

# Meghan Maree Ballard, M.S.

mmballar@uci.edu | <https://sites.uci.edu/mmballard/> | <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4165-1817> | she/her

## EDUCATION

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- June 2025  
Expected **Ph.D. Candidate- Criminology, Law & Society (CLS), University of California, Irvine (UCI)**  
**Dissertation:** “Language Access in State Courts: The Bureaucratic Interpretation, Organizational Construction, and Administrative Enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964” (Chair: Dr. Mona Lynch)  
**Race & Justice Graduate Emphasis** (directed by Dr. Sora Han); **Law, Society & Culture Emphasis** (directed by Dr. Keramet Reiter)
- 2018 **M.S. Justice, Law, and Criminology, American University**  
Comprehensive Exam Distinction. Certificate in Analytics and Management from the School of Public Affairs’ Analytics and Management Institute.
- 2010 **B.A. Political Science, Ethnic Studies Minor, University of California, Berkeley**

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Law & Society	Access to Justice	Race & Justice	Civil Rights
Language Rights	Inequality/Social Stratification	Criminology	Research Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters*

**Ballard, Meghan M.** & Charis E. Kubrin. 2023. “Immigrant Victimization: Centering Language in Theory, Data and Method.” *Societies*, 13(4), 101. MDPI AG. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/soc13040101>.

**Ballard, Meghan M.** & Nancy R. Rodriguez. 2022. “Digital Language Accessibility on Police Websites: Strengthening Effective Communication Between Limited English Proficient Communities and the Police.” *Policing & Society*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2022.2071893>.

Sykes, Bryan L., **Meghan M. Ballard**, Daniela Kaiser, Vicente Celestino Mata, Joanne Amanda Sharry, and Justin Sola. 2022. “Barred: Labor Market Dynamics and Human Capital Development Among People on Probation and Parole.” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 701(1), 28-45. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162221099291>.

Sykes, Bryan L., **Meghan M. Ballard**, Andrea Giuffre, Rebecca Goodsell, Daniela Kaiser, Vicente Celestino Mata, and Justin Sola. 2022. “Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Financial Double-Dealing, Public Assistance, and the Repayment of Criminal Justice Debt.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. 8(1), 148-178. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2022.8.1.07>.

### *Policy Briefs & Other Reports*

Sykes, Bryan L., & **Meghan M. Ballard**. 2023. Redressing Racial and Ethnic Wrongs in the Criminal Legal System [policy brief]. *Contexts*, 22(3), 74-75. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15365042231192505>.

Rodriguez, Nancy R., & **Meghan M. Ballard**. 2023. Establishing, Implementing, and Maintaining a Language Access Program [policy brief]. *MacArthur Foundation, Safety and Justice Challenge*. <https://safetyandjusticechallenge.org/resources/establishing-implementing-and-maintaining-a-language-access-program/>.

**Ballard, Meghan M.**, Annie Brothers, and Douglas Ligor. 2022. *Federal Personnel Vetting Criminal History Records Information (CHRI) Education and Training Materials for State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) Law Enforcement Agency Partners: Privacy Law Overview, Catalogue of Local and State Laws on Collecting CHRI, Review of DCSA's Legal Authority on Collecting CHRI*, RAND Project Report ND-822013, November 1. (Non-public).

Grisé, Michelle, **Meghan M. Ballard**, Kirsten M. Keller, and Julia Vidal Verástegui. 2022. *Justice Must Go On: The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Military Court Operations*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation. <https://www.rand.org/pubs/perspectives/PEA1219-1.html>.

### *Book Reviews & Commentaries*

Sykes, Bryan L. & **Meghan M. Ballard**. 2024. "Race, the Criminal Legal System, & Statecraft: The California Racial Justice Act (2020)." *Wisconsin Law Review Forward*. <https://wlr.law.wisc.edu/race-the-criminal-legal-system-and-statecraft-the-california-racial-justice-act-2020/>.

**Ballard, Meghan M.** 2022. "Review of *Race, Ethnicity, Crime, and Justice: An International Dilemma* (2nd ed.) by Akwasi Owusu-Bempah and Shaun Gabbidon, Routledge." *Race and Justice*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/02F21533687221101208>.

**Ballard, Meghan M.** 2018. "Effects of linguistic solitary confinement: Conceptual note." *BleakHouse Review*. 10, 41-42.

### **2018 Bleakhouse Literary Award**

### *Public Scholarship & Podcast Appearances*

**Ballard, Meghan M.** [Contributor]. 2023, July 14. "Coalition calls on Spokane County to improve language access." Spokane Public Radio. <https://www.spokanepublicradio.org/regional-news/2023-07-14/coalition-calls-on-spokane-county-to-improve-language-access>.

**Ballard, Meghan M.** [Contributor]. 2022, November 8. "Perdido in Translation: Language Access in the Criminal Justice System [English]." *Manos Arriba: Unreported Stories of Latinx in the U.S. Carceral System*. <https://open.spotify.com/show/0OfUaVwrKHT4oC7k0450aL>

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

Grasso, Jordan C., and **Meghan M. Ballard**. 2021, December 14. "[Dr. Haynes Does Not Owe Anyone an Apology for his Comments on the Rittenhouse Verdict](#)." *The New University: UCI Official Campus Newspaper*.

### Manuscripts Under Review & In Progress

Echols, Courtney M. & **Meghan M. Ballard**. Under Review. “Centering care in the archives: Issues, challenges, and benefits of conducting archival research on anti-Blackness and Black resistance in the United States.” *Communities of Practice and Ethnographic Fieldwork*.

**Meghan M. Ballard** & Sykes, Bryan L. In Progress. “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Sex-Related Offense Charging and Sentencing Decisions.” *Racism by Context*.

**Ballard, Meghan M.** In Progress. Underwriting Injustice: A Social-Legal History of Federal Funding and Racial Discrimination in the Decades Prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

#### **2022 Calavita Award for Best Second-Year Project**

**Ballard, Meghan M.** In Progress. “The Segregated Tax Dollar”: How Black newspapers reported on Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

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- 2024 Graduate Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, UCI, Graduate Division (\$5,000).
- 2023 Public Impact Fellowship, UCI, Graduate Division (\$1,000).
- 2023 California Policy Lab Graduate Fellowship for joint research with Dr. Bryan Sykes on the “California Racial Justice Act (CRJA) of 2020: Assessing Disparate Impact and Intent in Criminal Sex-Crime Related Cases in Los Angeles County” (two awards totaling \$20,000).
- 2023 Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ) Student Research Funding Opportunity for dissertation research support (\$1,000).
- 2023 CLS-MAS Professional Development Fellowship, UCI (\$7,091).
- 2021 Center for Organizational Research Small Grant, UCI (\$1,000).
- 2020 Kitty Calavita Fellowship, UCI, CLS (\$14,182).
- 2019 Graduate Deans Recruitment Fellowship, UCI, Graduate Division (\$5,000).

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2023 Geis Award for Excellence in Research, UCI, CLS (\$500).
- 2023 Dickman Award for Dissertation Research, UCI, CLS (\$1,500).
- 2022 Calavita Award for Best Second-Year Project, UCI, CLS (\$250).
- 2016 Merit Award, American University, Public Affairs (\$19,000).

### **RECENT PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2024 Vicarious Trauma Among California State Court Interpreters: A Qualitative Analysis. Paper accepted to American Society of Criminology (ASC) annual meeting, San Francisco.
- 2024 Language access in state courts: Symbolic structures of compliance with Title VI and its implementing regulations. Paper presented at Law and Society Association (LSA) annual meeting, Denver.

- 2024 Evidence of discrimination in the California criminal legal system: How legal practitioners and experts make claims of racial and/or ethnic bias under the California Racial Justice Act (CRJA) (Presenting Co-Author). Paper presented at LSA annual meeting, Denver.
- 2024 Administrative Meaning Making of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Paper presented at Socio-Legal Studies Workshop, UCI Law.
- 2024 Unveiling hidden scars: Vicarious trauma among non-law enforcement professionals (Chair). Roundtable hosted at Western Society of Criminology (WSC) annual meeting, Long Beach.
- 2023 Civil Rights Statutes, National Origin Discrimination, and Legal Compliance: The Iterative Process of Administrative Meaning Making in the Context of Title VI Enforcement. Paper presented at LSA annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2022 Appearing Indigent: Judicial Decision-making and the Assessment of Poverty in the Imposition of Monetary Sanctions (Non-Presenting Co-Author). Paper presented at LSA annual meeting, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2022 Digital Language Accessibility on Police Websites: Strengthening Effective Communication Between Limited English Proficient Communities and the Police (Lead Presenting Co-Author). Paper presented at WSC annual meeting, Honolulu.
- 2021 “The Segregated Tax Dollar”: How Black Newspapers Reported on Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964. Paper presented at ASC annual meeting, Chicago.
- 2021 “No U.S. Dough to Help Jim Crow Grow”: A Socio-Legal History of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Paper presented at LSA annual meeting, Chicago (virtual).
- 2021 “No U.S. Dough to Help Jim Crow Grow”: A Socio-Legal History of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Paper presented at Graduate Students Symposium, UCI (virtual).
- 2021 Judges’ Highest Score Award at the Graduate Student Symposium**
- 2020 Great Streets Small Business Grant Program: Criminological Effects in Washington, D.C.’s Emerging Corridors (co-author and co-presenter). Paper presented at Public Purpose Journal launch event, American University (virtual).
- 2018 Cracking Down on Sentencing Disparities: The Federal Sentencing Act of 2010’s Impact on Federal Cocaine Offenders. Paper presented at Public Purpose Journal launch event, American University.
- 2018 Effects of Linguistic Solitary Confinement: Exploratory Research. Paper presented at ASC annual meeting, Atlanta.
- 2018 Ethnographic themes associated with life in restricted housing units. Poster presented at Graduate Student Showcase event, American University.

**2018 Graduate Student Showcase Research Award**

**INVITED TALKS & ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS**

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*Invited Talks and Lectures*

- 2021 Sociolegal history of *Lau v. Nichols*, 414 U.S. 563 (1974). Invited lecturer for LAW 5117 (“Centering California in the History of Race and the Law”), UCI Law.

- 2021 Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Military Justice System. Presentation at the RAND Summer Associate Seminar Series (virtual).
- 2019 Conflicts of Interest in Academia. Invited lecture for SE 10 (“Research Design”), UCI.

Academic Workshops

- 2023 Participant: Law and Society Association’s (LSA) Graduate Student & Early Career Workshop (1-day workshop sponsored by the LSA; one of 45 participants out of 230 applicants). Workshop occurred prior to the LSA annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2022 Participant: American Society of Legal History Research Workshop (1-day workshop for law and history scholars sponsored by the American Society for Legal History) (virtual).
- 2021 Participant: New Directions in Law and Society Workshop (2-day workshop sponsored by the National Science Foundation). University of Massachusetts Amherst (virtual).

**SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2020-2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**, UCI, CLS  
*Faculty: Dr. Bryan Sykes*  
 collaborated with a research team on a field experiment that documents how investments in rehabilitation programming and alleviation of forms of structural disadvantage impact court-ordered program participation and completion rates
- 2022-2023 **Human Rights Intern**, United Nations Mission in Somalia Representative, Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights  
*Supervisor: Dr. Kirsten Young*  
 prepared and delivered trainings on sampling, data collection, and analyzing qualitative data, and produced memos on the right to water and marginalized communities in Somalia and oral history interviews of traumatized communities
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, UCI, CLS  
*Faculty: Dr. Nancy Rodriguez*  
 designed and administered a survey instrument in Qualtrics on institutional language barriers in the criminal legal system
- 2020-2022 **Graduate Student Summer Associate** (2020) & **Adjunct Policy Analyst** (2020-2022); RAND Corporation (virtual)  
*Supervisors: Dr. Michelle Grisé, Dr. Kirsten Keller*  
 conducted preliminary research on the impact of COVID-19 on military justice  
*Project Lead: Douglas Ligor*  
 analyzed an original catalogue of 140 local and state privacy laws that delayed access to historical criminal records needed to fully vet prospective federal employees

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE** (*evaluations available upon request*)

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- 2024 Teaching Associate (sole instructor) – UCI
- C10: Fundamentals of CLS – Spring 2024 (undergrad)
- 2019-2023 Teaching Assistant – UCI
- SE10: Research Methods – Fall 2019 (undergrad)
  - CLS C170: Issues in Policing (virtual) – Spring 2021 (undergrad)
  - SE 264A: Data Analysis – Fall 2021 & Winter 2020 (grad) - designed and instructed a weekly lab on basic STATA coding.
  - CLS C212: Policing (virtual) – Fall 2023 (grad)

## **PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC SERVICE & ACTIVITIES**

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### Professional and Editorial Service

- 2024-present Manuscript Reviewer for *Justice Quarterly*.
- 2020-2022 Student Editorial Assistant for *Sociological Perspectives*, UCI.
- 2020 Service Commendation for Editorial Board of Sociological Perspectives from the Pacific Sociological Association**
- 2019 Manuscript Reviewer for *Law and Social Inquiry*.
- 2017-2018 Associate Print Editor for *Public Purpose Journal*, American University.

### Formal Mentorship

- 2023-present Mentor for the Cal-in-Sac Diversity & Entrepreneurship Fellow Mentorship Program, UC Berkeley (alumna).
- 2015-present Mentor for Cal in the Capitol (CITC) and University of California Washington Center (UCDC), UC Berkeley (alumna).
- 2020-2023 Peer mentor for incoming doctoral students in UCI, CLS.

### Departmental and University Service

- 2021-2022 Diversity Committee Co-Chair, UCI, CLS.
- 2021-2022 Colloquium Committee Student Representative, UCI, CLS.
- 2020-2021 Community Engagement Committee Co-Chair, UCI, CLS.
- 2020-2021 Implicit Bias and Anti-Racist Protocols, Education, and Policies Working Group Facilitator (UCI End Racism Initiative), UCI.

### Professional Development

- 2024 Course Design Certificate Program, UCI, DTEI (8 hr. training)
- 2021 UCI End Racism Facilitator Training Program, UCI (12 hr. training)
- 2020 Mentoring Excellence Program, UCI, Graduate Division (30 hr. training)
- 2019 ZotAbility Ally Program, UCI, Disability Services Center (1.5 hr. training)

## SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

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- 2023-Present **Language Access Consultant**, Language Equity & Access Partners (LEAP)  
conduct thorough legal and policy analysis to support efforts in improving language access, conduct comprehensive data analyses using census data to shed light on language needs, analyze qualitative and quantitative primary and secondary data to inform key findings, write detailed memos discussing these findings and offer recommendations to stakeholders, generate data visualizations to efficiently communicate insights and empower stakeholders in their decision-making endeavors
- 2010-2019 **Paralegal Specialist & Supervisor**, U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ)  
*Civil Rights Division, Federal Coordination & Compliance Section*  
investigated race and national origin discrimination complaints filed against recipients of federal funds by producing case research, conducting interviews, and drafting site memos (e.g. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office prison matter)  
*Antitrust Division, Criminal Section*  
supervised paralegals on a global price-fixing case concerning the auto part industry resulting in the largest criminal penalties in antitrust history: 48 corporate convictions, \$2.9 billion in fines, and 30 individual convictions  
**2014 Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service (USDOJ's second highest employee award)**

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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*Expert:* STATA ❖ Qualtrics ❖ NVivo ❖ Zotero ❖ FileMaker Pro ❖ Excel ❖ PowerPoint  
*Proficient:* R ❖ Tableau ❖ DistillerSR ❖ LexisNexis Advance ❖ Westlaw Edge

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences ❖ American Society of Criminology ❖ American Society for Legal History ❖ American Sociological Association ❖ Law and Society Association ❖ Western Society of Criminology

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request.