Melanie M. Holland, PhD

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
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Employment

2023 – present Associate Professor of Criminal Justice. Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.

2019 – 2023 Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.

2018 – 2019 Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. Department of Criminal Justice, Troy University.

2016 – 2018 Assistant Professor. Department of Criminal Justice, Pennsylvania State University - Altoona.

2010 – 2016 Instructor of Criminal Justice. Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Old Dominion University.

Education

2016 Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University.
Doctoral Dissertation: *Governing the "Alien Threat": A Multilevel Analysis of Punitiveness toward Non-citizen Federal Drug Offenders Across Time and Place.*
Committee: Randy Gainey (chair), Scott R. Maggard, Jeffery T. Ulmer

2010 M.S., Criminal Justice, The University of Alabama.
Master's Thesis: *Gender and Sentencing Outcomes: Does region matter?*
Committee: Ariane Prohaska (chair), Jimmy Williams, Britney Cooper

2008 B.S., Criminal Justice and Psychology, The University of Alabama.

Research Interests

Courtroom Decision Making
The Contextualization of Sentencing Disparities
Public Policy and Social Inequality
"Crimmigration"

Teaching Interests

Criminal Courts
Criminal Law
Research Methods
Corrections

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

2024 Stringer, Richard and **Melanie Holland**. "The Threatening Path to Inequality: A multilevel path analysis of Minority Threat Theory, threat mediation, and displacement on ethnic sentencing." *Crime and Delinquency*. Published online.

2023 Link, Tanja, **Melanie Holland**, and Joey Villemez. "A Statutory Analysis of Current SORNA Restrictions." *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 30*(2), 159-171.

2023 Ledet, Richard, **Melanie Holland**, Sharon Emeigh, and Somer Givens. "Carceral Safety in a Post-PREA Era: An examination of perceptual indicators of safety among incarcerated persons in four southeast prisons." *Punishment and Society, 26*(1), 3-31.

2020 **Holland, Melanie**. "Fast-Tracking Disadvantage: Gender differences in the application of federal early disposition outcomes." *Women and Criminal Justice 30*(2), 126-146.

2019 **Holland, Melanie** and Richard Stringer. "Immigrant Threat and Latino/a Disadvantage: Disentangling the impact of state level immigration attitudes on ethnic sentencing disparities." *Journal of Crime and Justice 42*(2), 140-160.

2018 **Holland, Melanie** and Ariane Prohaska. "Gender Effects Across Place: A multilevel investigation of the gender gap in sentencing." *Race and Justice 11*(1), 91-112.

2017 **Holland, Melanie**. "Equal Justice: Examining the effects of citizenship, documentation status, and country of origin on incarceration outcomes." *Criminal Justice Review 43*(4), 419-439.

2016 Stringer, Richard and **Melanie Holland**. "It's Not All Black and White: A propensity score matched, multilevel examination of racial sentencing disparities." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice 14*(4), 327-347.

Other Peer Reviewed Publications

* Denotes Student Co-author

2025 Holland, Melanie and Destiny Morrison*. "Sentencing Biases in the United States, Gender and Race". Invited submission on behalf of *The Sage Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender.*

2017 Holland, M. "Book Review of 'The social life of forensic evidence.'" [Review of the book *The social life of forensic evidence*]. *International Criminal Justice Review 28*(2), 179-180.

2015 Holland, M. "Book Review of 'Unwanted.'" [Review of the book *Unwanted: Muslim Immigrants, Dignity, and Drug Dealing*]. *Criminal Justice Review 40*(3), 405-406.

2014 Holland, M. "Book Review of 'A second chance for justice.'" [Review of the book *A second chance for justice: The prosecutions of Gabe Watson for the death of Tina Thomas*]. *Criminal Justice Review 39*(3), 349-351.

Manuscripts In Progress

In Progress — Holland, Melanie and Randy Gainey. "Who Get's What and What do they Get? A State-wide Analysis of Pretrial Services in Virginia."

Conference Presentations

* Denotes Student Co-author

2024 — **Holland, Melanie** and Randy Gainey. "Who Get's What and What do they Get? A State-wide Analysis of Pretrial Services in Virginia." To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco CA.

2022 — Link, Tanja, Joey Villemez, and **Melanie Holland**. "Collateral Consequences of SORNA Statutes." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Asheville NC.

2021 — Stringer, Richard and **Melanie Holland**. "Immigrant Threat and Non-Citizen Disadvantage: An Examination of attitudes toward immigration and Hispanic drug sentencing outcomes." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Daytona FL.

2020 — Stringer, Richard and **Melanie Holland**. "Revisiting 'Immigrant Threat and Latino/a Disadvantage': An elaboration on immigration attitudes and Latino sentencing disparities.." [Conference Canceled]. Accepted presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, San Antonio TX.

2019 — **Holland, Melanie**. "Fast-Tracking Disadvantage: Gender Differences in the Application of Early Disposition Outcomes." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Nashville TN.

2018 — Brumbaugh, Mikayla* and **Melanie Holland**. "Drug Court Recidivism in Central Pennsylvania: An exploration of desistance and time until reoffending among those previously enrolled in drug court." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New Orleans LA.

2017 — **Holland, Melanie**. "Disentangling the Effects of Nationality: An examination of sentencing disparity across national origin." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, New Orleans LA.

2016 — **Holland, Melanie**. "Equal Justice: An Examination of the Effects of Citizenship Status on Federal Drug Sentencing Outcomes." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans LA.

2016 **Holland, Melanie** [*Panel Chair*] and Richard Stringer. "Inequality at the Border: Disentangling the impact of state level immigration attitudes on Latino sentencing disparities." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Denver CO [*Featured Panel*].

2015 Stringer, Richard and **Melanie Holland**. "It's Not All Black and White: Examining Sentencing Disparities in the Racialized South." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington DC.

2013 **Holland, Melanie**. "Courts, Crack, and Citizenship: A Multilevel Analysis of Punitiveness toward Non-citizen Drug Offenders." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta GA.

2012 **Holland, Melanie**. "Punishing the Innocent: Examining Revictimization as a Result of ICC Intervention in Kenya." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago IL.

2012 Lee, Anne and **Melanie Holland**. "The Casey Anthony Trial: Media Frenzy and Moral Panic." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, New York, NY.

2011 Gainey, Randy and **Melanie Holland**. "Misbehaving at School: Who is at High-Risk?" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington DC.

2011 **Holland, Melanie**, Anne Lee, and Caitlin Muldoon. "Gender Differences in Publishing in Criminological Journals." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO.

2010 **Holland, Melanie** and Ariane Prohaska. "Gender and Sentencing Outcomes: Does Region Matter?" Presented at the Joint Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

2010 **Holland, Melanie**. "Gender and Sentencing Outcomes: Does Region Matter?" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, San Diego, CA.

Interviews, Media Features, and Invited Presentations

2022 Interview. *The Metro-Atlanta Crimeosphere,* "Why Sentencing Inequality Still Exists."

2020 KSU Office of Digital Education. Invited Panelist. *Faculty Spotlight,* "Roundtable on Rotational Teaching."

2019 KSU Online News. Interview. *Wise-ly,* "True Crime and You."

2018 Podcast Interview. *The Break it Down Show,* "The Prison Experience."

2017 Penn State Altoona. Invited Panelist. *New Faculty Orientation,* "Experiences from Former New Faculty."

2017 Sage Video Interview. *Sage Video: Criminology and Criminal Justice Collection*, "Inequality at the Border."

2017 Sage Video Interview. *Sage Video: Criminology and Criminal Justice Collection*, "It's Not All Black and White."

2013 Old Dominion University. Invited Panelist. *Graduate Teaching Assistant Institute,* "Advice from Current Teaching Assistants".

Teaching Experience
F2F: fully face-to-face, H: hybrid/mixed modality, OL: fully online

Kennesaw State University, 2019 - present.

Undergraduate: Crimes and Defenses (*F2F*), Crimes and Defenses (*H*), Crimes and Defenses (*OL*), Criminal Courts (*F2F*), Criminal Courts (*H*), Criminal Courts (*OL*), Research Methods (*F2F*), Research Methods (*H*), Corrections (*OL*)
Graduate: Advanced Research Methods (*F2F*), Law and the Legal Process (*OL*)

Troy State University, 2018 - 2019.

Undergraduate: Research Methods (*F2F*), Punishment (*F2F*), Survey to Corrections (*F2F*), Survey to Corrections (*OL*), Juvenile Justice (*OL*)

Graduate: Survey of Research Methods in Criminal Justice (*OL*)

Pennsylvania State University – Altoona, 2016 - 2018.

Undergraduate: Introduction to Criminal Justice (*F2F*), Corrections (*F2F*), Ethics in Criminal Justice (*F2F*), Advanced Criminological Theory (*F2F*)

Old Dominion University, 2010 - 2016.

Undergraduate: Introduction to Criminology (*F2F*), The American Jury (*F2F*), Social Research Methods (*F2F*), Criminological Theory (*F2F*)

Accessibility Certified Course Shells Designed

Certified Hybrid Courses:	Crimes and Defenses, Criminal Courts, Research Methods
Certified Online Courses:	Crimes and Defenses, Criminal Courts
Certified Master Shells:	Crimes and Defenses, Criminal Courts, Foundations of CJ

Student Mentorship

2022 – 2024	Graduate Thesis Chair, Kennesaw State University. Sarah Boutwell. Title TBD.
2024	Faculty Supervisor, Graduate Student Research Assistant, Kennesaw State University. Destiny Morrison. "Sentencing Biases in the United States, Gender and Race".
2024	Faculty Supervisor, Student Honors Project, Kennesaw State University. Joshua Hill. "Crimes and Defense Honors Project".
2024	Faculty Supervisor, Student Honors Project, Kennesaw State University. Jaida Kelley. "The Influence of Religion on Perspectives Regarding the Death Penalty: A quantitative study."
2023	Faculty Supervisor, Student Honors Project, Kennesaw State University. Harlie Bowen. "Jamie Dutton's Criminal Activity in Yellowstone."
2022	Co-Research Mentor, Symposium of Student Scholars. Sarah Boutwell, Faith Powell, and Olivia Barnett. "A Comparative Analysis of SORNA Statutes across the United States".
2022	Faculty Supervisor, Student Honors Project, Kennesaw State University. Julia Weiss. "Georgia Prison Rehabilitation Society: Taking steps toward a new beginning."
2020 – 2021	Graduate Thesis Committee Member, Kennesaw State University. Darian Hails. "The Future is Female: An examination of officer-offender relationships using a sample of justice-involved women."
2017 - 2018	Faculty Mentor, Independent Study, Penn State Altoona. Makayla Brumbaugh. "Drug Court Recidivism in Central Pennsylvania: An exploration of desistance and time until reoffending among those previously enrolled in drug court."
2017	Faculty Supervisor, Student Honors Project, Penn State Altoona. Marina Scipioni. "A Comparison of U.S. and Norwegian Approaches to Corrections."

Funded Awards and Honors

2022 Holland, Melanie. Outstanding Teaching Award. Kennesaw State University, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Funded course release.

2020 Holland, Melanie. Criminal Justice Department Research Grant, KSU Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Funded $1,000.

2019 Holland, Melanie. Online Course Development Award, CHSS Office of Digital Education. Funded $2,500.

2016 Holland, Melanie. Graduate Student Summit Scholarship, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Funded full conference and travel expenses.

2015 Holland, Melanie and Richard Stringer. Elliot Currie Paper Award for Criminology in the Pursuit of Social Justice. Funded $500.

2013 Holland, Melanie. Competitive Graduate Student Travel Award, Student Engagement and Enrollment Services, Old Dominion University. Funded $500.

2010 Holland, Melanie. Competitive Doctoral Fellowship, Old Dominion University. Funded $17,000.

Other Competitive Awards and Honors

2025 Outstanding Online Teaching Award. Kennesaw State University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

2025 Meaningful Educator Recognition. Kennesaw State University, Journey Honors College.

2024 Radow Innovative Pedagogy. Featured Faculty. Kennesaw State University, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

2024 Impactful Educator Recognition. Kennesaw State University, Career Planning and Development.

2023 Impactful Educator Recognition. Kennesaw State University, Career Planning and Development.

2022 Outstanding Teaching Award. Kennesaw State University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice.

2015	Shining Star Recognition for Excellence in Teaching. Old Dominion University, Division of Student Engagement and Enrollment Services.
2013	Graduate Student Research Award. Old Dominion University, Department of Sociology and Criminology.
2008	Criminal Justice Undergraduate Research Competition (2nd place). University of Alabama.

Professional and Community Service

Ongoing	Article Reviewer for *Justice Quarterly, Crime & Delinquency, Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Punishment & Society, Race & Justice, Criminal Justice and Behavior, Women & Criminal Justice, Journal of Crime and Justice, Psychology, Crime, & Law, Criminal Justice Review, Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society, International Criminal Justice Review,* and *International Journal of Criminology & Sociology.*
2022	Reviewer for *Oxford Bibliographies* [recommended for expertise on "Race and Sentencing Research Advancements"].
2020	Committee Member, Outstanding Professional Award Committee, Southern Criminal Justice Association.
2017 – 2019	Member, Blair County Prison Society.
2018	Orchestrator, Blair County Prison and Hollidaysburg Library Collaboration Project.
2016	Textbook Reviewer for Sage Publications.

University and College Service

2025 – present	Committee Member, SCJ Department Chair Search, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University.
2023 – present	SCJ Elected Representative. Faculty Senate Committee. Kennesaw State University.
2023 – present	RCHSS Elected Representative. Graduate Program Curriculum Committee. Kennesaw State University.
2021	Committee Member, Scholarship Committee, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University.

2021	Invited Member, Focus Group for the Radow Institute for Social Equity, Norman J. Radow College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Kennesaw State University.
2020	Voting Member Proxy, Undergraduate Policies and Curriculum Committee, Kennesaw State University.
2017; 2018	Faculty Evaluator, Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Fair, Pennsylvania State University - Altoona.
2016 – 2017	Member, Geriatric Think Tank, Division of Education, Human Development, and Social Sciences, Pennsylvania State University – Altoona.

Departmental Service

2024 – present	Elected Alternate Committee Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2017 – present	Committee Member, Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) Program Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2024 – 2025	Committee Member, Becky Petersen Memorial Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2023 – 2025	Committee Member, Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ) Admissions and Recruitment Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2024	Invited Speaker, MSCJ Information Session, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2022	Invited Speaker, SCJ New Faculty Mentoring Moment, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University. “Welcome to the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice: New faculty tips to a successful transition”.
2021; 2022	Academic Advisor, Alpha Phi Sigma, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2020	Co-Chair, Faculty Awards Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.

2020	Department Meeting Scribe, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2019	Committee Member, Tenure Track Criminal Justice Search Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Kennesaw State University.
2017	Faculty Representative, Wills for Heroes, Criminal Justice Department, Pennsylvania State University - Altoona.
2016; 2017	Faculty Evaluator, Criminal Justice Intern Presentations, Criminal Justice Department, Pennsylvania State University - Altoona.

Professional Certifications

2025	Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). "Human Research: Social, behavioral, and educational research with human subjects" Certification.
2024	"Using Metacognition to Reframe our Thinking About Learning Styles". Microcredential.
2024	"TILT: Assignment Design for Transparency in Learning and Teaching". Microcredential.
2020	KSU Office of Digital Education. "Streaming Class: Collaborate Ultra" Digital Workshop Certification.
2020	KSU Office of Digital Education. "Rotational Teaching" Digital Workshop Certification.
2020	KSU Office of Digital Education. "Kahoot!" Digital Workshop Certification.
2019	Bartlett, Stephen and Reardon, Tiffani. College of Humanities and Social Sciences "Build a Web Course" Workshop Certification.
2019	KSU College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "Building and Teaching Hybrid Courses" Certification.
2019	KSU Graduate College. Provisional Graduate Faculty Status Granted.

Professional Development

2025	Bankhead, Meghan. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. "Choosing Pedagogical Strategies: An overview of evidence-based approaches to teaching and learning" Workshop.

2023	The OpEd Project. “Write to Change the World” Workshop.
2023	Utschig, Tris. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “Pairing Active Learning with Empathetic Teaching (Strategies for Student Success)” Workshop.
2023	Stewart, Linda. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “Successful Beginnings to Engage All Students” Workshop.
2022	Kirsner, Beth and Boyd, Phillip. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “Maintaining Academic Integrity in our Current Contexts” Workshop.
2022	Utschig, Tris. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “Planning the Feedback Process: How to make feedback constructive for students” Workshop.
2022	Utschig, Tris. Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. “It's About Engagement webinar on Course Design: Steering Your Course into IAE's Bold Waters” Workshop.
2020	Twidt, Portia. College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “Everything You Need to Know about KSU’s IRB” Workshop.
2020	Garefino, A., Nowak K., and Nowak S. College of Humanities and Social Sciences. “How to Effectively Mentor Graduate Students to Increase Your Research Productivity, Especially in this Virtual Environment” Workshop.
2019	Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Faculty Mutual Mentoring.
2016; 2017	Pennsylvania State University. Teaching and Learning Conference.
2015	Van de Weijer, Steve and Bijleveld, Catrien. Methods for the Analysis of Non-Experimental Data: Instrumental variables and regression discontinuity designs. Presented at the American Society of Criminology.

Memberships in Professional Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
American Society of Criminology
Southern Criminal Justice Association