

# 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; Carceral Studies; Intersectional Feminist & Qualitative Methodologies

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Battle, Brittany and **Amber Joy Powell**. 2024. “[‘We Keep us Safe!’: Abolition Feminism as a Challenge to Carceral Feminist Responses to Gendered Violence](#)” *Gender & Society* 1-34.

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

Phelps, Michelle, **Amber Joy Powell**, and Christopher Robertson. 2024. “Residents Left Behind” in *The Minneapolis Reckoning: Race, Violence, and the Politics of Policing in America* (Princeton University Press).

Powell, Amber Joy. 2023. "A Review of Ruja Benjamin's Viral Justice." *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*.

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: Coercive Sexual Control in Youth Detention."

Powell, Amber Joy. "Carceral Ambiguity & Administrative Decision-Making in Incarcerated Youth Sexual Misconduct Claims."

Powell, Amber Joy. "Incarcerated Girls, Credibility, & Sexual Misconduct in Juvenile Detention."

Powell, Amber Joy. "I Think It's Mostly a Joke: Prison Rape Reform & the Politics of Carceral Protectionism."

Powell, Amber Joy. "I Don't Understand Why These Boys Would Complain About Having Sex with Female Staff: Sexual Vulnerability, Masculinity, & Carcerality in Youth Detention."

## **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA SELECTIONS**

2024 "Summer Researchers-in-Residence Address Systemic Issues Affecting Vulnerable Populations." Interviewed by the University of Iowa Public Policy Center.

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. 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**

- 2024 Summer Researcher-in-Residence Program University of Iowa Public Policy Center
- 2024 Invited Faculty Reviewer for the University of Chicago’s Pozen Center for Human Rights Doctoral Fellow Seminar
- 2023 Winner, Joan Petersilia Outstanding Article Award, American Society of Criminology
- 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).

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2024 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 Invited panelist for “Punishment Beyond Mass Incarceration” hosted by the *Urban Institute* and the *Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs* at Brown University.
- 2023 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.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Women, Crime, & Justice (CRIM 3425)

Gender & Violence (CRIM: 4300)  
Criminal Justice Systems (CRIM: 5120)  
Juvenile Justice (CRIM)

### **STUDENT MENTORSHIP**

Graduate Student Andrea Smith: Research Assistant (Spring & Summer 2024)  
Graduate Student Kendall Riley: Research Assistant (Spring & Summer 2024) & Committee Member  
Undergraduate Student Adriana Novello: Summer Research Opportunity Program (2024)  
Undergraduate Student Lonni Garcia: Summer Research Opportunity Program (2024)

### **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  
Sociology Compass

### **SERVICE & OUTREACH**

**2024** Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault - Advocacy For Incarcerated Victims/Survivors Work Group  
**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  
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 Marquette University  
 Department of Social & Cultural Sciences  
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