

Curriculum Vitae

Stephen Jesse Watts

Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of Memphis
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EDUCATION

- 2013 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Georgia; Athens, GA.
Comprehensive Exam Area: Crime, Law, and Deviance
- 2009 M.A. Sociology, University of Georgia; Athens, GA.
- 2006 B.A. Sociology, University of North Carolina at Asheville; Asheville, NC.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- 2020-present Associate Professor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice,
University of Memphis
- 2014-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice,
University of Memphis
- 2013-2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice, University of
Wisconsin-Parkside

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Crime; Violence; Biosocial Criminology; Victimization; Substance Abuse; Mental Health

TEACHING INTERESTS

Criminology; Research Methods; Victimology; Juvenile Delinquency; Sociology of Law

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

(<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OLDJj6UAAAJ&hl=en>)

* denotes graduate student co-author

- Koo, Doyun, Miriam Clark, **Stephen Watts**, and Abigail Chaffin*. 2025. "Assessing Intersectionality in Parent-Child Contact, Sex, and Race/Ethnicity on Prison Misconduct." *Justice, Opportunities, and Rehabilitation*, 64: 221-253.

- Evans, Sara and **Stephen Watts**. 2024. "Trajectories of Alcohol Use over the Life Course in the Add Health." *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 10: 525-549.
- Joo, Sung*, Doyun Koo, and **Stephen Watts**. 2024. "Trajectories of Offending Among Asians in America: Examining Us-Born/Non-US-Born Differences and the Effects of Social Control." *Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology*, 10: 501-524.
- Wright, Lauren, Brenda Savage, and **Stephen Watts**. 2024. "Sexuality Minority Status, Victimization, Mental Health, and Substance Use." *Substance Use & Misuse*, 59: 2008-2020.
- McCuddy, Timothy, Austin Wyatt Sr.*, and **Stephen Watts**. 2024. "Adolescent Weapon Carrying Inside and Outside of School: The Impact of Experiences and Perceptions of Violence." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 49: 678-699.
- Strohacker, Emily, **Stephen Watts**, and Lauren Wright. 2024. "Socioeconomic Strain, Bullying Offending, and Negative Emotions: A Re-specification of GST." *Crime & Delinquency*, 70: 1091-1115.
- Clark, Miriam, **Stephen Watts**, Timothy McCuddy, Ellen McLeod*. 2023. "Antecedents of Legal Cynicism Unpacked: The Impact of Parental Incarceration, Race, and ACEs on its Development." *Journal of Criminal Justice*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2023.102116>.
- Watts, Stephen** and Sara Evans. 2023. "Trajectories of Offending: Comparing US Born and Non-US Born Respondents in the Add Health." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 48: 830-850.
- Wright, Lauren and **Stephen Watts**. 2022. "Black, White, and Read All Over: Exploring Racial Bias in Print Media Coverage of Serial Rape Cases." *Criminal Justice Review*, 47: 434-444.
- Strohacker, Emily, Lauren Wright, and **Stephen Watts**. 2021. "Gender, Bullying Victimization, Depressive Symptoms, and Suicidality." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 65: 1123-1142.
- Watts, Stephen**, Sara Evans, Leslie Simons, and Ron Simons. 2021. "The Effect of Sexual Victimization on Attachment in Emerging Adulthood: An Analysis of an African-American Sample." *International Review of Victimology*, 27: 111-124.
- Watts, Stephen** and Lauren Wright. 2021. "Military Combat, Mental Health, and Crime: A Preliminary Test of a General Strain Theory Model." *Criminal Justice Studies*, 34: 202-214.

- James, Katie, **Stephen Watts**, and Sara Evans. 2020. "Fairness, Social Support, and School Violence: Racial Differences in the Likelihood of Fighting at School." *Crime & Delinquency*, 66: 1655-1677.
- Watts, Stephen** and Amaia Iratzoqui. 2019. "Unraveling the Relationships between Low Self-Control, Substance Use, Substance-Using Peers, and Violent Victimization." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 44: 979-997.
- Iratzoqui, Amaia and **Stephen Watts**. 2019. "Longitudinal Risks for Domestic Violence." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 34: 2839-2862.
- Watts, Stephen** and Amaia Iratzoqui. 2019. "Gender, Child Maltreatment, and Delinquency." *Victims & Offenders*, 14: 165-182.
- Watts, Stephen**. 2019. "Gun Carrying and Gun Victimization among American Adolescents: A Fresh Look in a Nationally Representative Sample." *Victims & Offenders*, 14: 1-14.
- Burraston, Bert, **Stephen Watts**, James C. McCutcheon, and Karli Province*. 2019. "Relative Deprivation, Absolute Deprivation, and Homicide: Testing an Interaction Between Income Inequality and Disadvantage." *Homicide Studies*, 23: 3-19.
- Watts, Stephen**, Karli Province*, and Kayla Toohy*. 2019. "The Kids Aren't Alright: School Attachment, Depression, and Gun Carrying." *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 44: 146-165.
- Watts, Stephen**. 2018. "When Does Religion Matter with Regard to Crime? Examining the Relationship Between Genetics, Religiosity, and Criminal Behavior." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 45: 1192-1212.
- Bunch, Jackson, Amaia Iratzoqui, and **Stephen Watts**. 2018. "Child Abuse, Self-Control, and Delinquency: A General Strain Perspective." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 56: 20-28.
- Burraston, Bert, James C. McCutcheon, and **Stephen Watts**. 2018. "Relative and Absolute Deprivation's Relationship with Violent Crime in the US: Testing an Interaction Effect between Income Inequality and Disadvantage." *Crime & Delinquency*, 64: 542-560.
- McCutcheon, James C.^ and **Stephen Watts**^. 2018. "An Examination of the Importance of Strain in the Cannabis Gateway Effect." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62: 3603-3617.
- ^ Co-first authors

- Watts, Stephen.** 2018. "ADHD Symptomatology and Criminal Behavior during Adolescence: Exploring the Mediating Role of School Factors." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 62: 3-23.
- Watts, Stephen.** 2017. "The Link Between Child Abuse & Neglect and Delinquency: Examining the Mediating Role of Social Bonds." *Victims & Offenders*, 12: 700-717.
- Watts, Stephen**, Melissa Tetzlaff-Bemiller, and James C. McCutcheon. 2017. "MAOA, Drug Selling, and Violent Victimization: Evidence of a Gene x Environment Interaction." *Criminal Justice Review*, 42: 368-383.
- Watts, Stephen** and Thomas McNulty. 2016. "Genes, Parenting, Self-Control, and Criminal Behavior." *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 60: 469-491.
- Watts, Stephen.** 2015. "5-HTTLPR, Suicidal Behavior by Others, Depression, and Criminal Behavior During Adolescence." *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 30: 800-820.
- Watts, Stephen** and Thomas McNulty. 2015. "Delinquent Peers and Offending: Integrating Social Learning and Biosocial Theory." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 13: 190-206.
- Carlson, Daniel, Thomas McNulty, Paul Bellair, and **Stephen Watts.** 2014. "Neighborhoods and Race/Ethnic Disparities in Adolescent Sexual Behavior." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 43: 1536-1549.
- Watts, Stephen** and Thomas McNulty. 2013. "Childhood Abuse and Criminal Behavior: Testing a General Strain Theory Model." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28: 3023-3040.
- McNulty, Thomas, Paul Bellair, and **Stephen Watts.** 2013. "Neighborhood Disadvantage and Verbal Ability as Explanations of the Black-White Difference in Adolescent Violence: Toward an Integrated Model." *Crime & Delinquency*, 59: 140-160.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Ahlin, Eileen M., Maria Joao Lobo Antunes, and **Stephen Watts.** 2021. "Editorial Introduction: Effects of Gun Violence on Communities and Recent Theoretical Developments." *The Journal of Primary Prevention*, 42: 1-3.
- Boutwell, Brian and **Stephen Watts.** 2019. "Health Focused Criminology: Lead, Crime, and The Use of Quantitative Genetics to Examine Causality." In M. G. Vaughn,

C. P. Salas-Wright, and D. P. Jackson (Eds.), *Routledge International Handbook of Delinquency and Health* (pp. 209-217). Oxfordshire, UK: Routledge.

GRANTS

Summer Research Stimulus Faculty Research Grant (\$3,000), College of Arts and Sciences, University of Memphis (Awarded 3/17)

Memphis License Plate Reader (LPR)/Gunshot Detection (GSD) Technology Innovation Project (\$401,193)

Lead Co-Principal Investigator, Research Team (w/B. Burraston, J. McCutcheon, A. Madden)

City of Memphis, Memphis Police Department

Bureau of Justice Assistance, Technology Innovation for Public Safety (TIPS):

Addressing Precipitous Increases in Crime, FY16 Grant Program

(Awarded 9/16)

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

* denotes graduate student co-author

Watts, Stephen. "Gang Membership and Violent Victimization: Does the Relationship Endure into Adulthood?" Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2024. San Francisco, CA.

Abderhalden, Frances, Sara Evans, and Stephen Watts. "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Alcohol Use: Add Health Assessment." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2023. Philadelphia, PA.

Wyatt Sr.*, Austin, Stephen Watts, and Timothy McCuddy. "Exploring Links Between Violent Victimization and Gang Membership: The Role of Neighborhood Perceptions and Collective Efficacy." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2023. Philadelphia, PA.

Watts, Stephen, Lauren Wright, and Brenda Savage. "Sexuality and Offending: Testing a General Strain Theory Model." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2023. Philadelphia, PA.

Watts, Stephen, Sara Evans, and Frances Abderhalden. "Trajectories of Alcohol Use Across the Life-Course in the Add Health." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2022. Atlanta, GA.

Watts, Stephen, Sara Evans, and Frances Abderhalden. "Trajectories of Alcohol Use Across the Life-Course in the Add Health." Paper presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Meetings, September 2022. Asheville, NC.

- Strohacker, Emily, Stephen Watts, and Lauren Wright. "Socioeconomic Strain, Bullying Offending, and Negative Emotions: A Re-specification of GST." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2021. Chicago, IL.
- Watts, Stephen and Sara Evans. "Trajectories of Offending Across the Life-Course among Native and Non-Native Born American Residents." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2021. Chicago, IL.
- Watts, Stephen. "Military Combat as Strain: A Preliminary Test of General Strain Theory." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2019. San Francisco, CA.
- Strohacker, Emily, Lauren Wright, and Stephen Watts. "Gender, Bullying Victimization, Depression, and Suicidality." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2019. San Francisco, CA.
- McCutcheon, James, Bert Burraston, Angela Madden, Stephen Watts, and Max Helms. "Lessons Learned: Preventing Violent Crime and Homicide through the Utilization of Technology." Paper presented at the Homicide Research Working Group Meetings, May 2019. Clearwater Beach, FL.
- James, Katie, Stephen Watts, and Sara Evans. "Fairness, Social Support, and School Violence: A Comparison of the Likelihood of Fighting at School between White and Non-White Students." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, April 2019. Atlanta, GA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Military Combat, Mental Health, and Antisocial Behavior." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Meetings, March 2019. Baltimore, MD.
- Priesman, Emily and Stephen Watts. "Home Life Strain, Negative Emotions, and Bullying." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Meetings, March 2019. Baltimore, MD.
- Burraston, Bert, James McCutcheon, Angela Madden, Stephen Watts, and Max Helms. "Lessons Learned from Evaluating New Technologies and Administering a Community Survey in a Large City." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Meetings, March 2019. Baltimore, MD.
- Madden, Angela, James McCutcheon, Bert Burraston, Stephen Watts, and Max Helms. "License Plate Readers and Gunshot Detection Technology: Preliminary Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial in a Large Urban Setting." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Science Meetings, March 2019. Baltimore, MD.

- Watts, Stephen and Amaia Iratzoqui. "Unraveling the Relationships between Low Self-control, Substance Use, Substance-using Peers, and Violent Victimization." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2018. Atlanta, GA.
- Burraston, Bert, James McCutcheon, Angela Madden, Stephen Watts, and Max Helms. "Lessons Learned from the Implementation of License Plate Readers and Gunshot Recognition in a Major US City: Experimental Design." Paper presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Meetings, September 2018. Pensacola, FL.
- Watts, Stephen, Karli Province*, and Kayla Toohy*. "The Kids Aren't Alright: School Attachment, Depression, and Gun Carrying." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, February 2018. New Orleans, LA.
- Province, Karli* and Stephen Watts. "Genes, Authoritative Parenting, and Crime in Emerging Adulthood." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, February 2018. New Orleans, LA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Child Maltreatment and Antisocial Outcomes: Gender Differences in a Nationally Representative Sample." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2017. Philadelphia, PA.
- Province, Karli* and Stephen Watts. "Biosocial Perspective on Young Adult Criminality." Poster presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2017. Philadelphia, PA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Gender, Child Maltreatment, and Antisocial Outcomes." Paper presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Meetings, September 2017. New Orleans, LA.
- Burraston, Bert, James McCutcheon, Stephen Watts, and Karli Province*. "Re-conceptualizing Concentrated Disadvantage: Disadvantage by Inequality Interaction (the Concentration of Disadvantage)." Paper presented at the Homicide Research Working Group Meetings, June 2017. Memphis, TN.
- Watts, Stephen. "Genes, Religiosity, and Criminal Behavior." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2016. New Orleans, LA.
- McCutcheon, James, Karli Province*, Kayla Toohy*, Bert Burraston, and Stephen Watts. "The Impact of Drug Rates on County-Level Crime Prediction." Poster presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2016. New Orleans, LA.

- Tetzlaff-Bemiller, Melissa and Stephen Watts. "Child Homicide: The Role of Family Planning." Paper presented at the Homicide Research Working Group Meetings, June 2016. St. Louis, MO.
- Watts, Stephen. "When Does Religion Matter in Regards to Crime? Examining Predictions from Biosocial Theory." Paper presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, March/April 2016. Denver, CO.
- Watts, Stephen. "ADHD Symptomatology and Criminal Behavior During Adolescence: Exploring the Mediating Role of School Factors." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2015. Washington, D.C.
- Watts, Stephen. "The Link Between Childhood Abuse & Neglect and Delinquency: Examining the Mediating Role of Social Bonds." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, March 2015. New Orleans, LA.
- Burraston, Bert, James McCutcheon, Stephen Watts, and Mark Mandel*. "Reconceptualizing Concentrated Disadvantage: Testing for an Interaction Effect Between Disadvantage and Population Predicting Homicides in the South and Chicago." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, March 2015. New Orleans, LA.
- Watts, Stephen. "5-HTTLPR, Strain, Depression, and Criminal Behavior During Adolescence." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2014. San Francisco, CA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Genes, Parenting, Self-Control, and Crime: Testing a GxE Model." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2013. Atlanta, GA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Childhood Abuse and Later Criminal Behavior: Testing a General Strain Theory Model." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2012. Chicago, IL.
- Watts, Stephen. "Does Victimization Affect Security of Attachment after Controlling for Parenting Variables?: An Analysis Using an African-American Sample." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, March 2012. New Orleans, LA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Victimization and Later Anti-Social Behavior: Exploring the Mediating Role of Several Psychological Mechanisms." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, November 2010. San Francisco, CA.
- Watts, Stephen. "Identifying the Psychological Mechanisms that Mediate the Relationship Between Victimization and Anti-Social Behavior." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Meetings, August 2010. Atlanta, GA.

Watts, Stephen. "Identifying the Psychological Mechanisms that Mediate the Relationship Between Criminal Victimization and Anti-Social Behavior and Substance Use." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings, April 2010. Atlanta, GA.

INVITED LECTURES

Watts, Stephen. "Gender, Child Maltreatment, and Antisocial Outcomes during Adolescence." Presented before the Department of Sociology, University of Montana, as part of the McNall Lecture Series. April 24, 2018.

Watts, Stephen. "Getting to know Add Health Workshop." Presented before the Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida, March 16, 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Scope of Methods in Urban Affairs (Ph.D. level) – University of Memphis: Spring 2024.

White Collar Crime (Graduate) – University of Memphis: Spring 2020 (online), Spring 2022 (online), Spring 2023 (online), Spring 2024 (online), Fall 2024 (online).

White Collar Crime (Undergraduate) – University of Memphis: Spring 2020 (online), Spring 2021 (online), Spring 2022 (online), Spring 2023 (online), Spring 2024 (online), Fall 2024 (online).

Corrections in America – University of Memphis: Spring 2020.

Law and Society – University of Memphis: Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 (online), Spring 2021 (online), Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024.

Intro to Corrections – University of Memphis: Spring 2018, Spring 2019.

Victimology (Undergraduate) – University of Memphis: Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020 (online), Spring 2025 (online), Summer 2025 (online).

Victimology (Graduate) – University of Memphis: Spring 2016, Fall 2021 (online), Fall 2023 (online), Fall 2025 (online).

Research Methods – University of Memphis: Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025. University of Wisconsin-Parkside: Fall 2013, Spring 2014. University of Georgia: Fall 2012, Spring 2013.

Criminology – University of Memphis: Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2019, Fall 2022 (online). University of Wisconsin-Parkside: Fall 2013, Winter Term 2014, Spring 2014. University of Georgia: Summer Term 2010.

Communities and Crime – University of Georgia: Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Summer Term 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013.

PhD Students Supervised

Austin Wyatt Sr., Dissertation Committee Member (Ph.D. Urban Affairs projected 12/26)

MA Students Supervised

Karli Province, Thesis Committee Chair (MA conferred, May 2018)

Kayla Toohy, Thesis Committee Member (MA conferred, May 2018)

James (Max) Helms, Thesis Committee Member (MA conferred, May 2017)

FELLOWSHIPS HELD

2012 Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship (\$3,000), University of Georgia

HONORS AND AWARDS

2012 Dean's Award for Dissertation Research (\$1,000), University of Georgia

2005 Alpha Kappa Delta, University of North Carolina at Asheville

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025-present Representative to the Faculty Senate, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Memphis

2025 Federal Grant Reviewer, CE25-026: Rigorously Evaluating Programs and Policies to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Problematic Sexual Behavior among Youth (CDC)

2023 Federal Grant Reviewer, CE23-003: Grants to Support New Investigators in Conducting Research Related to Preventing Interpersonal Violence Impacting Children and Youth (CDC)

2022 Federal Grant Reviewer, CE22-004: Research Grants to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries (CDC)

2020-2023 Secretary/Treasurer, Division of BioPsychoSocial Criminology, American Society of Criminology

2020	Federal Grant Reviewer, CE20-006: Research Grants to Prevent Firearm-Related Violence and Injuries (CDC)
2019-2020	Guest Editor, Special Issue on Gun Violence Research, <i>The Journal of Primary Prevention</i>
2019-2023	Member, Constitution & By-Laws Committee, Division of BioPsychoSocial Criminology, American Society of Criminology
2018-2021	Representative to the Faculty Senate, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Memphis
2016-2017	Member, Nominations & Elections Committee, Homicide Research Working Group
2016-2021	Campus Security Authority, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Memphis
2015-2018	Alpha Phi Sigma Faculty Advisor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Memphis
2014-2018	Criminal Justice Student Association Faculty Advisor, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice, University of Memphis
2013-2014	Representative to the Faculty Senate, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

Ad Hoc Journal Reviews

Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Justice Quarterly; Journal of Criminal Justice; Public Health; Criminal Justice and Behavior; Social Psychology Quarterly; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Crime & Delinquency; Journal of School Violence; Journal of Developmental and Life-Course Criminology; Aggression and Violent Behavior; International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology; American Journal of Criminal Justice; Victims & Offenders; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice Review; Criminal Justice Studies; Deviant Behavior; Personality and Individual Differences; Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology; Psychology, Crime, and Law; Journal of Crime and Justice; International Journal of Law, Crime, and Justice; Sociological Perspectives; Substance Use & Misuse; Journal of Drug Issues; Journal of Psychoactive Drugs; Sociology of Religion; Youth & Society; BMC Public Health; Journal of Primary Prevention; Journal of Adolescent Research; International Criminal Justice Review; International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice; Psychosocial Intervention; American Journal of Orthopsychiatry; Journal of Child and Family Studies; Journal of Child Sexual Abuse; Children and Youth Services Review; Child Abuse Review; Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Social Currents; Asian Journal of Criminology; Gene Reports

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2009 American Society of Criminology