

Sarah Tahamont

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Academic Appointments

2016 to present	Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice University of Maryland, College Park
2013-2016	Post-Doctoral Fellow, School of Criminal Justice & Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy State University of New York, Albany
2013-2016	Embedded Scholar, Office of Justice Research & Performance New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

Education

2013	University of California, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy <i>Ph.D.</i> in Public Policy Committee: Steve Raphael (chair), Rucker Johnson, Frank Zimring Dissertation Title: <i>Essays on the Effects of Correctional Policies on Prison Misconduct</i>
2009	University of California, Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy <i>M.P.P.</i> in Public Policy
2004	Vassar College <i>B.A.</i> in History, Women's Studies, Italian

Peer Reviewed Publications

† Co-first authors listed alphabetically. * Graduate student co-author. ‡ Agency partner.

Becerril, D.M., **Tahamont, S.**, Lerner, J., Chalfin, A. (forthcoming). Does deterrence persist? Long-term evidence from a randomized experiment in street lighting. *Criminology & Public Policy*.

Kessler, J.B.†, **Tahamont, S.**†, Gelber, A., Isen, A. (forthcoming). The Effects of Youth Employment on Crime: Evidence from New York City Lotteries. *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*.

Midgette, G., Loughran, T., **Tahamont, S.** (2021). The Impact of Ambiguity-Induced Error in Offender Decision-making: Evidence from the Field. *Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency*.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00224278211000088>

Tahamont, S., Hyatt, J., Pheasant, M.*, Lafferty, J.*, Bell, N.‡, Hiester, M.‡ (2020). Ineligible anyway: Evidence on the Barriers to Pell Eligibility for Prison Inmates in the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program in Pennsylvania. *Justice Quarterly*. DOI: 10.1080/07418825.2020.1853798

Tahamont, S., Jelveh, Z. Chalfin, A., Yan, S. & Hansen, B. (2020). Dude, where's my treatment effect? Errors in Administrative Data Linking and the Destruction of Statistical Power in Randomized Experiments. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. DOI: 10.1007/s10940-020-09461-x

Tahamont, S. (2019). The Effect of Facility Security Classification on Serious Rules Violation Reports in California Prisons: A Regression Discontinuity Design. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. 35(4), 767-796. DOI: 10.1007/s10940-019-09405-0

Peer Reviewed Publications, continued

- Hickert, A.*, **Tahamont, S.** & Bushway, S.B. (2018). A Tale of Two Margins: Exploring the Probabilistic Processes that Generate Prison Visits in the First Two Years of Incarceration. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. 34(3), 691-716. DOI: 10.1007/s10940-017-9351-z
- Bushway, S.D. and **Tahamont, S.** (2016). Modeling long term criminal careers: what happened to the variability? *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 53(3), 371-392.
- Tahamont, S.**, Yan, S.*, Bushway, S., and Liu, J.‡ (2015). Pathways to Prison in New York State. *Criminology and Public Policy* 14(3), 431-453.

Grants

2018. The Effects of Providing Postsecondary Educational Opportunities to Inmates: A Pilot Randomized Trial. Arnold Ventures. Co-Principal Investigator (with Jordan Hyatt, Drexel University). \$927,774 (updated award \$1,026,815, Spring 2021).
2021. Can a writing intervention in jail improve conduct, climate, and public safety? A randomized evaluation of Contextos Authors' Circle. Arnold Ventures. Co-Principal Investigator (with Jordan Hyatt, Drexel University and Aaron Chalfin, University of Pennsylvania). \$496,087.

Invited Publications

- Tahamont, S. & Frisch, N. (2019). Correctional Classification and Security. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Oxford University Press. DOI:10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.452.
- Tahamont, S. (2018). The Conundrum of “Building a Better Cop” Reconciling Automaticity and Procedural Justice in Policing. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(1), 37-40.
- Chalfin, A. & Tahamont, S. (2018). The economics of deterrence: a review of theory and evidence. In D.S. Nagin, F.T. Cullen, and C.L. Jonson (Eds.), *Deterrence, Choice, and Crime: Contemporary Perspectives* (pp. 29-80). Abingdon: Routledge.
- Tahamont, S. & Chalfin, A. (2016). The Effect of Prisons on Crime. In J. Wooldredge & P. Smith (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook on Prisons and Imprisonment* (pp. 627-650). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Research in Progress

- The effect of mandatory minimum punishments on the efficiency of criminal justice resource allocation (with Steve Raphael, Revise & Resubmit - *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*)
- No ground truth? No problem: Improving administrative data linking with an active learning algorithm and a little bit of guile (with Zubin Jelveh, Shi Yan, Aaron Chalfin, Melissa McNeill, and Benjamin Hansen, *Revise & Resubmit, PLOS-One*)
- Exploring heterogeneity in longitudinal patterns of prison visitation and misconduct: a group-based multi-trajectory modeling approach (with Madeline Pheasant, Sydney Jaw, and Greg Midgette)
- Profiles of exclusion: An analysis of how eligibility requirements shape who can access higher educational opportunities in prison (with Madeline Pheasant, Sydney Jaw, and Jordan Hyatt)
- Evaluating higher education in prison: a PRISMA scoping review (with Julia Karon, Meagan Wilson, Noel Vest, Emily Norweg, and Madeline Pheasant)
- Domain adaptation for record linkage (with Zubin Jelveh and Melissa McNeill)

Invited Presentations, Seminars & Workshops

External Invitations

- “Causal Inference Pitfalls in Criminology and Criminal Justice... And How to Avoid Them.” Invited Pre-Conference Workshop, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. November, 2021.
- “Higher Education in Prison: The Precarious Promise of Second Chance Pell.” Invited Seminar. Criminology Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, PA. November, 2021.
- “Advancing Research on Higher Education in Prison.” Invited Guest Speaker. Ithaca S+R. August, 2021.
- “Jail and Prison Policy.” Invited Guest Speaker. Crime & Punishment Policy MPA Seminar. Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington — Seattle, WA. November, 2020.
- “Career Tips Roundtable.” Invited Panelist. Association of Public Policy and Management DC Regional Student Conference. — Washington, D.C. March, 2019.
- “Evaluation and Measuring Success.” Invited Panelist. Expanding Access to Postsecondary Education for People in Prison: The Third Annual Convening of the Second Chance Pell Partners. Vera Institute of Justice — Detroit, MI. June, 2018.
- “The Impact of Mass Incarceration on Society.” Invited Panelist. The Petey Greene Program. The George Washington University — Washington, D.C. March, 2017.
- “The Effect of Facility Security Classification on Serious Rules Violation Reports in California Prisons: A Regression Discontinuity Design.”
- University of Chicago Crime Lab — New York, New York, NY. September, 2016.
 - Bloch School of Management Colloquium Series, University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO. October, 2014.
 - University of Maryland School of Criminology & Criminal Justice Interdisciplinary Lecture Series, College Park, MD. April, 2014.
 - Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center Seminar, Albany, NY. April, 2014.

Internal Invitations

- “Graduate School Panel.” Invited Panelist. University of Maryland College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Dean’s Student Advisory Council. — College Park, Maryland. April, 2022.
- “Introduction to Causal Inference.” Invited Lecture. University of Maryland CCJS Statistical Applications in Criminology & Criminal Justice (SACC) Lecture Series. — College Park, Maryland. March, 2022.
- “Strategies for Optimizing Scholarly Productivity.” Invited Seminar. University of Maryland College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Dean’s Graduate Student Advisory Council. — College Park, Maryland. March, 2019.
- “Linking Datasets.” Invited Lecture. University of Maryland CCJS Statistical Applications in Criminology & Criminal Justice (SACC) Lecture Series. — College Park, Maryland. March, 2017.

Conference Presentations

- “No ground truth? No problem Improving administrative data linking with an active learning algorithm and a little bit of guile.” (Joint work with Zubin Jelveh, Shi Yan, Aaron Chalfin, Melissa McNeill and Benjamin Hansen). Association of Public Policy Analysis & Management, Austin, TX. March 2022.
- “Profiles of Exclusion: An analysis of how eligibility requirements shape who can access higher educational opportunities in prison” (Joint work with Madeline Pheasant, Sydney Jaw, and Jordan Hyatt). Western Society of Criminology Meeting, Honolulu, HI. February 2022.
- “Higher Education in Prison in the Context of Plans to Return to the Community.” Roundtable Moderator (Joint with Jordan Hyatt). American Society of Criminology Meeting, Chicago, IL. November, 2021.

Conference Presentations, continued

“Exploring heterogeneity in longitudinal patterns of prison visitation and misconduct: a group-based multi-trajectory modeling approach” (Joint work with Madeline Pheasant, Sydney Jaw, and Greg Midgette) American Society of Criminology Meeting, Chicago, IL. November, 2021 .

“Ineligible anyway: Evidence on the Barriers to Pell Eligibility for Prison Inmates in the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program in Pennsylvania” (Joint work with Jordan Hyatt, Jennifer Lafferty, Benjamin Pheasant, Nicolette Bell and Michele Hiester)

- Western Society of Criminology, Honolulu, HI. February, 2019.
- American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA. November, 2018.

“Not so conservative after all: Exact matching and attenuation bias in randomized experiments” (Joint work with Zubin Jelveh, Shi Yan, Aaron Chalfin and Ben Hansen) Association of Public Policy and Management, Chicago, IL. November, 2017.

“Specialization and Criminal Careers: Integrating Time & Memory” (Joint work with Thomas Loughran and Kyle Thomas)

- American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA. November 2017
- Western Society of Criminology, Las Vegas, NV. February 2017.
- American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA. November 2016.

“The Effect of Visitation on Recidivism in New York State” (Joint work with Steven Raphael and Shawn Bushway)

- Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Miami, FL. November, 2015.
- American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC. November, 2015.

“Pathways to Prison in New York State” (Joint work with Shi Yan, Shawn Bushway, and Jing Liu) American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC. November, 2014.

“The Effect of Facility Security Classification on Serious Rules Violation Reports in California Prisons: A Regression Discontinuity Design.” American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA. November, 2013.

“Overriding the Security Classification Instrument: Prison Misconduct and Mandatory Minimum Placements in California.”

- Western Society of Criminology, Berkeley, CA. February, 2013.
- American Society of Criminology, Chicago, IL. November, 2012.

“The Effect of Visitation on Prison Misconduct.”

- American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC. November, 2011.
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC. November, 2011.
- Law and Society Association, San Francisco, CA. June, 2011.

Posters

“Ineligible anyway: Evidence on the Barriers to Pell Eligibility for Prison Inmates in the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program in Pennsylvania” (Joint work with Jordan Hyatt, Jennifer Lafferty, Benjamin Pheasant, Nicolette Bell and Michele Hiester) Poster presented at the Association of Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C. November, 2018.

“Pathways to Prison in New York State” (Joint work with Shi Yan, Shawn Bushway and Jing Liu) Poster presented at the Association of Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Albuquerque, NM. November, 2014.

Posters, continued

“The Effect of Facility Security Classification on Serious Rules Violation Reports in California Prisons: A Regression Discontinuity Design.” Poster presented at the Association of Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C. November, 2013.

Third Place Prize Winner

“The Effect of Visitation on Prison Misconduct.” Poster presented at

- All California Labor Economics Conference. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. September, 2012.
- National Science Foundation IGERT 2011 Poster Competition Finalist Poster Session, Arlington, VA. May, 2011. **Top Prize Winner**

Teaching Experience

University of Maryland

Professor	CCJS620: Fundamentals of Criminological Research Core Graduate Course First in a three part statistical methods sequence designed to equip students with analytic reasoning and statistical tools necessary to consume and produce rigorous research.	Fall Semester 2016 - present
	CCJS699L: Causal Inference Advanced Methods Graduate Elective Course This course examines the assumptions that underlie empirical methods and the conditions under which they can (and cannot) be used to derive valid causal inferences. Students gain practical experience implementing advanced empirical methods and develop skills and intuition to interpret empirical research in the context of a causal model.	Spring Semester 2019, 2021
	CCJS 200: Statistics for Criminology & Criminal Justice Intermediate Undergraduate Course Required course to introduce descriptive and inferential statistics with an emphasis on the analysis of research problems and issues in criminology and criminal justice.	Spring 2022
	CCJS 342: Corrections Intermediate Undergraduate Course Overview of institutional and community corrections in the United States with particular focus on the application of theories of punishment and policy implications.	Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
	CCJS 452: The Treatment of Criminals and Delinquents Upper Division Undergraduate Course Examines topics related to the treatment of juveniles and adults at various stages in the U.S. criminal justice system. Explores implications of the policy choices that mold and shape the experience of those individuals who are “caught up in the system.”	Fall 2016-Spring 2018
	CCJS 678K: Research Methods CCJS-Nanjing Normal University Law School Joint MA Program Fundamentals of research methodology includes development of research questions and hypotheses, literature review, and study design. This course prepares students for the program capstone that follows.	Summer II 2016 & 2017

Teaching Experience, continued

University of California, Berkeley

Instructor	Public Policy and International Affairs Junior Summer Institute (PPIA) Policy Analysis and Communications Core Course Summer 2013 Designed syllabus, developed course materials and was the sole instructor for a course designed to introduce students to the policy analysis process and develop their written and oral communication skills.
	PPIA Junior Summer Institute - Leadership Module Summer 2012 & 2013 Developed curriculum and led PPIA fellows in a 3 day module designed to introduce students to the core concepts and practice of leadership and management.
Graduate Student Instructor	Stata for the Policy Analyst Spring 2013 Designed syllabus, developed course materials and was the sole instructor for a lab course training M.P.P. students to use Stata statistical software.
Graduate Student Instructor	Introduction to Policy Analysis Spring 2009 & 2010, Fall 2012 Upper division undergraduate course introduces analytical approaches to public policy using microeconomic concepts
	Public Leadership and Management Fall 2011 Core course for M.P.P. students in which students learn and apply leadership and management concepts; the GSI leads weekly 2 hour lab group; facilitates application of concepts gives feedback on written work and presentations.
	Political Analysis and Agency Management Aspects of Public Policy Fall 2008 & 2009 Core course for M.P.P. students that covers political analysis and includes extensive instruction on memo writing
Tutor	PPIA Core Quantitative Methods & Microeconomics Summer 2012 Tutored PPIA fellows in microeconomics and quantitative methods in one-on-one and group settings and introduced fellows to Stata statistical software.

Mt. Tamalpais College, San Quentin State Prison - San Rafael, CA

Instructor	Math50B Summer 2013 College preparatory pre-algebra course prepares students for entry into college-level algebra.
	Introduction to Statistics Summer 2011 This course provides an elementary introduction to statistical reasoning, including sampling, elementary probability, and statistical inference.
	English 99B Summer 2010 Composition course designed to prepare students for college level writing.
Lead Coordinator & Tutor	Math 50 A & B Spring 2010–Fall 2012 Self-paced course prepares students for entry into college level algebra course; Responsible for the administration of course in conjunction with PUP staff; coordinates a team of tutors

Awards & Fellowships

Association of Public Policy & Management

40 for 40 Fellowship for Outstanding Early Career Scholars 2018

University of Maryland

Most Valuable Professor, Maryland Women's Lacrosse 2017, 2022

University of California, Berkeley

University of California Dissertation Year Fellowship 2013

Summer Institute for Preparing Future Faculty 2013

Graduate Division Dean's Normative Time Fellowship 2011–2012

Center for the Study of Law and Society

Berkeley Empirical Legal Scholars (BELS) Fellowship 2011–2012

National Science Foundation

Integrated Graduate Education, Research, and Training Program in Politics, Economics, Psychology and Public Policy Fellowship (IGERT-PEPP) 2010–2011

Goldman School of Public Policy

Graduate Opportunity Fellowship 2007–2008

Professional Service & Affiliations

University of Chicago Crime Lab, Affiliate

J-PAL North America Social Policy Research Initiative, Invited Researcher

Ithaca S+R Higher Education in Prison Research Infrastructure Project, Advisory Committee

Professional Organizations

American Society of Criminology (ASC), Member

Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Member

Western Society of Criminology (WSC), Member

Service to the Field

Editorial Board Member

Criminology 2017-present

Guest Editing

PLOS-ONE 2021

Criminology & Public Policy 2018

Manuscript Reviewer

Science; Criminology; Journal of Quantitative Criminology; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Criminology and Public Policy; Justice Quarterly; Prevention Science; Journal of Public Economics; American Political Science Review; Social Problems; Economics of Education Review; Journal of Developmental and Life Course Criminology; Journal of Experimental Criminology; PLOS-One; Journal of Diversity in Higher Education; Sociological Perspectives; Criminal Justice Policy Review; Crime, Law and Social Change

Other Reviewing

National Science Foundation (Law and Social Sciences Program; Trans-Atlantic Platform Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (T-AP RRR) Program); National Institute of Justice; Bureau of Justice Statistics; Child Trends; Maryland Data Analysis Center

Professional Service & Affiliations, continued

Service to the Field, continued

Program Committees

<i>Sub-Area Chair - Advances in Quantitative Methods</i> , ASC Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.	Fall 2022
<i>Co-Chair - Crime, Justice & Drugs</i> , APPAM Fall Research Conference, Austin, TX.	Fall 2021
<i>Member - Crime, Justice & Drugs</i> , APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC.	Fall 2020
<i>Co-Chair - Local Attractions</i> , ASC Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. (Canceled, COVID-19)	Fall 2020
<i>Sub-Area Chair - Prisons and Jails</i> , ASC Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.	Fall 2018

Mentorship

UMD BSOS Buddies Program	2020-present
APPAM Mentor Matching Program	2018-2019
Albany Policy Evaluation and Analysis Research Lab Faculty Mentor	2016-present

University Affiliations

ADVANCE Keeping Our Faculty (KOF) Mentoring Program	2016-2017
Teaching and Learning Transformation Center Faculty Launch Program	2016-2017

Service to the University

Childcare Workgroup, <i>Member</i>	Fall 2020
Petey Greene Program at the University of Maryland, <i>Faculty Adviser</i>	Spring 2017 - present

Service to the College of Behavioral & Social Sciences

Anti-Black Racism Initiative Professional Development Subcommittee, <i>Member</i>	Fall 2020 - present
BSOS Buddies Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Mentor	Fall 2020 - present

Departmental Service

Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland

<i>Leader, CCJS Writing Group</i>	Spring 2019 - present Spring 2017 - Fall 2018
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Lead bi-weekly structured writing sessions, facilitate discussions about empirical evidence on scholarly productivity and tactics for optimizing productivity.

Student testimonials about Writing Group:

“Attending writing group each week helped me to budget my time more efficiently – especially when it came to my thesis. I think that as grad students it’s easy to push our “own” work to the back burner in favor of coursework or RA responsibilities, so having the time dedicated to thesis or other publishable papers enables students to dedicate at least 2 uninterrupted hours per week for the advancement of their personal work.” — Meghan Kozlowski-Serra, 6th year Ph.D. student

“I first started attending writing group as I began working on my thesis and originally I thought it would only be helpful in giving me a designated time each week to make progress on my thesis. However, writing group was much more helpful than that. I learned how to set realistic short and long-term goals and make progress towards them. Doing weekly check-ins about my progress helped me to stay accountable to myself for making progress on my goals. I also learned a lot about productivity and planning in writing group that has been helpful way beyond my thesis.” — Shradha Sahani, 6th year Ph.D. student

Departmental Service, continued

*Co-Founder, **Racial Competence Working Group***

Summer 2020 - present

Organize and facilitate monthly meetings to build racial competence in CCJS in collaboration with Dr. Maria Velez. The RCWG focuses on building and practicing the skills required to develop and maintain healthy cross-racial relationships; notice, acknowledge and analyze racial dynamics; and confront racism in the environment and in oneself.

Department Committee Service

Graduate Affairs Committee	Fall 2021 - present
Statistical Advisory Committee	Fall 2016 - present
Qualifying Exam - Theory Committee	Fall 2017 - present
Human Relations Committee	2020-2021
Faculty Search Committee - Joint CCJS & I-School Search	Spring 2019
General Comprehensive Exam Committee	Fall 2016 - Spring 2021
Undergraduate Teaching Committee	2018-2019
Faculty Search Committee	Fall 2016, 2017, 2019 & Spring 2018

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany, SUNY

Associate Director, Albany Policy Evaluation and Analysis Research Lab

2013-2016

Albany PEARL is a multi-disciplinary scholarly community dedicated to implementing rigorous, social scientific approaches to important policy questions and fostering the professional development of its members. Primary responsibilities:

- Collaborate with faculty to mentor student members of Albany PEARL
- Facilitate bi-weekly meetings focused on methodological problem solving and professional development

Thesis and Dissertation Committees

PhD Dissertation:

Committee member (University of Maryland), Shelby Hickman	2021
Committee member (University of Maryland), Nicole Frisch	2018
Committee member (University of Maryland), Chae Jaynes	2018
Committee member (University at Albany, SUNY), Shi Yan	2016

Master's Thesis:

Chair (University of Maryland), Gwynne Shepherd	In progress
Chair (University of Maryland), Taryn Curie	In progress
Chair (University of Maryland), Taylor Whittington	In progress
Committee member (University of Maryland), Madeline Romme	2021
Committee member (University of Maryland), Michael Goodier	2018
Committee member (University of Maryland), Meghan Kozlowski	2018
Committee member (University of Maryland), Megan Smith	2017

Community Service

Petey Greene Program DC Advisory Board

2017-present