Laura L. Lightfoot

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
Arizona State University
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(785) 409-9323
lllightf@asu.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Drug Use and Policy, Overdose, Incarceration, Reentry, and Harm Reduction

EDUCATION:

In Progress **Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice**
Arizona State University; Phoenix, AZ
Advisor: Dr. Beth Huebner & Dr. Charles Katz

2022-2023 **Doctor of Philosophy in Criminology and Criminal Justice** (Transferred)
University of Missouri- St. Louis; St. Louis, MO
Advisor: Dr. Beth Huebner & Dr. Lee Slocum

2022 **Master's Degree in Applied Sociology.**
University of Central Florida; Orlando, FL.
Thesis: *Deadly Combination: Factors That Predict Simultaneous Polysubstance Use*
Committee: Dr. Lin Huff-Corzine (Chair), Dr. Jacqueline Woerner, Dr. Amy Donely, Dr. Thomas Hall (external member)

2019 **Bachelor's Degree of Art in Psychology** with Honors.
Minor in Sociology.
Washburn University; Topeka, KS.
Undergraduate Thesis*: How Sleep Affects Attention Within the College Population*
Committee: Dr. Mike Russell (Chair)

2017 **Associate Degree of Art**
Allen County Community College; Iola, KS.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:

2023-present *Graduate Research Assistant,* Arizona State University (Dr. Charles Katz)
Assigned project:

- **Project Lead: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)-**
  SUDORS provides comprehensive data on unintentional and undetermined intent drug overdose deaths collected from death certificates and medical examiner or coroner reports (including scene findings, autopsy reports, and full postmortem toxicology findings).

2023-2024 *Ethnographer*, Justice System Partners (JSP)
Principal Investigators: Dr. Carrie Pettus, Dr. Beth Huebner, Dr. Faye Taxman

- ***Racial Equity in St. Louis Jail- Pioneering study funded by the MacArthur Foundation-***
  The study team works with jail administrators, program staff and contractors, corrections officers, jail residents and former residents to review policies, procedures, and data on the culture of the jail. Researchers have hopes that this project will produce practices and policy innovations that could be replicated across the criminal justice system.

2023-2023 *Research Intern*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), State Opioid Response (SOR) Branch

2022-2023 *Graduate Research Assistant*, University of Missouri- St. Louis (Beth Huebner)
Assigned projects:

- ***Population Review Team (PRT) Team***
  A multi-disciplinary Population Review Team has been tasked with examining the jail population and the racial and ethnic composition of the jail, identifying factors related to long stays in jail, and improving case processing at every level: from the individual, to agencies, to entire systems. The team serves as a voice for reform and a laboratory for innovative solutions for the criminal justice community.
- *"**Tap in Center"-***
  The center, which is part of a national effort to lower jail populations in jurisdictions across the country as part of the Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC), aids in responding to concerns raised by the Department of Justice (DOJ) about racial injustice related to municipal court practices in its 2015 investigation into the Ferguson Police Department—which is located in the northern part of St. Louis County.

2022- present *Affiliate Lab Member,* Early Justice Strategies (EJS) Lab at George Mason University
Principal Investigator: Evan Lowder, PhD.

- The Early Justice Strategies (EJS) lab conducts research on strategies to facilitate community release, supervision, and connection to services and supports for individuals who are justice-involved. Many

of our projects focus specifically on front-end criminal-legal processing (i.e., community-, police-, jail-, and court-based interventions).

2021-2022 *Grant Writer***,** Children Athletes & Artists Involved in Recreational Events
2020-2022 *Graduate Teaching Assistant***,** Department of Sociology**,** University of Central-Florida
2020-2022 *Research Intern* at the Orange County Government Drug Free Coalition
2021-2022 *Graduate Research Assistant,* STRIVE Lab at University of Central Florida
Principal Investigator: Jacqueline Woerner
2020-2021 *Mental Health Technician* at Lakewood Center
2019-2020 *Student Care Manager* at Directions for Living
2018-2019 *Crisis Attendant Care* at Family Service and Guidance Center
2017-2018 *Mental Health Technician* at Valeo Behavioral Health
2017-2017 *Mental Health Intern* at Southeast Kansas Mental Health Center

HONORS AND AWARDS:

2025 Association of Doctoral Programs in Criminology and Criminal Justice (ADPCCJ), 2025 Spring Student Research Award ($700)
2024 Justice Community Overdose Innovation Network (JCOIN) Learning Experiences to Advance Practice **(**LEAP) Scholars Program
2023 Drug Policy Alliance Conference Scholarship ($700)
2021 Graduate Paper Competition Winner 2021- Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference
2021 Alpha Kappa Delta**-** University of Central Florida
2019 Psi-Chi, International Honor Society of Psychology- Washburn University
2019 Psychology Department Honors- Washburn University
2019 Cum Laude- Washburn University

RESEARCH:

PUBLICATIONS:

Laura L. Lightfoot & Charles Katz. "Exploring Disparities in Overdose Fatalities and Naloxone Distribution" *Drug and Alcohol Dependence,* 275, 112834. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2025.112834

REPORTS:

Charles M. Katz, Matthew Durán, **Laura Lightfoot**, and Genesis Navarrete. "Deploying Body-Worn Cameras in Corrections: Lessons Learned from Three BWCPIP Sites." Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWCIPP) 2024

Carrie Pettus, Beth M. Huebner, Faye S. Taxman, Teisha Sanders, **Laura L. Lightfoot**, Nancy McCarthy, Rebecca Bennett. "Achieving Racial Equity and Improving Culture in Jails Using a Community-Engaged Quality Improvement Process" ISLG 2024

Charles M. Katz, Hyunjung Cheon, Kayla Freemon, **Laura L. Lightfoot** & Matthew Durán. "Multinational Gang Report" USAID Project 2024

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:
Manuscript Under Review:

Jordan Batchelor, **Laura L. Lightfoot,** Charles Katz, & Christi Gullion. "Mapping Crisis Zones: Overdose, Suicide, and Homicide Hotspots in Relation to Socioeconomic and Neighborhood Characteristics" *Applied Geography*

Matthew J. Duran, Charles M. Katz, Hyunjung Cheon, Genesis Navarrete, **Laura L. Lightfoot**, "The Lifetime Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Young Adults in Grenada, Guyana, and Saint Lucia" *Child Abuse & Neglect*

Hyunjung Cheon, Genesis Navarrete, Matthew J. Duran, Charles M. Katz, **Laura L. Lightfoot**. "The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences Among Young Adults in Grenada, Guyana, and Saint Lucia" *Journal of Adolescent Health*

Manuscripts in Progress:

Laura L. Lightfoot, Alex Sheehan, Ojonimi Salihu, Beth Huebner, Faye Taxman, & Carrie Pettus. "Like I can't deal with someone overdosing again". Examining the Overdose Crisis in Correctional Settings."

Laura L. Lightfoot, Matthew Duran, Charles Katz, Hyunjung Cheon, Genesis Navarrete. "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Drug Involvement Among Caribbean Adults: Evidence from Grenada, Guyana, and St. Lucia"

Laura L. Lightfoot & Hank Fradella. **"**A Gap in Culpability: Exploring Due Process in Drug-Induced Homicide Cases and State Appeal Dynamics"

Laura L. Lightfoot, Evan Lowder, & Thomas Hall. **"**Cross Faded – The Relationship Between Opioid Use History and Polysubstance Use Risk Perceptions"

PRESENTATIONS:

Jordan Batchelor, **Laura L. Lightfoot,** Charles Katz, & Christi Gullion "Identifying and explaining suicide, homicide, and overdose hot spots in Arizona, plus an Arizona Violent Death Reporting System dashboard" (2025). Arizona Public Health Association (AzPHA) Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Laura L. Lightfoot, Beth Huebner, Faye Taxman, & Carrie Pettus "Like I Can't Deal with Someone Overdosing Again": Examining the Overdose Crisis in Correctional Settings" (2024) American Society for Criminology Conference

Danielle Stoneberg, Brooke Baker, Jaime Burns, F.M. Jones, Stephen Young, **Laura L. Lightfoot**, Andrew Burns, Dina Perrone. Roundtable "Saving Our Own Lives: Lessons Learned from Harm Reduction and Mutual Aid" (2024) American Society for Criminology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Cross Faded – The Relationship Between Opioid Use History and Polysubstance Use Risk Perceptions" (2023) American Society for Criminology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. Chair of Round Table: "Fear Induced Responses to Fentanyl: How Misinformation Relating to Fentanyl Has Led to the Implementation of Drug-Induced Homicide Laws and Restrictions in Overdose Prevention Policies in the United States" (2023) American Society for Criminology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. Roundtable: Involving System-Impacted Populations in Research and Policy (2023) American Society for Criminology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Vulnerable Populations- How Previous Incarceration Relates to Overdose Knowledge and Response" (2023) University of Missouri- St. Louis Graduate Symposium

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Deadly Combinations: Factors that are Associated with Simultaneous and Concurrent Polysubstance Use" (2022) American Society for Criminology Conference.

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Cross Faded – The Relationship Between Opioid Use History and Polysubstance Use Risk Perceptions" (2022) Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference.

Laura L. Lightfoot, M.A., S. Da Silva, M.A., E. Gabriel, A. Toussaint, B. Coolidge, A. Haeny, J. Woerner, PhD**.** "Drinking Frequency During Covid-19 Within A Longitudinal Framework: Considering the Role of Social and Pandemic-Specific Stressors" (2022) Research Society on Alcoholism Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot & Madelyn Diaz. **"**The Implementation of Drug-Induced Homicide Laws in Comparison to Overdose Prevention Policies in Each of the States" (2022). Homicide Research Working Group Conference.

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Responding to the Overdose Crisis: Orange County Residents' Willingness and Ability to Access Narcan & Fentanyl Testing Strips" (2022). Graduate Research Forum at University of Central Florida.

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Chance for Reversal: How Opioid Use Predicts Overdose Knowledge and Response" (2021). Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Deadly Combination: Factors That Predict Simultaneous Polysubstance Use*" 3-minute thesis* (2021). Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Conference

Laura L. Lightfoot. "How Incarceration History Predicts Witnessing an Overdose and Response" (2021). Graduate Research Forum at University of Central Florida.

Laura L. Lightfoot. "Chance for Intervention: How Incarceration Relates to Opioid Use" (2021). American Society for Criminology Conference

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025 Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH)
Overdose Fatality Review Board (OFRB), Member (Current)
2025 Sonoran Prevention Works, Volunteer (Current)

JOURNAL REVIEWS

2025 Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Use
2025 Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions
2024 Harm Reduction Journal

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor for the following courses:

2025 CRJ408: Drugs and Crime (Summer B and Fall 2025)
2024 CRJ305: Women, Gender, and Crime (Online)
2024 CRJ309: Criminology (Online)

Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Following Courses:

2022 SYP3520: Criminology (Undergraduate)
Instructor of Record: Dr. Amy Reckdenwald
2022 SYO3410: Drug Use in Society (Undergraduate)
Instructor of Record: Dr. Jason Ford
2021 SYP3511: Sociology of Murder (Undergraduate)
Instructor of Record: Dr. Jay Corzine
2021 SYP3530: Juvenile Delinquency (Undergraduate)
Instructor of Record: Dr. Jason Ford
2021 SYP 3551: Alcohol in Society (Undergraduate)
Instructor of Record: Dr. Jackie Woerner

2021	SYG2000: Intro to Sociology (Undergraduate) Instructor of Record: Dr. Bhoomi Thakore
2021	SYO3573: Social Networks: Theory and Application (Undergraduate) Instructor of Record: Dr. Sam Park
2021	SYP4004: Constructing Social Issues (Undergraduate) Instructor of Record: Dr. Sam Park
2020	SYP3520: Criminology (Undergraduate) Instructors of Record: Dr. Jay Corzine
2020	SYG2000: Intro to Sociology (Undergraduate) Instructor of Record: Dr. Angela Vergara

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS:

2025	Enhancing Measurement Quality in Social Sciences Through Measurement Theory and Item Response Theory (Dr. Yi Zheng)
2024	Database Design Workshop (Dr. Pamela Garcia-Filion)
2024	Preliminary Agenda for An Introduction to Meta-Analysis Workshop (Dr. Peng Peng)
2024	Semi-Structured Interviewing **(**Dr. Gery W. Ryan)
2023	Graduate Writing Camp- Arizona State University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Criminology
Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology
American Sociological Association

REFERENCES

Dr. Beth Huebner, Dissertation Chair
Arizona State University
Email- beth.huebner@asu.edu
Phone- (314) 477-0033

Dr. Charles Katz
Arizona State University
Email- charles.katz@asu.edu
Phone- (480) 226-7921

Dr. Abbie Henson
Arizona State University
Email- abhen001@gmail.com

Phone- (917) 913-0114

Dr. Thomas Hall
Orange County Government
Email- thomas.hall2@ocfl.net
Phone- (407) 233-6297