

# AMBER JOY POWELL, PH.D.

University of Iowa  
Department of Sociology & Criminology  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2022 Assistant Professor of Sociology & Criminology, University of Iowa

## EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

2014 B.A. Criminology & Law Studies/Spanish, Marquette University (with honors)

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Violence, Law, & Punishment; Race, Gender, & Sexuality; Gender-Based Violence; the Carceral State; Intersectional Feminist & Qualitative Methodologies

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Michelle S. Phelps, Christopher E. Robertson, and **Amber Joy Powell**. 2022. “We're still dying quicker than we can effect change:’ Legal Estrangement and Ambivalence in the #BlackLivesMatter Era.” *American Journal of Sociology* 127(3): 867-903.

~Winner, 2023 Joan Petersilia Outstanding Article Award, American Society of Criminology

**Powell, Amber Joy** and Michelle Phelps. 2021. “Gendered Racial Vulnerability: How Women Confront Crime and Criminalization.” *Law & Society Review* 55(3): 429-451.

**Powell, Amber Joy**, Heather Hlavka, and Sameena Mulla. 2017. “Intersectionality and Credibility in Child Sexual Assault Trials.” *Gender & Society* 31(4): 457-480.

### Book Chapters, Encyclopedias, Essays, & Reviews

**Powell, Amber Joy**. 2023. “A Review of Ruja Benjamin’s Viral Justice.” *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*.

Phelps, Michelle, **Amber Joy Powell**, and Christopher Robertson. 2024. “Residents Left Behind” in *Policing the Progressive City Race, Violence, and the Future of Public Safety in Minneapolis* (Princeton University Press).

**Powell, Amber Joy**, Sameena Mulla, and Heather Hlavka. 2022. “Intersectionality in the Courts: Collaborative Feminist Ethnography of Sexual Assault Adjudication.” In **Researching Gender-Based Violence: Embodied and Intersectional Approaches**. New York University Press.

**Powell, Amber Joy**. 2021. “A Reflection on Racism, Police Violence, & Abolition.” In *Sparked: George Floyd, Racism, and the Progressive Illusion*. Edited by Minnesota Historical Society.

Savelsberg, Joachim and **Amber Joy Powell**. 2020. “Political Systems and the Carceral State,” in *Handbook of Political Sociology*, 2nd edition, edited by Thomas Janoski, Isaac Martin, Joya Misra, and Cedric De Leon. Cambridge University Press.

**Powell, Amber Joy**. 2020. “Jennifer Cobbina, *Hands Up, Don’t Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America*.” *Punishment & Society* 1-3.

**Powell, Amber Joy**. 2020. “Date Rape,” in *Criminal Justice in America: The Encyclopedia of Crime, Law Enforcement, Courts, and Corrections*. Edited by Carla Lewandowski and Jeff Bumgarner.

### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

Powell, Amber Joy. “I Just Feel Re-violated: Gender, Race, & Coercive Sexual Control in Youth Detention.” *Revise & Resubmit from Social Forces*.

Battle, Brittany and Amber Joy Powell. “I Feel Safer Knowing There are Abolitionists in the World: Challenging Carceral Feminisms with the Practice of Abolition” *Manuscript Under Review*.

Powell, Amber Joy. “Carceral Ambiguity & Administrative Decision-Making in Incarcerated Youth Sexual Misconduct Claims.” *Manuscript in preparation*.

Powell, Amber Joy. “I Don’t Understand Why These Boys Would Complain About Having Sex with Female Staff: Cultural Constructions of Sexual Victimization & Offending in Youth Detention.” *Manuscript in preparation*.

### **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA SELECTIONS**

2022 “How Minneapolis Women Confront Interpersonal Violence, Neighborhood Crime, & State Criminalization in the Age of Policing Reform.” Invited talk at *University of California, Irvine School of Law, UCI Initiative to End Family Violence*.

2022 “How Penal Institutions Respond to Sexual Threats in Youth Detention.” Law & Society Association, *Punishment Digital Speaker Series* (hosted by Ashley Rubin).

2021 “Confronting Crime and Criminalization: Race, Gender and Policing in Minneapolis.” *Gender Policy Report*.

- 2021 “Challenges of the Prison Rape Elimination Act Implementation in Youth Detention Settings.” Interviewed by *EXPO: Ex-Prisoners Organizing Radio*, Milwaukee, WI. Wisconsin.
- 2021 “Students Demand Abolition Coursework from Colleges and Universities.” Interviewed by *The Progressive*.
- 2020 “The Persistence of Sexual Violence in Minnesota.” *Gender Policy Report*.
- 2020 “Over-Policed and Under-Protected: Public Safety in North Minneapolis.” *Center for Urban and Regional Affairs Report*. Co-authored with Michelle Phelps and Christopher Robertson.
- 2019 Powell, Amber Joy, and Caity Curry. “Unearthing Black Women’s Early Contributions to Sociology.” *The Society Pages*.
- 2019 “City Implements Policy to Aid Sexual Assault Survivors Amid Campus Efforts.” Interviewed by the *Minnesota Daily*.
- 2018 “Increase in Reported Sexual Assaults, According to University Safety Report.” Interviewed by the *Minnesota Daily*.
- 2017 “Dismantling Victim Credibility in the Child Sexual Assault Trial.” *Gender & Society* Wordpress.
- 2015 “Two professors observed over 650 court cases, to write book on sexual violence research.” *The Marquette Wire*. October 29, 2015. Marquette University. Milwaukee, WI.

## **HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS**

- 2023 Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network’s Summer Research Institute (SRI) Awardee
- 2022 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Award (\$7,500)
- 2022 Martindale Graduate Student Fellowship Award - University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology (\$1,000)
- 2021 New Directions in Law and Society: A Graduate Student and Junior Scholar Workshop (University of Massachusetts, Amherst and the Law and Science Program of the National Science Foundation)
- 2021 Law & Society Association Graduate Student/Early Career Workshop
- 2020 American Bar Foundation Law & Inequality NSF Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2020-2022 (\$35,000)
- 2020 Ruth Peterson Fellowship, American Society of Criminology (\$6,000)
- 2020 University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology Service Award (\$100)
- 2020 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellowship (IDF), University of Minnesota (\$25,000), *Declined*
- 2019 Anna Welsch Bright Research Award, University of Minnesota (\$2,000)
- 2018 Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship, University of Minnesota (\$4,000)
- 2018 Race, Indigeneity, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (RIGS) Dissertation Proposal Fellowship (\$1,000)
- 2018 Summer Dissertation Proposal Workshop - Center on Race and Wealth at Howard University and the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$300).
- 2017 Ford Fellowship Alternate and Honorable Mention
- 2016 Beverly and Richard Fink Summer Fellow, University of Minnesota, 2016-2020 (\$4,000)
- 2015 DOVE Fellowship University of Minnesota (\$22,000)

## **INVITED TALKS**

- 2024** Upcoming invited presenter for “Carceral Ambiguity & Administrative Decision-Making for Incarcerated Youths’ Sexual Misconduct Claims” in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri - St. Louis (UMSL).
- 2024** Upcoming invited presenter for “Punishment Beyond Mass Incarceration” hosted by the Urban Institute and the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University.
- 2023** Upcoming Invited presenter for the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault webinar “Unpacking the Challenges of Prison Rape Elimination Act Implementation.”
- 2023** Invited presenter for the Justice Involved Women and Girls Taskforce (Minnesota) January meeting.
- 2022** “How Minneapolis Women Confront Interpersonal Violence, Neighborhood Crime, & State Criminalization in the Age of Policing Reform.” Invited talk at *University of California, Irvine School of Law, UCI Initiative to End Family Violence*.
- 2021** “Transformative Justice.” Invited panelist at Oriana House virtual conference with Uriel Serrano, Rodrigo Martinez, and Mike Randle.
- 2021** “Criminal (in)Justice, Race, and Policing: Derek Chauvin, Mohamed Noor, and Beyond.” Invited graduate student moderator. University of Minnesota Interdisciplinary Collaborative Workshop.
- 2021** “Gender, Science, & Human Rights: Violence.” Invited roundtable panelist at the University of Dayton with Chai Senoy, Rosa Beltre, Josh Segalwitz, Ericka Curran, and Ethan Czuy Levine.
- 2020** “At the Frontlines: Emerging Voices on the Practice and Politics of Criminal Justice Reform.” UMass Amherst - Center for Justice, Law, and Societies. Invited Talk. Panelist with Kayla Preto-Hodge, Nathalie Amazon, and Nicole Gonzalez Van Cleve.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023** “How Carceral Organizations Respond to Sexual Harassment & Abuse in Juvenile Detention.” Paper session at Law & Society Association.
- 2023** “I Don’t Understand Why These Boys Would Complain About Having Sex with Female Staff: Cultural Constructions of Sexual Victimization & Offending in Youth Detention.” Roundtable at Sociologists for Women in Society.
- 2021** “Gender, Race, & Coercive Sexual Control in Youth Detention.” American Sociological

Association Virtual Conference.

- 2021** “A Theory of Coercive Sexual Control in Youth Detention.” Law & Society Association Virtual Conference (co-organized panel).
- 2020** “‘We’re still dying quicker than we can effect change:’ Legal Estrangement and Ambivalence in the #BlackLivesMatter Era.” Scheduled talk. Non-presenting author with Michelle Phelps and Christopher Robertson. Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2019** “‘It’s like we don’t exist:’ An Intersectional Analysis of Women’s Legal Estrangement..” Paper session on Research on Deviance and Social Control with Michelle Phelps (non-presenting coauthor). American Sociological Association, New York.
- 2019** “Still Questioning: DOing Feminist Research on Sexual/Gender-Based Violence.” Roundtable with Sameena Mulla, Heather Hlavka, Lena Palacios, Rose Corrigan, April Petillo, and Dawn Moore at the Law and Society Association Meetings. Washington, DC.
- 2019** “Legal Estrangement, Intersectionality, and Attitudes towards Police in North Minneapolis.” Roundtable at the Sociologists for Women & Society Winter Meeting. Colorado Springs, CO.
- 2018** “Intersectionality, Ethics, and Method: Doing Feminist Research on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.” Roundtable with Sameena Mulla, Rose Corrigan, April Petillo, Dawn Moore, and Deborah White at the Law and Society Association Meetings. Toronto, Canada.

### **LOCAL PRESENTATIONS & PANELS**

- 2021** “Unpacking Sexual Violence in Youth Detention & Supporting Survivors.” Guest speaker for the Dispositional Advisor Spring Institute, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2019** “Policing In Minneapolis: Northside Voices.” Community Forum event at the Robert J. Jones Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC).
- 2019** “Sexual Harassment & Department Norms in Faculty and Student Relationships.” Invited talk with sociology faculty at the University of Minnesota.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2019** Identifying and Addressing Disparities in the Criminal Justice System and Health Care Systems. Grand Challenges University of Minnesota. Interviewer for Michelle Phelps.
- 2019** Minnesota Criminal Records. Interviewer for Sarah Lageson (Rutgers University) and Robert Stewart (University of Maryland).
- 2018** Police Reform in the Progressive City. Research Assistant for Michelle Phelps, Department

of Sociology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Project, Funding: Grant-in-Aid of Research, Artistry & Scholarship Program.

**2016** Student Perspectives on the 2016 Election Study. Research Assistant and Interviewer for Enid Logan, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

**2013** Trace, Body, and Voice: U.S. Cultural Narratives of Sexual Assault in the Post Forensic  
**-15** Trial. Research Assistant with Heather R. Hlavka and Sameena Mulla, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. Project, Funding: the National Science Foundation (NSF); Rynne Foundation, Center for Peacemaking; Lilly Foundation and Marquette University with Marquette Legal Education and Research Network (mLearn)  
<http://academic.mu.edu/mllearn>

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**2023** Professor for Women, Crime, & Justice (CRIM 3425). Spring 2023. University of Iowa.

**2022** Professor for Gender & Violence (CRIM: 4300). Fall 2022. University of Iowa.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMITTEES**

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity Editorial Board (2023-2026)

Law & Social Inquiry Editorial Board (2021-2022)

American Sociological Association - Crime, Law, and Deviance Section

Sociology Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Chair (2019)

Department Development Committee of the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct. Minneapolis, MN. University of Minnesota (2018-2020)

Sociologists for Women & Society (2018)

Midwestern Sociological Society (2017)

Council of Graduate Students (COGS), University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN (2016)

DOVE Fellowship Program, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN (2015)

The Society Pages, Section Editor for *Discoveries*, Graduate Board Member and Writing Contributor, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN (2015-2020)

Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Graduate Studies Writing Group, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN (2015-2016)

McNair Scholars Program, Marquette University. Milwaukee, WI (2013-2014)

### **ARTICLE & BOOK PEER REVIEWING**

Social Problems

Sociological Perspectives

Gender & Society

Law & Society Review

Law & Social Inquiry

Punishment & Society

### **SERVICE & OUTREACH**

- 2022** Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee - Twin Cities
- 2022** Diversity Committee (University of Iowa)
- 2021** Consultant for United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally 2022
- 2019** Junior Faculty Search Committee in Diversity
- 2019** Mentor and Coordinator for the University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology Mentoring Program
- 2019** Sociology Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Lead Chair
- 2018** Department Development Committee of the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct. Minneapolis, MN. University of Minnesota.
- 2017** Minnesota WATCH Court Monitoring Program
- 2016** Community of Peace Charter School Mentor, St. Paul, Minnesota.
- 2015** Victim Advocate at the Sexual Assault Treatment Center, Aurora Sinai Hospital. Milwaukee, WI.
- 2014** Spanish Translator at the Marquette University Legal Clinic. Milwaukee, WI.

### **SKILLS AND SPECIAL TRAINING**

Proficient in written and spoken Spanish  
Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Training (Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault)  
Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy Training (Milwaukee Sexual Assault Treatment Center Aurora Sinai)

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### **REFERENCES**

Christopher Uggen, Professor  
University of Minnesota  
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Michelle Phelps, Associate Professor  
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Marquette University  
Department of Social & Cultural Sciences  
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