

Megan Kang

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EMPLOYMENT Assistant Professor 2026 - Present
Johns Hopkins School of Government and Policy

EDUCATION *Ph.D. Sociology* 2026
Princeton University

Master of Public Policy 2019
University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy

B.A. Political Science and History 2014
University of California, Berkeley

AFFILIATIONS Research Affiliate, [University of Chicago Crime Lab](#)
Research Affiliate, [Violence Inequality Project](#)

PUBLICATIONS See [my google scholar](#) page. *Indicates student co-author.

Kang, Megan, Kathryn Edin, Jens Ludwig, Timothy Nelson, and Sendhil Mullainathan. 2026. [Social Cognition and Interpersonal Violence](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 123 (19).

- Covered in [Chicago Tribune](#), [PNAS Editorial](#)

Kang, Megan. 2025. [Weaker the Gang, Harder the Exit](#). *Criminology* 63(4).

- Outstanding Student Paper Award, Division on Developmental and Life-Course Criminology, American Society of Criminology, 2025

Brown-Weinstock, Rachel*, **Megan Kang**, Kathryn Edin, Sarah Pachman, and Kaitlyn Bolin*. 2025. [Other adults in the United States: Improving survey measures of youths' non-parental adult relationships](#). *Journal of Marriage and Family* 85(2): 527-546.

Sharkey, Patrick and **Megan Kang**. 2023. [The Era of Progress on Gun Mortality: State Gun Regulations and Gun Deaths From 1991–2016](#). *Epidemiology* 34(6): 786-792.

- Covered in [NYTimes](#), [Washington Post](#)

Sharkey, Patrick and **Megan Kang**. 2023. [Balancing Empirical Trade-offs When Evaluating U.S. Gun Policy](#). *Epidemiology* 34(6): 796-797.

Kang, Megan and Elizabeth Rasich*. 2023. [Extending the Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership](#). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 65(5):916-922.

- Covered in [Aeon](#), [Vital City](#), [The Trace](#)
- Innovation Award, Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm Harms, 2023

Kang, Megan and Elizabeth Rasich*. 2023. [State-Level Household Gun Ownership Proxy Dataset, 1949-2020](#). *Data in Brief* 50C.

Kang, Megan, Jens Ludwig, and Elizabeth Rasich*. 2021. [Intervention of Choice: Behavioral Science and Gun Violence](#). *Quinnipiac Law Review* 39(3):409-418.

WORKING PAPERS

Kang, Megan. [Becoming a Shooter](#).

- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section, American Sociological Association, 2025
- Robert Dentler Student Award, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2025

Elston, Bethany*, **Megan Kang**, Gianni Pacheco*, and Kathryn Edin. Generativity as a Pathway to Desistance.

Kang, Megan, Kathryn Edin, Jens Ludwig, Timothy Nelson, and Sendhil Mullainathan. Trauma and Daily Functioning.

DATASETS

Kang, Megan. [Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership, 1949-2023](#). Harvard Dataverse.

PUBLIC WRITING

Kang, Megan. [What 99 men from Chicago's most violent neighborhoods teach us about crime](#). *Chicago Tribune*, Jun 11, 2026.

Grewal, Kairvy, **Megan Kang**, Chandler Hall, Emmanuel Hernandez, Donovan Williams, Kathryn Edin, and Monica Bhatt. [Why Might READI Chicago Work to Reduce Gun Violence? Qualitative Evidence from the Field](#). *University of Chicago Crime Lab*, 2026.

Ed. [400 Million Guns \(or More\): The supply side of America's gun problem](#). *Vital City*, Sept 10, 2025.

- **Kang, Megan** and Elizabeth Glazer. [Editors' Note](#)
- Williams, Morgan, **Megan Kang**, and Patrick Sharkey. [State Gun Laws Matter](#)
- Daugherty, Kate, Paul Reeping, and **Megan Kang**. [What We Know and Don't Know About Guns in America](#)

Kang, Megan. [A better conversation on guns](#). *Vital City*, Jan 23, 2025.

Kang, Megan. [Why America fell for guns](#). *Aeon*, Apr 9, 2024.

Kang, Megan. [Unraveling the threads of America's gun culture](#). *Vital City*, Nov 15, 2023.

Kang, Megan. [This is what change looks like](#). *Ethnographic Marginalia*, Feb 7, 2021.

Kang, Megan. [I embedded with Trump-supporting 'Stop the Steal' protesters. Here's what I learned](#). *Huffington Post*, Jan 19, 2021.

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Awards

- Outstanding Student Paper Award, Division on Developmental and Life-Course Criminology, American Society of Criminology, 2025
- Robert Dentler Student Award, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2025
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section, American Sociological Association, 2025
- Innovation Award, National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms, 2023
- Marvin Bressler Graduate Student Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, 2023
- Undergraduate History Thesis Award, University of California, Berkeley, 2014

- Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, 2013

Grants

- \$9,000, Criminal Firms: Lessons from Chicago's Gang Nations (with Chris Blattman), *SNF Agora Faculty Grant Award*, 2026
- \$4,500, Evaluating LLMs as Tools for Qualitative Social Science (with Kathryn Edin and Michael Zanger-Tishler), *Data-Driven Social Science Grant*, 2026
- \$5,000, Dissertation Grant, *New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center*, 2024
- \$1,000, Dissertation Grant, *ASU BRIDGS*, 2024
- \$1,500, Dissertation Grant, *African American Studies, Princeton University*, 2023
- \$500,000, Mechanisms Study of Violence Prevention Programs in Chicago (with Kathryn Edin, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Timothy Nelson), *Baker Street Foundation*, 2022
- \$15,000, Gang Exit Study, *University of Chicago Crime Lab*, 2018

Fellowships

- Dean's Completion Fellowship, 2025-2026
- Visiting Research Fellow, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Spring 2025
- BRIDGS Emergent Scholar Fellow, 2024
- Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2019-2020
- Teach for America Fellow, Americorps, 2015

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCES

Invited Talks

- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Johns Hopkins University, School of Government and Policy
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Arizona State University, Department of Sociology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Rutgers University, Department of Sociology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Texas A&M, Department of Sociology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Penn State University, Department of Sociology and Criminology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Florida State University, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. University of Iowa, Department of Sociology and Criminology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Rutgers University, School of Criminal Justice
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. University of South Florida, Department of Criminology
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Criminology
- Spring 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. Collegio Carlo Alberto
- Winter 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. ASU BRIDGS Symposium
- Fall 2024. *Diagnosing and Treating Urban Gun Violence*. University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Why We Fight (PBPL 25600 / PLSC 25601)
- Fall 2024. *How the Truly Disadvantaged Endure: Trauma and Daily Functioning*. University of Washington - Social, Behavioral and Human Sciences Seminar
- Winter 2023. *Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape*. Collegio Carlo Alberto - Seminar in Politics and Society

- Fall 2022. *Chicago Gangs and Gun Violence*. Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. Urban Inequality and Social Policy (SPI / SOC 537)
- Fall 2022. *Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape*. University of Chicago Gang Workshop

Conference Presentations

- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. American Society of Criminology - Weapons Session
- Fall 2025. *Becoming a Shooter*. NBER Economics of Firearm Markets, Crime, and Gun Violence Workshop
- Fall 2024. *How the Truly Disadvantaged Endure: Trauma and Daily Functioning*. American Society of Criminology - Advances in Qualitative Methods Session
- Summer 2024. *How the Truly Disadvantaged Endure: Trauma and Daily Functioning*. American Sociological Association - Qualitative Methods Session
- Fall 2023. *Extending the Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership*. National Research Conference on the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms
- Fall 2022. *Extending the Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership*. American Society of Criminology - Correlates of Crime Session
- Fall 2022. *Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape*. American Society of Criminology - Correlates of Crime Session
- Fall 2022. *Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape*. Rising Scholars Conference - Social Psychology and Organizational Behavior Section
- Summer 2022. American Sociological Association - Deviance and Social Control Session
- Spring 2022. *Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape*. Chicago Ethnography Conference - Criminology Section
- Summer 2022. *Extending the Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership*. American Sociological Association - Crime, Law, and Deviance Session

TEACHING

Why We Fight (PBPL 25600 / PLSC 25601) University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Teaching assistant for Chris Blattman	Fall 2024
Claims and Evidence in Sociology (SOC 300) Princeton University Lead teaching assistant for Kathryn Edin and Filiz Garip	Fall 2022
Claims and Evidence in Sociology (SOC 300) Princeton University Teaching assistant for Kathryn Edin and James Raymo	Fall 2021
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS) Princeton University Teaching assistant for Matthew Salganik and Chris Bail	Summer 2021
Artificial Intelligence for Public Policy (PPHA 38829) University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy University of Chicago Booth School of Business Teaching assistant for Jens Ludwig and Sendhil Mullainathan	Winter 2019
Jalen Rose Leadership Academy 12th Grade ELA Teacher	2014-2015

SERVICE

Refereed Publications

- Criminology, American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Injury Epidemiology, International Criminology

External

- Awards Committee, Division of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology, American Society of Criminology, 2026
- Awards Committee, Division of Communities and Place, American Society of Criminology, 2026
- Awards Committee, Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section, American Sociological Association, 2026
- Session Organizer, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association, 2025
- Student Working Group, [Research Society for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms](#), 2024-2025
- Princeton ReMatch+ Graduate Mentor, 2021-2024