

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Makeela Johari Wells**  
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### EDUCATION

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**Mississippi State University**, Sociology, Doctor of Philosophy, Completed October 27, 2017  
Specialization in Criminology; Gender Studies Certificate  
Synopsis: This study examines sentencing outcomes for individuals convicted of federal drug (i.e., cocaine and methamphetamine) crimes. Data will be drawn from the United States Sentencing Commission Datafiles for the years 2005-2015. Multilevel analyses and state-level characteristics are utilized.  
Committee: Dr. Stacy H. Haynes (chair), Dr. Margaret Hagerman, Dr. Kecia R. Johnson, and Dr. David C. May

**Jackson State University**, Criminology and Justice Services, Master of Arts, December 2011  
Master's Thesis: *College Students' Attitudes Towards the Death Penalty*.  
Committee: Dr. Etta F. Morgan (chair), Dr. Alphonso W. Crump, Dr. Johnnie Mae Griffin

**University of Mississippi**, Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science, December 2007  
Emphasis: Law Enforcement  
Minor: Mathematics

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Sentencing; gender, race, and crime; capital punishment; statistics and research methods

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant**, January 2016 to July 2017  
Mississippi State University  
Research Project Title: When does rejection trigger aggression? A multi-method examination of a multi-motive model (funded by the National Institute of Justice)  
Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. H. Colleen Sinclair  
Immediate Supervisor: Dr. David C. May, Co-Principal Investigator

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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2016 May, D.C., Stives, K.L., **Wells, M.J.**, & Wood, P.B. Does Military Service Make the Experience of Prison Less Painful? Voices From Incarcerated Parents, *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 1-20.

Barranco, R., Jennings, W.G., May, D.C., & **Wells, M.J.** What Journals are the Most Cited Journals in Criminology and Criminal Justice's "Big Three" Journals? *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 27(1), 19-34.

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

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- 2017 May, D.C., **Wells, M.J.**, McCleon, T., Sellers, J., Stubbs-Richardson, M., & Sinclair, C. The Impact of a Caring Adult on Fear and Avoidance Behaviors at School.
- 2016 McKinley, K.Y., & **Wells, M.J.** Understanding Substantiation in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases in Mississippi.

**Wells, M.J.** An Analysis of Death Penalty Support among a Sample of African American College Students at a Historically Black University.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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- 2015 **Wells, M.J.** Death Penalty. In K. Kerley, H. Copes, S. Li, J. Lane, & S. Sharp (Eds.) Forthcoming at *The Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
- Wells, M.J.** United States, Corrections in. In K. Kerley, H. Copes, S. Li, J. Lane, & S. Sharp (Eds.) Forthcoming at *The Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
- Wells, M.J.** Programs for Women. Forthcoming in *Thinking about Corrections*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections. Online Publication.
- Wells, M.J.** Felon Disenfranchisement. Forthcoming in *Thinking about Corrections*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections. Online Publication.
- Wells, M.J.** Electronic Monitoring. Forthcoming in *Thinking about Corrections*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections. Online Publication.
- Wells, M.J.** Bail and Pretrial Release. Forthcoming in *Thinking about Corrections*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections. Online Publication.
- Wells, M.J.** Intensive Supervised Probation. Forthcoming in *Thinking about Corrections*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Corrections. Online Publication

## **MEDIA**

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- 2016 May, D.C., Stives, K.L., **Wells, M.J.**, and Woods, P.B. Military veterans in prison view their experience as being less punitive compared to non-veterans. Blog entry for US American Politics and Policy. Website: <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2016/12/06/military-veterans-in-prison-view-their-experience-as-being-less-punitive-compared-to-non-veterans/>

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2017

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3103: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 50 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2017

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3503: Violence in the United States

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 50 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2017

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3503: Violence in the United States (Online)

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 30 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2017

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3603: Criminological Theory

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 30 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2017

*Mississippi State University*

SO 1103: Contemporary Social Problems

Introductory level course in Sociology

Maximum class size of 50 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2016

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3103: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 60 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Summer 2016

*Mississippi State University*

CRM/SO 4233: Juvenile Delinquency (Online)

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 20 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Spring 2016

*Mississippi State University*

CRM/SO 3503: Violence in the United States

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 55 students

**Guest Lecturer**, Department of Social Work, Fall 2015

*Mississippi State University*

SW 3003: Population At-Risk

Upper level course required for Social Work majors

Maximum class size of 45 students

Lecture Title: "Hate and Bias Crimes"

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2015

*Mississippi State University*

CRM/SO 4233: Juvenile Delinquency

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 50 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2015

*Mississippi State University*

SO 1103: Contemporary Social Problems

Introductory level course in Sociology

Maximum class size of 75 students

**Guest Lecturer**, Department of Sociology, Summer 2015

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3603: Criminological Theory

Upper level undergraduate course in Criminology

Maximum class size of 30 students

Lecture Title: "Control Theories"

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Summer 2015

*Mississippi State University*

SO 4233: Juvenile Delinquency (Online)

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 25 students

**Guest Lecturer**, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Spring 2015

*Mississippi State University*

HS 4403/6403: Introduction to Gerontology

Split-level course in Human Development and Family Studies

Maximum class size of 60 students

Lecture Title: "Stratification, Social Class, and Minority Elderly"

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Spring 2015

*Mississippi State University*

CRM 3103: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 55 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Spring 2015

*Mississippi State University*

CRM/SO 3503: Violence in the United States

Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors

Maximum class size of 55 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2014  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM/SO 4233: Juvenile Delinquency  
Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors  
Maximum class size of 45 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2014  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM/SO 3353: Race, Crime, and Justice  
Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors  
Maximum class size of 50 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Summer 2014  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM/SO 4233: Juvenile Delinquency (Online)  
Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors  
Maximum class size of 25 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Spring 2014  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM/SO 3503: Violence in the United States  
Upper level course required for Criminology and Sociology majors  
Maximum class size of 60 students

**Teaching Assistant**, Department of Sociology, Spring 2014  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM 3603: Criminological Theory  
Upper level course required for all Criminology majors  
Maximum class size of 40 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2013  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM 3503 Violence in the United States (Online)  
Upper level course required for Criminology majors  
Maximum class size of 25 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Fall 2013  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM 3103: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (Online)  
Upper level course required for Criminology majors  
Maximum class size of 20 students

**Instructor**, Department of Sociology, Summer 2013  
*Mississippi State University*  
CRM 3103: Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice (Online)  
Upper level course required for Criminology majors  
Maximum class size of 20 students

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- 2017 Robertson, A., May, D.C., & **Wells, M.** Examining Justice System and Educational Outcomes Differences between System-Involved and Non-System-Involved Youths in Mississippi: Results of a Matched Group Analysis, presented at Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, February 23-24, 2017, Jackson, MS.
- 2016 **Wells, M.J.**, & McKinley, K.Y. Understanding Substantiation in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases in Mississippi, presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, September 7-10, 2016, Savannah, GA.
- Wells, M.J.** & Stives, K.L. Who's Lurking Outside? Neighborhood Fear of Crime, presented at the meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, March 29-April 2, 2016, Denver, CO.
- Wells, M.J.** "I'm More than an athlete": Student-Athletes' Sport and Scholastic Competence, presented at the meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, February 25-26, 2016, Jackson, MS.
- 2015 **Wells, M.J.** & Stives, K.L. The Impact of Substance Use and Delinquent Behaviors on Educational Aspiration among High School Seniors, presented at the meeting of the American Society of Criminology, November 18-21, 2015, Washington, DC.
- McKinley, K.Y. & **Wells, M.J.**, A Collaborative Effort to Understand Child Maltreatment: A Social Work and Criminology Approach, presented at the meeting of Mississippi Conference of Social Work, September 24-25, 2015, Biloxi, MS.
- Stives, K.L., **Wells, M.J.**, & May, D. An Exploration of Aspirations for Military Enlistment among High School Seniors, presented at the meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, September 9-12, 2015, Charleston, SC.
- 2014 Barranco, R., May, D., & **Wells, M.J.** What are the 3 Most Cited Criminology Journals? Paper presented at the meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, November 5-8, 2014, Mobile, AL.
- Wells, M.J.** Assessing Spatial Patterns of Federal Drug Sentencing in the United States. Poster presented at meeting of the Southern Demographic Association, October 15-17, 2014, Memphis, TN.
- Wells, M.J.** Crack is Whack: A Qualitative Analysis of Women and Cocaine. Paper presented at Southern Criminal Justice Association, September 17-20, 2014, Clearwater Beach, FL.
- Wells, M.J.** An Analysis of the Level of Death Penalty Support among College Students at a Historical Black University. Roundtable discussion at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, April 2-5, 2014, Charlotte, NC.
- 2013 **Wells, M.J.** Crack is Whack: Sentencing for Female Drug Offenders. Paper presented at the meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, February 21-22, 2013, Raymond, MS.

- 2012 **Wells, M.J.** Addressing the Needs of Prisoners to Promote Successful Prisoner Reentry and Reduce Recidivism,” Paper presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Criminal Justice Reform Conference, April 2012, Jackson, MS.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2017 Volunteer for MS Department of Correction’s *Thinking for a Change*, Noxubee County Transitional Center, served from September 2017 to Present
- 2016 Managing Editor for a special issue of the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*  
Reviewer for *American Journal of Criminal Justice* and *Internet Journal of Criminology*
- 2015 Graduate representative for the Sociology Department for the Graduate Student Association (GSA), served from August 2014 until May 2015

### **PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING**

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- 2015 Best Practices in Online Instruction conducted by The Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University, July, 6, 2015 through August 2, 2015.
- 2013 Seven Steps to Effective Student Retention workshop conducted by The Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University, November 13, 2013

### **AWARDS, HONORS, AND NOMINATIONS**

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- 2015 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University  
Nominee, Donald Zacharias Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, Office of Graduate School, Mississippi State University

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Alpha Epsilon Lambda  
Alpha Kappa Delta, Alpha chapter  
Alpha Phi Sigma, Lambda Epsilon chapter  
American Society of Criminology  
Lambda Alpha Epsilon  
Phi Kappa Phi  
Society of Women Sociologists, MSU Chapter

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Kenya Y.M. Cistrunk  
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Department of Sociology  
Mississippi State University  
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