

Austin C. Barber

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Education

- 2027 (Expected) Ph.D. Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*
Dissertation Title – TBA
Chair – Steven M. Chermak, Ph.D.
- 2022 M.A. Sociology, *University of Arkansas*
Concentration – Criminology
Thesis Title – Examining the Escalation to Violence at Political Protests:
A Conjunctive Analysis
Chair: Jeffrey A. Gruenewald, Ph.D.
- 2020 B.S. Criminology & Criminal Justice, *University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
& *Omaha*
Minor – National Security Studies

Scholarly Interests

Terrorism/Extremism, Wildlife Criminology, National Security, Human Trafficking, Transnational Crime, Foreign Policy

Professional Appointments

- 2025 – 2027 Forestry Student Assistant. Private Lands Forestry, *Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development* – Benjamin Schram
- 2022 – 2027 Graduate Research Assistant. School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University* – Steven M. Chermak, Ph.D.
- 2021, Spring Graduate Teaching Assistant. Department of Sociology and Criminology, *University of Arkansas* – Grant R. Drawve, Ph.D.; Kayla Allison-Gruenewald, Ph.D.
- 2020 – 2022 Graduate Research Assistant. Terrorism Research Center, *University of Arkansas* – Jeffrey A. Gruenewald, Ph.D.
- 2019 – 2020 Correctional Officer Intern. Lincoln Correctional Center, *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services* – Lt. Chad Backemeyer

Funded Research Experience

2022 – 2025 Project Manager (with J. Gruenewald, S. Chermak, J. Freilich, & T. Holt). “From Dot Coms to Pipe Bombs: Online Radicalization and Mobilization to Violence (DCPB).” National Institute of Justice (NIJ), *Department of Justice (DOJ)*.

Scholarly Affiliations

2024 – 2027 “Bias Homicide Database (BHDB).” Terrorism Research Center (TRC), Fulbright College, *University of Arkansas*.

2022 – 2027 “U.S. Extremist Crime Database (ECDB).” School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*.

2021 – 2027 “The American Terrorism Study (ATS).” Terrorism Research Center (TRC), Fullbright College, *University of Arkansas*.

2020 – 2022 “U.S. Protests Database (USPDB).” Department of Criminal Justice, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)*.

Publications

Under Review

2025 **Barber, A. C.**, Chermak, S., Freilich, J. D., & Gruenewald, J. What went wrong: A comparison of unsuccessful and completed plots extreme far-right plots.

2025 **Barber, A. C.**, Chermak, S., Freilich, J. D., & Gruenewald, J. Whose turn is it? Evaluating causal relationships between terrorist ideologies.

In Progress

1. **Barber, A. C.** Cutting corners: Analyzing public access to ‘checkerboard’ lands.
2. **Barber, A. C.**, Chermak, S., Freilich, J. D., & Gruenewald, J. The situated contexts of American terrorism: Five years later.

Presentations

Conference Presentations

2025 **Barber, A. C.**, Chermak, S., Freilich, J. D., & Gruenewald, J. “What went wrong: A comparison of unsuccessful and completed extreme far-right plots. *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting* (Washington, DC).

2024 **Barber, A. C.** “Whose turn is it? Evaluating causal relationships between terrorist ideologies.” *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting* (San Fransisco, CA).

- 2023 **Barber, A. C.** “Cutting corners: Analyzing public access to ‘checkerboard’ lands.” *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting* (Philadelphia, PA).
- 2022 **Barber, A. C.** “Examining the escalation to violence at political protests: A conjunctive analysis.” *American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting* (Atlanta, GA).

Invited Presentations

- 2022 Guest Lecture. “Examining the escalation to violence at political protests: A conjunctive analysis.” *Criminological Theory (CRIM 3023)*, *University of Arkansas*.
- 2022 Guest Lecture. “Examining the escalation to violence at political protests: A conjunctive analysis.” *Spatial Analyses for Social Data (CRIM 4303)*, *University of Arkansas*.
- 2022 Guest Lecture. “U.S. Protests Database (USPDB).” *Social Research (SOCI 3313)*, *University of Arkansas*.
- 2022 Guest Lecture. “U.S. Protests Database (USPDB).” *Social Research (SOCI 3313)*, *University of Arkansas*.
- 2021 Guest Lecture. “U.S. Protests Database (USPDB).” *Social Research (SOCI 3313)*, *University of Arkansas*.

Media

- 2021 “The changing face of terrorism in the United States” *Scripps Media, Incorporated*.
<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/national/the-changing-face-of-terrorism-in-the-united-states>.

Teaching

University of Arkansas (Served as a Teaching Assistant)

- 2021, Spring CRIM 2003: Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
 SOCI 3223: Social Psychology
 SOCI 3423: Social Theory

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

Research Fellowships and Grants

- 2025 School of Criminal Justice Summer Research Fellowship (\$3,000). *Michigan State University*
- 2024 School of Criminal Justice Summer Research Fellowship (\$3,000). *Michigan State University*

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| 2023 | School of Criminal Justice Summer Research Fellowship (\$3,000). <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2019, Fall | Sigma Chi John T. Meier Scholarship for Academic Excellence (\$500). <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |
| 2019, Spring | Sigma Chi Living the Jordan Standard Scholarship (\$500). <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |
| 2018, Fall | Sigma Chi Living the Jordan Standard Scholarship (\$500). <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |

Travel Funding

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| 2024 | Warren & Mary Huff Travel Endowment Award (\$660). <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Warren & Mary Huff Travel Endowment Award (\$830). <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2022 | Warren & Mary Huff Travel Endowment Award (\$703). <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2021 | Terrorism Research Center Travel Funding (\$1,000). <i>University of Arkansas</i> |

Awards and Honors

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| 2020 | Degree Conferral with Distinction. <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |
| 2020, Spring | Dean’s List. <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |
| 2019, Fall | Dean’s List. <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |
| 2019, Spring | Dean’s List. <i>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</i> |

Committee and Administrative Service

Michigan State University

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| 2025 – 2026 | Graduate Student Representative, Executive Board, <i>Ducks Unlimited – Michigan State University</i> |
| 2025 | Volunteer, Wetlands Conservation Funding Banquet, <i>Ducks Unlimited – Red Cedar Chapter</i> |
| 2025 | Volunteer, Wetlands Conservation Funding Banquet, <i>Ducks Unlimited – Michigan State University Student Chapter</i> |
| 2024 – 2026 | Graduate Student Representative, College Hearing Board, <i>College of Social Sciences</i> |
| 2024 – 2025 | Vice President, Graduate Student Association (GSA), <i>School of Criminal Justice (SCJ)</i> |

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| 2024 – 2025 | Co-Coordinator, Graduate Student Network (GSN), <i>School of Criminal Justice</i> |
| 2024 | Panelist, Graduate School Information Sessions for Undergraduate Students, <i>School of Criminal Justice</i> |
| 2023 – 2025 | Graduate Student Mentor, Graduate Student Network (GSN), <i>School of Criminal Justice</i> |
| 2023 – 2024 | Event Coordinator, Graduate Student Association (GSA), <i>School of Criminal Justice</i> |
| 2023 – 2024 | Fundraising Committee Member, Graduate Student Association (GSA), <i>School of Criminal Justice</i> |

Affiliations

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| 2023 – Present | Ducks Unlimited – Michigan State University Student Chapter |
| 2023 – Present | Trout Unlimited – Frank “Bob” Perrin Chapter |
| 2021 – Present | American Society of Criminology (ASC) - <i>Division on Terrorism & Bias Crimes (DTBC)</i> |
| 2018 – 2020 | PREVENT: Sexual Assault and the Law |
| 2017 – 2018 | Undergraduate Psychology and Social Sciences Association |

Advanced Training and Professional Development

Responsible and Ethical Conduct for Research (RECR)

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| 2024 | Online Data, Research Methods, and Ethical Collection of Research. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Data Management. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Conflicts of Interest and Commitment. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Collaborative Research. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Plagiarism. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Research Misconduct. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Authorship. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |
| 2023 | Introduction to RCT. Provided by the CITI Program, <i>Michigan State University</i> |

- 2023 Salami Slicing: Unethical Publication Strategies. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*
- 2023 P-Hacking: What is it and why is it Wrong. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*
- 2022 Novel Data Collection Methods. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*
- 2022 Ethics and Regulations in Human Research. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*
- 2022 Overview of Human Research Protection. Provided by the School of Criminal Justice, *Michigan State University*

Other Relevant Professional Development

- 2025 FEMA IS-00800.d: National Response Framework, An Introduction, 3 hrs. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, *Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development*
- 2019 FEMA IS-00800.c: National Response Framework, An Introduction, 3 hrs. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, *University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
- 2019 FEMA IS-00700.b: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System, 3.5 hrs. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, *University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
- 2019 FEMA IS-00200.c: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, 4 hrs. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, *University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
- 2019 FEMA IS-00100.c: Introduction to the Incident Command System, 2 hrs. Provided by the Department of Homeland Security, *University of Nebraska – Lincoln*
- 2019 Institutional Crisis Intervention and Conflict Resolution, 24 hrs. Provided by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

References

Steven M. Chermak, Ph.D.: Michigan State University

Position(s): Professor

Relationship: Professor, Graduate Committee Chair, Assistantship Chair

Phone: (517) 355-2210

Email: chermak@msu.edu

Jeffrey A. Gruenewald, Ph.D.: University of Arkansas – Terrorism Research Center

Position(s): Professor – Director

Relationship: Professor, Assistantship Chair, Thesis Chair

Phone: (479) 575-3205

Email: jgruenew@uark.edu

Benjamin Schram: Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Positions(s): Forestry Assistance Program Coordinator

Relationship: Supervisor

Phone: (517) 614-7362

Email: Schramb1@michigan.gov