

Alexander F. Roehrkasse

Contact Information

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Employment and Affiliation

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–

DUKE UNIVERSITY

- Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Sociology, 2020–2022

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

- Research Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2022–
- Postdoctoral Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2019–2022
- Postdoctoral Associate, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, 2019–2020
- Affiliate, Cornell Population Center, 2019–2020

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- Research Associate, Harvard Business School, 2009–2011

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)

- 2027 Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Class and Incarceration.” *Annual Review of Criminology*. 7. [[DOI](#)]
- 2026 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Martin Eiermann, Brielle Bryan, and Peter Fallesen. “Cumulative incidence of child protective services involvement among indigenous and non-indigenous children: A cross-national analysis.” *Child Maltreatment*. [[DOI](#)] [[Replication package](#)]

- 2025 Christopher Wildeman, **Alexander F. Roehrkas**, 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. Roehrkas**.* “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. Roehrkas**, 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. Roehrkas**. “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. Roehrkas** 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. Roehrkas**. “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. Roehrkas**, 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. Roehrkas**. “Race, Poverty, and Children’s Exposure to Neighborhood Incarceration.” *Socius* 7:1–2. [DOI] [Replication package]
- Alexander F. Roehrkas**. “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. Roehrkas**.* “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]

In Progress

Alexander F. Roehrkas. “Female Incarceration, Foster Care, and Racial Inequality”

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

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

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](#)]

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](#)]

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

2026–2027	Educating Character Fellowship, Butler University
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 (since 2020, * 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).

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

- 2026– Member, Liberal Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, Butler 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* (2017, 2021, 2025); *American Sociological Review* (2017, 2020, 2022, 2024); *Butler Journal of Undergraduate Research* (2022, 2023, 2024, 2026); *Child and Youth Services Review* (2022, 2024); *Demography* (2022, 2022, 2024, 2026); *Health & Justice* (2025); *Law & Society Review* (2016, 2024); *Nature* (2025, 2025); *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2021); *Punishment & Society* (2021, 2023, 2023); *Social Forces* (2023); *Social Problems* (2020, 2022); *Social Science History* (2017); *Social Science Research* (2025); *Socius* (2023); *Theory & Society* (2016).
 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*.