason Tan de Bibiana, Kerry Mulligan, **Aaron Stagoff-Belfort**, Daniela Gilbert. 2023. "Coordinating Safety: Building and Sustaining Offices of Violence Prevention and Neighborhood Safety." Vera Institute of Justice.

Aaron Stagoff-Belfort, Dan Bodah, and Daniela Gilbert. 2022. "The Social Costs of Policing." Vera Institute of Justice.

Jackson Beck, **Aaron Stagoff-Belfort**, and Jason Tan de Bibiana. 2022. "Civilian Crisis Response: A Toolkit for Equitable Alternatives to Policing." Vera Institute of Justice.

Aaron Stagoff-Belfort and Mary Fleck. 2021. “Reducing Policing’s Footprint? Racial Disparities and Arrest Trends After Misdemeanor Decriminalization and Legalization in Denver and Philadelphia.” Vera Institute of Justice.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$159,000), 2025

Charles R. Henderson Research Fund Grant, University of Chicago (\$3,500), 2025

Research Grant, Midwest Sociological Society (\$2,500), 2025

Urban Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation (\$1,000), 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025: Arnold Ventures and George Mason: Justice Reimagined; American Sociological Association Annual Meeting; Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting; American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting; UChicago Spring Institute; UChicago Race & Racial Ideologies Working Group

2024: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting; UChicago Critical Social Science Initiative

2023: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

2022: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting; Motion for Justice National Convening at Vera Institute of Justice

2021: Temple Law Review and the Center for Public Health Law Research Symposium; Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant, *Regression and Generalized Linear Models* (Prof. Geoffrey Wodtke), 2026

Teaching Assistant, *Cities, Space, Power: Intro to Urban Social Science* (Prof. Neil Brenner), 2026

Teaching Assistant, *Statistical Methods of Research-II* (Prof. Geoffrey Wodtke), 2025

Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Applied Statistics and Data Science* (Prof. Marshall Jean), 2025

The Petey Greene Program

Prison Education Tutor, 2020–2023

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Assistant Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*, 2025–

JOURNAL REFEREE

Police Quarterly, Internal Medicine Review

AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)

Midwest Sociological Society (MSS)

Law & Society Association (LSA)

REFERENCES

Robert Vargas, University of Chicago, robvargas@uchicago.edu

Julian Go, University of Chicago, jgo34@uchicago.edu

Geoffrey Wodtke, University of Chicago, gwoedtke@uchicago.edu

Brenden Beck, Rutgers University, brenden.beck@rutgers.edu