

SHEROD THAXTON

UCLA School of Law
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Los Angeles, California 90095

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles, California
Professor, School of Law (2018–present)
Professor (by courtesy), Department of Public Policy, Meyer and Renee Luskin School of Public Affairs (2021–present)
Professor (by courtesy), Department of African American Studies (2019–present)
Professor (by courtesy), Department of Sociology (2019–present)
Assistant Professor, School of Law (2013–2018)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, Illinois
Earl B. Dickerson Fellow and Lecturer in Law, School of Law (2011–2013)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Capital Punishment, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Criminology
Secondary: Empirical Legal Studies, Habeas Corpus, Law and Social Science

UNIVERSITY AND LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, *BruinX*, Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (2018–present)
Member, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Civil Rights (AVC-CR) Search Committee (2020)
Member, Committee on Privilege and Tenure (2018–2020)
Faculty Director, David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy (2020–present)
Member, Office of Public Interest Law Programs Assistant Director Search Committee (2021)
Member, Legal Research and Writing Instructor Search Committee (2021)
Member, External Appointments Committee (2021–2022)
Member, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (2020–2021)
Member, A. Barry Cappello Trial Advocacy Program Director Search Committee (2018)
Member, David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy Executive Director Search Committee (2017)
Member, Learning Environment and Diversity Committee (2016–2017)
Member, Career Services Committee (2015–2016)
Member, Critical Race Studies Committee (2014–2016, 2017–2019)
Member, Colloquium Committee (2013–2014)
Core Faculty, Critical Race Studies Program (2014–present)
Core Faculty, David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy (2015–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Promise Institute for Human Rights (2020–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Center for Law and Economics (2013–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Criminal Justice Program (2017–present)

UNIVERSITY AND LAW SCHOOL SERVICE (CONTINUED)

Affiliated Faculty, Empirical Research Group (2013–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Program on Understanding Law, Science & Evidence (2019–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Transnational Program on Criminal Justice (2015–present)
Affiliated Faculty, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies (2016–present)

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA,
Sacramento, California

Staff Attorney (2008–2011)

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER STANDARDS COUNCIL, Atlanta, Georgia

Summer Law Clerk (2006 & 2007)

AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION, Chicago, Illinois

Law and Social Science Doctoral Fellow (2003–2005)

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE, SOROS FOUNDATION, New York, New York

Soros Justice Postgraduate Fellow (2002–2004)

OFFICE OF THE MULTI-COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, Atlanta, Georgia

Principal Investigator, Death Penalty Tracking Project (1998–2003)

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL

J.D., June 2008

John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics

Academy of Achievement Student Honoree

Public Interest Law Award

University of Chicago Law Review, Editor

University of Chicago Legal Forum, Editor

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Ph.D., Sociology, May 2009

M.A., Sociology, May 2000

Dissertation: *The Social Geometry of Death: Social Structure and Capital Punishment in Georgia, 1993–2000*

Committee: Robert Agnew (Sociology), Stephen Bright (Law), Yuk Fai Cheong (Psychology), Cathryn Johnson (Sociology) & Jeffery Mullis (Sociology)

Finalist, American Sociological Association Dissertation Award

Andrew W. Mellon/Adrian Worley Brown Dissertation Fellowship in Southern Studies

Charles E. Culpeper Foundation Fellowship

Maureen Blyler Graduate Research Award, Department of Sociology

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

B.A., Political Science, March 1997

Research Assistant, Research Program on Racial, Ethnic, and Immigration Studies

Research Assistant, Professor John H. Stanfield, Department of Sociology

Research Assistant, John O. Stewart, Department of Anthropology

ADDITIONAL HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of California, Los Angeles Hellman Fellowship (2016–2017)
University of California, Los Angeles Faculty Career Development Award (2016–2017)
University of California, Los Angeles Research Enabling Grant (2016, 2017)
American Bar Foundation Law and Social Science Doctoral Fellowship (2003–2005)
Soros Foundation Justice Postgraduate Fellowship (2002–2004)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- Shrinking the Accountability Deficit in Capital Charging*, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF PROSECUTORS 565 (Ronald Wright, Kay Levine & Russell Gold, eds., Oxford University Press 2021)
- How Not to Lie about Affirmative Action*, 67 UCLA LAW REVIEW 834 (2020)
- Metrics of Mayhem: Quantifying Capriciousness in Capital Cases*, in THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT AND ITS FUTURE IN A NEW AGE OF PUNISHMENT 266 (Meghan Ryan & Will Berry, eds., Cambridge University Press 2020)
- Reexamining the Link between Parental Knowledge and Delinquency: Unpacking the Influence of Adolescents' and Parents' Perceptions*, 40 DEVIANT BEHAVIOR 703 (2019) (with Heather Scheuerman & Jessica Grosholz) (peer-reviewed)
- When Criminal Coping is Likely: An Examination of Conditioning Effects in General Strain Theory*, 34 JOURNAL OF QUANTITATIVE CRIMINOLOGY 887 (2018) (with Robert Agnew) (peer-reviewed)
- Disentangling Disparity: Exploring Racially Disparate Effect and Treatment in Capital Charging*, 45 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW 95 (2018)
- Disciplining Death: Assessing and Ameliorating Arbitrariness in Capital Charging*, 49 ARIZONA STATE LAW JOURNAL 137 (2017)
- Un-Gregg-ulated: Capital Charging and the Missing Mandate in Gregg v. Georgia*, 11 DUKE JOURNAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW & PUBLIC POLICY 145 (2016) (symposium)
- Race, Place, and Capital Charging in Georgia*, 67 MERCER LAW REVIEW 529 (2016) (symposium)
- Leveraging Death*, 103 JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW & CRIMINOLOGY 475 (2013)
- Does Victimization Reduce Self-Control? A Longitudinal Analysis*, 39 JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE 169 (2011) (with Robert Agnew, Jessica Grosholz, Deena Isom, Heather Scheuerman & Lesley Watson) (peer-reviewed)
- Do Frustrated Economic Expectations and Objective Economic Inequity Promote Crime? A Randomized Experiment Testing Agnew's General Strain Theory*, 6 EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CRIMINOLOGY 47 (2009) (with Nicole Leeper-Piquero, Alex R. Piquero & Cesar J. Rebellon) (peer-reviewed)
- A General Strain Theory of Racial Differences in Criminal Offending*, 41 AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF CRIMINOLOGY 421 (2008) (with Robert Agnew, Joanne M. Kaufman & Cesar J. Rebellon) (peer-reviewed)
- Determining 'Reasonableness' without a Reason? Federal Appellate Review Post-Rita v.*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

United States, 75 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 1885 (2008) (student comment)

The Nonlinear Effects of Parental and Teacher Attachment on Delinquency: Disentangling Strain from Social Control Explanations, 21 JUSTICE QUARTERLY 763 (2004) (with Robert Agnew) (peer-reviewed)

A General Strain Theory Approach to Families and Delinquency, in FAMILIES, CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE 113 (Greer L. Fox & Michael L. Benson eds., JAI Press 2000) (with Robert Agnew & Cesar J. Rebellon)

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

“Project Manual: Death Penalty Proportionality Study.” Prepared for the Office of the Georgia Capital Defender, Atlanta, Georgia (2006)

“Current Data with Regard to Death Penalty Cases in Georgia.” Report prepared for the Office of the Multi-County Public Defender, Atlanta, Georgia (1998-2004)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

State-Level Selective Prosecution Jurisprudence Post-Armstrong & Bass

State Procedural Sentencing Law in Apprendi’s Aftermath

Calibrating Juvenile Culpability

Exploring the Behavioral Underpinnings of Parental Derivative Liability

Mechanism Specificity and Anti-Discrimination Law

Race and Future Dangerousness Determinations (with Sheri Lynn Johnson & Devon W. Carbado)

Probing Plea Bargaining Under Partial Observability

What’s Driving the Racial Grade Gap in Law Schools?

From Gregg to Gregory: Rethinking Challenges to the Death Penalty with Statistics

Fruit Doesn’t Fall Far from the Tree: The Enduring Impact of Race and Racism in Capital Punishment

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences; American Society of Criminology; American University; Arizona State University; Columbia University; DePaul University; Duke University; Duke University; Emory University; Fordham University; Georgetown University; Harvard University; University of Michigan; New York University; Mercer University; NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Northwestern University; Stanford University; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Irvine; University of California, Los Angeles; University of Chicago; University of Georgia; University of South Florida; University of Texas; University of Virginia; Washington University-St. Louis

MANUSCRIPT REFEREE

Asian Journal of Criminology
Journal of Research in Crime and
Delinquency
Journal of Criminal Justice
Law and Social Inquiry
Oxford University Press
Youth and Justice

Canadian Journal of Criminology
Crime and Delinquency
Deviant Behavior
Journal of School Violence
Law and Society Review
UCLA Law Review

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Sociological Association
Society for Empirical Legal Studies

American Society of Criminology
Law and Society Association
UC Consortium on Social Science and Law

BAR ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of California
United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit