

Gillian L. Slee

Stanford University
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, University of Georgia, Department of Sociology, August 2025-

Gerhard Casper Fellow in Rule of Law, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University, September 2024-

Education

Ph.D., Sociology and Social Policy, Princeton University, 2024

Dissertation: “Reentry in an Era of Criminal-Legal Reform”

Committee: Matthew Desmond (chair), Mitchell Duneier, Kathryn Edin, Ebony Ruhland, Vincent Schiraldi

M.A., Sociology, Princeton University, 2020

General Exams: Sociological Theory, Ethnography, and Poverty and Inequality

M.Phil., Criminology, University of Cambridge, 2017

Herchel Smith Harvard Scholar

Dissertation: “‘Obviously, Sir’: A Study of Legitimation in Magistrates’ Court”

Adviser: Justice Tankebe

A.B., Social Studies; Secondary Field: Psychology, Harvard College, 2016

High honors in Social Studies, *Cum Laude* in Field

Thesis: “Broken Justice: A Study of Public Defenders and Their Clients in New York City’s Criminal Courts,” *Summa Cum Laude*

Research & Teaching Interests

Inequality, Poverty, Justice, Institutions, Organizations and Work, Urban Sociology, Social Theory, Ethnography, Policy

Articles

2024 Gilson, Madeleine, Gillian Slee, and Matthew Desmond. “Calling on Kin: Poverty, the Family Safety Net, and Child Welfare Policy.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*

87(1), 53-73.

- 2023 Slee, Gillian. “Of the State, against the State: Public Defenders, Street-Level Bureaucracy, and Discretion in Criminal Court.” *Social Service Review* 97(4), 675-718.
- 2023 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Resignation without Relief: Democratic Governance and the Relinquishing of Parental Rights.” *Theory and Society* 52(4), 583-623.
- *Best Scholarly Article Award in the Sociology of Human Rights (honorable mention), American Sociological Association*
- 2021 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability.” *Politics & Society* 51(1), 3-29 (Lead article).
- *Selected Coverage: American Civil Liberties Union, The Hill, National Low Income Housing Coalition, The Society Pages*

Under Review

- Slee, Gillian. “Home but Not Free: Rule-Breaking and Withdrawal in Reentry.” (2nd R&R at *Criminology*)
- *Coverage: [Stanford Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law](#)*

In Progress

- Slee, Gillian. “Reinventing Stigma: When a Biography of Disadvantage Becomes a Credential” (Working Paper).
- Slee, Gillian. “Reentry Organizations in the Context of Criminal-Legal Reform” (Working Paper).
- Slee, Gillian. “Self-Negation and Access to Resources” (In Progress).
- Slee, Gillian. “‘Nobody Trusts What They Get for Free’: Legitimation in the Criminal Legal System” (In progress).

Other Writing

- 2022 Slee, Gillian. “[A Safe Home Means a Stronger Democracy](#).” *Tenant Talk*, Volume 13, Issue 2.
- 2021 Slee, Gillian. “[Eviction Depressed Voter Turnout in the 2016 Presidential Election](#).” Eviction Lab.

Awards

- 2024 Best Article Award (honorable mention), Sociology of Human Rights Section, American Sociological Association.
- 2024 Gerhard Casper Fellow in Rule of Law: Distinction “awarded to a fellow whose

works explore aspects of the rule of law, including judicial politics, and criminal justice,” Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University.

2020 Marion J. Levy, Jr. Fellowship in Social Policy: Honor awarded by the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs to one student in the Joint Degree Program in Social Policy. Underwrites tuition and stipend for one year.

Fellowships and Grants

2024 Postgraduate Research Associate, Princeton University (Declined)

2023 Dean’s Completion Fellowship, \$19,950

2023-2024 P.E.O. Scholar Award, \$20,000

2023 Princeton University Library Open Access Publication Fund, \$2,500

2022-2023 Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Fellowship: university-wide, competitive fellowship recognizing “outstanding performance and professional promise,” \$52,000

2022-2024 Harvey Fellowship, \$32,000

2021 Princeton University Sociology Department Dissertation Grant, \$1,000

2018-2023 Princeton University Sociology Department Conference Travel Grant, \$2,839

2017-2022 Centennial Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences for study at Princeton University recognizing “academic excellence and research promise”

2016-2017 Herchel Smith Harvard Scholarship: full fellowship for study at the University of Cambridge to pursue an M.Phil. in Criminology, \$49,583

2015 Justice and Poverty Project: Ford Justice Fellowship: funding for research within a public service or social justice institution awarded for study of public defenders in New York City, \$5,000

2015 Harvard College Research Program: research funding for study of public defenders, \$3,500

Research Experience

2018-2022 Research Assistant, Princeton University:
Worked on a study of the American child welfare system, conducting interviews with parents previously involved with child protective services, analyzing transcripts in MAXQDA, and mentoring undergraduate research assistant, October 2018-August 2022

- 2017-2021 Research Assistant, Princeton University:
Worked in the Eviction Lab exploring the consequences of eviction on neighborhood-level outcomes, September 2017-November 2021
- 2017-2018 Research Assistant, Princeton University:
Worked with Brandon Stewart on a project exploring the connections between quantitative and qualitative methods with particular attention to text analysis and ethnography, September 2017-March 2018
- 2016 Research Assistant, Harvard University:
Worked 30hrs/week on “Evicted America” project; retrieved and compiled novel dataset of eviction records from county and state courts; interviewed housing advocates and attorneys on variations in eviction law; generated preliminary ideas for analysis, May-October 2016
- 2015 Research Assistant, Harvard University:
Organized and compiled survey data on Milwaukee-area eviction research, January-April 2015

Conference Papers

- 2025 Slee, Gillian. “Reentry Work in the Context of Criminal-Legal Reform.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: May 22-25, 2025.
- 2024 Slee, Gillian. “‘Nobody Trusts What They Get for Free’: Legitimation in the Criminal Legal System.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA: November 13, 2024.
- 2023 Slee, Gillian. “The Relational Context of Parole Violations and State Engagement.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: August 21, 2023.
- 2022 Slee, Gillian. “Of the State, against the State: Public Defenders, Street-Level Bureaucracy, and Discretion in Criminal Court.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA: August 9, 2022.
- 2021 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Resignation without Relief: Poverty Governance and the Relinquishing of Parental Rights.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: August 10, 2021.
- 2019 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Evictions and Voting: Forced Mobility and Participatory Inequality.” Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Super Session, Denver, CO: November 8, 2019.
- 2019 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Evictions and Voting: Forced Mobility and Participatory Inequality.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY: August 12, 2019.

- 2018 Slee, Gillian. “Dirty Work and Dirty Justice: How Stigma Encourages Public Defenders’ Reinterpretation of Work and Fairness.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: August 14, 2018.
- 2016 Slee, Gillian. “Broken Justice: A Study of Public Defenders and Their Clients in New York City’s Criminal Courts.” Engaged Scholarship and Social Justice undergraduate research conference, Cambridge, MA: April 9, 2016.
- 2015 Slee, Gillian. “Disorder in the Court: The Expression of Justice in the West Roxbury Boston Municipal Court.” Diversity, (In)Equity, and Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference, Cambridge, MA: April 11, 2015.

Invited Presentations

- 2024 Slee, Gillian. “Home but Not Free: Rule-Breaking and Withdrawal in Reentry.” Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Research Seminar Series, Stanford, CA: November 7, 2024.
- 2024 Slee, Gillian. “Home but Not Free: Rule-Breaking and Withdrawal in Reentry.” University of Georgia, Department of Sociology, Athens, GA: October 7, 2024.
- 2024 Slee, Gillian. “Reinventing Stigma: When Lived Experience Becomes a Credential.” Stanford University, King Center on Global Development and Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, Stanford, CA: September 18, 2024.
- 2024 Slee, Gillian. “Home but Not Free: Rule-Breaking and Withdrawal in Reentry.” American University, Department of Justice, Law & Criminology, Washington, DC: January 25, 2024.
- 2022 Slee, Gillian. “Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability.” National Low Income Housing Coalition in Our Homes, Our Votes series: April 4, 2022.
- 2022 Slee, Gillian. “Eviction and Voter Turnout: The Political Consequences of Housing Instability.” National Low Income Housing Coalition National Call on the HoUsed Campaign for Universal, Stable, & Affordable Housing: January 24, 2022.
- 2016 Slee, Gillian. “Broken Justice: A Study of Public Defenders and Their Clients in New York City’s Criminal Courts.” Harvard College, Social Studies Senior Colloquium, Cambridge, MA: May 2, 2016.

Teaching & Advising Experience

Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

- 2019 Sociology 207: Poverty in America

2018 Sociology 300: Claims and Evidence

Teaching in the Community, Stanford Jail and Prison Education Project, San Francisco County Jail #3

2025 Literary Magazine

Research Assistant Mentoring & Supervision, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

2023 Alyssa Lloyd

Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *Social Forces*, *Sociological Focus*, *Social Service Review*
2025 American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Graduate Student Paper Prize Committee
2025 Population Association of America Conference, Families, Law, and Public Policy, Session Discussant
2025, 2023 Harvey Fellows Selection Committee

Departmental Service

2021 Princeton University, Proseminar, "Writing a Dissertation Prospectus" panel
2018-2019 Princeton University, Graduate Student Affairs Committee
2014-2016 Harvard College, Social Studies, Peer Concentration Advisor

Affiliations and Memberships

Member: American Sociological Association, 2018-
Member: American Society of Criminology, 2024-
Member: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2019-
Member: Eastern Sociological Society, 2023-
Member: Law and Society Association, 2022-
Affiliate: The Poverty, Violence, and Governance Lab, Stanford University, 2024-
Graduate Student Researcher: Eviction Lab, Princeton University, 2017-2024

References

Matthew Desmond
Maurice P. Daring Professor of Sociology
Princeton University
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Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Social Science
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