

D. Michael Applegarth

University at Buffalo School of Social Work
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FACULTY POSITIONS

2023-Current Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University at Buffalo

EDUCATION

2023 **Ph.D.**, Social Welfare, University of California, Los Angeles, Luskin School of Public Affairs
Dissertation: *Stopping the Revolving Door: Understanding the Connection Between Mental Illness and Recidivism*
Committee: Laura S. Abrams (Chair), Todd Franke, Laura Wray-Lake, Elizabeth Barnert

2018 **MSW**, Brigham Young University, School of Social Work

2016 **BSW** (with Certificate in Criminology), Brigham Young University Idaho, Department of Sociology and Social Work.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Research: Criminal Legal System, Reentry, Mental Illness and Recovery, Community Supervision, Juvenile Justice, Desistance from Crime

Teaching: Forensic Social Work, Social Policy, Social Work History, Human Behavior in the Social Environment, Research Methods and Statistics

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 1) Rief, R. M., Lewis, A. R., **Applegarth, D. M.** (2024). In pursuit of fairness: A research note on gender responsivity and racial bias in criminal justice actuarial risk assessment. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034241300162>
- 2) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Abrams, L. S., Farabee, D. J. (2024). Exploring post-release concerns of incarcerated individuals with severe mental illness. *Community Mental Health Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10597-024-01389-x>

- 3) **Applegarth, D. M.** (2024). Examining the connection between mental illness and recidivism for persons on parole. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2024.102315>
- 4) Barnert, E., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Bondoc, C., Biely, C., Leifheit, K. M., Grella, C., Wong, M. (2024). Prevalent ACEs among young adults returning home from jail: The need for trauma-informed reentry services. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jchc.24.02.0018>
- 5) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Rasnake, R., Bondoc, C., Abrams, L. S., Barnert, E. (2024). Social networks, substance use, and mental health of young adults with criminal legal system involvement. *Deviant Behavior*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2024.2399261>
- 6) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Lewis, A. R., Rief, R. M. (2023). Imperfect tools: A research note on developing, applying, and increasing understanding of criminal justice risk assessments. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 34(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034231180505>
- 7) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Adams, B. (2023). Screening, service provision, and information sharing practices in juvenile facilities. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 148, 106883. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.106883>
- 8) Washington, D. M., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Canlione, K. C., Abrams, L. S. (2022). Lost time: Family reintegration following a youth life sentence. *Social Service Review*, 96(2). <https://doi.org/10.1086/719900>
- 9) Wood, D. S., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Dennis, C. B., Kevern, T. C., & Limb, G. E. (2021). Effects of online training on social work students' efficacy and confidence related to screening, brief intervention, referral and treatment. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 32(8), 1089-1100. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10911359.2021.1992695>
- 10) Abrams, L. S., Garcia-Perez, J., Brock-Petroshius, K., **Applegarth, D. M.** (2021). Racism, colorblindness, and social work education: An exploratory study of California MSW student beliefs and experiences. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/714830>
- 11) Barnert, E., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Aggarwal, E., Abrams, L. S., Bondoc, C., Ospina, A. (2020). Health needs of detained youth without histories of correctional placement. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 118. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105412>
- 12) Abrams, L. S., Canlione, K., **Applegarth, D. M.** (2020). Growing up behind bars: Pathways to desistance for juvenile lifers. *Marquette Law Review*, 103(3), 746-773.
- 13) Brian, C. J., Wood, D. S., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Brian, A. O. (2020). Subtypes of mental health and barriers to care among Nation Guard personnel: Results of a latent class analysis. *Armed Forces and Society*, 46(3), 424-437. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X19842220>

- 14) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Wood, D. S., Bryan, A. O., Bryan, C. J. (2019). Examining help-seeking among National Guard service members. *Military Behavioral Health*, 7(2), 198-205.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21635781.2018.1526143>
- 15) Steele, E., Wood, D. S., Usadi, E., **Applegarth, D. M.** (2018). TRR's Warrior Camp®: An intensive treatment program for combat trauma in active military and veterans of all eras. *Journal of Military Medicine*, 183(suppl 1), 403-407.
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1093/milmed/usx153>

Edited Volume

- 1) National Institute of Justice, *Desistance from Crime: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, November 2021, NCJ 301497. (**Contributing Editor**)

Forthcoming

- 1) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Lee, J. S. (*Under Review*). Recidivism, service characteristics, and changes in risk and protective scores in juvenile probation.

Published Research Reports

- 1) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Jones, P., Holliday, S. B. (January, 2023). Promising services for justice-involved youth: A scoping review with implications for the Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act. Santa Monica, CA: Rand Corporation, 2023.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1663-2.html
- 2) White, V., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Hunt, J., Hudgins, C. (February, 2022). The NIJ recidivism forecasting challenge: Contextualizing the results. National Institute of Justice. NCJ 304110.
<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/304110.pdf>
- 3) Diaz, S., Bernal, A., Aguilar, J., Morales, M., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Casas, R., Foxen, P., Ricon-Gallardo, M., Villarruel, F. A. (August, 2020). The Latinx data gap in the youth justice system. UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative and Alianza for Youth Justice.
<https://latino.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LPPI-CJ-JJ-Report-copy.pdf>

Additional Publications

- 1) Lewis, R. A., Rief, R. M., **Applegarth, D. M.** (January, 2024). Best practices for improving the use of criminal justice risk assessments: Insights from NIJ's recidivism forecasting challenge winners symposium. *National Institute of Justice*.
<https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/best-practices-improving-use-criminal-justice-risk-assessments>
- 2) Hudgins, C., White, V., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Hunt, J. (March/April, 2022). Result from the National Institute of Justice recidivism forecasting challenge: Improving recidivism forecasts

through data sharing and open competition. *Corrections Today*, 12-16. NCJ 304416. Also available at [NIJ Link](#).

- 3) Adams, B., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Garcia, M. (January/February, 2022). Desistance from crime: On the frontier of criminal justice research. *Corrections Today*, 14-19. NCJ 304093. Also available at [NIJ Link](#).
- 4) Garcia, M., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Martin, E., Adams, B., Durose, M. (September/October, 2021). Using data and science to understand the impact of COVID-19 on corrections. *Corrections Today*, 12-16. NCJ 302394. Also available at [NIJ Link](#).

POLICY PRACTICE & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022 **Rand Summer Associate**, Rand Corporation
Principal Investigator: Stephanie Holliday
Responsibilities: Conducted a scoping review on evidence-based practices for youth with justice system involvement. Wrote report for community partners and the public.
- 2020 - 2022 **Research Assistant**, National Institute of Justice
Principal Investigators: Angela Moore, Joel Hunt, Eric Martin, Benjamin Adams, Marie Garcia, Marry Carlton, Barbara Kelley
Responsibilities:
 - Worked on a multidisciplinary team to develop, market, and launch NIJ’s Recidivism Forecasting Challenge.
 - Was the lead organizer of a two-day virtual winner’s symposium for the Recidivism Forecasting Challenge.
 - Co-edited a scholarly volume on applying desistance theory to the criminal justice field.
 - Developed training modules for international law enforcement program evaluation and piloted the implementation.
 - Advised on grant solicitation reviews for multiple criminal justice research portfolios.
 - Advised on redesigning the Juvenile Residential Facility Census (JRFC) and Census of Juvenile in Residential Placement (CJRP) surveys and conducted secondary analyses.
- 2019 - 2020 **Senior Policy Fellow**, Latino Policy & Politics Institute, University of California Los Angeles
Principal Investigators: Sonja Diaz & Matt Barreto
Responsibilities: Survey design, data extraction, data visualization, and report writing examining the Latinx data gap in the youth justice system.
- 2018 - 2020 **Research Assistant**, Social Welfare Department, University of California Los Angeles
Principal Investigators: Laura Abrams & Elizabeth Barnert

Responsibilities: Assisted in authoring several articles and technical reports. Entered, cleaned, and analyzed data from surveys and clinical assessments. Conducted phenomenological interviews with men incarcerated for 20-40 years. Developed life histories, coded transcripts, and engaged in thematic analysis. Participated in recruitment, coordinating with community partners, and study design and protocol development.

2016 - 2017 **Research Assistant**, School of Social Work, Brigham Young University
Principal Investigators: David S. Wood
Responsibilities: Lead author on collaborative paper, assisted on multiple research papers, data entry, and statistical analysis in Stata and Mplus.

GRANT SUBMISSIONS

2025 **Applegarth, D. M.**, Florida A&M University (lead)/National Institute of Justice, *Evaluability Assessments of Byrne SCIP Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Programs*, 3/1/2025 – 8/31/2027, \$401,135 (*Under Review*).

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Fellowships

2022 **Rand Summer Associate** - \$14,000
2020-2022 **National Institute of Justice Assistantship** - \$100,000

Awards

2020 **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award**, UCLA Graduate Division - \$6,000
2019 **Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award**, UCLA Graduate Division - \$6,000

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025 **Assistant Professor**, University of Buffalo School of Social Work, *Forensic Social Work* (Graduate course)
2025 **Assistant Professor**, University of Buffalo School of Social Work, *Mass Incarceration and Direct Practice* (Undergraduate course)
2024 **Assistant Professor**, University of Buffalo School of Social Work, *Social Welfare History* (Graduate course)

- 2024 **Assistant Professor**, University of Buffalo School of Social Work, *Social Welfare History and Policy* (Graduate course)
- 2023 **Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *Social Movements* (Undergraduate course)
- 2023 **Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *People, Organizations, and Systems* (Undergraduate course)
- 2023 **Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Department of Social Welfare, *Applied Statistics in Social Welfare* (Graduate course)
- 2022 **Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Department of Social Welfare, *Dynamics of Human Behavior* (Graduate course)
- 2022 **Teaching Fellow**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *Creating Safe and Welcoming Schools* (Undergraduate course)
- 2022 **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *Gangs, Criminal Justice, and Mass Incarceration* (Undergraduate course)
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *People, Organizations, and Systems* (Undergraduate course)
- 2021 **Teaching Assistant**, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, *How Social Environments Shape Human Behavior* (Undergraduate course)
- 2017-2018 **Teaching Assistant**, BYU School of Social Work, *Research Methods* (Graduate course)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Peer-Reviewed Presentations

- 1) Sawh, L., Kheibari, A., Suslovic, B., Comartin, E., **Applegarth, D. M.** (2025, January 15-19). *Social works role in refining the Sequential Intercept Model: Assessing and modifying theory with practice insights* [Round table]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
- 2) Rasnake, R., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Bondoc, C., Abrams, L. S., Barnert, E. (2025, January 15-19). *Social networks, substance use, and mental health of young adults with criminal legal system involvement* [Poster presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, United States.
- 3) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Lee, J. S. (2024, November 13-16). Recidivism, service characteristics, and changes in risk and protective scores in juvenile probation. [Paper presentation]. The

American Society of Criminology 2024 Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, United States.

- 4) Barnert, E. S., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Bondoc, C., Biely, C., Leifheit, K. M., Grella, C., Wong, M. (2024, May 2-6). Prevalent ACEs among transition age youth (TAY) returning home from jail: The need for trauma-informed reentry services. [Paper presentation]. Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, Toronto, Canada.
- 5) **Applegarth, D. M.** (2024, January 10-14). *Stopping the revolving door: Understanding the connection between mental illness and recidivism* [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States.
- 6) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Wray-Lake, L. (2024, January 10-14). *Challenges of reentry: Examining relationships between mental illness, family conflict, meeting basic needs and their connection to recidivism* [Paper presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States.
- 7) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Lewis, A. R., Rief, R. M. (2023, November 15-18). *Imperfect tools: A research note on developing, applying, and increasing understanding of criminal justice risk assessments* [Paper presentation]. The American Society of Criminology 2023 Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- 8) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Adams, B. (2022, November 15-18). *Screening, service provision, and information sharing practices* [Poster presentation]. The American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, United States.
- 9) Washington, D. M., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Abrams, L., Canlione, K. (2022, January 12-16). *Lost time: Family reintegration after youth life sentences* [Poster presentation]. Society for Social Work Research Annual Conference, Washington, DC, United States.
- 10) Washington, D. M., **Applegarth, D. M.**, Abrams, L., Canlione, K. (2021, November 17-20). *Forging family in lagged time: Reintegration after youth life sentences* [Paper presentation]. The American Association of Criminology Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States.
- 11) **Applegarth, D. M.** (2021, January 19-22). *Is anyone listening: Exploring post-release concerns of incarcerated individuals with severe mental illness* [Paper Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States.
- 12) **Applegarth, D. M.** (2020, February 6-8). *Is anyone listening: Exploring post-release concerns of incarcerated individuals with severe mental illness* [Poster presentation]. Western Society of Criminology, Phoenix, AZ, United States.
- 13) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Abrams, L. S., Brock-Petroshius, K., Garcia-Perez, J. (January, 2020). *Cognitive, affective, and behavioral responses of MSW students to racial issues: Identifying barriers to effective social work practice for racial equity* [Paper Presentation]. Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., United States.

- 14) **Applegarth, D. M.**, Wood, D. S. (April, 2017). *Examining help-seeking among National Guard service members* [Poster presentation]. Mary Loy Fulton Mentored Research Conference, Provo, UT, United States.
- 15) **Applegarth, D. M.** (April, 2016). *Education's effect on recidivism* [Oral presentation]. Research and Creative Works Conference, Rexburg, ID, United States.

Invited Presentations

- 1) **Applegarth, D. M.** (April, 2025). Examining the connection between mental illness and recidivism. Forensic Grand Rounds at Alberta Hospital Edmonton/University of Alberta.
- 2) **Applegarth, D. M.** (March, 2025). Reexamining the Sequential Intercept Model: Incorporating Theory, Practice Insights, and Social Work Perspectives. University of Buffalo Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Interdisciplinary Work-In-Progress Speakers Series.
- 3) **Applegarth, D. M.** (May, 2024). Parole Supervision, Specialty Caseloads, and Mandated Treatment for Individuals with Mental Illness. University at Buffalo New Faculty Academy.
- 4) **Applegarth, D. M.** (September, 2022). Promising Practices for Justice Involved Juveniles. Rand Corporation.
- 5) **Applegarth, D. M.** (May, 2022). "Prison, Trauma, & Mental Health." California State University, Los Angeles, Public Affairs Undergraduate Major, PA 137: Gangs, Criminal Justice, and Mass Incarceration.
- 6) **Applegarth, D. M.** (March, 2022). "Criminal Legal System and Mental Illness." California State University, Los Angeles, Public Affairs Undergraduate Major, PA 114: People, Organizations and Systems.
- 7) **Applegarth, D. M.** (March, 2021). Pathways of Desistance and Health Needs of Detained Youth. National Institute of Justice.
- 8) **Applegarth, D. M.** (November, 2021). "Criminal Justice System, Reentry Concerns, and Desistance." California State University, Los Angeles, Public Affairs Undergraduate Major, PA 80: How Environments Shape Human Behavior.
- 9) **Applegarth, D. M.** (March, 2021). "Introduction to Social Work and Criminal Justice Research." University of Texas Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, SW 310: Introduction to Social Work and Social Welfare.

SERVICE

University and Department Service

- 2025 **You Belong Initiative.** University of Buffalo.
- 2024-Current **Interprofessional Forum Facilitator.** University of Buffalo
- 2024-2025 **Ad Hoc AI Committee.** The committee developed the [Guiding Principles for the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence](#). University of Buffalo, School of Social Work.
- 2023-Current **PhD Admissions Committee.** University of Buffalo, School of Social Work.
- 2023-2024 **90th Anniversary Committee.** University of Buffalo, School of Social Work.

Professional Service

- 2025 **Reviewed** Society for Social Work and Research 2026 Conference abstracts.
- 2024 **Reviewed** Rand Report: Augustine, C. H., Phillips, A., Faxon-Mills, S., & Kessler, A. (2024). Restorative practices in educational settings and a youth diversion program: What we can learn from one organization's partnerships with the community to stem the school-to-prison pipeline. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2024. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA3440-1.html
- 2025-Current **Reviewer,** Community Mental Health Journal
- 2024-Current **Reviewer,** Criminal Justice Policy Review
- 2022-Current **Reviewer,** International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology
- 2022-Current **Reviewer,** Journal of Offender Rehabilitation

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- 2025 **Reentry Simulation Volunteer.** University of Buffalo Department of Sociology and Criminology, School of Social Work, Law School, and Peaceprints of WNY.
- 2015-2018 **Youth Mentor.** Inner City Youth Charitable Foundation, Chicago, Illinois.

CERTIFICATES AND TRAININGS

- Lumen Learning. (2025). Evidence based teaching using generative AI. [Course certificate].
- Cain, M. (2025). Structural equation modeling using Stata. [Course certificate]. Stata Corp LLC.

Grunert, J., Estrada, N. (2024). Scholarship, writing, & publishing. [Course certificate]. University at Buffalo.

Office of Curriculum, Assessment, and Teaching Transformation. (2023). Teaching and learning. [Course certificate]. University at Buffalo.

WebAIM. (2023). Accessible documents: Word, PowerPoint, & Acrobat. [Course certificate].

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

2017-2018 **CSW Therapist & Social Work Intern Therapist (MSW)**, Utah County Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Provo, UT.

2017 **Social Work Intern Therapist (MSW)**, Wasatch Mental Health Youth Crisis Team, Provo, UT.

2016 **Social Work Intern (BSW)**, Tueller Counseling, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

2015 **Social Work Intern (BSW)**, Solace Hospice, Rigby, Idaho.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2019-Present Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR)

2022-Present American Society of Criminology (ASC)