

Curriculum Vitae

AMBER WILSON

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Kennesaw State University
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EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Criminology and Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina
Dissertation: “Community Corrections Officer Decision-Making: An Intersectional Analysis”
Dissertation Committee: Drs. Barbara Koons-Witt (chair), Brandon Applegate, Tia Stevens Andersen, and Carrie Cook
- 2014 M.S., Criminal Justice
Georgia College & State University
- 2012 B.A., Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*
Georgia College & State University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Institutional Corrections; Community Corrections; Reentry; Gender and Crime

TEACHING INTERESTS

Institutional Corrections; Alternatives to Incarceration; Reentry and Reintegration; Capital Punishment; Women and Crime; Research Methods

SCHOLARSHIP

Refereed Journal Articles

Wilson, A., Alix, T.,* & Kanesen, T.* (In press.) “Probation was a great way to go”: Exploring community corrections officers' professional perceptions and orientations. *Journal of Crime and Justice*.

Spencer, M. D., **Wilson, A.**, & Bolin, R. (2025). Policing and corrections in the classroom: Criminal justice students' perceptions of course material and career attractiveness. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. Advanced online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10511253.2025.2475194>

- Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2024).** Gender doesn't matter—except when it does: Exploring officers' gendered experiences within the community corrections organization. *Feminist Criminology*. Advanced online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15570851241309283>
- Wilson, A., & Applegate, B. (2024).** Community corrections officer orientation: Reintroducing the 'passive officer.' *Journal of Crime and Justice*, 48(1), 133-149. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0735648X.2024.2357138>
Recipient of the Outstanding Paper Award, Journal of Crime and Justice and Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (2026)
- Wilson, A. (2023).** Probation and parole revocations: Reviewing over two decades of revocation decisions in the United States. *Criminal Justice Review*, 50(1), 26-52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07340168231170335>
- Wilson, A., Koons-Witt, B., & Pasquire, N. (2022).** Mothering experiences in prison: Exploring distinctions between maternal and paternal caregiving arrangements. *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Science*, 7(5), 2754-2776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fare.12807>
- Koons-Witt, B., Huffman, A., & **Wilson, A. (2021).** Exploring the perceived helpfulness of correctional programs and needs among incarcerated mothers. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 60(8), 501-526. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2021.2000549>
- Isom, D., Cann, D., & **Wilson, A. (2021).** Discrimination, emotions, and identity: Unpacking the pathways to crime for Latinxs. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 49(3), 432-450. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548211040546>
- Isom, D., Boehme, H., Cann, D., & **Wilson, A. (2021).** The White right: A gendered look at the links between 'victim' ideology and anti-Black Lives Matter sentiments in the era of Trump. *Critical Sociology*, 48(3), 475-500. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/08969205211020396>
- Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2021).** "They still know I'm their momma": Incarcerated mothers' perceptions of reunifying and resuming a caregiver role. *Feminist Criminology*, 16(5), 583-606. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557085120983468>
- Wilson, A., Applegate, B. K., & Bolin, R. (2020).** Evidence-based practices in community corrections: Officers' perceptions of professional relevance and personal competence. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 47(1), 117-139. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-020-09581-x>

Book Chapters

Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2020). Women in community corrections: Supervision styles and decision-making. In C. M. Coates & M. Walker-Pickett (Eds.), *Women, minorities, and criminal justice: A multicultural intersectionality approach* (pp. 161- 176). Kendall Hunt.

Technical Reports

Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2022). *Community Corrections Officer Orientation, Gender, and Decision-Making*. Final report submitted to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardons Services.

Koons-Witt, B., Huffman, A., & **Wilson, A.** (2020). *Motherhood and criminal desistance: Can reclaiming their motherhood identity be a 'hook for change'?* Final report submitted to South Carolina Department of Corrections.

Non-Refereed Contributions

Wilson, A. (2021, February 4). Off the shelves: “Paying for the party: How college maintains inequality” [Review of the book *Paying for the party: How college maintains inequality*, by Elizabeth A. Armstrong & Laura T. Hamilton]. *Incubator for Teaching Innovation*. <https://incubatorforteachinginnovation.wordpress.com/2021/02/04/off-the-shelves-paying-for-the-party-how-college-maintains-inequality/>

Wilson, A. (2019). Returning to academia: The value of perspective. *The Criminologist*, 44(6), 37-39.

Manuscripts Under Review

Kelly, M., & **Wilson, A.** ““A bunch of suburban bitches’: A feminist and cultural criminological review of *Good Girls*.” *Under review*.

Works in Progress

Wilson, A., & Mitchell, L.** Community corrections officers’ professional orientation: Exploring the Intersections of officers’ race, gender, and professional orientation. *Manuscript in progress*.

Wilson, A. “Long, curly hair ... a mustache, and a goatee type beard”: Peremptory challenges, the 6th and 14th amendments, and a comprehensive review of *Batson*. *Book chapter in progress*.

Wilson, A., Kelly, M., & Charleston, M.* “You ladies need to start acting like ladies”: Exploring gender performance and system treatment in *Orange is the New Black*.

Manuscript in progress.

Kasper, E., **Wilson, A.**, & Kunz, A. (Editors). *Is the Constitution Everything It Appears to Be?: Legal Rights and Personal Appearance*. Edited volume in progress.

**Denotes current or former undergraduate student.*

***Denotes current or former graduate student.*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 – Present	Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice Kennesaw State University
2021 – 2025	Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2017 – 2021	Graduate Assistant Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice University of South Carolina
2015 – 2017	Specialized Probation Supervision Community Supervision Officer Community Supervision Officer Georgia Department of Community Supervision
2014 – 2015	Lecturer of Criminal Justice Department of Government and Sociology Georgia College & State University
2012 – 2014	Graduate Assistant Women's Resource Center Georgia College & State University
2012	Intern Criminal Investigations Unit Georgia Department of Corrections

GRANT FUNDED AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2025- 2026	UW- Eau Claire Fellow, Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars Program, funded by the Office of Professional & Instructional Development, Universities of Wisconsin (\$7,000). (Declined.)
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- 2025 Mentor. *Exploring Adult Children's Experiences of Parental Justice-Involvement*. Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates, funded by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire (\$7,100). Student mentee: Sabrina Gruzlewski*
- 2020 Co-Principal Investigator. *Reentry: An Experiential Interactive Online Module*. Graduate Teaching Assistant Teaching Resource Development Grant, funded by the Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina (\$600). Co-PI: Philip Berry
- 2019 Principal Investigator. *The Experiences of Female Community Corrections Officers: An Intersectional Perspective*. Feminist Criminology Graduate Research Scholarship, Honorable Mention, funded by the American Society of Criminology's Division on Women and Crime (\$500). Co-PI: Barbara Koons-Witt.
- 2019 Mentee (Dr. Barbara Koons-Witt, Mentor). *Community Corrections Officer Orientation, Gender, and Decision-Making*. SPARC Graduate Research Grant, funded by Office of the Vice President for Research, University of South Carolina (\$5,000).

*Denotes current or former undergraduate student.

PRESENTATIONS

Wilson, A. (2026, April). *Student-faculty collaborative research: Coding prison misconduct and system treatment in Orange is the New Black*. Presented as part of Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice First Tuesday Series, Kennesaw, GA.

Wilson, A. (2025, July). *"It is sometimes necessary to hang a man": When is punishment "cruel and unusual"?* Presented at Menard Center for Constitutional Studies Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium, Eau Claire, WI.

Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2024, November). *Gender doesn't matter—except when it does: Exploring gender in the community corrections organization*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Wilson, A. (2024, July). *"We are Men. We are not Beasts": The Enduring Implications of Xenophobia, Social Unrest, and Public Punitiveness During the Cold War Era*. Presented at Menard Center for Constitutional Studies Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium, Eau Claire, WI.

Kelly, M., & **Wilson, A.** (2023, September). *"A bunch of suburban bitches": Gendered Good Girls*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association, Chicago, IL.

Wilson, A. (2023, July). *The “suspicious beard” on a prima facie case: Racial discrimination in capital sentencing*. Presented at Menard Center for Constitutional Studies Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium, Eau Claire, WI.

Alix, T. *, & **Wilson, A.**, (2023, March). *“Probation was a great way to go”: Exploring community corrections officers’ professional perceptions and orientations*. Poster presented at the meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Studies, National Harbor, MD.

Wilson, A., & Koons-Witt, B. (2022, November). *“People don’t take me serious because I am female”: Examining the relationship between gender and officer orientation*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Wilson, A. (2022, July). *When racial discrimination is cruel and unusual (and when it isn’t): The intersection of the 8th and 14th amendments*. Presented at Menard Center for Constitutional Studies Wisconsin High School and Middle School Teacher Symposium, Eau Claire, WI.

Wilson, A. (2021, November). *Community corrections officer orientation: Reintroducing the “passive officer.”* Paper presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL.

Wilson, A. (2020, November). *Community corrections officer orientation, gender, and decision-making*. Paper accepted for the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

Koons-Witt, B., & **Wilson, A.** (2020, November). *Exploring the experiences of incarcerated mothers and their adaptation to prison: Implications for prison policy and practice*. Paper accepted for the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

Wilson, A. (2020, April). *Community corrections officer orientation, gender, and decision-making*. Poster submitted to the meeting of University of South Carolina’s Discovery Day, Columbia, SC. (Symposium cancelled due to COVID-19.)

Wilson, A., Koons-Witt, B., & Huffman, A. (2018, November). *Motherhood identity and mothering from prison: Implications for reunification and reentry*. Paper presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Williams, A. (2013, September). *Hide yo’ kids, hide yo’ wife: An analysis of the War on Drugs’ impact on women*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference, Virginia Beach, VA.

Williams, A. (2013, March). *War on drugs: A feminist perspective*. Paper presented at the meeting of Georgia College & State University Women’s Symposium, Milledgeville, GA.

McDowell, L., Derajtys, K., & **Williams, A.** (2012, September). *P.U.R.E.: The implementation of restorative justice programs into university residential communities*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

McDowell, L., & **Williams, A.** (2011, September). *The outsiders' guide to the inside: Students' perspectives of the prison world: Merging experiential learning and student research*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference, Nashville, TN.

Williams, A. (2009, April). *Nursing home neglect and abuse*. Paper presented at the meeting of Georgia College & State University Student Research Conference, Milledgeville, GA.

Simpson, D. R., Wilkinson, C., & **Williams, A.** (2008, November). *Pedagogical portals: Integrating web 2.0 with the traditional classroom*. Paper presented at the meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association, Savannah, GA.

**Denotes current or former undergraduate student.*

STUDENT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

2025 – Present	Mady Charleston* Gender Performance and Violation Responses in <i>Orange is the New Black</i>
2024 – Present	Sabrina Gruzlewski,* McNair Scholar Exploring the Impact of Parental Justice-Involvement on Adult Children
2021 – 2026	Twyla Alix* (Blugold Fellow) and Thashwene Kanesen* “Probation was a great way to go”: Exploring Community Corrections Officers' Professional Perceptions and Orientations

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

- Alternatives to Incarceration
- American Judicial System
- Capital Punishment (face-to-face and online courses)
- Corrections & Confinement (face-to-face and online courses)
- Criminal Law & Procedure
- Introduction to Criminal Justice / Survey of Criminal Justice

Reentry and Reintegration
Research Methods & Statistical Analysis (face-to-face and online courses)

Teaching Assistant:

Research Methods (online course)
Women & Crime

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Journal Reviewer: *Feminist Criminology; Corrections; Crime, Media, and Culture; Criminal Justice Review; Criminology & Public Policy*

Book Chapter Reviewer: *Forensic and Legal Psychology* (Corrections Chapter)

American Society of Criminology: Sub-Area Chair for Community Corrections (2026 Conference)

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY

2026 – Present	Faculty Mentor, Criminal Justice Student Organization Kennesaw State University
2024—2025	Ad Hoc Committee Member, POLS & CRMJ Department Policy Committee University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
2024 – 2025	Council Member, Criminal Justice Collaborating Council Eau Claire, Wisconsin
2024, 2023	Peer Reviewer, Teaching Academy Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Mentor, Service Learning Project, UW- Eau Claire Ashlee Anderson, Sarah Manoleff
2023	Volunteer, National Conference for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2022	Mentor, Service Learning Project, UW- Eau Claire Maddie Pynes, Kaitlin Olschlager
2022—2024	Mentor, Undeclared Major Faculty Mentor, College of Arts & Sciences University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
2022 – 2024	Volunteer, League of Women Voters of Greater Chippewa Valley

2022 – 2025	Steering Committee Member, Menard Center for Constitutional Studies University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2022	National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Reviewer, University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2022, 2023, 2024	Co-Organizer & Panelist, Graduate School Information Session Department of Political Science, UW—Eau Claire
2021- 2022	Implementation/Advisory Board Member, Center for Race and Restorative Justice University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire
2021	Panelist, “Women’s Center Alumni Event” Georgia College & State University
2021	Peer Ambassador, “Prospective PhD Preview Day” University of South Carolina
2021	Panelist, “Prospective PhD Preview Day” University of South Carolina
2021	Committee Member, “Prospective PhD Preview Day Planning Committee” University of South Carolina
2020	Panelist, “The Importance of Women’s Centers on Campus” Georgia College & State University
2019 – 2020	President, Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association University of South Carolina
2019	Volunteer Moderator, Oktoberbest Symposium University of South Carolina
2019	Volunteer Reviewer, UofSC Discovery Day University of South Carolina
2018 – 2020	Board Member, Women’s Resource Center Advisory Board Georgia College & State University
2016 – 2017	Volunteer Facilitator, Victim Offender Dialogue Program Georgia Office of Victims’ Services

2016	Special Guest Lecturer, “Restorative Justice Applications at DCS” Georgia Gwinnett College
2014 – 2015	Faculty Mentor, Student Oriented Activities for Retention Georgia College & State University
2014 – 2015	Committee Member, Community Engagement Georgia College & State University

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATIONS

2024	EDI Certificate EDISA, UW- Eau Claire
2024	<i>Generations</i> , Reading Group Series Center for EDI Training, Development and Education, UW—Eau Claire
2024	Accessibility Review and Revision Program Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2024	CETL Certificate Program Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Supporting Student Success Short Course Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2023	EDI Tier III Project Completion Certificate EDISA, UW- Eau Claire
2023	At-Risk Mental Health for Faculty and Staff Center for EDI Training, Development and Education, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Identity, Privilege, and Oppression Workshop Center for EDI Training, Development and Education, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Kevin Gannon: Creating Social Presence for In-Person and Online Courses Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Kevin Gannon: Belonging and Climate Matters Workshop Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire
2023	Creating Effective Group Practice Short Course Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW—Eau Claire

- 2022 *Radical Hope*, Reading Group Series
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2022 Common Challenges in Thematic Analysis and How to Avoid Them Webinar
Virginia Braun & Victoria Clarke, SAGE Publishing
- 2022 Teaching Boost Course Redesign: Organization in Canvas Short Course
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2022 Teaching Boost: Having Better Discussions Short Course
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2022 *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*
Reading Group Series
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2021 Racing Toward Justice: In Conversation with Stephanie Autumn Workshop
Center for Race and Restorative Justice, UW – Eau Claire
- 2021 Recognizing and Responding to Microaggressions in the Classroom Workshop
Division of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs, UW – Eau Claire
- 2021 Identifying and Responding to the Mental Health Needs of UWEC Students:
A Comprehensive Guide for Faculty and Staff workshop
Division of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs, UW – Eau Claire
- 2021 Create Assignment Prompts and Rubrics Using the Transparent Design
Framework Workshop
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2021 Accessibility for All Workshop
Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW – Eau Claire
- 2020 Preparing Future Faculty Certificate
Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
- 2019 University Libraries' Skills, Habits, and Research Program for Graduate Students
Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina
- 2018 Teaching Online for Graduate Students Course
Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
- 2017 Sex Offender Supervision Training
Georgia Public Safety Training Center

2016	Advanced Arrest Team Georgia Public Safety Training Center
2016	Victim-Centered Victim Offender Dialogue Facilitator Training Georgia Public Safety Training Center
2016	POST Certification Georgia Public Safety Training Center
2016	Mental Health First Aid Certification Georgia Public Safety Training Center
2014	Safe Space Training Georgia College & State University
2013	Regional Women's Center Conference Georgia Technical Institute of Technology

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

2022 – 2023	League of Women Voters of Greater Chippewa Valley
2021 – 2022	Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
2022 – Present	ASC: Division of Corrections & Sentencing
2019 – Present	ASC: Division of Feminist Criminology (formerly the Division on Women and Crime)
2018 – Present	American Society of Criminology
2017 – 2021	UofSC Criminology and Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association
2016 – 2017	Georgia Professional Association of Community Supervision
2009 – 2014	Southern Criminal Justice Association

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2026 Outstanding Paper Award: “Community corrections officer orientation:
Reintroducing the ‘passive officer.’”
Journal of Crime & Justice
Midwestern Criminal Justice Association
- 2023 Celebration of Scholarship Honoree
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire
- 2020 Graduate Student Leadership Team Member, Incubator for Teaching Innovation
College of Arts and Sciences
University of South Carolina
- 2020 Scholarship Recipient for ACJS Doctoral Summit Scholarship
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences
(Summit cancelled due to COVID-19.)
- 2020 Outstanding Achievement and Student Triumph Award
University of South Carolina
- 2016 Highest Academic Average Award for Basic Community Supervision Officer
Training
Georgia Public Safety Training Center
- 2014 Terry Wells Award for Master of Science Student in Criminal Justice
Georgia College & State University
- 2012 Most Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Criminal Justice
Georgia College & State University
- 2009 Outstanding Student Research Award
Georgia College & State University

REFERENCES

Barbara Koons-Witt, PhD
Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina
Dissertation Chair
Email: bakoons@mailbox.sc.edu

Brandon Applegate, PhD
Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Department Chair of Criminology and Criminal Justice
University of South Carolina
Dissertation Committee Member
Email: applegate@sc.edu

Carrie Cook, PhD
Professor of Criminal Justice
Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Georgia College & State University
Dissertation Committee Member
Email: carrie.cook@gcsu.edu