

Gillian L. Slee

Princeton University
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Education

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology and Social Policy, Princeton University, 2017–2024 (expected)

Dissertation: “Humanizing Institutions: Dysfunction and Misfiring in the Parole Process”
Committee: Matthew Desmond (chair), Mitchell Duneier, Kathryn Edin, Ebony Ruhland, and Vincent Schiraldi

M.A., Sociology, Princeton University, 2020

General Exams in Sociological Theory, Ethnography, and Poverty and Inequality with
Matthew Desmond, Mitchell Duneier, and Kathryn Edin

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

Herchel Smith Harvard Scholar
Dissertation: “‘Obviously, Sir’: A Study of Legitimation in Magistrates’ Court”
Adviser: Dr. 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 Interests

Inequality, Poverty, Justice, Institutions, Work, Organizations, Urban Sociology, Ethnography, Policy

Articles

- 2023 Slee, Gillian. “Of the State, against the State: Public Defenders, Street-Level
Bureaucracy, and Discretion in Criminal Court.” *Social Service Review* 97(4).
- 2023 Slee, Gillian and Matthew Desmond. “Resignation without Relief: Democratic
Governance and the Relinquishing of Parental Rights.” *Theory and Society* 52(4),
583-623.
- 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

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

Slee, Gillian. “Institutional Misfiring: Rule-Breaking and Withdrawal in Reentry.”

In Progress

Slee, Gillian. “Reentry Organizations in the Context of Criminal-Legal Reform”

Slee, Gillian. “‘Nobody Trusts What They Get for Free’: Legitimation in the Criminal Legal System.”

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

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

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

2018-23 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 with Professor Matthew Desmond on a study of the American child welfare system, conducting interviews with parents previously involved with child protective services, October 2018-August 2022
- 2017-2021 Research Assistant, Princeton University:
Worked with Professor Matthew Desmond 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 Professor 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 regarding 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

- 2023 Slee, Gillian. “The Relational Context of Parole Violations and State Engagement.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: August 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

- 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
 Professor Matthew Desmond
- 2018 Sociology 300: Claims and Evidence
 Professors Kathryn Edin and Jennifer Jennings

Research Assistant Supervision, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

Alyssa Lloyd

Professional Service

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *Social Forces*, *Sociological Focus*
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: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2019-
Member: Eastern Sociological Society, 2023-
Member: Law and Society Association, 2022-
Member: Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2021-
Graduate Student Researcher: Eviction Lab, Princeton University, 2017-

References

Matthew Desmond
Maurice P. Daring Professor of Sociology
Princeton University
matthew.desmond@princeton.edu

Mitchell Duneier
Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Social Science
Princeton University
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Kathryn Edin
William Church Osborn Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs
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Jennifer Jennings
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