Delaney Mosca

Department of Criminology, Law, and Society
University of California, Irvine
3319 Social Ecology II, Irvine, CA 92697
Email: dmosca@uci.edu

Research & Teaching Interests

Punishment & Society | Mercy | Prisons | Life Sentencing | Death Penalty | Hope & Forgiveness | Archives, Archival Theories, & Archival Methodologies | Computational Methods | Death & Dying

Education

University of California, Irvine
- Ph.D. Criminology, Law and Society, 2021 - 2027 expected
  Dissertation: Clemency and the Relationships Between Mercy, the Penal State, and Narratives of Worth
  Committee: Dr. Christopher Seeds, Dr. Keramet Reiter, Dr. Mona Lynch, Dr. Katherine Beckett

University of Washington
- B.A. Law, Societies, and Justice, 2019
  Magna Cum Laude with Honors

Peer Reviewed Publications

Amaya, E, **Mosca, D.,** Grasso, J., Reiter, J. 2026. Bifurcating Relief and Legitimating Mass Incarceration: An Analysis of Obama's Clemency Initiative. *Law and Policy* 48(2): 1-16.

Seeds, C. & **Mosca, D**. 2025. Chapter 12: Prison Release in Cases of Old Age and Chronic or Life-Limiting Illness. In *Parole Futures: Rationalities, Institutions and Practices* (Oñati International Series in Law and Society) (Harry Annison, Nicola Carr and Thomas Guiney, eds.). New York, NY: Hart Publishing.

Sugie, N. F., Sandoval, J. R., Kaiser, D. E., **Mosca, D**., Winnen, K., Zhang, E. R., & Zhang, I. H. 2024. Accessing the right to vote among system-impacted people. *Punishment & Society*, 26(4), 711-731.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Rowland, A. & **Mosca, D**. "Loic Wacquant. *Rethinking the Penal State,"*
Invited review for *Punishment & Society.*

Mosca, D. “Please Have Mercy:” Mercy and Punishment in Washington State, 1996-2026. In preparation for the *American Journal of Sociology.*

Mosca, D. Mercy, Power, and Death: Volunteers for the Death Penalty as Tests of State Power and Explorations of Legality in Examinations of Mercy. In preparation for *Law & Society Review.*

Sugie, N. F., Zhang, E.R., Zhang, I. H., Winnen, K., **Mosca, D.,** Kaiser, D. From Rights to Votes: Text Messages Increase Electoral Participation Among System-Impacted Individuals. In Preparation for the *American Journal of Sociology.*

Public Writing

Mosca, D. 2025. Administrative Barriers to Accessing the Washington State Clemency and Pardons Board. *Report to the Seattle Clemency Project.*

Mosca, D. 2025. Historical and Contemporary Uses of the Pardons Process in Washington. *Report to the Seattle Clemency Project.*

In Preparation:

Mosca, Delaney. 2026. Lifers in the Balance of Clemency. *Report to the Seattle Clemency Project.*

Research Experience

2022-Current	Graduate Student Researcher: Voter Outreach In Communities Experiencing System Involvement P.I. Naomi Sugie
2026-Current	Graduate Student Researcher: Prison Health History P.I. Christopher Seeds
2026-Current	Graduate Student Researcher: Prison Pandemic Project P.I. Keramet Reiter, Kristin Turney, Naomi Sugie
2026-Current	Graduate Student Researcher: Seton Mental Health History Project P.I. Mona Lynch
2023-2023	Graduate Student Researcher: National Registry of Exonerations P.I. Simon Cole
2024-2024	Graduate Student Researcher: Deaths in Custody P.I. Naomi Sugie & Kristin Turney

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

2026	Deviance (CRM/LAW 107) Professor Daniel Weisz Argomedo

2025 Hate Crimes (CRM /LAW 127) Professor Brandon Golob
2024 Research Methods (SOCECOL 10) Professor Mona Lynch
2023 Intro to Criminology, Law, & Society (CRM/LAW 10) Professor Valerie Jenness
2023 Gender & Social Control (CRM/LAW 113) Lecturer Jordan Grasso
2023 Miscarriages of Justice (CRM/LAW 114) Professor Simon Cole
2022 Research Methods (SOCECOL 10) Professor Mona Lynch
2022 White Collar Crime (CRM/LAW 142) Professor Henry Pontell
2022 Research Methods (SOCECOL 10) Professor Mona Lynch
2022 Domestic Violence (CRM/LAW 118) Professor Kirk Williams
2021 Immigration & Crime (CRM/LAW 174) Professor Carolina Valdivia

Co-Director

2023, 2024 University of Washington Summer Comparative Punishment Study Abroad
Seattle, U.S. – Guildford, England – Delft, Netherlands

Led approximately 20 students through prisons and detention centers in the U.S., England, and the Netherlands, facilitated conversations with currently and formerly incarcerated individuals, state officials, corrections officers, and international scholars, and coordinated in class discussions and exercises about theories of punishment and comparative conditions of confinement.

Awards & Grants

2026 Dickman Award for Dissertation Research ($1,500)
2025 Academic Freedom Award ($1,240)
2025 Criminology, Law & Society Research Grant ($4,000)
2025 Arnie Binder Award – Outstanding Service Contributions ($500)
2024 Kitty Calavita Research Award – Best Second Year Paper ($500)
2023 Peer Mentor Award – ($200)

Awards & Grants Under Review

2026 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant ($17,430)
2026 Center for Liberation, Anti-Racism, & Belonging SPARK Fellowship ($2,000)

Selected Academic Presentations

2026 "'A Deportation Would be a Life Sentence': Making Meaning of Mercy and Punishment through the Pardon Power." Law and Society Annual Conference. San Francisco, California.

2025 "The Bifurcation of Relief and Relegitimation of Mass Incarceration: An Analysis of Barack Obama's Clemency Initiative." Law and Society Annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois.

2025 "We Regret to Inform You…": Petitions for Clemency Hearings in Washington State. Western Society for Criminology Annual Conference. Seattle, Washington.

2024 "Accessing the Right to Vote Among System Impacted People." Law and Society Association Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.

2024 "Prosecutors, Clemency, and the Question of Mercy in Washington State." Law and Society Association Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.

2023 "Where's the Mercy for Them?: Clemency & the Victims' Rights Movement in Washington State." Law and Society Association Annual Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Invited & Service Presentations

2025 Invited Guest Lecture – Public Policy and Governance. "I Believe in Grace": Clemency, Mercy, and Punishment.

2023 Clemency Petition – Ramsey, Washington State Clemency & Pardons Board, 5-0 Vote to grant

2023 Clemency Petition – Macas, Washington State Clemency & Pardons Board, 5-0 Vote to grant

2022 Clemency Petition – Macas, Washington State Clemency & Pardons Board, continued

2021 Invited Guest Lecture – "Deportation as Punishment" Immigration & Crime (CRM/LAW 174) University of California, Irvine

2020 Clemency Petition – Mitchell, Washington State Clemency & Pardons Board, 5-0 Vote to grant

Professional Service

2025-Current Comprehensive Examination Committee, Department of Criminology, Law and Society

2024-2026 Colloquium Committee, Department of Criminology, Law and Society

2024-Current Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer:
Sociological Perspectives

2023-2024 Peer Mentoring Committee, Department of Criminology, Law and Society

2022-Current Undergraduate Research Assistant Advisor (selected)

- Ryan Shaw
- Lamar Garcia
- Ruhtcel Idelfonso
- Yuliana Rojas

2022-Current Graduate Peer Mentor, four Ph.D. students

2022	Recruitment Week "Housing Panel" Department of Criminology, Law and Society
2022	Recruitment Week "Q&A Sessions" Department of Criminology, Law and Society
2021	First Generation Graduate Student Panel, Department of Criminology, Law and Society

Community Service

2018-Current	Seattle Clemency Project – Representing and assisting with the representation of numerous petitioners, assisting with re-entry planning and coordination
2021-Current	Clemency Consultation – Assist with advocacy efforts for individuals seeking clemency with and without representation in WA, TX, and CA
2018-2020	Book Clubs: Sponsor & Volunteer – Monroe Correctional Complex: Twin Rivers Unit, Intensive Management Unit, Minimum Security Unit

Certificates

2023-2024	Pedagogical Intensive Certificate, Department of Criminology, Law and Society ($1,000)

Professional Affiliations

Law and Society Association
American Society of Criminology