

Alexander F. Roehrkasse

Contact Information

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Employment

- 2022– Butler University
- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology & Criminology, 2022–
 - Faculty Fellow, Desmond Tutu Peace Lab, 2024–
 - Faculty Affiliate, Peace and Conflict Studies Program, 2024–
 - Faculty Affiliate, Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, 2022–
 - Research Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2022–
- 2020–2022 Duke University
- Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Sociology
 - Postdoctoral Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
- 2019–2020 Cornell University
- Postdoctoral Associate, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
 - Postdoctoral Associate, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Affiliate, Cornell Population Center
- 2009–2011 HARVARD UNIVERSITY
- Research associate, Harvard Business School

Education

- 2019 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
- 2014 M.A. in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
- 2009 A.B. in Economics, Brown University

Peer-reviewed Publications (* equal authorship)

- 2025 Christopher Wildeman, **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Alexandra Gibbons, Sarah Ser-naker, Liza Becker, and Peter Fallesen. “Two Decades of Child Welfare System Contact in the Global North: A Research Note on Trends from 44 Countries.” *Demography*. [DOI] [Replication package]
- Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**.* “Falling Racial Inequality and Rising Educational Inequality in US Prison Admissions for Drug, Violent, and Property Crimes.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 122(4):e2418077122. [DOI] [Replication package]
- Coverage: *Harvard Gazette*.

- 2023 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Liza Becker, Christopher Wildeman, and Peter Fallesen. “Introducing a New Data Resource for Comparative Child Welfare Research: The Rockwool-Duke Global Child Welfare Database.” *Child and Youth Services Review* 152:107075. [DOI]
- Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Market Development, State Formation, and the Historical Abolition of the Debtors’ Prison.” *Punishment & Society* 25(1):202–222. [DOI]
- Ronald S. Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2016
 - Honorable Mention, Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Comparative-Historical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2017
 - Honorable Mention, Distinguished Student Paper Award, Crime, Law and Deviance Section, American Sociological Association, 2016
- 2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse** and Christopher Wildeman. “Lifetime Risk of Imprisonment in the United States Remains High and Starkly Unequal.” *Science Advances* 8(48):eabo3395. [DOI] [Replication package]
- Christopher Muller and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Racial and Class Inequality in U.S. Incarceration in the Early Twenty-First Century.” *Social Forces* 101(2):803–828. [DOI]
- Coverage: *Law & Political Economy Blog*; *The Inequality Podcast*; *Matrix Podcast*.
- Melissa A. Bright, **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**, Sarah Masten, Ashton Naumann, and David Finkelhor. “Child Abuse Prevention Education Policies Increase Reports of Child Sexual Abuse.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 134:105932. [DOI]
- 2021 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Race, Poverty, and Children’s Exposure to Neighborhood Incarceration.” *Socius* 7:1–2. [DOI] [Replication package]
- Alexander F. Roehrkasse**. “Long-Term Trends and Ethnoracial Inequality in U.S. Foster Care: A Research Note.” *Demography* 58(5):2009–2017. [DOI]
- 2016 Neil Fligstein and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse*** “The Causes of Fraud in the Financial Crisis of 2007 to 2009: Evidence from the Mortgage-Backed Securities Industry.” *American Sociological Review* 81(4):617–643. [DOI]

Under Review (* equal authorship)

Alexander F. Roehrkasse and Martin Eiermann. “Cumulative Exposure to Investigated and Confirmed Child Maltreatment by Race/Ethnicity: Evidence from a U.S. Birth Cohort.” Submitted.

In Progress (* equal authorship)

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Inequality in Life Lost to Violence in the United States.” [Working paper]

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “Women’s Property Rights and Divorce: Independence or Deinstitutionalization?”

Alexander F. Roehrkasse and Christopher Muller. “Hyperincarceration and Missing Men.”

Alexander F. Roehrkasse. “The Causes of Change in U.S. Foster Care Caseloads, 2000–2018.”

Other Publications (* equal authorship)

- 2023 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** *Amicus curiae* brief, No. 70 Matter of Stevens v. New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, New York State Court of Appeals.
– Cited in [argument](#).
- 2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “Review of *Agents of Reform: Child Labor and the Origins of the Welfare State* by Elisabeth Anderson.” *Social Forces*. [DOI]
- 2020 Kelsey Kauffman and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.*** “[Indiana prison coronavirus cases have been exploding. They won’t stay there.](#)” *Indianapolis Star*. December 27.
- 2019 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse** and Christopher Wildeman. “Administrative data and long-term trends in child maltreatment: the prospects and pitfalls.” *The Lancet: Public Health* 4(3):e121–e122. [DOI]
- 2017 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “The Many Hands of State Theory.” *European Journal of Sociology* 58(3):609–615. [DOI]
- 2013 Charlie Eaton, Jacob Habinek, Mukul Kumar, Tamera Lee Stover and **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.*** “[Swapping our Future: How Students and Taxpayers are Funding Risky UC Borrowing and Wall Street Profits.](#)” *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 57:177–199.
– Alumni Prize for Public Sociology, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley, 2013
- 2013 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse.** “[The New Campus Bankers.](#)” *The Nation* (online). January 25.

Datasets

- 2022 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse,** Liza Becker, Peter Fallesen, and Christopher Wildeman. *Rockwool–Duke Global Child Welfare Database* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [DOI]
- 2021 **Alexander F. Roehrkasse,** Chiara Fontaine, LeAnn McDowall, Sarah Sernaker, and Clayton C. Covington. *Voluntary Cooperative Information System (VCIS) Foster Care Multi-Year File (1982-1995)* [Dataset]. National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect. [DOI]

Grants

- 2023–2025 “Comparative Rates of Child Welfare Involvement Among Indigenous Populations and Populations Residing in Territories With a History of Colonial Rule in OECD Countries.” Rockwool Research Foundation. \$57,318, subgrant PI.
- 2023–2024 “Abolition.” Instructional Development Grant, Butler University. \$1,500, PI.
- 2022–2027 “National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.” Administration for Children and Families. \$117,226, subcontract PI.
- 2017 “States of Disunion: American Marriage and Divorce, 1867–1906.” Summer Research Grant, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley. \$3,500, PI.
- 2016 “Early American Marriage and Divorce, In Law and Practice.” Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley. \$600, PI Neil Fligstein.

- 2016–2018 “Credit Markets, Evaluative Technologies, and Social Stratification.” Sociology Program Grant, National Science Foundation. \$100,000, PIs Marion Fourcade and Kieran Healy.
- 2012 “The Rise of Credit Reporting in the United States.” Research Grant, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley. \$1,000, PI.
- 2009 “Language Difference, Collective Action, and Violence.” Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award, Brown University. \$1,000, PI Paja Faudree.

Fellowships

- 2024–2025 First-Year Experience Faculty Fellowship in Meaning, Vocation, and Uncertainty, Butler University
- 2018–2019 Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Graduate Fellowship, Center for the Study of Law & Society, Berkeley Law School
- 2017 Synar Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley
- 2016 Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley
- 2012–2016 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
- 2011–2012 David and Aileen Wang Family Fellowship, UC Berkeley

Distinctions

- 2017 Teaching Effectiveness Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2017 Honorable Mention, Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Comparative and Historical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2016 Ronald S. Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Distinguished Student Paper Award, Crime, Law and Deviance Section, American Sociological Association
- 2013 Alumni Prize for Public Sociology, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley (with Charlie Eaton, Jacob Habinek, Mukul Kumar, Tamera Lee Stover)
- 2009 Samuel C. Lamport Prize, Department of Economics, Brown University
- 2009 Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University
- 2009 A.B. *magna cum laude* and with departmental honors, Department of Economics, Brown University

Selected Presentations (* invited)

“Large-Scale Administrative Datasets on Child Welfare and the Untapped Potential of Data Linkage.” Applied Demography Conference (2024).

“Ethnoracial Inequality in Cumulative Exposure to Child Maltreatment.” American Sociological

Association (2023).

“Two Decades of Child Welfare System Contact in the Global North: Trends From 44 Countries.” Population Association of America (2023).

“Using Linked Administrative Data to Study Child Welfare.” American Sociological Association (2022).

“Inequality in Life Lost to Violence in the United States.” Population Association of America (2022).

“Racial Inequality, Female Incarceration, and Children’s Foster Care Placement.” Southern Political Science Association (2022).

“Mass Incarceration and Invisible Inequality: New Evidence of Ethnoracial and Sexual Disparities.” University of Maryland* (2022); Dartmouth College* (2021); Grinnell College* (2021); Auburn University* (2021); Butler University* (2021).

“The Effect of the U.S. Crime Decline on Ethnoracial and Educational Inequality in Homicide Mortality.” American Sociological Association (2021).

“Hyperincarceration and Missing Men.” American Sociological Association (2021).

“Race, Poverty, and Children’s Exposure to Neighborhood Incarceration.” Population Association of America (2021).

“Long-Term Trends and Ethnoracial Inequality in U.S. Children’s Substitute Care.” Population Association of America (2021).

“Class, Race, and Incarceration in the Twenty-First Century.” American Sociological Association (2020).

“Don’t Count on Love: Discrepant Historical Measures of U.S. Marriages.” Social Science History Association (2019).

“Strategizing in the Shadow of the Law: Gender and the Performance of Marital Breakdown.” Social Science History Association (2018).

“Marriage, Divorce, and the Gendered Organization of Private Property.” American Sociological Association (2018); Population Association of America (2018); Social Science History Association (2017).

“Nuptial Regulation as State Building.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2016); Social Science History Association (2016).

“The Rise and Fall of the Debtors’ Prison.” American Sociological Association (2016); Social Science History Association (2015); Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (2015); Paris Institute of Political Studies* (2013); Stanford University* (2013).

“The Causes of Fraud in Financial Crises.” American Sociological Association (2013).

Training

- 2024 Teaching Certificate, Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults
- 2023 Inclusion Advocate Program, Butler University
- 2018 Graduate Student Inclusivity Training and Certificate Program, UC Berkeley
- 2015–2017 Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, UC Berkeley

Teaching

Butler University

- Understanding Society
- Social Theory
- Inequality and Social Control
- Abolition
- Introduction to Prison Studies
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Mindfulness in Everyday Life

DePauw University

- Doing the Most Good

Indiana Women’s Prison

- Incarceration and Inequality

University of California, Berkeley

- Evaluation of Evidence
- Contemporary Sociological Theory (assistant)
- Classical Sociological Theory (assistant)

Advising (placement)

Butler University

- 2023–2024 Audrey Erickson, Undergraduate Honors Thesis

University of California, Berkeley

- 2018–2019 Sinporian Phuong, Undergraduate Honors Thesis
- 2016–2017 Anisha Dangoria, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program
- 2016–2017 Dasom Nah, Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (Ph.D. program, sociology, University of California, Los Angeles)
- 2016 Clara Perez, Summer Research Opportunity Program (Ph.D. program, sociology, University of California, Berkeley)
- 2012–2013 Parijat Chakrabarti, Undergraduate Honors Thesis (Ph.D. program, sociology, Princeton University)

Service

To the Department

- 2024 Inclusion advocate, Faculty Search and Welcome Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Butler University.
- 2022–2023 Member, Faculty Search and Welcome Committee, Department of Sociology and Criminology, Butler University.
- 2017–2018 Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Sociology Department, UC Berkeley.
- 2013–2015 Steward, Sociology Department, UC Berkeley, UAW Local 2865.

To the University

- 2025– Senator, Faculty Senate, Butler University
- 2023– Education subcommittee chair (2023), member (2024–), Task Force on Indigenous Inclusion & Engagement, Butler University.
- 2023 Member, Committee on textbf for Undergraduate Research, Butler University.
- 2015–2016 Statewide Elections Committee Representative, UC Berkeley, UAW Local 2865.

To the Discipline or Profession

- Occasional Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*; *American Sociological Review*; *Child and Youth Services Review*; *Demography*; *Law & Society Review*; *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*; *Punishment & Society*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*; *Social Science History*; *Socius*; *Theory & Society*.
- 2019 Discussant, “Big Data in Historical Research II.” Social Science History Association.
- 2018 Discussant, “Borders and Frontiers: Groups, States, and Peoples.” Social Science History Association.
- 2017 Discussant, “Gender and Reproduction.” Social Science History Association.
- 2011–2013 Member, Editorial Board, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*.