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Current Position

2021-Present Professional Specialist

School of Public and International Affairs
Criminal Justice @ SPIA
Princeton University

Education

2020 Ph.D. in Criminology

University of Pennsylvania

2016 M.S. in Criminology

University of Pennsylvania

2015 B.S. in Criminal Justice

California State University, Sacramento

Journal Articles

2025 Ba, B., Ge, H., **Kaplan, J.**, Knox, D, Komisarchik, M., Lanzalotto, G., Mariman, R., Mummolo, J., Rivera, R., & Torres, M. (2025). Political diversity in U.S. police agencies. *American Journal of Political Science*. Online First. <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/CZOPH3>.

2023 **Kaplan, J.** (2023). The (In)Effectiveness of Campus Smart Locks for Reducing Crime. *Journal of Applied Security Research*, 18, 86-105. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361610.2021.1915054>

Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & **Kaplan, J.** (2023). The Material of Policing: Budgets, Personnel, and the United States' Misdemeanour Arrest Decline. *The British Journal of Criminology*, 63(2), 330-347. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azac005>

2022 Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). An analysis of National Hockey League playoff games and city-level crime counts. *Crime & Delinquency*, 69(11), 2194-2217. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221118879>
Selected coverage: [New York Times](#)

Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). Testing the Cinderella effect: Measuring victim injury in child abuse cases. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 82, 1019887. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2022.101987>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J.** & LaForest, M. (2022). Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 38, 891-919. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4>

Kaplan, J. & Chalfin, A. (2022). Ambient Lighting and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment. *Security Journal*, 35, 694-724. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00296-0>

Kaplan, J & Goh, L.S. (2022). Harm Reduction in Family Violence: Does Marijuana Make Assaults Safer?. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(7-8), NP5269-NP5293. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520961876>

2021 Chalfin, A. & **Kaplan J.** (2021). How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few "Bad Apples?". *Criminology & Public Policy*, 20(2), 351-370. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542>

Chalfin, A, LaForest, M & **Kaplan, J.** (2021). Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from 'Gang Takedowns' in New York City. *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, 40(4), 1047-1082. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22323>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J** & Cuellar, M. (2021). Measuring Marginal Crime Concentration: A New Solution to an Old Problem. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 58(4), 467-504. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427820984213>

Ling, S, **Kaplan, J** & Berryessa, C. (2021). The Importance of Forensic Evidence on Decisions of Criminal Guilt. *Science & Justice*, 61(2), 142-149. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.11.004>

2020 **Kaplan, J,** Ling, S & Cuellar, M. (2020). Public Beliefs About the Accuracy and Importance of Forensic Evidence in the United States. *Science & Justice*, 60(3), 263-272. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.01.001>

2019 **Kaplan, J** & Chalfin, A. (2019). More Cops, Fewer Prisoners? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 18(1), 171-200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12424>

Working Papers

De-prosecution and death: A comment on Hogan (2022). With JJ Naddeo and Tom Scott.

Books

A Criminologist's Guide to R: Crime by the Numbers. *Chapman & Hall/CRC The R Series*.

This book introduces the programming language R and is designed for undergraduate or graduate students studying criminology. R is well-suited to the type of work frequently done in criminology, namely taking messy data and turning it into useful information that can help advance policy. While R is a useful tool for many fields of study, this book focuses on the skills criminologists should know and utilizes crime data for example data sets.

Online version available at: <https://crimebythenumbers.com/>

Print version available to purchase: <https://www.routledge.com/A-Criminologists-Guide-to-R-Crime-by-the-Numbers/Kaplan/p/book/9781032244075>

Decoding FBI Crime Data (in progress)

This book provides a guide to Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program data, including National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, for individuals interested in using the data for research or reporting. The book covers details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. There is also a discussion on how to use the data, and how to *use them well*.

Available at <https://ucrbook.com/>

Grants

2025 Arnold Ventures, “Criminal Justice Open Data Summit - Exploring the Future of Open Criminal Justice Data” (\$55,789.00; with Jonathan Mummolo)

Teaching Experience

Programming Workshops

2025 Web Scraping with R, Princeton University

2025 Data Cleaning and Analysis with R, Princeton University

2025 Survey Data Analysis With R: A Three-Day Academic Workshop, Princeton University

2023 R for Crime Research, Sam Houston State University

Guest Lecturer

2025 How Reliable is Crime Data, Course: Criminal Justice Research (Undergraduate), Law and Justice Studies Department, Rowan University

2025 How Reliable is Crime Data, Course: The Politics of Policing (Undergraduate), Politics Department, Princeton University

2024 Current Issues in Policing, Course: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (Graduate), Law and Justice Studies Department, Rowan University

2022 Understanding FBI Crime Data, Course: Advanced Research Methods (Graduate), Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University

2022 Crime Data in the United States, Course: Introduction to Methods of Research (Undergraduate), Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston

State University

- 2019 Data Visualization Using R, Course: Pro-seminar in Criminal Justice (Graduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 Data Visualization Using R, Course: Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Graduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania
- 2017 Data Visualization Using R, Course: Statistics for the Social Sciences (Undergraduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania

Teaching Assistant

- 2019 Statistics for the Social Sciences (Undergraduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2018 Statistics for the Social Sciences (Undergraduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2017 Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Graduate), Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2016 Program Evaluation and Data Analysis (Graduate), Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.

Other Experience

- 2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 - 2020 Data Scientist, Philadelphia City Commissioner
Wrote and tested code to efficiently convert millions of pages of PDFs into a machine-readable format. Designed, implemented, and maintained a website that allows users to visualize this data at various levels of aggregation.
- 2018 Data Scientist, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.
Produced and tested code to convert voting records into a machine-readable data and built a prototype website to display this data.
- 2017 - 2018 Research Scientist, National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).
Wrote the Justice Data Learning Guide: No. 2, "[Using the Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk \(LEAIC\)](#)." This guide explains how to use the LEAIC dataset through an example incorporating both National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data and US Census data. This guide includes code to use in both R and SPSS.

2016 Research Assistant, Dr. Emily Owens, University of Pennsylvania.
Collected, cleaned, and prepared US Census data for analysis and visualization.

Student Advising

2019-2020 Alec Bardey. Senior Honors Criminology Thesis (co-winner, J. Francis Finnegan Award). *The Effect of Localized LED Streetlight Replacements on Adjacent Crime: Evidence from Philadelphia.*

Presentations

- “The Perils and Promises of FBI Data”
2023 National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Ingram Olkin Forum on Statistics and Policing
- “Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago”
2020 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology (Canceled due to COVID-19)
- “Making UCR Data Accessible to Researchers”
2019 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology
- "More Cops, Fewer Prisoners?"
2019 Panel Paper, Western Society of Criminology
2018 Panel Paper, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management
- "The Effect of Card Reader Locks on Theft on a University Campus"
2018 Poster, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management
2017 Poster, American Society of Criminology

Software

- [fastDummies:](#) R package for quickly and efficiently making binary columns out of categorical columns. It also fills in "dummy rows" for data sets missing rows of data based on all combinations of categorical and date columns. Downloads: 2.2 million.
- [caesar:](#) R package to encrypt and decrypt strings using a simple Caesar cipher or a pseudorandom number generation. Downloads: 909 thousand.
- [asciiSetupReader:](#) R package for reading fixed-width ASCII files that have an .sps or .sas setup file. It also allows users to quickly generate setup files. Downloads: 52 thousand.
- [predictrace:](#) R package to predict the race of a surname using U.S. Census data which says how many people of each race has a certain surname. Downloads: 24 thousand.

[crimeutils](#):

R package to provide a set of helper functions to make common data tasks in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier. Downloads: 18 thousand.

Service

Journal Reviewer: *Criminology*, *Criminology and Public Policy*, *Frontiers in Psychology*, *Homicide Studies*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

Data collected, cleaned, and made publicly available:

[Annual Survey of State Government Finances, 1992-2018](#)

[Apparent Per Capita Alcohol Consumption: National, State, and Regional Trends 1977-2018](#)

[California Jail Profile Survey, 1995-2020](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in Prisons in the United States, April – June 2020](#)

[U.S. Customs and Border Protection Statistics and Summaries](#)

[Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program Data: Summary Reporting System \(SRS\)](#)

[Uniform Crime Reporting \(UCR\) Program Data: National Incident-Based Reporting System \(NIBRS\)](#)

[United States Governors, 1775-2020](#)