

Christopher R. Dennison

Curriculum Vitae
(Oct. 2025)

University at Buffalo, SUNY
Department of Sociology
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Buffalo, NY 14260

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Sociology
 Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Bowling
 Green, OH Major Area: Criminology
 Minor Areas: Demography, Quantitative Methods
- 2013 M.A., Sociology
 University of Toledo, Toledo, OH
- 2011 B.A., Sociology (Criminology
 Minor) Miami University, Oxford,
 OH

EMPLOYMENT

- 2022-present Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY
- 2017-2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University at Buffalo, SUNY

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Barr, Ashley., **Dennison, Christopher R.**, Kristen Schultz Lee, and Zhe Zhang. Forthcoming.
“Adult Children’s Education, Parental Cognitive Health, and the Role of Selection.”
Social Science & Medicine.

Dennison, Christopher R. Forthcoming. “Emotional Invalidation: An Integration with Agnew’s
General Strain Theory.” *Journal of Crime & Justice*.

Finkeldey, Jessica G., **Christopher R. Dennison**, Nicholas Tucker Reyes, Abigayle DiRusso, and
Mercedes Brown. 2025. “Contact with and Perceptions of Campus Police Among College
Students at a Small-Town University.” *Criminal Justice Review* 50(3): 289-310..

Ryan, Eva., Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk, **Christopher R. Dennison**, Anna Zajacova, and Zachary
Zimmer. 2025. “Is the Relationship between Chronic Pain and Mortality Causal? A
Propensity Score Analysis.” *Pain* 166(1): 183-195.
- “Reply to Shen et al.” *Pain* 166(3): 708-710.

Finkeldey, Jessica G., **Christopher R. Dennison**, and Shiyue Cui. 2023. "The Intersecting Associations between Race and Ethnicity, Skin Color, and Perceived Unfair Treatment by Police." *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice* 23(1):1-26.
*Awarded Best Paper of the Year in 2023

Dennison, Christopher R. 2022. "Dropping Out of College and Dropping into Crime." *Justice Quarterly* 39(3):585-611.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Kristen Schultz Lee (equal contribution). 2021. "Adult Children's Educational Attainment and Parent Health in Mid- and Later-Life." *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences* 76(9):1857-1869.
* Editor's Choice.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Jessica G. Finkeldey (equal contribution). 2021. "Self-Reported Experiences and Consequences of Unfair Treatment by Police." *Criminology* 59(2):254-290.

Dennison, Christopher R., Jessica G. Finkeldey, and Gregory C. Rocheleau. 2021. "Confounding Bias in the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Crime." *Journal of Gambling Studies* 37(2):427-444.
*Featured in [*The Wager*](#) (published by the Division on Addiction at Cambridge Health Alliance)

Rocheleau, Gregory C., **Christopher R. Dennison**, Jessica G. Finkeldey, and Mackenzie F. Reiber. 2021. "Social Class Differences in the Relationships between Problem Gambling and Deviant Behavior." *Criminal Justice Studies* 34(1):68-87.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2021. "Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Relationship between Educational Mobility and Crime." *Race & Justice* 11(1):65-90.

Finkeldey, Jessica G. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2020. "School-Based Resources as Protective Factors from the Influence of Parental Incarceration on Depressive Symptoms." *Social Currents* 7(5):402-423.

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2020. "First- and Continuing-Generation Students, Substance Use, and College Graduation." *Social Forces* 98(4):1636-1668.

Finkeldey, Jessica G. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2020. "Multilevel Effects of Parental Incarceration on Adult Children's Neighborhood Attainment." *Social Problems* 67(1): 113-130.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2019. "The Crime-Reducing Benefits of a College Degree: Evidence from a Nationally Representative U.S. Sample." *Criminal Justice Studies* 32(4):297-316.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2019. "Gender Differences in the Criminogenic Consequences Associated with Intergenerational Educational Mobility." *American Journal of Criminal Justice* 44(2):248-276.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2019. "Intergenerational Educational Pathways and Instrumental Crime, Violent Crime, and Illegal Drug Use Across the Life Course." *Journal of Crime and Justice* 42(2):99-120.

Krebs, Paul A., **Christopher R. Dennison**, Lisa Kellar, and Jeff Lucas. 2019. "Gender Differences in Eating Disorder Risk among NCAA Division I Cross Country and Track Student-Athletes." *Journal of Sports Medicine* (2019):1-5.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Raymond R. Swisher. 2019. "Postsecondary Education, Neighborhood Disadvantage, and Crime: An Examination of Life Course Relative Deprivation." *Crime & Delinquency* 65(2):215-238.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Stephen Demuth. 2018. "The More You Have, The More You Lose: Criminal Justice Involvement, Ascribed Socioeconomic Status, and Achieved SES." *Social Problems* 65(2):191-210.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2018. "Intergenerational Mobility and Changes in Drug Use Across the Life Course." *Journal of Drug Issues* 48(2):205-225.

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2016. "Educational Pathways and Change in Crime between Adolescence and Early Adulthood." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 53(6):840-871.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2016. "Keeping up with the Joneses? How Perceived SES Moderates the Relationship between Economic Problems and Instrumental Crime." *Deviant Behavior* 37(10):1118-1131.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS/PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Dennison, Christopher R. and Raymond R. Swisher. 2025. "A Life Course Perspective on the Relationship between Educational Mobility, Relative Deprivation, and Criminal Offending." Pp. 313-327, In Farrall, Stephen and Susan McVie (Eds.) *Handbook on Crime and Inequality*. Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, UK.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2024. "Statute of Limitations for Reporting Child Abuse Should be Abolished." [*The Buffalo News*](#).

Dennison, Christopher R. 2024. "The #MeToo Movement Shows us Just How Difficult it is for Victims to Speak." [*The Buffalo News*](#).

Dennison, Christopher R., Jessica G. Finkeldey, and Nicholas Tucker Reyes. 2024. "Perception of Campus Police is more Negative among Students from Minority Groups." [*The Conversation*](#).

Lee, Kristen Schultz, **Christopher R. Dennison**, and Ashley B. Barr. 2022. "Expanding Intergenerational Models of Adult Health: The Impact of Adult Children on Parent Health." *Contexts* 21(4):74-77.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Jessica G. Finkeldey. 2021. "Racial groups suffer disparate
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consequences after unfair police treatment – but not the groups you might think.” [The Conversation](#).

Dennison, Christopher R. and Jessica G. Finkeldey. 2020. “The War on Drugs.” Pp. 693-695 in *Criminal Justice in America: The Encyclopedia of Crime, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections*, edited by J. Bumgarner and C. Lewandowski. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC- CLIO.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Stephen Demuth. 2018. “The Criminal Justice System as an Engine for Downward Socioeconomic Mobility.” [Work in Progress: Sociology on the Economy, Work and Inequality](#).

Dennison, Christopher R. and Raymond R. Swisher. 2018. “Those with lower educational attainments compared to their parents or neighbors may be more likely to commit crime as adults.” [London School of Economics American Politics and Policy Blog \(USAPP\)](#).

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2016. “Having more education than your parents makes it less likely that you will commit a crime as an adult.” [London School of Economics American Politics and Policy Blog \(USAPP\)](#).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Dennison, Christopher R. and Kristen Schultz Lee. 2022. “Adult Children’s Educational Attainment and Parent Health in Mid- and Later-Life.” Paper to be presented at the Gerontological Society of America Symposium on 2021 Featured Editor’s Choice Articles from the *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*. Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dennison, Christopher R. “Health-Related Consequences of Unfair Treatment by Police.” State University of New York at Fredonia. May 2021.

Dennison, Christopher R. “Confounding Bias in the Relationship between Problem Gambling and Crime.” New York Council on Problem Gambling, November 2020.

Dennison, Christopher R. “Intergenerational Mobility, Social-Psychological Well-Being, and Crime.” Brain and Behavioral Sciences Symposium, University at Buffalo, SUNY, May 2019.

Dennison, Christopher R. “Social Mobility and Criminal Justice Involvement.” Jain Family Institute Discussion Series, March 2019.

Dennison, Christopher R. “Intergenerational Educational Mobility and Crime Across the Life Course.” Sherry Corbett Lecture Series, Miami University, April 2018.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Dennison, Christopher R. 2025. “**Emotional Invalidation and Its Implications for Criminology.**” Paper to be presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Washington, D.C.

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2024. “Adverse Childhood Events in the Lives of First- and Continuing-Generation Students.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Conference. Montreal, Quebec.

Ryan, Eva., Hanna Grol-Prokopczyk; **Christopher R. Dennison**; Anna Zajacova; Zachary Zimmer. 2024. “Is the relationship between chronic pain and mortality causal? A propensity score analysis.” Paper to be presented at the Conference on Applied Statistics. Westmeath, Ireland.

Reyes, Nicholas Tucker and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2023. “Intra-generational Mobility and Changes in Substance Use: Objective Mobility, Subjective Mobility, or Both?” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Philadelphia, PA.

Dennison, Christopher R., Jessica G. Finkeldey, and Shiyue Cui. 2021. “The Association between Skin Color and Perceived Unfair Treatment by Police.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) in Chicago, IL.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Kristen Schultz Lee (equal contribution). 2021. “Adult Children’s Educational Attainment and Parental Health in Mid- and Later-Life.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association (ASA), virtual meeting.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Jessica G. Finkeldey. 2020. “Sociodemographic Predictors of Unfair Treatment by Police.” Paper accepted for presentation at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) in Washington, D.C. Conference canceled due to Coronavirus outbreak.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2019. “Dropping out of College and Dropping into Crime.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), San Francisco, CA.

Swisher, Raymond R., Emily Bragg, and **Christopher R. Dennison**. Paying for the Party? Binge Drinking, Risky Sexual Behavior, and Graduation by Generational Status and Gender.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), San Francisco, CA.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2018. “Gender Differences in the Relationship between Intergenerational Educational Pathways and Crime.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Atlanta, GA.

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2017. “The Relationship between Educational Attainment and Crime among Potential First-Generation Students.” Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Philadelphia, PA.

Finkeldey, Jessica G. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2017. "Multilevel Effects of Parental Incarceration on Children's Self-Efficacy." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Philadelphia, PA.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Stephen Demuth. 2016. "The More You Have, The More You Lose: Criminal Justice Involvement, Ascribed Socioeconomic Status, and Achieved SES." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), New Orleans, LA.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2016. "The Rich get Richer...and so do the Attractive? Ascribed Socioeconomic Status, Physical Attractiveness, and Achieved SES." Paper presented at the Add Health Users Conference, Bethesda, MD.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2015. "Keeping up with the Joneses? How Perceived SES Moderates the Relationship between Economic Problems and Instrumental Crime." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), Washington D.C.

Swisher, Raymond R. and **Christopher R. Dennison**. 2014. "Social Mobility and Desistance." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology (ASC), San Francisco, CA.

Dennison, Christopher R. and Raymond R. Swisher. 2014. "Social Mobility, Employment, and Desistance." Paper presented at the 8th Annual BGSU/OSU Graduate Student Conference on Population, Bowling Green, OH.

Dennison, Christopher R. 2013. "Sentence Length and Recidivism: Are Longer Incarcerations the Solution to High Rates of Reoffending?" Paper presented at the North-Central Sociological Association (NCSA), Indianapolis, IN.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

FUNDED

External

Carolina Population Center (2016)

Travel Stipend to attend the 12th National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health Users Conference in Bethesda, MA. **Christopher R. Dennison**. Total Award: \$900.

Internal

Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy (2021)

"He/She/They: Gender Pronouns and Gender Bias in Student Evaluations of Teaching" Ashley Barr (PI), **Christopher R. Dennison** (Co-PI), and Mary Nell Trautner (Co-PI). Total Award: \$3,000.

UNDER REVIEW

National Institute on Aging

"Expanding Intergenerational Models of Adult Health: The Impact of Adult Children on Parent Health." **Christopher R. Dennison** (Co-I), Ashley Barr (Co-PI), and Kristen Schultz Lee (Co-PI).

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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate

SOC 620	<i>Crime & the Life Course</i> (in-person and asynchronous format) University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 607	<i>Multiple Linear Regression</i> University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 587	<i>Criminological Theory</i> (in-person and asynchronous format) University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 6290	<i>Advanced Social Research Statistics</i> University of Toledo

Undergraduate

SOC 337	<i>Sociology of Punishment</i> (in-person and asynchronous format) University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 317	<i>Criminal Justice Systems</i> University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 307	<i>Criminology</i> University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 2020	<i>Social Problems</i> Bowling Green State University
SOC 101	<i>Introduction to Sociology</i> University at Buffalo, SUNY
SOC 1010	<i>Introduction to Sociology</i> University of Toledo

Other

SRI 2019	<i>Building a Better Regression Model</i> University at Buffalo Summer Research Institute
SRI 2018	<i>Introduction and Application of Propensity Score Analyses</i> University at Buffalo Summer Research Institute

RESEARCH GUIDANCE

M.A. Advisor

Miranda Farthing, 2023
Jeremy Carr, 2022
Emmett (Allen) Tabor, 2022
Nicole Keilitz, 2020

Ph.D. Committee Member

Min Hu (Social Work), 2025
Sara DiPasquale, 2023
Wei Luo, 2021

M.A. Committee Member
Dominic Nappo, 2023
Chang Yu, 2022
Zhe Zhang, 2021
Emily Foss, 2020
Jacqueline Sifuentes, 2020
Brooke Love, 2020
Alia Aeid, 2020
Camry Dean, 2020
Cassidy Castiglione, 2019
Alexander Capella, 2019
Christopher Bosley, 2019

Undergraduate Honors Think Tank
Krish Thakkar, Tyler Herman, and Abigail Schaal, 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fall 2020	“Understanding & Disrupting Implicit Bias: Training for CAS Faculty” by Maura Belliveau (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
Spring 2016	“Making Discussion Work in Support of Student Learning” by Jay R. Howard (Butler University)
Fall 2015	“Statistical Workshop on Propensity Score Analysis” by Shenyang Guo (Washington University)
Spring 2015	“Service Learning Workshop” by Michelle Lee Kozimor-King (Elizabethtown College)
Spring 2014	“Teaching Sociology: Pedagogical and Practical Aspects” by Melinda Messineo (Ball State University)
Summer 2014	Graduate Seminar, “Teaching Introductory Sociology” with Laura Sanchez (Bowling Green State University)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2018	BGSU Graduate College Distinguished Dissertation Award
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MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Section: Crime, Law, and Deviance
American Society of Criminology (ASC)
The International Sociology Honor Society: Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)
Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
Section: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency
The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

SERVICE

Departmental

Member, Personnel Committee: Spring 2025-present
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Administration: Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Member, Thompson Award Committee: 2022, 2023
Chair, Clinical Assistant Professor Search Committee: 2022
Member, Awards Committee: 2022-Present
Member, Graduate Student Teaching Award Committee: 2020
Member, Clinical Assistant Professor Search Committee: 2020, 2021, 2022
Member, Qualifying Exam Committee: Summer 2018, Winter 2018, Winter 2019, Summer 2020, Winter 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022
Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee: 2018
Member, Undergraduate Committee: 2017-2020
Member, Graduate Committee: 2020-Present
Member, Howe Award Committee: 2018-Present
Member, Undergraduate Student Paper Award Committee: 2019-Present

University

Member, Mutual Aid Policy Working Group, 2024
Member, Diversity and Integrative Learning sub-committee of UB Curriculum, 2024
Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award Selection Committee: 2023-24
Undergraduate Commencement Academic Marshal: Summer 2018, Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2023
Member, UUP Individual Development Awards Committee: 2020-2023
Member, CAS Faculty Senate: 2021-2023
Panelist, New Faculty Orientation Program: 2022

Occasional manuscript reviewer: *American Sociological Review*, *Child Protection and Practice*, *City & Community*, *Crime & Delinquency*, *Crime, Law and Social Change*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, *Criminology*, *Deviant Behavior*, *International Gambling Studies*, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *Journal of Crime and Justice*, *Journal of Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Criminology*, *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, *Journal of Gambling Studies*, *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *Justice Quarterly*, *PLOS One*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Social Currents*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Social Sciences*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociology of Education*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Women & Criminal Justice*, *Violence and Victims*