

Justin Lucas Sola

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APPOINTMENT

2024	Assistant Professor Joint in Sociology & the School of Data Science and Society	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
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EDUCATION

2024	Ph.D in Criminology, Law & Society Dissertation <i>Theory with Consequents</i> Committee Bryan Sykes (Chair), Charis Kubrin, Sora Han, Francesca Polletta (Outside), Justin Pickett (External) Emphasis Race and Justice (directed by Ana Muñiz)	University of California Irvine
2021	M.A. – Social Ecology Thesis <i>Transmitting Desire: An Experiment on a Novel Measure of Gun Desirability in a Pandemic</i>	University of California Irvine
2014	A.B. – Honors in Social Studies, Secondary in Psychology Thesis <i>Guns in the Ideal Society: Comparing the Sociopolitical Ideology of Gun Owners and Police Officers</i>	Harvard University

PUBLICATIONS (* DENOTES EQUAL AUTHORSHIP)

2026	Neoliberalism in Law and Society Justin L. Sola <i>Law and Society Review</i> (accepted) 2023 Society for the Study of Social Problems <i>Theory Division Outstanding Student Paper Award</i> 2024 Western Society of Criminology <i>Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition</i>	
2025	First impressions matter: Mundane obstacles to a forensic device for probabilistic reporting in fingerprint analysis Simon A. Cole and Justin L. Sola <i>Social Studies of Science</i> (OnlineFirst)	
2024	Pathways to Concealed Gun Carrying Focus article for Lanfear et al. 2024: <i>Dual pathways of concealed gun carrying and use from adolescence to adulthood over a 25-year era of change</i> Justin L. Sola <i>Science Advances</i> 10(49):eadu1262	
2024	Firearms, families, and financial distress: Economic instability and increased gun desire Justin L. Sola and Tara D. Warner <i>Social Science Quarterly</i> (Online First)	
2024	Partisan Differences in Hiring and Social Discrimination against Nonbinary Americans Justin T. Pickett, Justin L. Sola, and Shawn D. Bushway <i>Socius</i> (Volume 10: 1–5)	
2024	Widespread, bipartisan aversion exists to neighbors owning AR-15s or storing guns insecurely Justin L. Sola and Justin T. Pickett <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> 121 (16) e2311825121	
2023	Making the Call: How Does Perceived Race Affect Desire to Call the Police? Justin L. Sola and Charis E. Kubrin <i>Journal of Experimental Criminology</i> (Online First)	

Winner of the 2023 ASC Division of Experimental Criminology Student Paper Award

- 2022 **Barred: Labor Market Dynamics and Human Capital Development Among People on Probation and Parole**
Bryan L. Sykes, Meghan M. Ballard*, Daniela Kaiser*, Vicente Celestino Mata*, Joanne Amanda Sharry*, and Justin L. Sola*
Annals of the American Academy of Political & Social Science (Volume 701 Issue 1: 28-45)
- 2022 **Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Public Assistance, Monetary Sanctions, and Financial Double-Dealing in America**
Bryan L. Sykes, Meghan M. Ballard*, Andrea Giuffre*, Daniela Kaiser*, Vicente Celestino Mata*, and Justin L. Sola*
Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences (Volume 8 Issue 1: 148-178)
- 2021 **Transmitting Desire: An Experiment on a Novel Measure of Gun Desirability in a Pandemic**
Justin L. Sola
Sociological Perspectives (Volume 65 Issue 5: 939-969)
- 2008 **The New Industrial Revolution in China: Shenzhen and the Migrants Who Created It (1979-2006)**
Justin L. Sola
The Concord Review (Volume 19 Issue 2)

UNDER REVIEW

The Disaster of Their Dreams: Sheepdogs and Conditionally Neo-radical U.S. Gun Ownership,
Revise and Resubmit at Social Problems
Justin L. Sola and Mary Lee

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2025 – Present	National Institute on Aging Emerging Scholar, Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health (NIH P30)	\$30,000/year
2026	Carolina Population Center Seed Grant, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	\$30,000
2025	Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Grant Who Goes There? Measuring the Intersection of Preferences for Race and Guns	\$20,000
2025 – present	Carolina Population Center Faculty Fellow	
2025 – 2026	Global Partnership Award Exploration Grant, UNC Global Affairs & Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen	\$2,000
2023 – 2025	BRIDGS Emergent Scholar Fellowship, Arizona State University Center for the Study of Guns in Society (Dr. Jennifer Carlson)	\$1,500
2023 – 2024	Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, John Randolph Haynes & Dora Haynes Foundation	\$28,600
2023	Criminology, Law & Society Quarterly Fellowship, School of Social Ecology - UC Irvine	\$8000
2022 – 2023	Public Impact Fellowship, Graduate Division – UC Irvine	\$1,000
2022 – 2023	Dissertation Grant, National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research	\$25,000
2020	Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Division of Teaching Excellence & Inclusion – UC Irvine	\$5,000
2018 – 2023	Arnie Binder Fellowship, School of Social Ecology – UC Irvine	\$20,000

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024	Miki Vohryzek-Bolden Student Paper Competition, Western Society of Criminology	\$250
2023	Division of Experimental Criminology Student Paper Award, American Society of Criminology	\$500
2023	Theory Division Graduate Student Outstanding Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems	\$200
2022	Center for Psychology and Law Dissertation Award, UC Irvine Center for Psychology & Law	\$5,000
2022	Dr. Kimchi Memorial Graduate Travel Award, American Society of Criminology	\$300
2022	Dickman Award for Dissertation Research, Criminology, Law & Society – UC Irvine	\$1,500
2021	Kitty Calavita Award for Best 2nd Year Research Project, Criminology, Law & Society – UC Irvine	\$500
2021	Editorial Board Service Commendation, Pacific Sociological Association	
2020	Graduate Student Research Award, UC Irvine Center for Psychology & Law	\$1,000

RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

2024 – present	Researcher, National Firearms Survey	
2024 – present	Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health Affiliate, Carolina Population Center	
2024 – present	Researcher, Southern California Homelessness Study	
2020 – present	Researcher, Shadow Costs Project	
2022 – 2024	Graduate Research Assistant, NORC LGBT Attitudes Toward Law Enforcement	Valerie Jenness
2022 – 2023	Researcher for Federal Public Defenders Office, Gun Policy and Sentencing Deterrence Research	Kevin Lerman
2021 – 2024	Graduate Student Researcher, Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensic Evidence	Simon Cole
2019 – 2024	Graduate Member, Irvine Laboratory for the Study of Space and Crime	
2022	Leroy Butts v City of Lancaster, Consultant to ACLU SoCal & UCI Law	Bryan Sykes
2021	Graduate Research Assistant, Criminological Literature and Policy Review	Jennifer Doleac
2019	Graduate Student Researcher, National Science Foundation Grant Writing	Bryan Sykes
2012	Research Assistant, Higher Education Gender Policy	Eleanor Miller

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2026	Neoliberalism in Law and Society: Toward a Theory with Consequents, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting Invited presenter on <i>When is Theory Atheoretical?</i> panel	San Francisco, California
2025	This is my τι. There are many like it, but this one is mine, SOC 690S Machine Learning in Causal Inference (Invited Lecture)	Duke University

2025	Won't You Be My Neighbor? Mapping Spatial Preferences, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality (Invited Presentation)	Columbia University
2025	Mapping Political Preferences, American Politics Research Group	UNC Chapel Hill
2025	Emerging AI & ML Approaches to Analyzing Heterogeneity in the Social Sciences, Universidad San Francisco de Quito	Quito, Ecuador
2025	Survey Experiments to Understand Gun Ownership, US Gun Violence (Invited Lecture)	Northeastern University
2025	For Whom Does the Bell Toll? Emerging Approaches to Causal Heterogeneity, Carolina Population Center	UNC Chapel Hill
2023	How Can We Measure Crime?, C108: Criminological Theory (Invited Lecture)	University of California Irvine
2023	Experimental and Comparative Research Designs, PhD Research Methods II (Invited Instructor for 2 Classes)	University of California Irvine
2022	Do You Believe in Magic? Using Skepticism to Understand and Operationalize Research, PhD Research Methods II (Invited Lecture)	University of California Irvine
2021	When Do We Want to Call the Police?, C167: Crime Measurement (Invited Lecture)	University of California Irvine
2018	Invited Expert on Gun violence, Mass General Hospital & Kennedy Institute Gun Violence Prevention Summit	Boston, Massachusetts
2014	Guns in the Ideal Society, Department of Sociology	University of Vermont

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

2025	GRIDDY: Mapping Spatial Preferences, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Washington, D.C.
2025	Won't You Be My Neighbor? Measuring the Intersection of Preferences for Race and Guns, International Network of Analytical Sociology Annual Conference	Columbia University
2025	Sheepdogs: The Appeal of Conditionally Neo-radical Gun Ownership, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting	Chicago, Illinois
2024	Theory with Consequents, Crime, Law, and Deviance Roundtable at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting	Montréal, Canada
2024	Widespread, bipartisan aversion exists to neighbors owning AR-15s or storing guns insecurely, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting	Denver, Colorado
2024	Discussant: Methodological Innovations in Studying the Criminal Legal System, Population Association of America Annual Meeting	Columbus, Ohio
2023	A Good Neighbor With a Gun? Experiments on Preferences for Social Proximity and Interaction, National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms	Chicago, Illinois
2023	Chair: Firearm Policies, Public Perceptions, and Public Policy, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2023	Theory with Consequents: Theories of Neoliberalism in the Study of Social Problems, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting <i>Winner of the Social Problems Theory Student Paper Award</i>	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2023	Lifetime Risks of Incarceration in the United States – The (mis-)Measurement of Race? , Population Association of America Annual Meeting	New Orleans, Louisiana
2022	Galvanizing Iron: Racial Justice Protests and Gun Desirability During a Global Pandemic , National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention	Washington, D.C.
2022	Making a Call: What Impacts Desire to Call the Police in Ambiguous Situations? , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Atlanta, Georgia
2022	Appearing Indigent: Judicial Decision-making and the Assessment of Poverty in the Imposition of Monetary Sanctions , Law and Society Association Annual Meeting	Lisbon, Portugal
2022	Call Me Maybe? The Role of Race in Desire to Call the Police , Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Oahu, Hawai'i
2021	Theories of Neoliberalism in Law and Society , Socio-Legal Studies Workshop Presentation	University of California Irvine
2021	The New Undesirables: Gun Desirability at a Time of Protest , American Sociological Association Annual Meeting	Virtual Meeting
2021	Transmitting Desire , Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting	Virtual Meeting
2021	Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Financial Double-Dealings, Public Assistance, and the Repayment of Criminal Justice Debt , Russell Sage Foundation	Virtual Meeting
2020	Economic Injustice: Multi-State Studies of Legal and Financial Obligations , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Accepted for Presentation
2020	Guns and Gun Laws: Neighborhoods, Disparities and Illicit Markets , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Accepted for Presentation
2019	The Formation of Sheepdogs and an Experiment on the Proximal Causes of US Gun Acquisition , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	San Francisco, California
2019	Case-to-Case Transfer as a Logic of Generalization and Inference in Mixed-Methods Research , Eastern Sociological Association Annual Meeting	Boston, Massachusetts
2019	Sheepdogs: Origins, Social Media, and Sociopolitical Ideology of a Subgroup of Gun Owners , Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Oahu, Hawai'i

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022 – present	Instructor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminology 126: Drugs, Crime, and Social Control • Sociology 424: Law and Society • Sociology 123: Crime and Criminal Justice • Sociology 318: Computational Sociology • Data Science 120: Ethics of AI and Data Science 	UNC Chapel Hill, UC Irvine
2018 – 2021	Teaching Assistance Administered, graded, & taught sections for 8 courses (descending): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C164: Social Control of Delinquency (Mark Magidson), Sole TA • C132: Forensic Science (Simon Cole), Sole TA • C7: Intro to Criminology, Law & Society (Keramet Reiter) • C106: Crime & Public Policy (Emily Owens), Sole TA 	University of California Irvine

- C7: Intro to Criminology, Law & Society (Terry Dalton)
- C103: US Legal Thought (Chris Seeds), Sole TA
- C110: Community Contexts of Crime (George Tita), Sole TA
- C7: Intro to Criminology, Law & Society (Ana Mufiz)

PROFESSIONAL AND EDITORIAL SERVICE

2024 – present	Social Forces Editorial Board Member	
2024 – 2025	Book Awards Committee , ASA Crime, Law, and Deviance Section	
2023	Session Chair: Firearm Policies, Public Perceptions, & Public Policy , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2022 – 2025	Special Issue Guest Editor , Statistical Models for Fingerprint Analysis: Thinking Broadly About the Future	Law, Probability & Risk
2019 – present	Ad Hoc Reviewer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Sociological Review • Criminology • Justice Quarterly • Quantitative Criminology • JAMA • Science Advances • Social Problems • Injury Epidemiology • Social Forces 	
2022	Session Chair: Impacts of Increased Police Presence and Police Contacts , American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting	Atlanta, Georgia
2022	Forecasting Participant , Risk Persuasion Tournament	Tetlock et al.
2019 – 2022	Sociological Perspectives Student Editorial Board Member	

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2025 – Present	Faculty Governance & Policy Working Group , New School (Merging SDSS & SILS)	UNC Chapel Hill
2025 – 2026	Executive Committee , Sociology Department	UNC Chapel Hill
2025 – 2026	Chair of Social Committee , Sociology Department	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – present	PhD Student Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuxin Zhao (Sociology Department) 	UNC Chapel Hill
2025 – Present	Dissertation Committee Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Brehm 	UNC Chapel Hill
2025 – Present	Masters Committee Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuxin Zhao (co-chair) • Elizabeth Ortel 	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – 2025	Open Rank Search Committee , School of Data Science and Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 position search with more than 430 applicants 	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – present	Computational Social Science Workshop , Sociology Department	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – present	Culture and Politics Workshop , Sociology Department	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – 2025	Computational Social Science PhD Concentration Committee , School of Data Science and Society	UNC Chapel Hill
2024 – 2025	Social Committee , Department of Sociology	UNC Chapel Hill

2021 – 2022	Social Ecology Graduate Representative, Criminology, Law & Society Department	UC Irvine
2019 – 2020	Peer Mentor, Criminology, Law & Society Department	UC Irvine
2019 – 2020	Graduate Representative, Criminology, Law & Society Department	UC Irvine
2019 – 2020	Social Committee Chair, Criminology, Law & Society Department	UC Irvine
2017 – 2018	Sophomore Advisor, Leverett House	Harvard
2014 – 2018	Social Studies Tutor, Leverett House	Harvard

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2021 – 2023	Statistics Tutor for Incarcerated Persons, California State Prison Solano	Underground Scholars Initiative
2020 – 2024	Community Emergency Response Team Volunteer (#84-2472)	Irvine, California
2022	Prison Pandemic Project Reader	UC Irvine
2020 – 2022	COVID-19 Vaccine Study Volunteer, Phase 2/3 BNT162b2 Trial	Pfizer & Biontech
2017 – 2019	Civic Series Boston Meeting Organizer	Massachusetts

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

UNC Center for Information, Technology, & Public Life • Institute in Computational Social Science •
National Collaborative for Gun Violence Research • American Sociological Association •
Society for the Study of Social Problems • American Society of Criminology • Law and Society Association •
BRIDGS Center • Population Association of America •
Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms •
Rockefeller Institute Affiliate: Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Gun Culture | Racial & SES Inequality | Crime Policy Analysis | Theories of Neoliberalism | Polarization |
Quantitative & Machine-Learning Methods | Experimental & Mixed Methods

PROGRAMS & CERTIFICATES

Institute in Computational Social Science Summer 2023 – UCLA	ChatGPT, AI, & Education Seminar 2023 – UCI Division of Teaching Excellence
Mentoring Excellence Program 2022-23 – UCI Graduate Division	Intensive Pedagogy Certificate 2022-24 – UCI Criminology, Law & Society
Improvisation for Teaching 2022 – UCI Graduate Division	Data Science in R 2018 – HarvardX School of Public Health
Computer Science Using Python 2015 – MITx 6.00.1x	Electronic Trading in Financial Markets 2016 – New York Institute of Finance

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2024	PsyPost , article and interview on gun ownership research
2024	LA Times , article and interview on gun ownership research and national context
2024	Scientific American , article and interview on gun ownership and gun storage

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018	Data Analyst , Komodo Tech	Cambridge, MA
2014 – 2018	Business Strategy Consultant , Endeavour Partners	Boston, MA

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Stata

R

Python

Machine learning

Github

SQL

Qualtrics

REFERENCES

Dr. Bryan L. Sykes – Associate Professor of Sociology & Public Policy at Cornell University,
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Dr. Charis E. Kubrin – Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at UC Irvine,
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Dr. Francesca Polletta – Chancellor's Professor of Sociology at UC Irvine,
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Dr. Sora Y. Han – Associate Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at UC Irvine,
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Dr. Justin Pickett – Professor of Criminal Justice at SUNY Albany,
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Dr. Richard McCleary – Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at UC Irvine,
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Dr. Elliott P. Currie – Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at UC Irvine,
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Dr. Valerie Jenness – Distinguished Professor of Criminology, Law & Society at UC Irvine,
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