

David McElhattan

Purdue University
Department of Sociology
West Lafayette, IN 47907
davidmcelhattan@purdue.edu

Employment

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2018-present.

Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.
Lecturer, Department of Sociology, 2017-2018.

Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
Ph.D., Sociology, 2018
M.A., Sociology, 2013

Boston University, Boston, MA.
B.A., Sociology, Philosophy; Magna Cum Laude, 2010.

Refereed articles

McElhattan, David. 2022. "The Proliferation of Criminal Background Check Laws in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(4): 1037-1093.

McElhattan, David. 2021. "The Exception as the Rule: Negligent Hiring Liability, Structured Uncertainty, and the Rise of Criminal Background Checks in the United States." *Law & Social Inquiry*. DOI: doi.org/10.1017/lsi.2021.35

McElhattan, David. 2021. "Punitive Ambiguity: State-level Criminal Record Data Quality in the Era of Widespread Background Screening." *Punishment & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/1462474521989502

McElhattan, David. 2018. "'\$40 to Make Sure': Background Check Laws and the Endogenous Construction of Criminal Risk." *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society* 77: 99-121.

McElhattan, David, Laura Beth Nielsen, and Jill Weinberg. 2017. "Race and Determinations of Discrimination: Vigilance, Cynicism, Skepticism, and Attitudes about Legal Mobilization in Employment Civil Rights." *Law & Society Review* 51(3): 669-703.

Weinberg, Jill, Jeremy Freese, and David McElhattan. 2014. "Comparing Data Characteristics and Results of an Online Factorial Survey between a Population-based and a Crowdsourced Recruited Sample." *Sociological Science* 1: 292-310.

Award & grants Daryl Evans Undergraduate Teaching Award, Purdue University Department of Sociology, 2020.

American Bar Foundation/Northwestern University Doctoral Fellowship, 2016-2017

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000), 2016-2017.

MacArthur Collaborative Research Grant (with Laura Beth Nielsen) (\$1,200), 2012.

Presentations

Invited

"Post-Conviction Criminal Background Searches." Texas A&M Law Review Virtual Symposium, From Investigation to Post-Conviction: Technology and Privacy in Modern Criminal Procedure. March 2021.

Workshops and seminars

"Racialized Risk: The Proliferation of Criminal History Background Checks in the Era of Mass Incarceration." Crime, Law, and Deviance Workshop, Northwestern University, 2017.

"\$40 to Make Sure': Commonsense Risk Management and the Proliferation of Criminal Background Checks." Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, 2017.

"The Proliferation of Criminal History Background Checks in the Era of Mass Incarceration." American Bar Foundation Research Seminar, Chicago, 2016.

Conferences

American Sociological Association (2015, 2017, 2018, 2021)

American Society of Criminology (2019, 2021)

Law & Society Association (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021)

Social Science History Association (2014, 2016)

Teaching

Social Deviance and Control; Purdue University (S20 F20 S21).

Criminology; Purdue University (F18 S19 S20 F20 S21).

Criminological Theory; Humboldt State University (S18).

Social Issues and Action; Humboldt State University (F17).

Sociology Senior Thesis Seminar; Humboldt State University (F17).

Race, Politics, and the Law; Northwestern University (Summer 17).

Service

Department of Sociology, Purdue University

Search Committee, Digital Criminology, 2021.

Awards Committee, 2021-2022.

Colloquium Committee, 2019-2020.

Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology; Law & Social Inquiry; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Punishment & Society; Social Currents; Social Forces; Social Problems; National Science Foundation.

Public sociology

Podcast interview, This Week in Sociological Perspective with Samuel Roundfield Lucas. April 23, 2021.

“Myths and Realities of Criminal Investigations.” Tippecanoe Public Library, October 2018.

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, statistical consulting and analysis, 2013-2018.

Membership

American Sociological Association

American Society of Criminology

Law & Society Association