

Alexander F. Roehrkasse

Contact Information

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Butler University
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Employment

- 2022– Butler University
- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminology, 2022–
 - Faculty Fellow, Desmond Tutu Peace Lab, 2024–
 - Faculty Affiliate, Peace and Conflict Studies Program, 2024–
 - Faculty Affiliate, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, 2022–
 - Research Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2022–
- 2020–2022 Duke University
- Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Sociology
 - Postdoctoral Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
- 2019–2020 Cornell University
- Postdoctoral Associate, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
 - Postdoctoral Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Affiliate, Cornell Population Center
- 2009–2011 HARVARD UNIVERSITY
- Research Associate, Harvard Business School

Education

- 2019 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
- 2014 M.A. in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
- 2009 A.B. in Economics, Brown University

Research and Teaching Interests

Stratification, punishment, victimization, families and children, quantitative methods, theory

Peer-reviewed Publications (*equal authorship)

- 2025 Christopher Wildeman, **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Alexandra Gibbons, Sarah Sernaker, Liza Becker, and Peter Fallesen. “Two Decades of Child Welfare System Contact in the Global North: A Research Note on Trends from 44 Countries.” *Demography* 62(1):1–15. [DOI] [Replication package]

Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Falling Racial Inequality and Rising Educational Inequality in US Prison Admissions for Drug, Violent, and Property Crimes.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 122(4):e2418077122. [DOI] [Replication package]

– Coverage: *Harvard Gazette*.

2023 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Liza Becker, Christopher Wildeman, and Peter Fallesen. “Introducing a New Data Resource for Comparative Child Welfare Research: The Rockwool-Duke Global Child Welfare Database.” *Child and Youth Services Review* 152:107075. [DOI]

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Market Development, State Formation, and the Historical Abolition of the Debtors’ Prison.” *Punishment & Society* 25(1):202–222. [DOI]

- Ronald S. Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2016
- Honorable Mention, Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Comparative-Historical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2017
- Honorable Mention, Distinguished Student Paper Award, Crime, Law and Deviance Section, American Sociological Association, 2016

2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse** and Christopher Wildeman. “Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment in the United States Remains High and Starkly Unequal.” *Science Advances* 8(48):eabo3395. [DOI] [Replication package]

Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Racial and Class Inequality in U.S. Incarceration in the Early Twenty-First Century.” *Social Forces* 101(2):803–828. [DOI]

– Coverage: *Law & Political Economy Blog*; *The Inequality Podcast*; *Matrix Podcast*.

Melissa A. Bright, **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Sarah Masten, Ashton Naumann, and David Finkelhor. “Child Abuse Prevention Education Policies Increase Reports of Child Sexual Abuse.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 134:105932. [DOI]

2021 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Race, Poverty, and Children’s Exposure to Neighborhood Incarceration.” *Socius* 7:1–2. [DOI] [Replication package]

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Long-Term Trends and Ethnoracial Inequality in U.S. Foster Care: A Research Note.” *Demography* 58(5):2009–2017. [DOI]

2016 Neil Fligstein and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “The Causes of Fraud in the Financial Crisis of 2007 to 2009: Evidence from the Mortgage-Backed Securities Industry.” *American Sociological Review* 81(4):617–643. [DOI]

Under Review (*equal authorship)

Alexander F. Roehrkasse, Martin Eiermann, Brielle Bryan, and Peter Fallesen. “Cumulative incidence of child protective services involvement among indigenous and nonindigenous children: A cross-national analysis.” Revise and resubmit.

Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Class and Incarceration.” Submitted.

In Progress

Alexander F. Roehrkasse and Martin Eiermann. “Cumulative Exposure to Investigated and Confirmed Child Maltreatment by Race/Ethnicity: Evidence from a U.S. Birth Cohort.”

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Inequality in Life Lost to Violence in the United States.” [[Working paper](#)]

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Women’s Property Rights and Divorce: Independence or Deinstitutionalization?”

Alexander F. Roehrkasse and Christopher Muller. “Hyperincarceration and Missing Men.”

Other Publications (*equal authorship)

- 2023 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** *Amicus curiae* brief, No. 70 Matter of Stevens v. New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Court of Appeals. [[Link](#)]
– Cited in [argument](#).
- 2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “Review of *Agents of Reform: Child Labor and the Origins of the Welfare State* by Elisabeth Anderson.” *Social Forces*. [[DOI](#)]
- 2020 Kelsey Kauffman and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Indiana prison coronavirus cases have been exploding. They won’t stay there.” *Indianapolis Star*. December 27. [[Link](#)]
- 2019 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse** and Christopher Wildeman. “Administrative data and long-term trends in child maltreatment: the prospects and pitfalls.” *The Lancet: Public Health* 4(3):e121–e122. [[DOI](#)]
- 2017 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “The Many Hands of State Theory.” *European Journal of Sociology* 58(3):609–615. [[DOI](#)]
- 2013 Charlie Eaton, Jacob Habinek, Mukul Kumar, Tamera Lee Stover and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Swapping our Future: How Students and Taxpayers are Funding Risky UC Borrowing and Wall Street Profits.” *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 57:177–199. [[Link](#)]
– Alumni Prize for Public Sociology, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley, 2013
- 2013 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “The New Campus Bankers.” *The Nation* (online). January 25. [[Link](#)]

Datasets (†student co-author)

- 2026 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse** and Lauren Moreland.† *Integrated Historical Child Welfare Database* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [[DOI](#)]
- 2025 Mikkeline Nielsen, **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Peter Fallesen, Martin Eiermann, Christopher Wildeman, Sarah Sernaker, and Alexandra Gibbons. *ROCKWOOL-Duke Comparative Indigenous Child Welfare Contact Database* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [[DOI](#)]
- 2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Liza Becker, Peter Fallesen, and Christopher Wildeman. *ROCKWOOL-Duke Global Child Welfare Database* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [[DOI](#)]
- 2021 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Chiara Fontaine, LeAnn McDowall, Sarah Sernaker, and Clayton C. Covington. *Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS) Foster Care Multi-Year File (1982-1995)* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [[DOI](#)]

Grants

- 2023–2025 “Comparative Rates of Child Welfare Involvement Among Indigenous Populations and Populations Residing in Territories With a History of Colonial Rule in OECD Countries.” Rockwool Research Foundation. \$57,318, subgrant PI.
- 2023–2024 “Abolition.” Instructional Development Grant, Butler University. \$1,500, PI.
- 2022–2027 “National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.” Administration for Children and Families. \$117,226, subcontract PI.
- 2017 “States of Disunion: American Marriage and Divorce, 1867–1906.” Summer Research Grant, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley. \$3,500, PI.
- 2016 “Early American Marriage and Divorce, In Law and Practice.” Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley. \$600, PI Neil Fligstein.
- 2016–2018 “Credit Markets, Evaluative Technologies, and Social Stratification.” Sociology Program Grant, National Science Foundation. \$100,000, PIs Marion Fourcade and Kieran Healy.
- 2012 “The Rise of Credit Reporting in the United States.” Research Grant, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley. \$1,000, PI.
- 2009 “Language Difference, Collective Action, and Violence.” Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University. \$1,000, PI Paja Faudree.

Fellowships

- 2024–2025 First-Year Experience Faculty Fellowship in Meaning, Vocation, and Uncertainty, Butler University
- 2018–2019 Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Graduate Fellowship, Center for the Study of Law & Society, Berkeley Law School
- 2017 Synar Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley
- 2016 Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley
- 2012–2016 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
- 2011–2012 David and Aileen Wang Family Fellowship, UC Berkeley

Distinctions

- 2017 Teaching Effectiveness Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2017 Honorable Mention, Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Comparative and Historical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2016 Ronald S. Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Distinguished Student Paper Award, Crime, Law and Deviance Section, American Sociological Association

- 2013 Alumni Prize for Public Sociology, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley (with Charlie Eaton, Jacob Habinek, Mukul Kumar, Tamera Lee Stover)
- 2009 Samuel C. Lamport Prize, Department of Economics, Brown University
- 2009 Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University
- 2009 A.B. *magna cum laude* and with departmental honors, Brown University

Selected Presentations (* invited)

- “The New Contours of Mass Incarceration.” University of California, Berkeley* (2025).
- “Large-Scale Administrative Datasets on Child Welfare and the Untapped Potential of Data Linkage.” Applied Demography Conference (2024).
- “Ethnoracial Inequality in Cumulative Exposure to Child Maltreatment.” American Sociological Association (2023).
- “Two Decades of Child Welfare System Contact in the Global North: Trends From 44 Countries.” Population Association of America (2023).
- “Using Linked Administrative Data to Study Child Welfare.” American Sociological Association (2022).
- “Inequality in Life Lost to Violence in the United States.” Population Association of America (2022).
- “Racial Inequality, Female Incarceration, and Children’s Foster Care Placement.” Southern Political Science Association (2022).
- “Mass Incarceration and Invisible Inequality: New Evidence of Ethnoracial and Sexual Disparities.” University of Maryland* (2022); Dartmouth College* (2021); Grinnell College* (2021); Auburn University* (2021); Butler University* (2021).
- “The Effect of the U.S. Crime Decline on Ethnoracial and Educational Inequality in Homicide Mortality.” American Sociological Association (2021).
- “Hyperincarceration and Missing Men.” American Sociological Association (2021).
- “Race, Poverty, and Children’s Exposure to Neighborhood Incarceration.” Population Association of America (2021).
- “Long-Term Trends and Ethnoracial Inequality in U.S. Children’s Substitute Care.” Population Association of America (2021).
- “Class, Race, and Incarceration in the Twenty-First Century.” American Sociological Association (2020).
- “Don’t Count on Love: Discrepant Historical Measures of U.S. Marriages.” Social Science History Association (2019).
- “Strategizing in the Shadow of the Law: Gender and the Performance of Marital Breakdown.” Social Science History Association (2018).

“Marriage, Divorce, and the Gendered Organization of Private Property.” American Sociological Association (2018); Population Association of America (2018); Social Science History Association (2017).

“Nuptial Regulation as State Building.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2016); Social Science History Association (2016).

“The Rise and Fall of the Debtors’ Prison.” American Sociological Association (2016); Social Science History Association (2015); Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2015); Paris Institute of Political Studies* (2013); Stanford University* (2013).

“The Causes of Fraud in Financial Crises.” American Sociological Association (2013).

Training

- 2024 Teaching Certificate, Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults
- 2023 Inclusion Advocate Program, Butler University
- 2018 Graduate Student Inclusivity Training and Certificate Program, UC Berkeley
- 2015–2017 Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, UC Berkeley

Teaching

Butler University

- Understanding Society
- Social Theory
- Inequality and Social Control
- Abolition
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Introduction to Prison Studies
- Mindfulness in Everyday Life
- Navigating Attention Capitalism

DePauw University

- Doing the Most Good

Indiana Women’s Prison

- Incarceration and Inequality

University of California, Berkeley

- Evaluation of Evidence

Advising (placement)

Butler University

- 2025–2026 Ash Anderson, Undergraduate Honors Thesis
- 2025–2026 Riley Mehall, Undergraduate Honors Thesis
- 2023–2024 Audrey Erickson, Undergraduate Honors Thesis

University of California, Berkeley

- 2018–2019 Sinporian Phuong, Undergraduate Honors Thesis (J.D. program, University of California, Davis)

- 2016–2017 Anisha Dangoria, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (J.D. program, Columbia University)
- 2016–2017 Dasom Nah, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (Ph.D. program, sociology, University of California, Los Angeles)
- 2016 Clara Perez, Summer Research Opportunity Program (Ph.D. program, sociology, University of California, Berkeley)
- 2012–2013 Parijat Chakrabarti, Undergraduate Honors Thesis (Ph.D. program, sociology, Princeton University)

Service

To the Department

- 2025–2026 Member, Faculty Search and Welcome Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Butler University.
- 2024 Equal opportunity advocate, Faculty Search and Welcome Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Butler University.
- 2022–2023 Member, Faculty Search and Welcome Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Butler University.
- 2017–2018 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Sociology Department, UC Berkeley.
- 2013–2015 Steward, Sociology Department, UC Berkeley, UAW Local 2865.

To the University

- 2025 Member, Executive Vice President and Provost Search Committee, Butler University
- 2025– Senator, Faculty Senate, Butler University
- 2023–2025 Education subcommittee chair (2023), member (2024–2025), Task Force on Indigenous Inclusion & Engagement, Butler University.
- 2023 Member, Committee for Undergraduate Research, Butler University.
- 2015–2016 Statewide Elections Committee Representative, UC Berkeley, UAW Local 2865.

To the Discipline or Profession

- Occasional Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology* (3); *American Sociological Review* (4); *Child and Youth Services Review* (2); *Demography* (3); *Health & Justice* (1); *Law & Society Review* (2); *Nature* (1); *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (1); *Punishment & Society* (2); *Social Forces* (1); *Social Problems* (2); *Social Science History* (1); *Social Science Research* (1); *Socius* (1); *Theory & Society* (1).
- 2019 Discussant, “Big Data in Historical Research II.” Social Science History Association.
- 2018 Discussant, “Borders and Frontiers: Groups, States, and Peoples.” Social Science History Association.
- 2017 Discussant, “Gender and Reproduction.” Social Science History Association.
- 2011–2013 Member, Editorial Board, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*.