Megan Kang

Department of Sociology Princeton University mskang@princeton.edu megankang.com

RESEARCH AREAS EDUCATION

Gun availability, crime, street gangs, public policy, mixed-methods, and ethnography

Ph.D. Sociology

Expected 2026

Princeton University

• Committee: Matthew Desmond (co-chair), Mitchell Duneier, Kathryn Edin, Reuben Jonathan Miller, and Patrick Sharkey (co-chair)

M.A. Sociology
Princeton University

2023

Master in Public Policy

2019

University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy

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

AFFILIATIONS

Research Affiliate, University of Chicago Crime Lab

Co-investigator, Violence Inequality Project

Student Affiliate, Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science & Public Policy

JOURNAL ARTICLES

See my google scholar page.

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

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, National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related 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.

COMMENTS

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

UNDER REVIEW

Brown-Weinstock, Rachel, **Megan Kang**, Sarah Gold, Kaitlyn Bolin, and Kathryn Edin. "Other Adults in the New Other America: Improving Survey Measures of Youth's Non-Parental Adult Relationships." *R&R* at Journal of Marriage and Family.

Kang, Megan. "Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Lansdcape."

Kang, Megan, Kathryn Edin, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Timothy Nelson. "How the Truly Disadvantaged Endure: Trauma and Daily Functioning."

IN PROGRESS

Kang, Megan. "Tyranny of Uncertainty: An Ethnographic Study of Guns in Urban America."

DATASETS

Kang, Megan, 2023. "Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership, 1949-2020", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QVYDUD, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

OTHER WRITING

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.

TEACHING

Claims and Evidence in Sociology (SOC 300)

Fall 2022

Princeton University

Lead teaching assistant for Kathryn Edin and Filiz Garip

Claims and Evidence in Sociology (SOC 300)

Fall 2021

Princeton University

Teaching assistant for Kathryn Edin and James Raymo

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS)

Summer 2021

Princeton University

Teaching assistant for Matthew Salganik and Chris Bail

Artificial Intelligence for Public Policy (PPHA 38829) University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Winter 2018

Teaching assistant for Jens Ludwig and Sendhil Mullainathan

High School English Language Arts Jalen Rose Leadership Academy 12th Grade Teacher 2014-2015

AWARDS GRANTS FELLOWSHIPS

Awards

- Innovation Award, National Research Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms, November 2023
- \bullet Marvin Bressler Graduate Student Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, May 2023
- Undergraduate History Thesis Honors Award, University of California, Berkeley, May 2014

• Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, May 2013

Grants

- \$1,500, Dissertation Research Funding, African American Studies, Princeton University, May 2023
- \$500,000, Mechanisms Study of Violence Prevention Programs in Chicago, Baker Street Foundation (with Kathryn Edin, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Timothy Nelson), April 2022
- \$15,000, Gang Exit Study, University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2018

Fellowships

- BRIDGS Emergent Scholar Fellow, BRIDGS Center: Bringing Research & Innovation into the Debate on Guns in Society, 2024
- Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Chicago Crime Lab, 2019-2020
- Teach for America Fellow, Americorps, 2015

CONFERENCE "Still Trapped In: Desistance in a Changing Gang Landscape"

PRESENTATIONS

- Winter 2023. Collegio Carlo Alberto Seminar in Politics and Society
- Fall 2022. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting Correlates of Crime Session
- Fall 2022. Rising Scholars Conference Social Psychology and Organizational Behavior Section
- Fall 2022. University of Chicago Gang Workshop
- Summer 2022. American Sociological Association Conference Deviance and Social Control Panel
- Spring 2022. Chicago Ethnography Conference Criminology Section

"Extending the Firearm Suicide Proxy for Household Gun Ownership"

- Fall 2023. National Research Conference on the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms
- Fall 2022. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting Correlates of Crime Session
- Summer 2022. American Sociological Association Conference Crime, Law, Deviance Panel

SERVICE Refereed Publications

• American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Preventive Medicine

Departmental Service

• Graduate Student Advisee Committee, G1 Representative, 2020-2021

Mentorship

• Princeton ReMatch+ Graduate Mentor, 2021-2022

REFERENCES

Dr. Christopher Blattman, Ramalee E. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy blattman@uchicago.edu

Dr. Matthew Desmond, Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, Director of Eviction Lab matthew.desmond@princeton.edu

Dr. Kathryn Edin, William Church Osborn Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Co-director of The Bendheim-Thoman Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University kedin@princeton.edu

Dr. Jens Ludwig, Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, Director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab jludwig@uchicago.edu

Dr. Patrick Sharkey, William S. Tod Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University psharkey@princeton.edu