

Ajima Olaghere
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Department of Criminology, Law & Society
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Criminology, Law, & Society, December 2014
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

M.A. in Justice, Law, & Crime Policy, May 2010
George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

B.A. in Sociology, May 2007
Colby College, Waterville, Maine
Study Abroad, University of Bristol, UK

CURRENT RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Associate for Dr. David B. Wilson
George Mason University, January 2014 – present
Helping facilitate and complete a Campbell Collaboration systematic review and meta-analysis of juvenile curfew programs; systematic reviews on research questions related to juvenile justice and conditions of prison confinement and the impact and prevalence of mental health disorders. Also primarily responsible for identifying and helping complete large grant applications for long-term funding.

Research Assistant for Dr. Cynthia Lum & Dr. Christopher Koper
George Mason University, May 2014 – present
Data procurement and management for the Washington D.C. Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) grant.

PAST RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant for Dr. Catherine Gallagher
George Mason University, May 2009 – January 2014
Research Assistant and Health Equity Liaison for the Cochrane Justice Health Field; helped facilitate and complete systematic reviews and rapid reviews, to build the evidence-base on the intersection of health equity issues (impact of health interventions on disadvantaged groups; reduce socio-economic health inequities; promote wider use of effective health interventions) and justice-involved populations.

Research Intern at the Urban Institute

Urban Institute, Washington, D.C., September 2011 – July 2012

Primarily responsible for survey development, deployment, and administration of large web-based survey involving over 11,000 respondents and a smaller random subsample; helped with survey construct items and overall design; also serving as an interim project manager and primary research assistance in a qualitative analysis of development and programmatic outcomes of mental health and substance abuse interventions for criminal justice involved populations.

Research Assistant for Dr. Danielle Rudes

George Mason University, January 2011 – May 2011

Served as a non-participant observer in a pre-release detention facility in the mid-Atlantic; collecting qualitative data on interactions between correctional officers and inmates during organizational reform.

Senior Research Fellow

The Lloyd Society, May 2009-August 2010

Served as a senior researcher for dissemination efforts related to academic research on health care and justice involved populations and as primary researcher for the Justice Health Libraries, a searchable database that synthesizes rigorous academic research on a certain health conditions, demographic characteristics, or justice-oriented settings. Also served as the lead methodologist in an ethnographic study of health care quality in a southeastern prison system tasked with organizing, managing, and facilitating semi-structured interviews of 30 formerly incarcerated males, as well as data collection; trained two graduate public health students in cognitive interviewing.

Research Fellow for the Center on Justice, Law, & Society

George Mason University, 2007-May 2010

Worked closely with faculty to condense empirical research to better inform policymakers and practitioners about academic research findings and insights related to practical problems in the field.

Research Fellow

The Sentencing Project, June 2008-December 2010

Worked closely with the executive director, research analysts, and the state advocacy coordinator on research reports projects and the "Race and Justice Clearinghouse."

Research Assistant, for Dr. Shannon Portillo

George Mason University, January 2010-May 2010

Served as non-participant observer and collected qualitative data on unemployment insurance hearings at an administrative office in a mid-Atlantic city.

Graduate Research Assistant, for Dr. David Wilson

George Mason University, March 2009-April 2009

Conducted a series of systematic searches on forensic science in serious crime investigations.

Graduate Research Assistant, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) & George Mason University, Fairfax, VA/Washington, D.C., September 2007-May 2009
Research assistant to the project manager of CEDAP, a Federal program that provides pre-tested technology and equipment to emergency responders.

Research Assistant on Human Trafficking Project in Southeast Asia, Crime and Justice Analysts, Inc., Fairfax, VA, August 2008; May 2010

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Consultant research associate at Choice Research Associates, Greenbelt, Maryland; May 2014 – present.

Consultant research assistant at Justice Statistics Research Association (JRSA), Washington, D.C.; May 2014 – present.

Legislative Intern/Assistant Research Associate at the Vera Institute of Justice, Commission on Safety and Abuse in America’s Prisons (CSAAP), Washington, D.C. June 2007-September 2007

Research Coding Project Intern at the U.S. Sentencing Commission, Office of Policy Analysis Washington, D.C., June 2005-September 2005; June 2006-September 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct, CRIM 305: “Crime and Crime Policy,” George Mason University, Summer 2013.

Lecturer, English 102, Goucher College, Prison Education Partnership Program (GPEP), Spring 2013.

Instructor, Reading 028: “The Critical Thinker and Writer,” Maryland Correctional Institute for Women (MCI-W), Spring 2012.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

January 23, 2009; Washington, D.C.: Presentation to Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, Senior leadership: “The Obama-Biden Justice Policy Position: A Model for Anticipating the New Administration’s Priorities for the Juvenile Justice Field.”

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

April 23, 2009; Petersburg, VA: Presentation at Virginia State University’s 3rd Annual Conference on Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Criminal Justice System. Paper title: “A Model for

Anticipating the New Administration’s Priorities to Address Disproportionate Minority Contact with the Justice System.”

May 5-7, 2009; Orlando, FL: Presentation at the International Justice Health Network. Paper title: “Knowing What Works in Health Care.”

November 4-7, 2009; Philadelphia, PA: Poster presentation at the American Society of Criminology conference. Poster title: "The Obama-Biden Justice Policy Position: A Model for Anticipating the New Administration's Priorities for the Juvenile Justice Field."

June 4, 2011; San Francisco, CA: Presentation at the Law and Society Association annual meeting. Paper title: "The Adversarial Process of Administrative Claims: The Process of Justice."

November 2, 2012; Washington, DC: Presentation at the Cochrane Justice Health Field Conference on Evidence-Based Correctional Health Care. Presentation title: "Cochrane Collaboration Library and the Justice Health Library."

March 21, 2012; Atlanta, GA: Presentation at the UMASS Academic and Policy Conference on Correctional Health Care. Presentation title: "Emerging and existing tools to close the gap between academia/research and correctional health practices."

November 14, 2012; Chicago, IL: Presentation at the Annual Conference of the American Society of Criminology. Presentation title: "Exploring the Financial & Public Health Costs Associated with Gun Violence in Schools."

PUBLICATIONS

Sokoloff, N., Olaghere, A., Ethridge, B. (2013, September 3). Prison education benefits everyone: We need inmates to be prepared to reenter society. *The Baltimore Sun*.

Maas, K., Olaghere, A., Hutzell, K. (in progress). Impact of solitary confinement on mental health: A rapid review.

RESEARCH REPORTS & PRODUCTS

Brinkman, L., **Olaghere, A.** & Schirmer, S. (2010). State Recidivism Studies. *The Sentencing Project – Washington, D.C.*

Porter, N.D. (2010). The State of Sentencing 2009: Developments in Policy and Practice. *The Sentencing Project – Washington, D.C.* (Contributor).

Wilson, D.; Weisburd, D.; Ainsworth, S.; **Olaghere, A.**; Sheppard, C. (2009). Systematic Literature Search: Use and Effect of Forensic Science in Serious Crime Investigations. *National Policing Improvement Agency – U.K., London.*

Olaghere, A. (2009). "Summary of IOM: Knowing What Works in Health Care." (unpublished manuscript)

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Abstracts Committee Member (April 2013). Cochrane Colloquium 2013 (Québec City, Canada).

Publication Reviewer (August 2013). "Office of the Mayor, City of Baltimore Office of Human Services, Baltimore City Jail Reentry Strategies Project: Final Report." Choice Research Associates (Greenbelt, MD).

CONSUMER, PRACTITIONER AND RESEARCHER TOOLS DEVELOPED

2011 – Present **The PICO Builder** (currently under development with Dr. Catherine Gallagher).
Cochrane Collaboration College for Policy, George Mason University.

RESEARCH METHODS & SKILLS

Quantitative Analysis Programs: STATA 11, SPSS
Qualitative Analysis Program(s): Atlas.ti

RESEARCH AWARDS

ICPSR Summer Workshop: "Using National Juvenile Corrections Data Files: 1997-2006."

National Library of Medicine Certificate of Completion: NLM Training: NLM Gateway & ClinicalTrials.gov

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Wood Graduate Scholarship, George Mason University Alumni Association, March 2012

Graduate Research Fellowship, The Sentencing Project, June 2008 – December 2010

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Departmental

CO-FOUNDER AND ADMINISTRATOR, Criminology, Law & Society Alumni Society, March 2012 – present

Vice President, Criminology, Law & Society Student Association, May 2011 – May 2012

Community

CO-FOUNDER AND VICE PRESIDENT, Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association, August 2009 – present

Tutor, Goucher Prison Education Partnership, Fall 2011 – present

Youth Mentor, For Children's Sake of Virginia and Fairfax County Government Individual & Family Services, 2008 – August 2010

External, National, & International

Equity Liaison, Cochrane Justice Health Field, August 2009 – present

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, Board of Directors, Maryland Correctional Institution for Women College Degree Program, Inc., May 2012 – present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Society of Criminology (ASC)
American Sociological Association (ASA)
Alpha Phi Sigma (APS)