

Mary Ellen Stitt

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APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University – New Brunswick, 2026 –

Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy,
University at Albany, SUNY, 2020 – 2026

Faculty Affiliate, Department of Sociology, University at Albany, SUNY, 2020 – 2026

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin, 2014 – 2020

M.A. Latin American Studies, Tulane University, 2011 – 2013

B.A. Spanish, Carleton College, 2004 – 2008
magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Stitt, Mary Ellen. 2025. *Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform.*
University of Chicago Press

- Donald W. Light Award for Applied or Public Practice of Medical Sociology, American Sociological Association
- Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Outstanding Scholarship Award, Honorable Mention, Society for the Study of Social Problems

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Stitt, Mary Ellen. 2025. “Adjudication Under Cover: Compliance and Inequality in the Criminal Courts.” *American Journal of Sociology* 130(5): 1113-1149

- Crime, Law, and Deviance Distinguished Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association
- Sociology of Mental Health Doctoral Student Paper Award, American Sociological Association
- Sociology of Law Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, American Sociological Association

Stitt, Mary Ellen, Katherine Sobering, and Javier Auyero. 2025. “Collusion and Violence in Underground Drug Markets.” *Social Problems* 72(4): 1565-1579

Stitt, Mary Ellen, Katherine Sobering, and Javier Auyero. 2024. “The Clandestine Hand of the State: Relational Dynamics of Police Collusion in Drug Markets.” *Social Forces* 103(1): 286-304

Stitt, Mary Ellen. 2023. “‘Broken Windows’ Discipline and Racial Disparities in School Punishment.” *Punishment & Society* 25(1): 241-263

Auyero, Javier, Maricarmen Hernández, and **Mary Ellen Stitt.** 2019. “Grassroots Activism in

the Belly of the Beast: A Relational Account of the Campaign Against Urban Fracking in Texas.” *Social Problems* 66(1): 28-50

- Republished as “En el vientre de la bestia. Reconstrucción relacional de la campaña contra el *fracking* en Texas.” 2019. *Estudios Sociológicos* 37(111): 611-657

Stitt, Mary Ellen, and Javier Auyero. 2018. “Drug Market Violence Comes Home: Three Sequential Pathways.” *Social Forces* 95(2): 823-840

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Sobering, Katherine, Javier Auyero, and **Mary Ellen Stitt**. 2026. “How to Detect and Dissect Gray Zone Processes.” *Processes of Collective Action*, edited by Lorenzo Bosi and Stefan Melthaner. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press

Auyero, Javier, Katherine Sobering, and **Mary Ellen Stitt**. 2021. “La violencia de la droga en las calles y en el hogar.” Pp. 67-88 in *Entre narcos y policías. Las relaciones clandestinas entre el estado y el delito, y su impacto violento en la vida de las personas*, by Javier Auyero and Katherine Sobering. Buenos Aires: Siglo Veintiuno Editores

Auyero, Javier, Katherine Sobering, and **Mary Ellen Stitt**. 2019. “Drug Violence in the Streets and at Home.” Pp. 49-70 in *The Ambivalent State: Police-Criminal Collusion at the Urban Margins*, by Javier Auyero and Katherine Sobering. New York: Oxford University Press

Book Review

Stitt, Mary Ellen. 2025. “Conservatorship: Inside California’s System of Coercion and Care for Mental Illness, by Alex Barnard.” *American Journal of Sociology* 132(1):190-192

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

External

2026 – 2027	Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar fellowship (scheduled)
2023 – 2025	RDCJN / Arnold Ventures Grant: “Reform and Inequality: An Examination of Alternative Sanctions in New York State” (with Gabriela Kirk-Werner, \$100,000)
2023 – 2024	Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant: “‘Alternatives’ to Punishment and Social Inequality” (with Gabriela Kirk-Werner, \$30,000)
2022	Institute for Humane Studies Grant: “Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform” (\$17,200)
2022	ORAU Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award: Research in Health Disparities and Equity: “Administering Mental Healthcare in the Criminal Courts” (\$10,000)
2018 – 2020	NSF Doctoral Fellowship in Law & Inequality, American Bar Foundation
2018	National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant: “Therapeutic Alternatives in the Criminal Courts” (\$10,736)
2018	P.E.O. Scholar Award, P.E.O. International (\$15,000)
2017	Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Graduate Research Award (\$7,500)
2015	Media Cloud Data Challenge Award, Ford Foundation (\$2,000)

2011 – 2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Graduate Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education
2012	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (<i>declined</i>)
2009	Fulbright Fellowship, Brazil, U.S. Department of State
<i>Internal</i>	
2025	Minerva Center Innovation Funding for Research & Creative Endeavors (\$4,800)
2024	Minerva Center Innovation Funding for Research & Creative Endeavors (\$2,400)
2024	Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Leave Grant
2022	Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center Research Development Grant (\$800)
2014 – 2019	Harrington Graduate Fellowship, Donald D. Harrington Fellows Program, University of Texas at Austin
2019	Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Award, University of Texas at Austin (\$1,000)
2018	Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Award, University of Texas at Austin (\$1,000)
2017	Rapoport Centennial Dissertation Support Award (\$1,000)
2014	College of Liberal Arts Recruitment Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2012	Stone Center Summer Field Research Fellowship, Tulane University
2008	Social Justice Internship Summer Fellowship, Carleton College
2007	Initiative for International Development Summer Fellowship, Carleton College
2007	Newman Language Summer Fellowship, Carleton College (<i>declined</i>)

AWARDS

2026	American Sociological Association Section on Drugs & Society Junior Scholar Award
2026	American Sociological Association Section on Medical Sociology's Donald W. Light Award for Applied or Public Practice of Medical Sociology
2026	Society for the Study of Social Problems Division of Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Outstanding Scholarship Award, Honorable Mention
2020	American Sociological Association Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance Distinguished Student Paper Award
2020	American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Mental Health Doctoral Student Paper Award
2020	American Sociological Association Section on the Sociology of Law Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
2019	Graduate Student Excellence Award, University of Texas at Austin

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	"Drug Testing as Social Control: How Screening for Substance Use Shapes Everyday Life." American Sociological Association, New York City (scheduled)
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- 2025 “Privatization without Profit.” American Society of Criminology, Washington, D.C.
 “Outsourcing Judgment: ‘Alternative’ Programs and the Transformation of the Criminal Courts.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
 “Trial by Treatment.” Punishment & Society: New Books in the Field. Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2024 “A Hidden Face of Criminal Justice: Therapeutic Alternatives and the Privatization of Punishment.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Quebec
 “Reformist Interventions and Social Mobility,” presented by co-author Gabriela Kirk-Werner. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
- 2023 “Coercing Care: Institutional Collision in Legally Mandated Treatment.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
 “Reformist Interventions as Hidden Pathways to Criminal-Legal Supervision.” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 “Widening the Net?”
 ▪ Global Meeting on Law & Society, Lisbon, Portugal
 ▪ American Bar Foundation Doctoral Fellow Alumni Workshop, Chicago, IL
 “The Clandestine Hand of the State: Relational Dynamics of Police Collusion.” ‘Policing Crisis’ Conference, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2019 “When Punishment and Healthcare Converge: Therapy in the Criminal Courts.”
 ▪ American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York City, NY
 ▪ American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
 ▪ Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
 ▪ Law and Society Junior Scholars Workshop, Washington, D.C.
 ▪ Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2018 “Healthcare Is Our Government: Medicine and Politics in Rural Texas.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2017 “What Kind of Justice? Restorative Policing in Brazil.” Latin American Social and Public Policy Conference. Center for Latin American Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2016 “The Emergence of ‘No Excuses’ Discipline.”
 ▪ Cultural Sociology and Education Conference, Higher School of Economics. Moscow, Russia
 ▪ Cultural Studies in Education Conference. University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- 2025 – American Society of Criminology Division of Qualitative Research, Program Committee
- 2024 – 2025 American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Law, Nominations Committee

- 2022 – 2023 American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting Program Committee
- 2021 – 2022 Law & Society Association Graduate Paper Prize Committee
- Reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Canadian Journal of Law & Society*, *Criminology*, *Health & Justice*, *International Journal of Drug Policy*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Law & Society Review*, *Punishment & Society*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Social Service Review*, *Southern Cultures*, *Trends in Organized Crime*, NSF Law and Science Dissertation Grant Program, and others

Journals, Editorial

- 2019 – 2020 Associate Editor, *Law & Social Inquiry*

Department & University

- 2025 – 2026 Graduate Admissions Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2023 – 2026 Board of Directors, Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2022 – 2026 Justice, Law, and Inequality Working Group, Co-Founder and Co-Facilitator, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2025 Faculty Hiring Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2023 – 2024 Graduate Admissions Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2021 – 2024 Rockefeller College Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, Faculty Mentor
- 2023 University at Albany Summer Research Program, Undergraduate Research Mentor
- 2022 – 2023 Faculty Hiring Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2021 – 2022 ‘Policing Crisis’ Conference Planning Committee Member, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2021 – 2023 Undergraduate Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2020 – 2021 Student Performance Committee, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2015 – 2020 Urban Ethnography Lab Graduate Fellow, University of Texas at Austin
- 2015 – 2016 Abriendo Brecha: Activist Scholarship Conference Planning Committee Member, University of Texas at Austin

INVITED TALKS

- 2026 University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Workshop on Punishment and Social Control. “Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform.” (scheduled)
- Center for Justice Innovation, Data Collaborative for Justice, From Punishment

to Public Health, and the National Black Harm Reduction Network, joint conference: Harm Reduction After the War on Drugs: Reimagining New York's Treatment System. "Trial by Treatment: Bridging the Morning's Conversations" (Plenary).

Duke University, Institutions and Inequality Project Incubator. "Using Publicly Available Data."

New York University, Ethnography Workshop. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

American Society of Criminology, Division of Qualitative Research. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

2025 Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Department of Sociology. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

Boise State University, School of Public Service. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

2024 Initiative for Law, Societies, and Justice, University of Texas at Austin. "Trial by Treatment: Punishing Illness in an Age of Criminal Legal Reform."

2022 National Science Foundation (NSF) Law & Science Program, Cultivating Networks and Innovative Scholarship in Law and Courts, Wesleyan University. "Widening the Penal Net."

2020 American Bar Association Diversion Standards Taskforce Meeting, Chicago, IL. "Pretrial Diversion Standards and their Consequences."

American Bar Association Alternatives to Incarceration Committee, American Bar Association Midyear Meeting, Austin, TX. "Practices in Pretrial Diversion."

2018 American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL. "Medicalizing Justice: Therapy in the Criminal Courts."

ACADEMIC TEACHING

2020 – 2026	University at Albany, SUNY Law and Society (Graduate) Punishment and Inequality (Graduate) Honors: Theory and Research (Undergraduate) Punishment and Inequality (Undergraduate)
2019	Northwestern Prison Education Program, Cook County Jail Sociology of Health and Medicine (Undergraduate)
2019	University of Texas at Austin Punishment and Society (Undergraduate)
2013 – 2014	Tulane University Spanish Conversation and Composition (Undergraduate) Advanced Spanish III (Undergraduate), Tulane University

RELATED WORK

2010 – 2014	Participatory Action Research Program Coordinator and Restorative Justice Coordinator, Rethink, New Orleans
2012 – 2013	Planning Board Member, Independent Police Monitor Mediation Project, New Orleans
2010	Facilitator, Center for Restorative Approaches, New Orleans
2009	Founder and Coordinator, Music Education Program, State Penitentiary of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil
2008	Case Investigator, Innocence Project – New Orleans
2005 – 2008	Director, Adult English as a Second Language Program, Northfield, Minnesota

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society of Criminology
American Sociological Association
Law and Society Association
Society for the Study of Social Problems

SELECTED LITERARY TRANSLATIONS

- “Sculpture,” “To Untie the Rope,” and “Wares,” by Enrique Winter. Translated [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt. *Lyrík-Line*, Winter 2019.
- Suns*, by Enrique Winter. Translated [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt, Ellen Jones, and David McLoughlin. Phoenix, Arizona: Cardboard House Press, 2017.
- Rogério Duarte: Marginália 1*, by Manuel Raeder (ed.). Translations [from Portuguese] by Mary Ellen Stitt. Berlin: Bom Dia Boa Tarde Boa Noite, 2014.
- Skyscrapers*, by Enrique Winter. Foreword and translation [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt. New York: McNally Jackson, 2013.
- “Sculpture,” from *Guía de despacho*, by Enrique Winter. Translated [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt. *Asymptote Journal*, Summer 2013.
- “The Whalefishbelly,” by Marta Ortea. Translated [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt. *Palabras Errantes*, March 2013.
- “Mantra,” “Rites of Passage,” “Dirty Floor,” and “Three Empty Boxes,” by Enrique Winter. Translated [from Spanish] by Mary Ellen Stitt. *Circumference: Poetry in Translation*, January 2013.