

Frank R. Edwards

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK

Associate Professor. School of Criminal Justice. 2024 -
Assistant Professor. School of Criminal Justice. 2018 - 2024
Affiliate Faculty. Department of Sociology and Anthropology 2021 -
Affiliate Faculty. American Studies 2023 -

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology. Regional Affiliate. 2020 -

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Postdoctoral Associate. Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. 2017 - 2018
Research Associate: National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. 2018 -

EDUCATION

PH.D., SOCIOLOGY. THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON. 2017

M.A., SOCIOLOGY. DEPAUL UNIVERSITY. 2012

B.A., SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN. 2005

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

Schwendeman, Hannah, Veronica Horowitz, **Frank R. Edwards**, Robert Stewart, Ryan Larson, and Christopher Uggen. 2024. ““It’s two separate systems that . . . keep you under a thumb”: dual debt in the child support and criminal legal systems”. *Law and Society Review*. ([html](#))

Raz, Mical and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2024. “Termination of parental rights is common and should not be seen as a proxy for child abuse”. *Social Work*. ([html](#))

Bai, Rong, Jeffrey Albert, Catherine LaBrenz, **Frank R. Edwards**, Cyleste Collins, Liuhong Yang, and Rob Fischer. 2024 “Children removed for inadequate housing are less likely to be reunified than peers: analysis from AFCARS data”. *Journal of Public Child Welfare* ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R., Sarah Roberts, Mical Raz, Kathleen Kenny, Matty Lichtenstein, and Mishka Terplan. 2023. “Medical professional reports and child welfare system infant investigations: an analysis of National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) data”. *Health Equity*. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R., Kelley Fong, Victoria Copeland, Mical Raz, and Alan Dettlaff. 2023. “Administrative Burdens in Child Welfare”. *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of The Social Sciences*. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R., Theresa Rocha Beardall, and Hannah Curtis. 2023. “American Indian and Alaska Native overexposure to foster care and family surveillance in the US: a quantitative overview of contemporary system contact”. *Children and Youth Services Review* ([html](#))

Yi, Youngmin, **Frank R. Edwards**, Natalia Emanuel, Hedwig Lee, John M Leventhal, Jane Waldfogel, and Christopher Wildeman. 2023. “State-Level Variation in the Cumulative Prevalence of Child Welfare System Contact, 2015-2019”. *Children and Youth Services Review* ([html](#))

Horowitz, Veronia, Kimberly Spencer-Suarez, Ryan Larson, Robert Stewart, **Frank R. Edwards**, Emmi Obara, and Christopher Ugen. 2022. “Dual Debtors: Child Support and Criminal Legal Financial Obligations”. *Social Service Review*. ([pdf](#))

Rocha Beardall, Theresa and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2021. “Abolition, Elimination, and Indian Child Welfare.” *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*. 11(3). ([html](#))

- 2022 John Hope Franklin Prize for the best article on race, racism and the law. Law and Society Association.

Edwards, Frank R., Sara Wakefield, Kieran Healy, and Christopher Wildeman. 2021. “Child Protective Services Contact in the 20 Most Populous Counties in the US”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. ([html](#))

- Covered by *The PBS News Hour*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *ProPublica*, *The Washington Post*, and other outlets

Raz, Mical, Alan Dettlaff, and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2021. “The Perils of Child ‘Protection’ for Children of Color: Lessons from History”. *Pediatrics*. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. 2020. “Fiscal Pressures, the Great Recession, and Monetary Sanctions in Washington Courts of Limited Jurisdiction.” *The UCLA Criminal Justice Law Review* 4(1). ([pdf](#))

- Covered by *City Lab*.

Yi, Youngmin, **Frank R. Edwards**, and Christopher Wildeman. 2020. “Cumulative Prevalence of Confirmed Maltreatment and Foster Care Placement for US Children by Race/Ethnicity, 2011 - 2016.” *American Journal of Public Health* 110(5):704-709. ([html](#))

- Selected for inclusion in the American Public Health Association’s Continuing Medical Education program

Wildeman, Christopher, **Frank R. Edwards**, and Sara Wakefield. 2020. “The Cumulative Prevalence of Termination of Parental Rights for U.S. Children, 2000-2016”. *Child Maltreatment* 25(1):32-42. ([html](#))

- Article of the year, *Child Maltreatment* editorial board

Edwards, Frank R., Hedwig Lee, and Michael Esposito. 2019. “Risk of being killed by police use of force in the United States by age, race–ethnicity, and sex”. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116 (34):16793-16798. ([html](#))

- Covered by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *The PBS News Hour*, *NPR*, *The Root*, *Vox*, *NBC News*, *CBS News*, *Scientific American*, *Le Monde* and other outlets.
- Cited in Senate testimony in support of the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 by Senator Chuck Schumer. Cited in promotional materials for the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 by Vice President Kamala Harris and Senator Cory Booker. Cited on social media by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and secretary Julián Castro.

Fernandes, April, **Frank R. Edwards**, Michele Cadigan, and Alexes Harris. 2019. “Monetary Sanctions: A Review of Revenue Generation, Legal Challenges, and Reform”. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 15(1):397-413. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. 2019. “Family Surveillance: Police and the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.” *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of The Social Sciences* 5(1):50-70. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R., Michael Esposito, and Hedwig Lee. 2018. “Risk of Police-Involved Death by Race/Ethnicity and Place, United States, 2012-2018”. *The American Journal of Public Health* 108(9):1241-1248. ([html](#))

- Covered by *Newsweek*, *The Boston Globe*, *Salon*, *The Atlantic*, *The Independent*, *People*, *CBS News*, and other outlets.

Edwards, Frank R. and Christopher Wildeman. 2018. “Characteristics of the Frontline Child Welfare Workforce.” *Children and Youth Services Review* 89:13-26. ([pdf](#))

Martin, Karin, Sarah Shannon, Bryan Sykes, **Frank R. Edwards**, and Alexes Harris. 2018. “Monetary Sanctions in Criminal Justice.” *Annual Review of Criminology* 1(1):471-495. ([pdf](#))

Harris, Alexes and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2017. “Fines and Monetary Sanctions.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*.

Edwards, Frank R. 2016. “Saving Children, Controlling Families: Punishment, Redistribution and Child Protection.” *American Sociological Review* 81(3):575-595. ([pdf](#))

- Outstanding graduate student paper, American Sociological Association Section on Children and Youth
- Outstanding graduate student paper, American Sociological Association Family Section
- Covered by *The Arkansas Times* and *LSE American Politics and Policy Blog*

Edwards, Frank R. 2014. “Framing Punishment: Expert Selection and Punitive Ideology in the News.” *McGill Sociological Review* 4:93-112. ([html](#))

REPORTS, REVIEWS, **Edwards, Frank R.** Invited commentary: “Bias, Risk, Racism: Reconciling critical and quantitative approaches to understanding racial inequality in child welfare system outcomes.” Forthcoming. PROCEEDINGS, AND COMMENTARY *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Edwards, Frank R. Book review: *The end of family court: How abolishing the court brings justice to children and families* by Jane Spinak. 2023. *Law and Society Review* ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. 2022. “Novel approaches to administrative and crowd sourced data.” in *Structural Racism and Rigorous Models of Social Inequity: Proceedings of a Workshop*. National Academics of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Horowitz, Veronica, Kimberly Spencer-Suarez, Ryan Larson, Robert Stewart, **Frank R. Edwards**, Emmi Obara, and Christopher Uggen. 2022. “Dual debt: Child support and criminal legal financial obligations.” Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, University of Minnesota. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. Book review: *Trapped in a Maze: How Social Control Institutions Drive Family Poverty and Inequality* by Leslie Paik. 2022. *Social Forces*. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. and Theresa Rocha Beardall. 2021. “Mechanisms of American Indian and Alaska Native Inequality in Child Welfare Across U.S. States”. Prepared for Casey Family Programs. ([html](#))

Raz, Mical and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2020. “Preventing Child Abuse Is Paramount, But Not a Reason to Open Schools”. *Teachers College Record*. ([html](#))

Esposito, Michael, **Frank Edwards**, and Hedwig Lee. 2020. “The Demography of Police-Involved Homicides”. The American Sociological Association. *ASA Footnotes* ([html](#))

Lee, Hedwig, Michael Esposito, **Frank Edwards**, Yung Chun, and Michal Grinstein-Weiss. 2020. “The Demographics of Racial Inequality in the United States”. The Brookings Institution, *Up Front*. ([html](#))

Edwards, Frank R. and Alexes Harris. 2020. “Legal Financial Obligations in Seattle Municipal Court”. Seattle, WA: City of Seattle Office for Civil Rights.

Edwards, Frank R. and April Fernandes. 2017. “Monetary Sanctions in Washington”. In *Monetary Sanctions in the Criminal Justice System*. Washington, DC: Laura and John Arnold Foundation.

Edwards, Frank R., Mary Joyce, and Philip Howard. 2013. *Digital Activism and Non-Violent Conflict*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington.

- Prize in Public Interest Communications Research. College of Journalism and Communications, University of Florida.

Kaba, Mariame and **Frank R. Edwards**. 2012. *Policing Chicago Public Schools: A Gateway to the School-to-Prison Pipeline*. Chicago, IL: Project NIA.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

“The durable impacts of historical racial institutions on contemporary family policing”. Rutgers Center for Politics and Race in America. 2023. \$25,000

“Understanding sources of American Indian and Alaska Native inequality in child welfare system outcomes”. Casey Family Programs. Role: PI with Theresa Rocha-Beardall. 2022. \$40,000

“Guaranteed Income Experiment: Child Protection Outcomes.” Redlich Horwitz Foundation. Role: Co-I with Zoe Bouchelle; Amy Castro and Stacia West PI. 2022-2025. \$261,089

“Dual Debt: Understanding the Relationship between Legal Financial Obligations and Child Support Debt.” Arnold Ventures. Role: Co-I with Robert Stewart, Veronica Horowitz, Kimberly Spencer-Suarez, and Ryan Larson; Chris Uggen PI. 2021 - 2024. \$486,025

“Understanding sources of American Indian and Alaska Native inequality in child welfare system outcomes”. Casey Family Programs. Role: PI with Theresa Rocha-Beardall. 2021. \$40,000

“Tribes and Families: Fulfilling the Dual-Promise of Indian Child Welfare Reform”. William T. Grant Foundation. Role: PI with Theresa Rocha Beardall. 2021 - 2025. \$518,546. Supplemental funding 2022 - 2023. \$150,000

“Mechanisms of American Indian and Alaska Native inequality in child welfare case processing across US States”. Casey Family Programs. Role: PI with Theresa Rocha Beardall. 2020. \$40,000

“An Analysis of Court Imposed Monetary Sanctions in Seattle Municipal Courts, 2000-2017”. Role: Co-I, Alexes Harris PI. City of Seattle, Office for Civil Rights. 2018 - 2019.

Research associate. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. Role: Statistical consulting, training, and software development. 2018 - 2022

“Spatial variation in child welfare system contact”. Casey Family Programs. Role: Co-I, Chris Wildeman PI. 2018 - 2019

“Dual Debtors: Child Support and Criminal Financial Legal Obligations.” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin. Role: Co-I, Chris Uggen PI. 2018 - 2019

“Left Behind: Deportation, Child Welfare and Foster Care Placements.” Cornell Project 2Gen Pilot Studies Program. Role: Co-I, Matt Hall PI. 2017

FELLOWSHIPS

Early Career Faculty Fellow. Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, Rutgers University. 2021 - 2022

Presidential Dissertation Fellowship. The Graduate School, University of Washington. 2016

PRESENTATIONS

“Impacts of income supports on children and families”. Office of Applied Research and Evaluation, New Jersey Department of Children and Families. 2025.

“New Approaches for a Broken System”. USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism, Child Welfare Symposium. 2024.

“Foster care entries and fatal child maltreatment”. School of Prevention Science, Rutgers University. 2024.

“Incorporating to Extract: Settler-Colonial Logics of Native-White Public School Integration”. American Sociological Association. 2024

“Settler colonial projects and variation in US carceral and welfare state formation”. American Sociological Association. 2024.

“Place-specific settler colonial and racial capitalist institutional processes structure family policing regimes”. Annual meeting of the Law and Society Association. 2023.

“Quantifying and contextualizing structural racism and state violence: police violence and family separation”. Department of Neuroscience, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. 2023.

“Contemporary disproportionality in American Indian and Alaska Native child welfare system outcomes”. The Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children. 2022.

“The durable impacts of historical racial institutions on contemporary family policing”. Population Studies Center Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania. 2022.

“Presidential Panel: Racialized Bureaucracies of US Family Displacement and Separation”. American Sociological Association. 2022.

“Developing a Collaborative Theory: Family Separation as a Tool, Byproduct and Generational Consequence of State Violence”. Law and Society Association. 2022.

“Assessing the Landscape: The Measurement and Modeling of Structural Racism, Novel Approaches to Administrative and Crowd-Sourced Data”. Committee on Population, National Academy of Sciences. 2022.

“Keeping Families Together”. Our Sister Our Brother. Phoenix, AZ. 2022.

“Agents of Empire: Social Control in Indian Country”. Centre for Criminological Research. University of Alberta. 2022.

“Geography and Institutional Drivers of American Indian and Alaska Native Inequality Across States”. Protecting Our Children Conference. National Indian Child Welfare Association. 2022.

“Disrupting Health Disparities: Thinking Critically about Race”. Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice. Rutgers University. 2022.

“Abolition and Indian Child Welfare”. Strengthened Bonds: Abolishing the Child Welfare System and Re-Envisioning Child Well-Being Symposium. Columbia Journal of Race and Law. 2021.

“Public Systems Compounding Oppression: International Exchange”. Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. University of Colorado. 2021.

“Policing, Justice and Community Safety, a Year after the Killing of George Floyd”. Annenberg Center for Health Journalism. University of Southern California. 2021.

“VCIS Data and Special Populations”. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. 2021.

“American Indian Inequality in Child Welfare System Contact in Minnesota”. University of Minnesota - Duluth. 2021.

“Linking administrative and population data”. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. 2021.

“Police violence in Washington State”. Washington Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. 2021.

“Mechanisms of Alaska Native and American Indian inequality in child welfare case processing across US States”. Casey Family Programs Indian Child Welfare Group. 2021.

“Mechanisms of Alaska Native and American Indian inequality in child welfare case processing in Alaska”. Alaska Tribal State Collaboration Group. 2021.

“Risk of Child Welfare System Contact by US State.” Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. 2020.

“An Analysis of Court Imposed Monetary Sanctions in Seattle Municipal Court.” Seattle City Council. 2020.

“Police Violence in Indian Country.” American Sociological Association. 2020.

“Sovereign Shields: Family Separation in Indian Country.” Eastern Sociological Society. 2020.

“Risk of Being Killed by Police use of Force in the United States by Age, Race–Ethnicity, and Sex.” American Society of Criminology. 2019.

“Sovereign Shields and State Violence in Indian Country.” American Indian Studies Department, San Francisco State University. 2019.

“Fiscal pressures, the Great Recession, and Washington courts of limited jurisdiction.” Progressing Reform of Fees and Fines: Towards A Research and Policy Agenda. Criminal Justice Policy Program, Harvard Law School. 2019.

“Sovereign Shields: Law Enforcement and State Violence in Indian Country.” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. 2019

“Sovereign Shields: Law Enforcement and State Violence in Indian Country.” Law and Society Association. 2019

“Risk of Being Killed by Police Use-of-Force in the U.S. by Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sex.” Population Association of America. 2019

“Risk of Police-Involved Death by Race/Ethnicity and Place, United States, 2012-2018.” American Sociological Association. 2018

“Characteristics of the Front-Line Child Welfare Workforce.” Casey Family Programs Child Welfare Data Leaders Meeting, plenary. 2018

“Family Surveillance: Police and the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.” Russell Sage Foundation. 2017

“Family Surveillance: Police and the Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.” American Sociological Association. 2017

“Concentrated Social Control and Racial Inequality in Child Protection.” American Sociological Association. 2016

“Saving Children, Controlling Families: Punishment, Redistribution, and Child Protection.” West Coast Poverty Center. University of Washington. 2016

“Saving Children, Controlling Families: Punishment, Redistribution, and Child Protection.” American Sociological Association. 2015

“State Infrastructure and Child Welfare Surveillance.” Society for the Study of Social Problems. 2015

“Digital Activism and Non-Violent Conflict.” Public Interest Communications Conference, Department of Journalism and Communication, University of Florida. 2014

“Race, Place, and Disparities in Foster Care Entries.” West Coast Law and Society Retreat, University of Washington. 2013

“Punitive Juvenile Justice and Youth Crime Journalism: Chicago 1981-1982.” Midwest Sociological Society. 2011

ADVISING

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK

Advisor: Ihsan Al-Zouabi, Ryan Brown, Lupe Amate

Committee: Sadaf Hashimi, Lorena Avila, Vijay Chillar, Chloe Sudduth, Julia Bowling

TEACHING

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY - NEWARK

Introductory Statistics, Graduate (2018-2024)

Intermediate Statistics, Graduate (2018-2024)

Advanced Statistics: Bayesian, Graduate (2021)

Racism and Settler Colonialism in Systems of Social Control, Graduate (2022)

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Introduction to Sociology

Department of Sociology Writing Instructor

Teaching Assistant: Criminology; Sociological Theory; Introduction to Law; Societies and Justice;

Drugs and Society

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Sociology

SERVICE

Public and community service: New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Grand Rounds Steering Committee (2024); New York City Family Policy Project, pro bono research support (2021 - 2025); Movement for Family Power, pro bono research support (2019 - 2023); Consultant and research support for Data Advocacy and Indian Child Welfare working groups at Casey Family Programs (2018 - 2022)

Occasional reviewer: *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Social Problems*, *Criminology*, *Child Welfare*, *Science Advances*, *Epidemiology*, *The Lancet*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Demography*, *PNAS-Nexus*, *Social Forces*, *Science*, *City and Community*

Committee work (Rutgers School of Criminal Justice): PhD program committee, 2019 - 2023; MA program committee, 2018 - 2025; Undergraduate program committee 2023; Faculty search committee, 2021

Conference session presider or discussant: American Sociological Association 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023; Population Association of America 2019; International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Conference 2022.

Union service: Chapter president, Rutgers - Newark (2023-2025); Chapter vice president, Rutgers - Newark (2021-2023)