

Elizabeth Webster

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
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EDUCATION

Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Newark, NJ

PhD: Criminal Justice, October 2018

Dissertation: *A Postconviction Mentality: Prosecutorial Assistance as a Pathway to Exoneration*

2019 Dean's Doctoral Dissertation Award Recipient, Rutgers-Newark Graduate School

Penn State University, University Park, PA

MFA: Creative Nonfiction, 2003

Knox College, Galesburg, IL

BA: English Writing, 1996

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Miscarriage of Justice, Courts, Law and Society, Theories of Crime, Qualitative Research Methods, Crime and the Media, Gender and Crime, Race and Crime

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Webster, Elizabeth and Belén Lowrey-Kinberg. (Forthcoming, April 2027). *Exhausted: Appealing False Conviction from Behind Bars*. New York University Press.

Webster, Elizabeth, Beth Huebner, Alessandra Early, and Luis Torres. (2023). "Court Can Happen Anywhere': Courtroom Workgroup Members' Perceptions of the Challenges and Opportunities of a Transformed Workplace." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 50 (11).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548231196574>

Webster, Elizabeth. (2022). "The Postconviction Workgroup: Cooperation Between Adversaries in Exoneration Cases." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 33 (8).

<https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034221094449>

Webster, Elizabeth, Kathleen Powell, Sarah E. Lageson, and Valerio Baćak. (2022). "Satan's Minions' and 'True Believers': How Criminal Defense Attorneys' Employ Quasi-Religious Rhetoric and What It Suggests About Lawyering Culture." *Justice System Journal* 43 (1), 53-67.

- Special issue: Empirical Research on Indigent Defense

Lageson, Sarah E., Elizabeth Webster, and Juan Sandoval. (2021). "Digitizing and Disclosing Personal Data: The Proliferation of State Criminal Records on the Internet." *Law and Social Inquiry* 46(3), 635-665. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lsi.2020.37>

Webster, Elizabeth. (2020a). "The Prosecutor as a Final Safeguard: How Prosecutors Assist with Exoneration." *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 110 (2), 245-305

Webster, Elizabeth. (2019). "A Post-Conviction Mentality: Prosecutorial Assistance in Exoneration Cases." *Justice Quarterly* 36 (2), 323-349. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2017.1399212>

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Webster, Elizabeth. (2024). "The Contributing Factors of Prolonged Wrongful Imprisonment." *The New England Law Review* 58, 1

- Symposium issue for Daniel Medwed's, *Barred: Why the Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison*

Webster, Elizabeth. (2020b) "Postconviction Innocence Review in the Age of Progressive Prosecution." *The Albany Law Review* 83, 989

- Special annual issue on Miscarriages of Justice

Webster, Elizabeth and Jody Miller. (2014) "Gendering and Racing Wrongful Conviction: Intersectionality, 'Normal Crimes,' and Women's Experiences of Miscarriage of Justice." *The Albany Law Review* 78, 973

- Special annual issue on Miscarriages of Justice

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"A Process and Impact Evaluation of Illinois' Pretrial Fairness Act: Interviews with Justice-Involved Individuals" (w/ Zhandarka Kurti)

"Does Justice Mean Consistency?" (w/ Rachel Bowman and Beth Huebner)

"Prosecutors' Postconviction Case Review and Reentry Assistance"

"Artificial Intelligence in the Criminal Legal Process" (w/ Sarah Lageson)

FUNDING AND AWARDS

2026 Loyola University Chicago Office of Research Services, Book Subvention Grant (\$1,800)

2023-2024 Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Rule of Law Institute Research Fellow (\$6,000)

2020 Co-Principal Investigator (with Don Stemen, Co-Principal Investigator; Beth Huebner, Co-Principal Investigator; Marisa Omori, Co-Principal Investigator). *Exploring Prosecutorial Discretion in the Plea Bargaining Process in Milwaukee and St. Louis Counties*. City University of New York Institute for State and Local Governance/Safety and Justice Challenge Research Consortium (\$224,007)

2018-2019 Dean's Doctoral Dissertation Award, Rutgers Graduate School Newark (\$2,500)

2017 Graduate Research Fellowship in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, National Institute of Justice (\$31,771)

2017-2018 Rutgers University-Newark Dean's Dissertation Fellowship (\$20,000) declined

2017 Rutgers University-Newark Graduate Assistant Professional Development Fund Award, (\$1,000)

2016 Rutgers University- Newark, School of Criminal Justice, Dean's Research Grant, (\$2,379)

TECHNICAL REPORTS

Stemen, Don; Beth M. Huebner; Marisa Omori; Elizabeth Webster; Alessandra Early, and Luis Torres. "Exploring Plea Negotiation Processes and Outcomes in Milwaukee and St. Louis County," Nov. 2022

Kutateladze, Besiki; Ryan Meldrum; Rebecca Richardson; Don Stemen, and Elizabeth Webster. "Prosecutorial Attitudes, Perspectives, and Priorities: Insights from the Inside," an Advancing Prosecutorial Effectiveness and Fairness Report, Dec. 2018

PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL WORKS

Webster, Elizabeth and Belén Lowrey-Kinberg. "Ketanji Brown Jackson Stands Firm—and Alone—on Compassionate Release." *Slate: Jurisprudence*, May 29, 2026

Webster, Elizabeth. "A New Direction for the Innocence Movement." Reviewing Valena Beety's *Manifesting Justice: Wrongly Convicted Women Reclaim Their Rights*. Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books. January 2024

Griffin, Patrick, Zhandarka Kurti, Elizabeth Webster, Don Stemen, David Olson, Amanda Ward, Branden DuPont. "Paying in Advance: Perceptions of Monetary Bail in Illinois." April 7, 2023

Webster, Elizabeth. "Prosecutors, Misconduct, and Wrongful Conviction Case Review." *The Crime Report*, May 19, 2022

Lageson, Sarah, Juan Sandoval, and Elizabeth Webster. "How the Criminal Justice System Deploys Mass Surveillance on Innocent People." *Vice*, April 5, 2021

Webster, Elizabeth. “Can Prosecutors Help Free Innocent Prisoners?” *The Society Pages*, Oct. 17, 2016

Webster, Elizabeth. “A Women’s Innocence Project,” *The Nation*, Dec. 24, 2012

Webster, Elizabeth. “Wikipedia of Innocence,” *The Nation*, June 18, 2012

PRESENTATIONS

2026 *Law and Society Association Conference*, San Francisco, CA

“Prosecutorial Accountability in Postconviction Sentencing and Wrongful Conviction Review”

2025 National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Webinar, Virtual invited speaker

“Collaborative Approaches to Appellate Defense”

(w/ Belén Lowrey-Kinberg and Martin Tankleff)

2024 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA

“Bond Court Reform in IL: Experiences of Justice-Involved People”

2023 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA

“‘A Member of the Team’: Lessons from Exonerees on a Participatory Appellate Defense Model”

(w/ Belén Lowrey-Kinberg)

2023 The New England Law Review Fall Symposium, virtual invited panelist

“Barred: Why the Innocent Can’t Get Out of Prison”

2022 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA

“The Covid-19 Impact on Criminal Courts and Criminal Courtroom Workgroups”

2022 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA

Invited panelist, “Author Meets Critics” for *Shattered Justice: Crime Victims’ Experiences with Wrongful Conviction and Exoneration* by Kimberly J. Cook

2022 The Office of the California State Public Defender’s Indigent Defense Improvement Division Webinar, Virtual invited speaker “True Believers and Pragmatists: Public Defender Motivation and Identity” in collaboration with the National Association for Public Defense (w/ Valerio Baćak)

2022 Indigent Defense Research Association Webinar, Virtual invited speaker

“The Post-Pandemic Criminal Courts: Defense Attorneys’ Perceptions of the Challenges and Opportunities of a Transformed Workplace”

2022 *Law and Society Association Conference*, Lisbon, Portugal

“How the Exonerated Interpret the Law: Legal Hegemony, Legal Consciousness, and the Myth of Postconviction Rights in America”

2022 *Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze*, New York Law School Institute for Professional Ethics and Criminal Justice Institute, New York, NY

“The Post-Pandemic Criminal Courts: Disrupted, Backlogged, Remote”

2022 *The Innocence Network Conference*, Phoenix, AZ

“Working Together: How Researchers Can Support Freed and Exonerated Individuals Post-Release”

2021 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL

“Exoneree Perceptions of Court Legitimacy and Experiences of Procedural (In)Justice”

2021 The Innocence Network Research Review Committee, Monthly Meeting, Virtual invited speaker, “Recruiting Exonerees as Research Participants”

2020 The Innocence Project “Science and Research Seminar Series” New York, NY

Invited speaker, “A Postconviction Mentality”

2019 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA

Invited panelist, “Author Meets Critics” for *Rectify: The Power of Restorative Justice after Wrongful Conviction* by Lara Bazelon

2018 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Atlanta, GA

“Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys Postconviction Courtroom Workgroup”

2018 *Graphic Justice Research Alliance Conference*, Brooklyn, New York, NY

“Beneficence and Malevolence: Two Face and Prosecutorial Legitimacy”

2018 *Law and Society Association Conference*, Toronto, ON

“The Prosecutor’s Role in Exoneration Cases”

2018 *Law and Society Association Conference*, Toronto, ON

“Satan’s Minions and True Believers: Religious Terms and Imagery in Attorney Interviews (w/ Kathleen Powell)”

2017 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA

“Prosecutorial Discretion in the Postconviction Stage”

2016 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, LA

“Defense Attorney Perceptions of Prosecutorial Assistance in Exoneration Cases”

2015 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, Washington, DC

“Postconviction Mentality: Prosecutorial Assistance in Exoneration Cases”

2015 “Elephants in the Courtroom: Examining Overlooked Issues in Wrongful Convictions”
workshop co-funded by National Science Foundation and National Institute of Justice,
Invited attendant

2014 *The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA
“Gendering Wrongful Conviction: Focal Concerns, ‘Normal Crimes,’ and Women’s Experiences of Miscarriage of Justice” (w/ Jody Miller)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Loyola University, Chicago, IL

Associate Professor (2024 -)

- Theories of Criminal Behavior (graduate and undergraduate)
- Miscarriages of Justice
- Wrongful Convictions and the Law (graduate)
- Popular Culture and Crime
- Criminal Procedure
- Capstone Experience Research

Assistant Professor (2018 - 2023)

- Theories of Criminal Behavior (graduate and undergraduate)
- Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice
- Miscarriages of Justice (addition to the existing curriculum)
- Popular Culture and Crime
- Criminal Procedure

Loyola University, Chicago IL

Faculty Mentor (2019-2025)

- Olivia McCabe – graduate research assistant (academic year 2025-2026)
- Dayanara Barrientos – graduate research assistant (academic year 2023-2024)
- Liliana Perez - graduate research assistant (academic years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022)
- Mary Nowlan - research intern (Summer 2021)
- Sophia Juarez - independent study (Spring 2021)
- Maia Houck - research intern (Summer 2019)
- Giulia Poropat - graduate research assistant (Spring 2019)

Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, Newark, NJ

Instructor (2014-2017)

- Criminology
- Miscarriages of Justice
- Constitutional Issues in Criminal Justice
- Gender, Crime and Justice
- Introduction to Criminal Justice

NJ-Step, New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium
 o Race and Crime

SERVICE

To the Profession:

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Journal of Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice Policy Review; Criminology; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Critical Criminology; Journal of Qualitative Criminal Justice and Criminology; Justice Quarterly; Justice System Journal; Law and Social Inquiry; New York University Press; Rutgers University Press and Routledge Press*

Program Committee Sub-Area Chair: *American Society of Criminology* (2022 meeting)

To the University:

Committee Member, Prisoner Advocate: Loyola University Chicago Institutional Review Board (2018-)

Committee Member: Board of Undergraduate Studies (BUS) Core Subcommittee (2022-)

Committee Member: Academic Council, Curriculum Committee (2025-2026)

Presenter: Focus on Teaching and Learning, “Writing Intensive Instruction in the Age of Generative AI” (Fall 2024)

Presenter and Organizer: Anti-Racist Pedagogy Series, Loyola Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy (Summer 2020)

To the Department:

Graduate Program Director (2026-)

Committee Member: Graduate Committee, Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (2024-)

Reviewer: Gad and Ana Bensinger Undergraduate Student Essay Contest, Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (2019-)

Faculty Advisor: Criminal Justice Organization (2022- 2026)

Host and Event Organizer: “So You Want to Go to Law School?” (Fall 2025)

Host and Event Organizer: “Chicago Police Misconduct and Mass Exonerations” (Spring 2023)

Reviewer: Graduate Comprehensive Exams, Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (Summer 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Committee Member: Racial Justice Examen, Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (Spring 2021)

Committee Member: Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice, Loyola University Chicago Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology (Fall 2020)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

Law and Society Association (LSA)

Midwestern Criminal Justice Association (MCJA)