

Curriculum Vita
Amanda P. Cook
Associate Professor of Criminology/Sociology

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Professional Overview

Extensive teaching, student advisement, and research experience in the fields of Sociology, Criminology, and Criminal Justice.

Education

Mississippi State University Doctor of Philosophy: Sociology	2015
Mississippi State University Master of Science: Sociology	2007
Mississippi State University Bachelor of Arts: Sociology	2003

Experience

Mississippi State University-Meridian, Division of Arts & Sciences Professor and Criminology Program Coordinator	August 2015- Present
Mississippi State University-Meridian, Department of Arts & Sciences Lecturer and Criminology Advisor	August 2012 – July 2015
Mississippi State University, Department of Sociology Lecturer	August 2009 - August 2012
Mississippi State University, Department of Sociology Teaching Assistant	August 2004 - May 2009
Mississippi State University, Department of Sociology Computer Lab Assistant	August 2003 - May 2004

Courses Taught

Introduction to Sociology	Senior Seminar in Criminology
Contemporary Social Problems	Violence in the U.S.
Sociology of Sports	Juvenile Delinquency
The Criminal Justice System	Drugs, Crime, and Control
Criminological Theories	Gender, Crime, and Justice
Crime and Justice in America	Race, Crime, and Justice
Crime, Justice, and Inequality	Victimology
Introduction to Social Research	Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice
Social Research Practice	Correctional Systems
Community Crime Prevention	Law and Society
Globalization and Crime	Policing and Society
Deviant Behavior	

Thesis/Dissertation

- 2015 "Capital and Punishment: Prison's Revolving Door," Dissertation submitted to the faculty of Mississippi State University in partial fulfillment for the degree of Ph.D. in Sociology.
- 2007 "Capital and Punishment: Supporting the Death of Deterrence," Thesis submitted to the faculty of Mississippi State University in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Science in Sociology.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications:

- 2020 Cook, A. and Haynes, S., "Imprisonment Pains, Reentry Strains, and Perceived Likelihood of Reoffending." *Criminal Justice Studies*. In Press. (Accepted May 13, 2020 and published online June 8, 2020)
- 2019 Cook, A. and May, D., "It's Just Shoplifting (Or Is It?): Examining Court Processing of Shoplifting Before and After the Passage of Mississippi House Bill 585." *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society* 20(2).
- 2017 Cook, A.P. "Capital and Punishment: A Novel Model of Re-offending." *Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research*.

Book Chapters:

- 2019 Cook, A.P. "Minor Crimes, Major Impacts: An Examination of Racially Disparate Outcomes in Misdemeanor Court Processing." In *The Lower Criminal Courts*. Eds. Alisa Smith and Sean Maddan.

Encyclopedia Entries:

- 2017 Cook, A.P. "Mississippi State Penitentiary (also known as Parchman)." In K. Kerley, H. Copes, S. Li, J. Lane, & S. Sharp (Eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell. (Accepted in 2015)
- 2017 Cook, A.P. "Chain Gangs." In K. Kerly, H. Copes, S. Li, J. Jane, & S. Sharp (Eds.) *The Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell. (Accepted in 2016)

Academic Papers and Presentations

- 2020 Cook, A. "Freetail Therapy: Misdemeanor Shoplifting in a Rural Jurisdiction." Paper accepted at meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, San Antonio, TX. (ACJS annual meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- 2019 Cook, A. and May, D. "Court Processing of Shoplifting Before and After the Passage of Mississippi House Bill 585." Paper presented at meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Nashville, TN.
- 2019 Cook, A. and May, D., "It's Just Shoplifting (Or Is It?): Examining Court Processing of Shoplifting Before and After the Passage of Mississippi House Bill 585." Paper presented at meeting of the Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice at John Jay College in NYC, NY (April 2019)
- 2018 Cook, A.P., May, D., Wood, P.B., Haynes, S.H., Johnson, K. "Differences in Rural and Urban Inmates in Accumulating Social Capital in Prison." Paper presented at meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 Cook, A. and May, D., "Capital and Exchange Rates: Exploring the Impact on Inmates' Perceptions of Sanction Severity." Paper presented at meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Pensacola Beach, FL.
- 2018 Wood, P.B., Cook, A., and May, D., "Features of a Criminal Lifestyle in a Sample of Incarcerated Offenders." Paper presented at meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Cook, A.P. "Reentry and Re-offending: A Further Examination of Prison's Revolving Door." Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, New Orleans, LA.
- 2016 Cook, A.P. "Imprisonment Pains, Reentry Strains, and the Successful Cessation of Crime." Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Savannah, GA.
- 2015 Cook, A.P. "Capitalizing on Punishment: Time Served and Lessons Learned." Paper

- 2015 Presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Charleston, SC. Wood, P.B., Cook, A.P., Dunaway, R.G., Wilson, J.A. "Prisonization in a Sample of Incarcerated Offenders." Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Cook, A.P. & Dunaway, R.G. "Punishment and Prison Capital: The Effects of Personal and Vicarious Punishment Experiences on Likelihood of Re-offending." Paper presented at the meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Orlando, FL.
- 2014 Cook, A.P. "Recidivism and the Prison Experience." Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Clearwater Beach, FL.
- 2013 Cook, A.P. "Lowering Recidivism Through Higher Education: The Case for Cooperation." Poster presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Virginia Beach, VA.
- 2011 Cook, A.P. "Capital and Punishment: Supporting the Death of Deterrence." Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Nashville, TN.

Research Interests

Prisons
 Community Corrections
 Recidivism
 Misdemeanors
 Violence
 Rural Criminology

Research/Grant Experience

- 2011-2015 **Principal Investigator**
 Mississippi Recidivism Project
- Research project conducted at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility aimed at better understanding recidivism in the state of Mississippi
 - Submitted proposal for approval
 - Designed survey instrument
 - Conducted research at the facility with two faculty research team members (R. Gregory Dunaway and Stacy Haynes)
 - Findings used in dissertation, conference papers, and journal articles

2015-2017

Co-Principal Investigator

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Planning Grant (**Award Amount \$47,170**)

- Partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of East Mississippi
- Assisted in the application process
- Conducted a comprehensive crime assessment in the East End neighborhood of Meridian, Mississippi
- Provided guidance and expertise to help the City of Meridian identify priorities and develop strategies of prevention, intervention, and suppression of crime.
- Assisted in the application for BCJI Implementation Grant

2016-Present

Researcher

Mississippi Reentry Project

- Research project conducted at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility aimed at better understanding prisoner reentry challenges and predictors of success.
- Assisted with survey design
- Conducted research at the facility with faculty research team members (David May, Stacy Haynes, and Kecia Johnson)
- Findings used in conference presentations and journal articles

2017-2019

Co-Principal Investigator

Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice Grant (**Award Amount \$48,902**)

- Partnership with the City of Meridian, Mississippi and the Meridian Police Department
- Assisted in the application process
- Working with Meridian Police Department to set up a data collection system
- Analyzing misdemeanor enforcement trends in Meridian, MS

2018-Present

Research Partner for the U.S. Attorney's office for the southern district in MS

- Assist with data collection and analysis for Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative (Project EJECT) in the city of Meridian and Lauderdale county in Mississippi
- Serve as a liaison between the U.S. Attorney's office, the City of Meridian, Mississippi, and various community organizations
- Provide monthly updates on violent crime incidents for the city of Meridian and Lauderdale county, Mississippi.
- Attend Project Safe Neighborhood national conventions
- Work with the U.S. Attorney's office to design and implement crime suppression programs
- Assist with grant applications

Service-Related Contract Experience

2018-2020

Program Evaluator

Program Evaluator for a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

- Partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi
- Working with program coordinator on data collection strategy
- Evaluating whether the Boys & Girls Club is achieving project goals

2019-Present

Project Specialist

Project Specialist for the Phil Hardin Foundation

- Designed a STEM project for the Boys & Girls Club of East Mississippi
- Worked with BGC staff to recruit and hire a project facilitator
- Conducting bi-annual evaluations of project effectiveness
- Providing updates and reports to the Phil Hardin Foundation

2020-Present

Crime Data Specialist

Crime Data Specialist for the City of Meridian

- Collect and analyze crime data for MPD and municipal court
- Prepare and disseminate reports to appropriate agencies
- Create and maintain data collection systems
- Serve as liaison between the City of Meridian and Southern Poverty Law Center regarding municipal court issues

Departmental and University Service

- Chartered a chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Spring 2014
- Alpha Phi Sigma Advisor at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Spring 2014-Present
- Criminology Advisor at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Fall 2011-Present
- Search committee for the Administrative Director and Head of Campus position at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Fall 2015
- Search committee for the Academic Advising Center Coordinator position at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Spring 2016
- Search committee for the Division Head of Arts & Sciences position at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Fall 2017
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee at Mississippi State University-Meridian, 2017-Present
- Partner in the Social Science Research Center's Mississippi Crime and Justice Research Unit 2018-2020
- Search committee for the Social Work Program Director position at Mississippi State University-Meridian, 2020-2021
- Search committee for the Academic Advisor position at Mississippi State University-Meridian, 2020
- Member of Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the Meridian Division of Arts & Sciences

Community Service Activities

- Chair of the Meridian Leadership Council, whose aim is to reduce crime and revitalize the city of Meridian, MS (2015-2020)
- Member of the Noxubee Transitional Advisory Board and serve as a guest speaker for a reentry program housed at Noxubee Community Work Center (2017-Present)
- Research Partner and liaison for the U.S. Attorney's office for the southern district in Mississippi (2018-Present)
- Volunteer Firefighter for the city of De Kalb, Mississippi (2019-Present)
- Organizer of the Meridian Mentoring Project, connecting over 30 mentors from professional organizations with at-risk youth in the city of Meridian, MS (2020)
- Member of the Women's Alliance of Meridian, a group of influential and diverse professional women in east Mississippi dedicated to the advancement and empowerment of women through avenues of leadership, education, advocacy, and mentoring (2020)
- Member of Young Professionals of Meridian (2020)
- Judge for the Beauty and Beau Review at Magnolia Middle School in Meridian, MS (2020)

Guest Lectures and Workshops

- Presented "Mississippi Misdemeanors: An Analysis of the Five Finger Discount in Meridian, Mississippi" at East Central Community College (September 2019)
- Presented "Surviving Spring Break" as part of Meridian Community College's Survivor Series (March 2020)
- Conducted a "Project-Based Learning" workshop at Mississippi State University (Starkville) for Law & Public Safety teachers in the state of Mississippi (June 2016)

Awards and Recognition

- Received the "Making a Difference" Award from the U.S. Attorney's office for the southern district in Mississippi for crime-reduction efforts and community engagement in Meridian, MS, 2020.
- Nominated for the Mississippi State University College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Award, 2020.
- Mississippi State University Community Engagement Award (for community-engaged research with the Meridian Leadership Council in Meridian, MS), 2019
- Commendation from the Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner for service to the Noxubee County Transition Center reentry program, 2018
- Sociology Master's Student of the Year Award, 2005
- Criminal Justice and Corrections Undergraduate Student of the Year Award, Mississippi State University, 2003

Memberships/Scholarly Societies

- Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
 - Awards Committee for the Corrections section of ACJS (2019-2020)
- Southern Criminal Justice Association
 - Site Selection Committee (2017-2018)
 - Awards Committee (2017-2018)
 - Chair of Outstanding Undergraduate Committee (2019-2020)
- Alpha Phi Sigma
 - Faculty advisor (2014-Present)
- Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society
 - Treasurer for Mississippi State Chapter of AKD, Fall 2004-Spring 2006
 - Faculty Representative for Mississippi State Chapter of AKD, Fall 2006-Spring 2007
- Alpha Chi
 - Alpha Chi Sponsor at Mississippi State University-Meridian, Spring 2013-Fall 2014
- Phi Kappa Phi