

J. AMANDA SHARRY

School of Criminal Justice and Criminology
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Ross Hall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, AR 72204
jsharry1@ualr.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor August 2025 - Present
School of Criminal Justice and Criminology
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Adjunct Faculty August 2024 – August 2025
Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice
California State University Fullerton

Lecturer
Department of Sociology
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona January 2025 – May 2025

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine Sept. 2025
Ph.D. Criminology, Law & Society
Committee: George Tita (Chair), Graeme Boushey,
John Hipp, and Emily Owens

University of California, Irvine June 2020
Master of Public Policy
Independent master's research:
*Hand Up or Hands Down: TANF Policy and the Barriers to Human
Capital Development*
Advisor: Damon Clark

University of California, Davis June 2018
Bachelor of Arts
Double Major in *Sociology, Law and Society*
and *Political Science*
Honors thesis:
*Hand Up or Hands Down: TANF Policy and the Barriers to Human
Capital Development*
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Sykes, Bryan L., Meghan Ballard, Daniela Kaiser, Vicente Celestino Mata, **J. Amanda Sharry**, and Justin Sola. 2022. "Barred: Labor Market Dynamics and Human Capital Development Among People on Probation and Parole." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 701(1): 28-45.

Book Chapters

Sykes, Bryan L. and **J. Amanda Sharry**. 2023. "Mass Incarceration." in *Handbook on Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Practices*. NY. Routledge.

Research/Technical Reports

Sykes, Bryan L., Meghan Ballard, Daniela Kaiser, Vicente Celestino Mata, **J. Amanda Sharry**, and Justin Sola. 2021. "Labor Market Structure." *REFORM Alliance White Paper*. Justice Lab, Columbia University. [Editors: Bruce Western and David Harding]

Under Review

Sharry, J. Amanda. "Broken Promises: Institutional Castling, Legal Consciousness, and Deported Veterans." *Journal of Veterans' Studies*.

Working papers

Sharry, J. Amanda. "Motivation to Participate in Correctional Rehabilitation Programs in U.S. Prisons, and Effects on Mental Health and Misconduct: A Structural Equation Model." *For Submission to Journal of Crime and Justice (Expected Submission Feb. 2026)*.

Sharry, J. Amanda. "Incarceration During Moments of Crisis: An Examination of Shelter-in-Place Orders and Incarceration Patterns During the COVID-19 Pandemic" *For Submission to Justice Quarterly (Expected Submission, March 2026)*.

Sharry, J. Amanda, and *Zorain K. Nizamani. "The Legislative Landscape for AI and Officer Reporting Practices." *For Submission to Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Special Issue : Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies in Public Safety (Expected Submission, May 2026)*.

Tolles, Taylor, **J. Amanda Sharry**, and Molly Smith. "A Differential Item Functioning Approach to Bias in Prison Write-Ups." *For Submission to Journal of Quantitative Criminology (Expected Submission, June 2026)*.

Sharry, J. Amanda. "Hands Up or Hands Down: TANF Policy and Barriers to Human Capital Development." Working paper. *For Submission to Social Problems*.

Sharry, J. Amanda. "The Cost of Imprisonment: State Spending Effects on the Carceral State." Working paper. *For Submission to Criminology and Public Policy. Data Collection*.

Sharry, J. Amanda and *Zorain K. Nizamani. “AI and Police Reporting Practices.” *Data Collection*.

Sharry, J. Amanda. “Pandemic Release: The Pandemic and Employment for Formerly Incarcerated Populations.” *Data Collection*.

*Graduate Student

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS,

University of Arkansas at Little Rock College of Business, Health, and Human Services Faculty Seed Grant	2025
U.C. Irvine Department of Criminology, Law and Society, Dean’s Quarterly Fellowship, 2025 Winter	2025
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Alternate Awardee	2023
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention	2022
U.C. Irvine Department of Criminology, Law and Society, Dean’s Quarterly Fellowship, 2021 Spring	2021
U.C. Irvine Department of Criminology, Law and Society, Diversity Fellowship, 2020 Fall	2020
3 rd Place Award Homeland Security Advisory Council Crisis Management Policy Challenge	2019
Lofland Research Award	2018
U.C. Davis Political Science Nedjelko Dinko Suljak Award	2017
California Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Recipient	2016
St. John’s Lutheran Church Scholarship Recipient	2016
American Association of University Women Scholarship Recipient	2016

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentation “The All-Seeing and All-Hearing. Public Perception of AI Authored Police Reports.” (with *Zorain K. Nizamani) (Upcoming) Law & Society Association, San Francisco, CA.	2026
Conference Presentation “Understanding Motivation to Participate in Correctional Educational and Vocational Training.” (Upcoming) Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Philadelphia, PA.	2026
Conference Presentation “The Cost of Imprisonment: State Spending Effects on the Carceral State.” Western Society of Criminology, Denver, CO.	2026
Conference Presentation “Incarceration During Moments of Crisis: An Examination of Shelter-in-Place Orders and Incarceration Patterns During the COVID-19 Pandemic” Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, Chicago, IL.	2025

- Conference Presentation** “Pay to Play: The Cost of Punishment.” 2023
Law & Society, Hilton Caribe, *Puerto Rico*.
- Conference Presentation** “Prison Employment, Educational Programs, 2023
Effects on Mental Health: A Structural Equation Model.” Western
Society of Criminology, *Vancouver, BC*
- Conference Presentation** “Broken Promises: Legal Pluralism, Legal 2022
Consciousness, and Deported Veterans.” Law & Society, *ISCTE*
University Institute of Lisbon.
- Conference Presentation** “Pandemic Release: A Qualitative Evaluation 2021
of Reentry Service Provision Experience in a COVID 19 Labor Market.”
University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
- UCI MPP Capstone Presentation**, “Breaking Ground: An Evaluation 2020
of Mercy House’s Faith-based Partnerships,” (with Judith Teruya and
Allen Winger) *University of California, Irvine*.
- Conference Presentation**, "Hand up or Hand Down: TANF Policy and 2020
the Barriers to Human Capital Development," APPAM
California Regional Student Conference, Riverside, CA –
(Cancelled due to COVID)
- Policy Memo Presentation**, “Re-envisioning Waste as a Solution to 2019
Public Health Threats Among the Los Angeles Homeless Population,”
HSAC Crisis Management Policy Challenge Conference
(with Judith Teruya).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor**, University of Arkansas at Little Rock August 2025 - Present
Undergraduate
Criminal Justice 40403: Criminal Justice Research
Criminal Justice 33703: Juvenile Delinquency
- Adjunct Faculty**, Division of Politics, Administration, and Justice California State University
Fullerton
Undergraduate
Criminal Justice 330: Theories of Crime and Delinquency
Criminal Justice 100: Myths and Realities of Crime and Justice
Criminal Justice 465: Punishment, Law, and Justice
- Lecturer**, Sociology Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Undergraduate
Crime, Criminalization, and Society, SOC 3345, delivered asynchronously

Teaching Associate, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

Undergraduate

Criminology, Law & Society C10, Introduction to Criminology, Law and Society

Teaching Assistant, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

Undergraduate

Social Ecology 195W: Writing Seminar

Criminology, Law & Society C107: Deviance

Social Ecology SE10: Research Design

Criminology, Law & Society C101: American Law

Criminology, Law & Society C117: Imprisonment and Reentry

Criminology, Law & Society C123: Family Law

Criminology, Law & Society C7: Introduction to Criminology

Criminology, Law & Society 142: White Collar Crime

Graduate

Criminology, Law & Society C219, Hate Crime

Criminology, Law & Society C218, Social Problems, Law & Policy:

Public Policy 215, Statistical Analysis for Public Policy

Reader, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine

Undergraduate

Criminology, Law & Society C100, Cybercrime

Criminology, Law & Society C149, Violence in Society

Graduate

UPPP 220 Qualitative Methods

California Community College Internship Program

July 2024 – June 2025

Intern, Santa Ana College

- Participation in training to include course design, inclusive teaching practices, and developing classroom teaching skills

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Irvine

July 2022 to June 2023

Graduate Research Assistant

Principle: Dr. Bryan Sykes

Shadow Costs

- Literature review
- Data collection
- Field Work

University of California, Irvine

July 2022 to August 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

Principle: Dr. Hillary Berk

The intersection of Surrogacy and Abortion

- Literature review

- Data collection

University of California, Irvine

April 2021 to August 2021

Graduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Dr. Damon Clark

School Choice Study

- Collected data on San Francisco public and private elementary schools
- Interviewed respondents regarding San Francisco public school system
- Collected data on childcare availability in the San Francisco school district

University of Michigan Survey Research Center

February 2020 to Current

Field Interviewer

- Interviewed Respondents/Gained experiential knowledge about the structure and collection of survey data/National Health and Retirement Study, Survey of Consumers, Every Dollar Counts, the National Election Study, and others.

Thesis, University of California Irvine

Advisor: Dr. Damon Clark

- OLS Linear Regression Analysis/Improved the quantitative portion of my undergraduate thesis/ *Hand Up or Hands Down: TANF Policy and the Barriers to Human Capital Development*

Honors Thesis, University of California, Davis

Advisor: Dr. Drew Halfmann

- Developed a research question and design/performed a critical literature review/learned how to develop a qualitative analysis/ *Hand Up or Hands Down: TANF Policy and the Barriers to Human Capital Development*

Contra Costa County Office of Reentry and Justice,

June 2019 to Sept. 2019

Graduate Research Intern, Denise Zabkiewicz

- Large scale quantitative analysis/Produced a program evaluation and administrative reports on several of reentry programs offered within the county to the Board of Supervisors/Improved quantitative skill set and gained experiential knowledge in how to structure a large scale quantitative analysis.

NORC at the University of Chicago

Nov. 2018 to April 2019

Field Interviewer

- Interviewed Respondents/Gained experiential knowledge about the structure and collection of survey data/National Survey of Early Care and Education

University of California, Davis Sociology Department

Oct. 2016 to Jan. 2017

Student Research Assistant, Dr. Caitlin Patler

- Transcribed oral interviews/Gained exposure to qualitative data, how to structure an interview, and how to code qualitative data for analysis.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Instructor Search Committee	Sept. 2025
Guest Lecture CRJU Intro	Sept. 2025
Graduate Student Representative, CLS Department University of California, Irvine	2021-2022

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

CBHHS Research Symposium Speaker Event Volunteer	Sept. 2025
Student Representative, Associated Graduate Students School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine	2019-2020

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Rob Williams Memorial Golf Tournament Volunteer	Sept. 2025
-------------------------------------------------	------------

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Inside Out Prison Exchange Program Certified Facilitator	Jan. 2026
Community Engaged Research Institute University of California, Santa Cruz	June 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Midwestern Criminal Justice Association	2025 - Present
Academy of Criminal Justice Studies	2023 - Present
Law & Society Association	2020 – Present
Western Society of Criminology	2020 – Present
Policy Advocate, Public Policy Student Association University of California, Irvine	2019-2020
Member, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	2019-Present
Invited Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2018-Present

COMMUNITY SERVICE

East County Wollam House, Pittsburg, CA Volunteer , Women's perinatal drug rehabilitation center for which I worked in the front office doing clerical and administrative tasks such as maintaining the waitlist, answering the phones, and helping the residents with daily tasks.	2014 to 2016
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------

COMPUTER SKILLS

- GIS
- M-Plus
- NVivo
- STATA 19
- SPSS
- Microsoft Office Software

