

Yunmei (Iris) Lu

University at Buffalo, SUNY
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PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2020-present *Assistant Professor*, Department of Sociology and Criminology, University at Buffalo, SUNY
2024-present *Director*, Criminology Master of Science (MS) program, University at Buffalo, SUNY
2018-2020 *Assistant Professor*, Department of Criminology, University of South Florida

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D., Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University
2013 M.A., Criminal Justice, State University of New York (SUNY)-Albany
2012 M.Phil., Criminology, University of Cambridge, UK
2011 B. Soc. Sci. (*First Honor*), Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, China

SPECIALTY AREAS

Cohort Analysis, Social Inequality, Life Course Criminology, Age and Crime Relationship, Social Change, Quantitative Methods, Comparative Study, Public Perceptions

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- Lu, Yunmei.** 2024b. "Examining the decline in gender-specific youth offending since the 1990s: A decomposition analysis of two cohorts" *Crime & Delinquency*. Online First. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/001112872412905>
- Steffensmeier, Darrell, Jessie Slepicka*, Jennifer Schwartz, **Yunmei Lu.** 2024. "Crime propensity of emerging adults and changes in U.S. age-arrest curves, 1960-2020." *Justice Quarterly*. Online First. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2024.2410260>
- Lu, Yunmei.** 2024a. "Examining the Stability and Change in Age-Crime Relation in South Korea, 1980-2019: An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis." *PLOS One*. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0299852>.
- Lu, Yunmei**, Liying Luo, Mateus Renno Santos. 2023. Social Change and Race-Specific Homicide Trajectories: An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 61(2): 224-267. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00224278221129886>

- Lu, Yunmei** and Steffensmeier, Darrell. 2023. Stability or Change in Age-Crime Relation in Taiwan, 1980-2019: Age-Period-Cohort Assessment. *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 18 (4), 433-458. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11417-023-09412-y>
- Lu, Yunmei**, Mateus R Santos, Zhe Zhang*. 2022. Social Change, Gender Stratification and the Sex Gap of Homicide Victimization in 76 Countries, 1975–2017, *The British Journal of Criminology*, 63(4): 1058-1079. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azac077>
- Yuan, Yaqi*, Kristen Schultz Lee, and **Yunmei Lu**. 2022. “Public Support for Government Intervention in Health Care in the United States from 1984 to 2016.” *Socius*, 8. Doi: 10.1177/23780231211072394.
- Lu, Yunmei**, Kacy Amory*, and Luzi Shi*. 2021. “Social Change and Gendered Reaction to the Threat of Victimization, 1973-2016: An Age-Period-Cohort Analysis.” *The Sociological Quarterly*, 63 (4): 661-687. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00380253.2021.1945978>
- Steffensmeier, Darrell, **Yunmei Lu**, and Jennifer Schwartz. 2021. “Gender Variation in the Age-Crime Relation in Cross-National Context: Taiwan-US Comparison.” *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 7: 623-648. Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40865-021-00176-6>
- Lu, Yunmei** and Liying Luo. 2021. “Cohort Variation in U.S. Violent Crime Patterns from 1960 to 2014: An Age-Period-Cohort-Interaction Approach.” *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 37(4): 1047-1081.
- Santos, Mateus Renno, **Yunmei Lu**, and Rachel Fairchild*. 2021. “Age, Period, and Cohort Differences between the Homicide Trends of Canada and the United States.” *British Journal of Criminology*, 61(2): 389-413.
- Shi, Luzi*, **Yunmei Lu**, and Justin Pickett. 2020. “The Public Salience of Crime, 1960-2014: Age-Period-Cohort and Time Series Analysis.” *Criminology*, 58(3): 568-593.
- Leiber, Michael, Ellen Donnelly, and **Yunmei Lu**. 2020. “What Context Matters and at What Level? A Test of Racial/Ethnic Threat, Symbolic Threat, and Structural Inequality Perspectives in Juvenile Court Decision-making.” *Crime & Delinquency*, 67(2): 234-261.
- Steffensmeier, Darrell, **Yunmei Lu**, and Chongmin Na. 2019. “Age and Crime in South Korea: Cross-National Challenge to Invariance Thesis.” *Justice Quarterly*, 37(3): 410-435.
- Steffensmeier, Darrell, **Yunmei Lu**, and Sumit Kumar. 2019. “Age-Crime Relation in India: Similarity or Divergence Vs. Hirschi/Gottfredson Inverted J-Shaped Projection?” *The British Journal of Criminology*, 59(1): 144-165.
- Lu, Yunmei**. 2018. “Rural and Urban Differences of Gender-sentencing Patterns in Pennsylvania.” *Rural Sociology*, 83(2): 402-430.
- Steffensmeier, Darrell, Zhong Hua, and **Yunmei Lu**. 2017. “Age and Its Relationship to Crime in Taiwan and The United States: Invariant, or Does Cultural Context Matter?” *Criminology*, 55(2): 377-404.
- Lu, Yunmei**, Naomi Freeman and Jeffrey Sandler. 2015. “Predictors of The Sex Offender Civil Commitment Trial Outcomes in New York State.” *Law and Human Behavior*, 39(5): 514-524.

Manuscripts in progress:

Lu, Yunmei, Zhe Zhang*, Makaela Brass*. 2025. "Age-crime trajectories in early adulthood across cohorts and genders in the U.S.: A forty-year analysis.". In progress. Invited special issue, *British Journal of Criminology*.

Santos, Mateus Renno, **Yunmei Lu**, Alex Testa. 2025. "How much lifetime is lost due to homicide: A cross-national comparison". R&R, *Homicide Studies*.

Lu, Yunmei and Liying Luo. "Explaining the widening Black-White Gap in juvenile delinquency, 1976-2019: A decomposition analysis." Under review.

Lu, Yunmei, Zhe Zhang*, and Margaret Rex*. "Rural and urban differences in youth lifestyles and juvenile delinquency trends over the past 30 years" In progress.

Lu, Yunmei. "Age-Crime Trajectories of Black and White Cohorts coming of Age between 1976 and 2019." In progress.

Shi, Luzi, and **Yunmei Lu** "Understanding the Black-White Gap in Youth Police Perceptions across Cohorts, 1976-2019." In progress.

(*student co-authors)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Burruss, George W. and **Yunmei Lu**. 2022. "The Value of Data Visualization for Translational Criminology." Pp.251-269 in *Visual Criminology: From History and Methods to Critique and Policy Translation*, edited by Johannes Wheeldon, New York, NY: Routledge.

Santos, Mateus R., Dikla Yogev, **Yunmei Lu**. 2025. "How Population Aging is Associated with Economic Inequality and Homicide Trends." *Handbook on Crime and Inequality*, edited by Stephan Farrall and Susan McVie. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

Zhe Zhang and **Yunmei Lu**. 2025. "Homicide Offending Patterns and Trends, Global", *The Sage Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender*, edited by Janet P. Stamatel. Sage.

Makaela Brass and **Yunmei Lu**. 2025. "Homicide Offending Patterns and Trends, United States" *The Sage Encyclopedia of Crime and Gender*, edited by Janet P. Stamatel. Sage.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

External Funding

Yunmei Lu (PI). 2024-2025. When the Lottery of Birth is Racialized: Life Course Experience, Neighborhood Context, and the Age-crime Trajectories of Black and White Cohorts Coming of Age Between 1976 and 2019. *Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant* (R-2310-45595). Costs: \$35,000. Status: **Funded**.

Shi, Luzi and **Yunmei Lu. (Co-PI)**. July 2024. A comparison of crime-control versus disadvantage-oriented measures to reduce racial disparities in police perceptions: A multi-level birth cohort analysis from 1976 to 2019. William T. Grant Foundation Officers' Research Grants. Costs: \$50,000. Status: Unfunded.

Steffensmeier, Darrell and **Yunmei Lu. (CO-PI)**. January 2020. Age Distribution of Crime Cross-Nationally and National Context Characteristics Shaping it. *National Science Foundation. Sociology*. (NSF 19-612). Total Costs: \$413,839. Status: Unfunded.

Internal Funding

Yunmei Lu. (PI) and Shelley Kimelberg. 2025- 2026. The Impacts of Community and School Contexts on Crime Victimization: A Comparison of Black and White Adolescents, 1976-2019. Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Research Grant, SUNY Buffalo. Total costs: \$2,500. **Funded.**

Yunmei Lu. (PI). 2021- 2022. Cross-National Assessment of the Gender-gap in Violent Crime: How Does Social Context Matter?. Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Research Grant, SUNY Buffalo. Total costs: \$3,510. **Funded.**

Yunmei Lu (PI). October 2023. When the Lottery of Birth is Racialized: Life Course Experience, Neighborhood Context, and the Age-crime Trajectories of Black and White Cohorts Coming of Age Between 1976 and 2019. Seed Project in Arts and Sciences Research and Creative Activities (SPARC), College of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Buffalo. Costs: \$70,172. Status: Unfunded.

Yunmei Lu and Mateus Renno Santos. **(PI)**. February 2020. Cross-National Assessment of the Gender-gap in Violent Offending and Victimization. New Researcher Grant, University of South Florida. Total Costs: \$9,896. Status: Unfunded.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Steffensmeier, Darrell, **Yunmei Lu**, and Chongmin Na. 2021. "Social context shapes age-crime distributions" *Research Outreach*, 120. Available at: <https://researchoutreach.org/articles/social-context-shapes-age-crime-distributions/>

Kempinen, Cynthia, Barry Ruback, Leigh Tinik, Lauren Knoth, and **Yunmei Lu**. 2015. *Risk Assessment Project: Phase II. Interim Report 1: Development of a Risk Assessment Scale by Offense Gravity Score for All Offenders*. Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing: State College, PA. Available: <http://pcs.la.psu.edu/publications-and-research/research-and-evaluation-reports/risk-assessment/phase-ii-reports/Interim-Rpt-1-Phase-2/view>.

Kempinen, Cynthia, Barry Ruback, Leigh Tinik, Lauren Knoth and **Yunmei Lu**. 2013. *Risk/Needs Assessment Project. Interim Report 7: Validation of Risk Scale*. State College, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing. Available: <http://pcs.la.psu.edu/publications-and-research/research-and-evaluation-reports/risk-assessment/interim-report-7-validation-of-risk-scale/view>

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Program for UUP-Represented Employees.
2019 Outstanding Article Award, American Society of Criminology

- 2018 Outstanding Contribution Award, ASC Division of Developmental and Life-course Criminology
 2017 First Place, 8th Annual Criminology Working Paper Competition, Pennsylvania State University
 2016 RGSO Dissertation Award, College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University
 2013 Graduate Scholar Award, Pennsylvania State University
 2011 Manuel Lopez-Ray Scholarship, University of Cambridge
 2011 Rance PL Lee Award for Quality Research (Dissertation), Dean's List, Caring Alumni Student Global Internship Scholar, Chinese University of Hong Kong

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 2025(Spring) | Lumen Circles Fellow, Advanced Generative AI for Teaching and Learning |
| 2025(Spring) | Research Methods (PhD level), SUNY Buffalo |
| 2024(Fall) | Introductory Statistics for Social Sciences (Online asynchronous) |
| 2023(Fall) | Introductory Statistics for Social Sciences (Online asynchronous) |
| 2022(Fall) | Basic Statistics for Social Sciences, SUNY Buffalo |
| 2022(Fall) | Global Criminology, SUNY Buffalo |
| 2021(Fall) | Research Methods (Graduate level), SUNY Buffalo |
| 2021(Fall) | Global Criminology, SUNY Buffalo |
| 2021(Spring) | Inequality and Crime (Graduate level), SUNY Buffalo |
| 2020 (Fall) | Crime and the Life Course, SUNY Buffalo (Online) |
| 2020 (Fall) | Global Criminology, SUNY Buffalo (Online) |
| 2020 (Spring) | Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2019 (Fall) | Myths of the Criminal Justice System, University of South Florida |
| 2019 (Fall) | Online-Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2019 (Summer) | Online-Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2019 (Spring) | Online-Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2019 (Spring) | Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2018 (Fall) | Research Methods in Criminal Justice, University of South Florida |
| 2016 (Fall) | Criminological Theory, Graduate Level (Teaching Assistant), Penn State University |
| 2016 (Summer) | Research Methods in Criminal Justice (Instructor), Penn State University |
| 2015 (Spring) | Introduction to Criminal Justice (Guest Lecture), Penn State University |

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Lu, Yunmei.** When the Lottery of Birth is Racialized: Age-crime patterns of Black and White cohorts in the past 40 years. Paper presented at the Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant Conference, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2024 **Lu, Yunmei.** Age-Crime Trajectories of Black and White Cohorts coming of Age between 1976 and 2019. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2024 **Lu, Yunmei, Zhe Zhang, Margaret Rex.** Examining the Decline in Youth Offending Across Geographical Regions in the U.S., 1990-2019. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.
- 2024 **Lu, Yunmei, Liying Luo.** Examining the Black-White Differences in Youth Violent Offending across Three Cohorts: A Decomposition Analysis. Roundtable Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada.

- 2023 **Lu, Yunmei.** Societal Change and the Black-White Gap in the U.S. crime Trends, 1986-2019. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Pennsylvania, PA.
- 2023 **Lu, Yunmei.** Societal Change and the Black-White Gap in the U.S. crime Trends, 1986-2019. Invited Presentation for the Research Forum of Deviance, Crime, and Law Research Cluster organized by the Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. China.
- 2022 **Lu, Yunmei,** Mateus R Santos, Zhe Zhang, Social Change. 2022. Gender Stratification and the Sex Gap of Homicide Victimization in 76 Countries, 1975–2017, Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA
- 2021 **Lu, Yunmei.** Social Change and the Age-Violence Trajectories in the U.S.: An Age-Period-Cohort-Interaction Approach. Invited Presentation for Department of Demography, Renmin University, China.
- 2021 **Lu, Yunmei.** Social Change and the Age-Crime Trajectories in Taiwan and U.S.: An Age-Period-Cohort-Interaction Approach. Invited Presentation for the Diverse Perspectives on Justice Series, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arizona State University.
- 2019 **Lu, Yunmei,** and Liying Luo. 2019. Revisiting Violent Crime Trends in the United States from 1960 to 2014: A New Approach to Understand Cohort Effects on Crime. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 Shi, Luzi, **Yunmei Lu,** and Justin Pickett. The public salience of crime, 1960-2014: Age-period-cohort and time series analysis. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 Leiber, Michael, Ellen Donnelly, and **Yunmei Lu.** An empirical examination of competing macro-level perspectives to understand race and increased social control in juvenile justice proceedings. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA
- 2019 **Lu, Yunmei,** and Liying Luo. 2019. Revisiting Violent Crime Trends in the United States from 1960 to 2014: A New Approach to Understand Cohort Effects on Crime. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Austin, TX.
- 2018 Darrell Steffensmeier, **Lu, Yunmei,** and Sumit Kumar. 2018. Age-crime relation in India: Similarity or divergence vs. Hirschi/Gottfredson inverted J-shaped projection? Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA
- 2017 **Lu, Yunmei.** Rural and urban differences in the gendered-sentencing patterns of Pennsylvania. Round table paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 **Lu, Yunmei** and Darrell Steffensmeier. Is the concentration of violence among youth a cultural universal? Lessons from South Korea and Taiwan. Poster presented at the 2017 Graduate Student Exhibition of Penn State University, State College, PA.
- 2016 **Lu, Yunmei** and Jason Thomas. Desisted, or selected to an early grave? A simulation approach to examine the mortality effects on the age-crime relation. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology.

- 2016 Barry Ruback, Cynthia Kempinen, Leigh Tinik, Lauren Knoth and **Yunmei Lu**. Risk Assessment at Sentencing. Presentation at the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing Risk Assessment Roundtable, Harrisburg, PA.
- 2015 **Lu, Yunmei**. Rural and urban differences in the gendered-sentencing patterns of Pennsylvania. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
- 2015 **Lu, Yunmei** and Jason Thomas. Disentangling the forces of selection in the age-crime relationship. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. San Diego, CA.
- 2014 **Lu, Yunmei** and Darrell Steffensmeier. Age and the distribution of crime across race and ethnicity in California. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2024-2025	Chair, MS Criminology Program Committee
2024-2025	Sociology Department Executive Committee
2023-2024	Colloquium Committee
2022-2023	Graduate Students Award Committee
2022-2023	Graduate Committee
2022-2023	Tenure-track Faculty (Criminology) Hiring Committee
2020-2022	Colloquium Committee
2019-2020	Graduate Committee; Master Comprehensive Exam Committee; Scientific Review Committee; Strategic Planning Committee
2018-2019	Faculty Search Committee; Scientific Review Committee; Strategic Planning Committee
2013-2018	Community Service Committee
2016	Graduate Student Committee
2014	Diversity Promotion Committee

SKILLS

Quantitative Skills: Stata, R, SPSS, ArcGIS, HLM, survey design, computer simulation
Language: English, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese)

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT and SERVICE

Member American Society of Criminology
 American Sociological Association
 Population Association of America

Ad hoc Reviewer

Criminology
Demography
Social Forces
Justice Quarterly
Sociological Methods and Research
PLOS One
Asian Journal of Criminology
Health & Justice

Crime & Delinquency
Journal of Research on Crime and Delinquency
Journal of Criminal Justice
Women & Criminal Justice
Homicide Studies
Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology
Asian Journal of Law and Society
Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology

*City & Community
Journal of Crime & Justice*

Injury Epidemiology

STUDENT ADVISING & MENTORSHIP

Dissertation Committee

2025 Zhe (Rachel) Zhang. “Neighborhood Problems, Neighborhood Change, and Health: Integrating Family and Crime Mechanisms”

MA Project Directed

2025 Makaela Brass. “Victimization Among Black Adolescent Girls: Examining Educational Engagement and Generational Changes”

Independent Study

2021 Zhang, Zhe (Rachel). “Gentrification and Crime in Buffalo.”

MA Projects Committee

2023 Youlhee Seo, “Asian Americans’ Transition to Adulthood during the Great Recessoin”

2022 Gianna Galasso, “Sociological Analysis of the Less is More Act Preceding its Implementation in NYS”

2022 Jeremy Carr, “Public Perception of Law Enforcement”

Research Assistants

2021-Present Zhe (Rachel) Zhang

2024-Present Makaela Brass