Aaron James Chalfin

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PRIMARY APPOINTMENT

2016-present   Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

2022-present   Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research
2022-present   Senior Fellow, Niskanen Center
2021-present   Faculty Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Crime and Justice Policy Lab
2016-present   Research Affiliate, University of Chicago Crime Lab

PRIOR POSITIONS

2014-2016   Research Director, University of Chicago Crime Lab
2013-2014   Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, University of Cincinnati
2006-2008   Research Associate, Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute

EDUCATION

2013   Ph.D., Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley
2004   M.A., International and Development Economics, Yale University
2003   B.S., Industrial & Labor Relations, Cornell University

WORKING PAPERS & IN PROGRESS
* = graduate student/non-academic co-author

"The Professional Motivations of Police Officers" (with Felipe Goncalves)

"Does Proactive Policing Really Increase Major Crime? Accounting for an Ecological Fallacy" (with David Mitre Becerril* and Morgan Williams Jr.)

"Beyond Crime Rates: How Did Public Safety in U.S. Cities Change In 2020?" (with Maxim Massenkoff)

"Can Deterrence Persist? Long-Term Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Street Lighting," Revise & Re-submit, *Criminology & Public Policy* (with Jason Lerner*, David Mitre Becerril* and Sarah Tahamont)

"No Ground Truth? No Problem: Improving Administrative Data Linking Using Active Learning and a Little Bit of Guile" (with Zubin Jelveh, Melissa McNeill*, Sarah Tahamont and Shi Yan)

"The COVID-19 Pandemic, Domestic Violence and the Riskiness of Alcohol Consumption," Revise & Re-submit, *The Review of Economics of the Household* (with Shooshan Danagoulian and Monica Deza)

"Did Violence Against Asian-Americans Rise in 2020? Evidence from a Novel Approach to Measuring Racially-Motivated Attacks" (with Jacob Kaplan)

"Gun Violence Mortality and Deaths from Combat" (with Brandon del Pozo and Alex Knorre)

"Using Wide Data to Target Crime Control: Selecting High Risk Domestic Violence Victims Using Machine Learning" (with Zubin Jelveh and Melissa McNeill*)

JOURNAL ARTICLES (REFEREED)

In Press   **Chalfin, Aaron**, Benjamin Hansen, Emily Weisburst and Morgan Williams Jr. "Police Force Size and Civilian Race," Accepted, *American Economic Review: Insights*

Chalfin, Aaron, Benjamin Hansen and Rachel Ryley*. "The Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Victimization," Accepted, *Journal of Human Resources*

2021   **Chalfin, Aaron**, Michael LaForest and Jacob Kaplan*. "Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from Gang Takedowns in New York City," Forthcoming, *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22323

Chalfin, Aaron, Jacob Kaplan* and Michael LaForest. "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Attraction," Forthcoming, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4

Chalfin, Aaron, Benjamin Hansen, Jason Lerner* and Lucie Parker*. "Reducing Crime Through Environmental Design: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment of Street Lighting in New York City," Forthcoming, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-020-09490-6

Kaplan, Jacob* and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Ambient Lighting, Use of Public Space and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment," Forthcoming, *Security Journal*, https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00296-0

Chalfin, Aaron and Jacob Kaplan*. "How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating a Few Bad Apples?," *Criminology & Public Policy* 20(2): 351-370.

Chalfin, Aaron, Jacob Kaplan* and Maria Cuellar. "Measuring Marginal Crime Concentration: A New Solution to an Old Problem," *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 58(4): 467-504.

Mitre Becerril, David* and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Testing Public Policy at the Frontier: The Effect of the $15 Minimum Wage on Public Safety in Seattle," *Criminology & Public Policy* 20(2): 291-328.

Tahamont, Sarah, Zubin Jelveh, **Aaron Chalfin**, Shi Yan and Benjamin Hansen. "Dude, Where's My Treatment Effect? Errors in Administrative Data Linking and the Destruction of Statistical Power in Randomized Experiments," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 37(3): 715-749.

2020   **Chalfin, Aaron** and Monica Deza. "Immigration Enforcement, Crime and Demography: Evidence from the Legal Arizona Workers Act," *Criminology & Public Policy* 19(2): 515-562.

2019   Kaplan, Jacob* and **Aaron Chalfin**. "More Cops, Fewer Prisoners?," *Criminology & Public Policy* 18(1): 171-200.

Chalfin, Aaron, Shooshan Danagoulian and Monica Deza. "More Sneezing Less Crime? Health Shocks and the Market for Offenses," *Journal of Health Economics* 68: 1-12.

Chalfin, Aaron and Monica Deza. "The Intergenerational Effects of Education on Delinquency," *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 159: 553-571.

2018   **Chalfin, Aaron** and Justin McCrary. "Are U.S. Cities Underpoliced? Theory and Evidence," *The Review of Economics and Statistics* 100(1): 167-186.

2017   Loeffler, Charles and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Estimating the Effects of Raising the Age of Majority: Evidence from Connecticut," *Criminology & Public Policy* 16(1): 45-71.

   Chalfin, Aaron and Justin McCrary. "Criminal Deterrence: A Review of the Literature" *Journal of Economic Literature* 55(1): 5-48.

2016   Loughran, Thomas, Raymond Paternoster, **Aaron Chalfin** and Theodore Wilson*. "Can Rational Choice Be Considered a General Theory of Crime? Evidence from Individual-Level Panel Data," *Criminology* 54(1): 86-112.

2014   Treyger, Elina, **Aaron Chalfin** and Charles Loeffler. "The Effect of Federal Immigration Enforcement on Local Crime and Policing: Evidence from Secure Communities," *Criminology & Public Policy* 13(2): 285-322.

   Chalfin, Aaron. "What is the Contribution of Immigration to U.S. Crime Rates? Evidence from Rainfall Shocks in Mexico," *American Law & Economics Review* 16(1): 220-268.

2013   **Chalfin, Aaron**, Amelia Haviland and Steven Raphael. "What Do Panel Studies Tell Us About a Deterrent Effect of Capital Punishment? A Critique of the Literature," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 29(1): 5-43.

2009   Roman, John, Shannon Reid, **Aaron Chalfin** and Carly Knight. "The DNA Field Experiment: A Randomized Controlled Trial of the Cost-Effectiveness of Using DNA to Solve Property Crimes," *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 5(4): 345-369.

   Roman, John, **Aaron Chalfin** and Carly Knight. "Reassessing the Cost of the Death Penalty Using Quasi-Experimental Methods: Evidence from Maryland," *American Law & Economics Review* 11: 530-574.

   Roman, Caterina, Carly Knight, **Aaron Chalfin** and Susan Popkin. "The Relation of the Perceived Environment to Fear, Physical Activity and Health in Public Housing Developments: Evidence from Chicago," *Journal of Public Health Policy* 30(1) 286-308.

2008   Marsh, Kevin, **Aaron Chalfin** and John Roman. "What Does Cost-Benefit Analysis Add to Decision Making? Evidence from the Criminal Justice Literature," *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 4(2): 117-125.

   Roman, Caterina and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Fear of Walking Outdoors: A Multilevel Analysis of Crime and Disorder," *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 24(1): 36-48.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND NON-REFEREED ARTICLES

In Press   Gilbert, Valentine*, Lucie Parker* and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Capital Punishment Research," forthcoming in *The Encyclopedia of Research Methods and Statistical Techniques in Criminology and Criminal Justice*

2021   **Chalfin, Aaron**, Dylan Fitzpatrick and Jens Ludwig. "State Policies and Police Personnel Decisions," Arnold Ventures Police Accountability Roundtable Discussion Paper: 1-15.

2018   **Chalfin, Aaron** and Monica Deza. "The Effect of Parental Education on Children's Drug and Alcohol Use," *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings* 108(5): 373-378.

Chalfin, Aaron and Sarah Tahamont. "Economic Theory" in Francis Cullen, Daniel Nagin and Cheryl Lero Jonson, (eds.), *Deterrence, Choice and Crime: Contemporary Perspectives*, Routledge Press: 29-80.

Tahamont, Sarah and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Prisons and Crime Control" in John Wooldredge and Paula Smith, (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook on Prisons and Imprisonment*, Oxford University Press: 627-650.

2016   **Chalfin, Aaron**, Oren Danieli*, Andrew Hillis*, Zubin Jelveh*, Michael Luca, Jens Ludwig and Sendhil Mullainathan. "Productivity and Selection of Human Capital with Machine Learning," *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings* 106(5): 124-127.

2015   **Chalfin, Aaron**. "The Long-Run Effect of Mexican Immigration on Crime in U.S. Cities: Evidence from Variation in Mexican Fertility Rates," *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings* 105(5): 220-225.

Chalfin, Aaron. "The Economic Costs of Crime" in Wesley Jennings, (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment,* Wiley-Blackwell: 1-12.

2011   **Chalfin, Aaron** and Steven Raphael. "Work and Crime" in Michael Tonry (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Crime and Criminal Justice*, Oxford University Press: 444-478.

2010   **Chalfin, Aaron**. "From Impact Evaluation to Cost-Benefit Evaluation: Methodological Issues in the Joint Estimation of Costs and Benefits" in Terrence Dunworth and John Roman (eds.), *Cost-Benefit Analysis and Crime Control*, Urban Institute Press: 167-182.

2008   Roman, John and **Aaron Chalfin**. "Has Demand for Crime Increased? The Prevalance of Personal Media Devices and the Robbery Spike in 2005 and 2006," *American Criminal Law Review* 45: 1149-1156.

NON-ACADEMIC WRITING

2022   "Street crimes in American cities were down in 2020, but Americans weren't safer," *City Journal*, March 24th, 2022

"How a focused approach to policing made New York safer," *Niskanen Center*, January 24, 2022

2021   "We don't know why violent crime is up. But we know there's more than one cause," *Washington Post*, July 9, 2021 (with John MacDonald)

"When cities add cops, Black residents could have the most to gain – and the most to lose," *Niskanen Center*, May 18, 2021 (with Benjamin Hansen, Emily Weisburst and Morgan Williams Jr.)

GRANTS

2021   Co-Principal Investigator. "Randomized Controlled Evaluation of The Authors Circle," Arnold Ventures, $496,087 (with Jordan Hyatt)

2020   Co-Principal Investigator. "Crime Prevention Through Intelligence and Information Sharing," Neubauer Family Foundation. $587,480 (with Greg Ridgeway)

2020   Co-Investigator. "The Scandinavian Prison Project: Adapting and Evaluating Scandinavian Penal Practices in Support of American Reform," Arnold Ventures, $960,000 (with Jordan Hyatt and Synøve N. Andersen)

2018   Co-Principal Investigator. "Development of a Predictive Model to Assess Risks of Re-Victimization of Domestic Violence Victims in Latin America," Inter-American Development Bank, $95,370 (with Zubin Jelveh and Melissa McNeill)

2015   Co-Investigator. "Using Machine Learning to Identify High Risk Domestic Violence Offenders in New York City," National Institute of Justice, Award No. 2017-VA-CX-0033, $452,553 (with Zubin Jelveh and Jens Ludwig)

PRESENTATIONS

Research and Policy Talks

2022   University of Texas Economics of Crime Workshop, Prosecutor's Center for Excellence, Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation
2021   American Society of Criminology, Brown University (Philosophy, Politics & Economics), Institute for Poverty Action (Crime and Violence Webinar), London School of Economics (Centre for Economic Performance), NBER Summer Institute (Economics of Crime), Niskanen Center (Flash Webinar on Reducing Violence), San Diego State University (Economics), Southern Economic Association, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, University of Chicago Crime Lab, University of Ottawa/Carleton University (Economics)
2020   Arnold Ventures Police Accountability Roundtable, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, New York City Police Department, Texas A&M University (Economics of Crime Workshop, Flash Webinar on Policing Research), University of Chicago Crime Lab, Wayne State University (Economics)
2019   American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, City University of New York—Hunter College (Economics), Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science, NBER Summer Institute (Economics of Crime), Texas A&M University (Economics of Crime Workshop), West Virginia University (Economics), Stockholm Criminology Symposium
2018   AL CAPONE, American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, California Policy Lab Policing Conference, Rutgers University (School of Criminal Justice), University of Pennsylvania Law School
2017   American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Case Western Reserve University (Economics), Inter-American Development Bank
2016   American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, University of Pennsylvania (Criminology)
2015   American Economic Association
2014   Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, RAND Corporation, Stockholm Criminology Symposium, University of Chicago Crime Lab
2013   American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, University of Maryland (Criminology)
2012   AL CAPONE, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, NBER Summer Institute (Economics of Crime), UC Berkeley (Demography), UCLA (Public Policy), University of Cincinnati (School of Criminal Justice), University of South Florida (Criminology), University of Texas at Dallas (Economics & Criminology)
2011   Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Population Association of America, Public Policy Institute of California, University of Oregon (Economics), University of Rochester (Economics)

Podcast Appearances

2022   Probable Causation ("The Professional Motivations of Police Officers"), NPR The Future of Policing in Columbus ("Bad Apples")

2021   JPAM's Second Look Podcast ("Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from Gang Takedowns in New York City"), Progressive Policy Institute's Radically Pragmatic Podcast ("Crime in America")

2019   Probable Causation ("Reducing Crime Through Environmental Design: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment of Street Lighting in New York City")

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021   Best Paper Award for Early Career Scholars, *Criminology & Public Policy*
2021   Excellence in Reviewing Award, *AEJ: Applied Economics*
2020   Outstanding Young Experimental Criminologist Award, Academy of Experimental Criminology
2014   Referee Prize, *Economic Journal*
2012   NSF/NBER Doctoral Fellowship, Program on the Economics of Crime
2012   National Institutes of Health, NICHD Doctoral Training Grant
2011   Best Field Trial, Division of Experimental Criminology
2009   NSF IGERT Fellowship in Politics, Economics and Public Policy
2009   Urban Institute President's Award for Best Annual Research Publication

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer:
- Criminology: *Crime Science, Criminology, Criminology & Public Policy, International Journal of Drug Policy, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency, Justice Quarterly, Police Practice and Research: An International Journal, Police Quarterly*

- Economics: *American Economic Review, AEJ: Applied Economics, AEJ: Economic Policy, American Law & Economics Review, European Economic Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Industrial Relations, International Review of Law & Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Law & Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Latin American Journal of Economics, Oxford Economic Bulletin, Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies*

- Other Fields: *American Political Science Review, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Journal of Legal Studies, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, Management Science, Nature Human Behaviour, PLoS ONE, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Science Advances, Social Problems, Yale Law Journal*

- Other Reviewing: National Science Foundation, Israel Science Foundation, Praeger Publishers, The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University

University Service (University of Pennsylvania):
- Faculty Fulbright Committee (2019-present)
- Undergraduate Chair, Department of Criminology (2016-2020)
- Fall Academic Planning Subcommittee (2020)

Professional Service:
- American Society of Criminology
  - Sub-Area Chair, Quantitative Methods (2020)
  - Methods & Workshops Committee (2019)

- Other Positions
  - Criminal Justice Expert Panel, Texas A&M Justice Tech Lab and NYU Public Safety Lab (2021)

       ○   Police Accountability Roundtable, Arnold Ventures (2020)
       ○   Data Science Working Group, Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity, Columbia Law School (2016-2017)

ADVISING

In progress:
- David Mitre Becerril (Criminology)
- Britte Van Tiem (Criminology)

Completed:
- Li Sian Goh (Criminology, 2020): Research Associate, City University of New York
- Jacob Kaplan (Criminology, 2020): Chief Data Scientist, RoPRA, Princeton University
- Rachel Ryley (Wharton School BEPP, 2020): Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

TEACHING

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Criminology
- Statistics for Policy Analysis (graduate)
- M.S. Thesis class (graduate)
- Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice (graduate)
- Introduction to Criminal Justice (undergraduate)
- Statistics for the Social Sciences (undergraduate)

University of Cincinnati, School of Criminal Justice
- Applied Statistics (graduate)
- Research Methods (undergraduate)

Guest Lectures
- Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs (2022)
- University of Pennsylvania, Department of Criminology (2022)
- University of Nebraska—Omaha, Department of Criminology (2021)
- University of Oregon, Department of Economics (2020)
- Stanford Law School (2020)
- New York University, Center for Urban Science and Progress (2018)
- University of Pennsylvania, Fels Institute (2017)
- Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (2016)
- Unversity of California, Berkeley, Department of Demography (2012)