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Current Position

2021-Present Professional Specialist Princeton School of Public and International Affairs
Princeton University

Prior Position

2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow University of Pennsylvania

Education

2020 Ph.D. in Criminology
University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: *The Effect of Lighting and Building Security on Crime*
2015 B.S. in Criminal Justice
California State University, Sacramento

Journal Articles

- 2022 Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). An analysis of National Hockey League playoff games and city-level crime counts. *Crime & Delinquency*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287221118879>
- Block, K, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022). Testing the Cinderella effect: Measuring victim injury in child abuse cases. *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2022.101987>
- Beck, B, Holder, E, Novak, A, & **Kaplan, J.** (2022) “The Material of Policing: Budgets, Personnel, and the United States’ Misdemeanour Arrest Decline” *The British Journal of Criminology* <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azac005>
- 2021 Chalfin, A. & **Kaplan J.** (2021) “How Many Complaints Against Police Officers Can Be Abated by Incapacitating A Few “Bad Apples?” *Criminology & Public Policy* <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12542>
- Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J.** & LaForest, M. (2021) "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago" *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4>

Chalfin, A, LaForest, M & **Kaplan, J.** (2021) “Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violent? Evidence from ‘Gang Takedowns’ in New York City” *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*
<https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22323>

Kaplan, J. & Chalfin, A. (2021) “Ambient Lighting and Perceptions of Public Safety: Evidence from a Survey Experiment” *Security Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41284-021-00296-0>

Chalfin, A, **Kaplan, J** & Cuellar, M. (2021) “Measuring Marginal Crime Concentration: A New Solution to an Old Problem” *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022427820984213>

Kaplan, J. (2021) "The (In)Effectiveness of Campus Smart Locks for Reducing Crime" *Journal of Applied Security Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19361610.2021.1915054>

2020 **Kaplan, J,** Ling, S & Cuellar, M. (2020). “Public Beliefs About the Accuracy and Importance of Forensic Evidence in the United States” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.01.001>

Kaplan, J & Goh, L.S. (2020) "Harm Reduction in Family Violence: Does Marijuana Make Assaults Safer?" *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260520961876>

Ling, S, **Kaplan, J** & Berryessa, C. (2020) “The Importance of Forensic Evidence on Decisions of Criminal Guilt” *Science & Justice*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scijus.2020.11.004>

2019 **Kaplan, J** & Chalfin, A. (2019). More Cops, Fewer Prisoners? *Criminology & Public Policy*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12424>

Books

A Criminologist’s Guide to R: Crime by the Numbers. *Chapman & Hall/CRC The R Series*

This book introduces the programming language R and is meant for undergrads or graduate students studying criminology. R is a programming language that is well-suited to the type of work frequently done in criminology - taking messy data and turning it into useful information. While R is a useful tool for many fields of study, this book focuses on the skills criminologists should know and uses crime data for the example data sets.

Online version available at: <https://crimebythenumbers.com/>

Print version available to purchase: <https://www.routledge.com/A-Criminologists-Guide-to-R-Crime-by-the-Numbers/Kaplan/p/book/9781032244075>

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: A Practitioner's Guide

This book provides a guide to UCR data for people who want to use it for research or reporting. It covers basic details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as goes into the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. It tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

Available at <https://ucrbook.com/>

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data: A Practitioner's Guide

This book provides a guide to NIBRS data for people who want to use it for research or reporting. It covers basic details such as how many years of data are available and which variables are included, as well as goes into the reliability of the data and how to avoid common pitfalls when using the data. It tries to explain to readers both how to use the data, and how to *use it well*.

Available at <https://nibrsbook.com/>

Teaching Experience

- 2021-2022 **Guest Lecturer**, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University
 "Advanced Research Methods" (Graduate)
 "Introduction to Methods of Research" (Undergraduate)
- 2016-2019 **Guest Lecturer**, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
 "Pro-seminar in Criminal Justice" (Graduate)
 "Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master's Thesis Course)" (Graduate)
 "Statistics for the Social Sciences" (Undergraduate)
- 2016 - 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania.
 "Research Methods and Crime Analysis (Master's Thesis Course)" (Graduate)
 "Statistics for the Social Sciences" (Undergraduate)
- 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.
 "Program Evaluation and Data Analysis" (Graduate)
- 2014 - 2015 **Teaching Assistant**, Department of Biology, California State University, Sacramento.
 "Biology: A Human Perspective" (Undergraduate)

Other Experience

- 2018 - 2020 **Data Scientist**, Private Consultant
 Wrote and tested code to efficiently convert millions of pages of PDFs into a machine-readable format. Designed, implemented, and maintained a website that allows users to visualize this data at various levels of aggregation.
- 2018 **Data Scientist**, Fels Institute of Government, University of Pennsylvania.
 Produced and tested code to convert voting records into a machine-readable data and built a prototype website to display this data.
- 2017 - 2018 **Research Scientist**, National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD).

Wrote the Justice Data Learning Guide: No. 2, "[Using the Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk \(LEAIC\)](#)." This guide explains how to use the LEAIC dataset through an example incorporating both National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data and US Census data. This guide includes code to use in both R and SPSS.

2016 **Research Assistant**, Dr. Emily Owens, University of Pennsylvania.
Collected, cleaned, and prepared US Census data for analysis and visualization.

Student Advising

2019-2020 Alec Bardey. Senior Honors Criminology Thesis (co-winner, J. Francis Finnegan Award). *The Effect of Localized LED Streetlight Replacements on Adjacent Crime: Evidence from Philadelphia*

Presentations

“Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Displacement: Evidence from Chicago”
2020 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology (Canceled due to COVID-19)

“Making UCR Data Accessible to Researchers”
2019 Panel Paper, American Society of Criminology

"More Cops, Fewer Prisoners?"
2019 Panel Paper, Western Society of Criminology
2018 Panel Paper, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management

"The Effect of Card Reader Locks on Theft on a University Campus"
2018 Poster, Associations for Public Policy Analysis & Management
2017 Poster, American Society of Criminology

Software

fastDummies: R package for quickly and efficiently making binary columns out of categorical columns. It also fills in "dummy rows" for data sets missing rows of data based on all combinations of categorical and date columns. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/fastDummies/>

asciiSetupReader: R package for reading fixed-width ASCII files that have an .sps or .sas setup file. It also allows users to quickly generate setup files. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/asciiSetupReader/>

predictrace: R package to predict the race of a surname using U.S. Census data which says how many people of each race has a certain surname. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/predictrace/>

crimeutils: R package to provide a set of helper functions to make common data tasks in criminology research - clean, explore, analyze, visualize – a bit easier. Available at <https://jacobkap.github.io/crimeutils/>

