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Current Position

2021-Present Chief Data Scientist Research on Policing Reform and Accountability (RoPRA)
Princeton School of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University

Prior Position

2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow University of Pennsylvania

Education

2020 Ph.D. in Criminology
University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: *The Effect of Lighting and Building Security on Crime*
2016 M.S. in Criminology
University of Pennsylvania
Thesis: *Assessing the Effect of Hiring Standards on Minority Recruitment in Police*
2015 B.S. in Criminal Justice
California State University, Sacramento

Journal Articles

2021 Chalfin, A. & **Kaplan J.** (in press) "[How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few 'Bad Apples?'](#)" *Criminology & Public Policy* <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542>

Kaplan, J. (2021) "The (In)Effectiveness of Campus Smart Locks for Reducing Crime" *Journal of Applied Security Research*.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19361610.2021.1915054>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J.**, & LaForest, M. (in press) "[Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago](#)" *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*

Chalfin, A, LaForest, M & **Kaplan, J.** (in press) "[Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from 'Gang Takedowns' in New York City](#)" *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*

Kaplan, J. & Chalfin, A. (2021) “Ambient Lighting and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment” *Security Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00296-0>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J** & Cuellar, M. (2021) “Measuring Marginal Crime Concentration: A New Solution to an Old Problem” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427820984213>

2020 **Kaplan, J**, Ling, S & Cuellar, M. (2020). “Public Beliefs About the Accuracy and Importance of Forensic Evidence in the United States” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.01.001>

Kaplan, J & Goh, L.S. (2020) "Harm Reduction in Family Violence: Does Marijuana Make Assaults Safer?" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520961876>

Ling, S, **Kaplan, J** & Berryessa, C. (2020) “The Importance of Forensic Evidence on Decisions of Criminal Guilt” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.11.004>

2019 **Kaplan, J** & Chalfin, A. (2019). More Cops, Fewer Prisoners? *Criminology & Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12424>

Manuscripts Under Review

Kaplan, J. "[The Effect of Moonlight on Outdoor Nighttime Crime](#)"

Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & **Kaplan, J.** “The decline in misdemeanor arrests: Analyzing the social, spatial and organizational contexts of low-level enforcement’s reduction, 1990-2018”

Block, K, Ling, S, & **Kaplan, J.** “[Age, Criminal Punishment, and Accountability: What the Public Recommends for Guilty Defendants](#)”

Kaplan, J. “[Outdoor Lighting and Arrests: A Natural Experiment Using Daylight Savings Time](#)”

Kaplan, J, Block, K. & Ling, S. “How Victim-Offender Relationship Affects Public Perceptions of Child Physical Abuse”

Work in Progress

Block, K. & **Kaplan, J** “Are Animal Abusers Like Other Violent Offenders?”

Block, K. & **Kaplan, J.** “A Test of the Cinderella Effect: Measuring Victim Injury in Child Abuse Cases”

Abderhalden, F, Ling, S, & **Kaplan, J.** “Public Insight of the Criminalization of Suicidality Based on Perceptions of Dangerousness”

Kaplan, J. “Do Police Departments Look Like Their Community? An Assessment Controlling for Eligibility to Become an Officer”

Books

Crime by the Numbers

This book introduces the programming language R and is meant for undergrads or graduate students studying criminology. R is a programming language that is well-suited to the type of work frequently done in criminology - taking messy data and turning it into useful information. While R is a useful tool for many fields of study, this book focuses on the skills criminologists should know and uses crime data for the example data sets.

Available at <https://crimebythenumbers.com/>

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: A Practitioner’s Guide

This book provides a guide to UCR data for people who want to use it for research or reporting. It covers basic details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as goes into the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. It tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

Available at <https://ucrbook.com/>

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data: A Practitioner’s Guide

This book provides a guide to NIBRS data for people who want to use it for research or reporting. It covers basic details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as goes into the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. It tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

Available at <https://nibrsbook.com/>

Teaching Experience

2016-2019 **Guest Lecturer**, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.

“Pro-seminar in Criminal Justice” (Graduate)

“Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master’s Thesis Course)” (Graduate)

“Statistics for the Social Sciences” (Undergraduate)

2016 - 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.

"Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master’s Thesis Course)" (Graduate)

"Statistics for the Social Sciences" (Undergraduate)

2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.

"Program Evaluation and Data Analysis" (Graduate)

2014 - 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, California State University,

Sacramento.

"Biology: A Human Perspective" (Undergraduate)

Other Experience

2018 - 2020 **Data Scientist**, Private Consultant

Wrote and tested code to efficiently convert millions of pages of PDFs into a machine-readable format. Designed, implemented, and maintained a website that allows users to visualize this data at various levels of aggregation.

2018 **Data Scientist**, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.

Produced and tested code to convert voting records into a machine-readable data and built a prototype website to display this data.

2017 - 2018 **Research Scientist**, National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

Wrote the Justice Data Learning Guide: No. 2, "[Using the Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk \(LEAIC\)](#)." This guide explains how to use the LEAIC dataset through an example incorporating both National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data and US Census data. This guide includes code to use in both R and SPSS.

2016 **Research Assistant**, Dr. Emily Owens, University of Pennsylvania.

Collected, cleaned, and prepared US Census data for analysis and visualization.

Student Advising

2019-2020 Alec Bardey. Senior Honors Criminology Thesis (co-winner, J. Francis Finnegan Award). *The Effect of Localized LED Streetlight Replacements on Adjacent Crime: Evidence from Philadelphia*

Presentations

"Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago"

2020 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology (Canceled due to COVID-19)

"Making UCR Data Accessible to Researchers"

2019 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology

"More Cops, Fewer Prisoners?"

2019 Panel Paper, Western Society of Criminology

2018 Panel Paper, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management

"Moonlight and Crime: A Quasi-Experimental Approach"

2018 Roundtable, American Society of Criminology

"The Effect of Card Reader Locks on Theft on a University Campus"

2018 Poster, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management

2017 Poster, American Society of Criminology

Manuscript Reviewer

Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency

Journal of Criminal Justice

Security Journal

Software

- fastDummies:* R package for quickly and efficiently making binary columns out of categorical columns. It also fills in "dummy rows" for data sets missing rows of data based on all combinations of categorical and date columns. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/fastDummies/>
- caesar:* R package to encrypt and decrypt strings using a simple Caesar cipher or a pseudorandom number generation. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/caesar/>
- asciiSetupReader:* R package for reading fixed-width ASCII files that have an .sps or .sas setup file. It also allows users to quickly generate setup files. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/asciiSetupReader/>
- meditations:* R package that returns a random quote from Marcus Aurelius from his book Meditations. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/meditations/>
- predictrace:* R package to predict the race of a surname using U.S. Census data which says how many people of each race has a certain surname. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/predictrace/>
- crimeutils:* R package to provide a set of helper functions to make common data tasks in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/crimeutils/>

List of data collected, cleaned, and made publicly available

Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll (ASPEP) 1992-2016

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E101399V6>

Annual Survey of State Government Finances 1992-2018

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E101880V4>

Apparent Per Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends 1977-2018

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E105583V5>

California Department of Corrections Data

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E108602V2>

California Jail Profile Survey 1995-2020

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E104560V7>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Prisons in the United States, April – June 2020

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E119901V1>

Texas Commission on Jail Standards 1992-2017

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E104643V1>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Statistics and Summaries

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E109522V5>

Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race 1974-2018

Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102263V11>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Arson
1979-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E103540V9>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Human
Trafficking 2013-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E117974V3>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Law
Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) 1960-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102180V10>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Offenses
Known and Clearances by Arrest 1960-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100707V16>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Property
Stolen and Recovered (Supplement to Return A) 1960-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E105403V6>
Jacob Kaplan's Concatenated Files: Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data:
Supplementary Homicide Reports 1976-2019
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100699V10>
United States Governors 1775-2020
Available at <https://doi.org/10.3886/E102000V3>