

KADEN PAULSON-SMITH

Department of Crime & Justice Studies
Liberal Arts, 285 Old Westport Road
University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth
Dartmouth, Massachusetts, USA 02747

kpaulsonsmith@umassd.edu
kpaulsonsmith.com
They/them/theirs

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth

Assistant Teaching Professor of Crime & Justice Studies (2023-present)
Affiliate with Women's & Gender Studies and Black Studies

University of Wisconsin–Green Bay

Assistant Professor of Democracy & Justice Studies (2021-2023)
Political Science; Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies; Global Studies

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison, Ph.D., Political Science (2021)

Dissertation: Creating & Contesting Empire: The Colonial Legacy of Policing in Tanzania

University of Wisconsin–Madison, M.A., Political Science (2017)

Fields: Comparative Politics and Political Theory

Smith College, B.A., Government, *Cum Laude* and Highest Honors (2014)

Additional Coursework: Graduate School of International Studies & Development,
Geneva, Switzerland, 2013

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters:

- 2026. “Beyond Liberal Fantasies, Toward Abolitionist Trans Politics.” *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*. 27 (Spring): 48-58.
- 2025. “Strategies for Seeding Police Abolition in a Minefield.” *Feminist Pedagogy*. 6(4). Special Issue on “Abolitionist Principles and Pedagogy: Teaching to Build the World Anew.”
- 2024. “Creating Power from Failure: Policing Stock Theft in Colonial East Africa.” *Legal Pluralism & Critical Social Analysis*. 56(3): 349-369. Special Issue on “Remembering Keebet von Benda-Beckmann.”
- 2024. “The Colonial Legacy of Policing as Statebuilding.” *The State, Ethnicity, and Gender in Africa: Intellectual Legacies of Crawford Young*, edited by Scott Straus and Aili Tripp. University of Wisconsin Press.
- 2023. “The Politics of Words: A Survey Experiment on ‘Defund the Police,’” with David Nehlsen, Jacob Lau, Jared Knutson, Jake Wesner, Mackenzie Klug, Gage Beck, Brady Reinhard, and Aaron Weinschenk. *The Social Science Journal*. Online first.
- 2022. “‘Police Fire on Rioters’: Everyday Counterinsurgency in a Colonial Capital.” *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 33(4-5): 633-53. Special Issue on “Global Counterinsurgency and the Police-Military Continuum.”
- 2021. “Women’s Rights and Critical Junctures in Constitutional Reform in Africa (1951-2019),” with Aili Mari Tripp, *African Affairs* 120(480): 365-89.
 - “Replication Data for: Women’s Rights and Critical Junctures in Constitutional Reform in Africa (1951-2019).” *Harvard Dataverse*, V1. 2021.

Other Publications & Reviews:

- Review of *Criminal Legalities and Minorities in the Global South: Rights and Resistance in a Decolonial World*, edited by George B. Radics and Pablo Ciocchi. *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*. 2023.
- “Political Violence Targeting LGBT+ Communities in Africa.” In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions*, edited by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, 8th ed. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- “Criminal Justice Reform?” *CAHSS and Effect*, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, March 2022.
- “Political Violence Targeting LGBT+ Communities in Africa.” with Timothy Lay. *The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*, December 2021.
- “Degrowth: Less Resource Use for More Wellbeing and Resilience” with Susan Paulson. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, May 2021.
- “How to Count What Counts: TIS the Season for Syllabi Metrics?” with Michael Tierney. *International Studies Quarterly*, March 2016.
- “How Does Aid Impact Democratic Change in Africa?” with Simone Dietrich and Joseph Wright. AidData Blog: *The First Tranche*, August 2014.

In Progress:

- *Empire of Crime: Policing and Criminalization for Colonization* (Book manuscript)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office Teaching Faculty Travel Support Program, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, 2023, 2025
- OFD Scholarship and Teaching Development Grant, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, 2023-2024
- Summer Research Scholar Award, *Creating and Contesting Empire: The Colonial Legacy of Policing in Tanzania*, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, 2023
- Research Enhancement Award, *The Origins and Endurance of Democratic Colonial Institutions*, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, 2023
- Research Booster Award, *Creating and Contesting Empire: The Colonial Legacy of Policing in Tanzania*, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, 2022-2023
- Mellon Wisconsin Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Summer 2021
- Institute for Legal Studies Law and Society Graduate Fellowship, Law School University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2020-2022
- Continuity of Instruction Teaching Assistant Award, College of Letters and Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2020
- Summer Initiative Funding Award, Political Science Department University of Wisconsin–Madison, Summer 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities (Department Nominee), Institute for Research in the Humanities University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2020-2021
- Student Research Conference Travel Grant, Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Funding in the Graduate School University of Wisconsin–Madison, April 2019 and August 2019
- Scott Kloeck-Jenson International Internship Fellowship, Institute for Regional and International Studies University of Wisconsin–Madison, Summer 2019
- Hyde Dissertation Research Award, Center for Research on Gender and Women University of Wisconsin–Madison, Summer 2019
- African Studies Program Scholarship for Northwestern University’s AfriSem Graduate Conference University of Wisconsin–Madison, April 2019
- Royal Air Maroc Student Travel Award African Studies Association, November 2018

- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)
2016-2017, 2017-2018, Summer 2018
- Jordan Prize for year's best graduate paper on Africa, African Studies Program
University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017-2018
- African Studies Summer Fieldwork Award
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Summer 2017
- Elections Research Center Fellowship
University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2016-2017

INVITED TALKS

- April 2026: “Reinvigorating our Queer Political Imagination.” Guest lecture for Introduction to LGBTQ Studies, UMassD.
- March 2026: “Lights! Camera! Representation! Screening Race, Gender, and Sexuality at the Oscars.” UMassD Center for Women, Gender, & Sexuality.
- July 2025: “Research spotlight” and “Critiquing LGBTQ REform in order to TRANSform.” Interview and guest lecture for The Politics of Human Rights, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- April 2025: “The Abolitionist Potential of Queer Politics.” Guest lecture for Introduction to LGBTQ Studies, UMassD.
- February 2024: “Lights, Camera, Accountability: Testing for Reel Representation” (panel discussion critiquing representation in the Oscars), UMassD Center for Women, Gender, & Sexuality
- January 2024 and 2025: “Historical Legacies of Global Oppression and Lineages of Resistance.” Guest lecture for Introduction to International Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- February 2024: “Reimagining Rigor and Resilience: Navigating Complexity with Students,” with Katie Krafft. Office of Faculty Development, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth.
- December 2023: “Global Decolonization through Abolition.” Liberation Learning Teach-In, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth.
- October 2023: “Uprooting Colonial Legacies: ‘The World’s Harshest Anti-Gay Laws.’” Queer Scholars Speaker Series, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth.
- December 2022: “The Queen’s Legacy: When is the Right Time to Talk about Colonialism?” The Philosophers’ Café, Green Bay, WI.
- September 2022: “Abortion and Reproductive Justice after Roe.” Panel discussion in the “After Dobbs” series. University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, WI.
- March 2022: “The Colonial Legacy of Policing in Tanzania.” PLATO (Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization) course, Global Affairs and the Media, Division of Continuing Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison, virtual.
- October 2019: “International LGBTQ+ Refugee Casework and Colonial Archival Research of Summer 2019.” Scott Kloeck-Jenson Fellowship Presentation, Institute for Regional and International Studies, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- June 2019: “The Policing of Gender and Sexuality in Tanzania.” Tanzania Watchers presentation, series organized by Freedom House, Washington, D.C.
- April 2019: “Policing Gender and Sexuality: The Persistence and Contestation of Colonizing Institutions in Tanzania.” Africa at Noon public lecture, African Studies Program, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- March 2026 (withdrew, conflict): “‘Natural Master of the House’: Re-forming Imperial Power to Police the World,” Decolonial Conference, Remote.
- November 2025: “Anti-imperial Praxis: Mapping a Global Path Toward Decolonization, Indigenization, and Freedom” (roundtable organizer and chair). American Studies Association, Puerto Rico.
- November 2025: “From the Inside Out: Rethinking Knowledge Production, Power, and Pedagogy in Carceral Spaces,” with Tammi Arford. American Studies Association, Puerto Rico.

- March 2025: Author Meets Critic: “Gratuitous Angst in White America: A Theory of Whiteness and Crime” by Deena Isom. Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Boston, MA.
- November 2024: “The Colonial Invention of the Police and Insurgent Resistance in East Africa,” presentation for panel I co-created with Lou Pingeot, “Grounding the Global Carceral Order in the Local.” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- June 2024 (withdrew, illness): “The Origins and Endurance of Democratic Colonial Institutions.” Law & Society Association, Denver, CO.
- November 2023: “Theorizing Anti-Colonial Resistance to Criminalization, Policing, & Statebuilding.” American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
- November 2023: “Mutiny, Strike, or Coup? Shifting Solidarities in Postcolonial Forces in 1964 Tanganyika.” American Studies Association, Montréal, Canada.
- April 2023: “Students Queering Reproductive Justice” and “Cultivating Intersectional Feminism in Northeast Wisconsin.” University of Wisconsin System Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium Conference, virtual.
- November 2022: “Centering Colonization & Resistance in Analyses of Policing.” Presidential Session: New Directions in the Critical Study of Global Counterinsurgency and the Police-Military Continuum. Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL.
- April 2022: “Colonial Crime Statistics & the Carceral State.” Politics of Identity Across the Subfields Mini Conference, Midwest Political Science Association, virtual.
- April 2022: “The Colonial Legacy of Policing as State-Building.” Symposium on the Intellectual Legacies of Crawford Young, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- October 2021: “Police Fire on Rioters, Africans Attack Patrol.” American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA and virtual.
- November 2020: “How ‘Post’ was Post-Colonial Policing?” African Studies Association, Virtual.
- November 2020: “Sexuality Studies and Imprisonment: Queering African Prison Studies.” Roundtable with Brenna Munro, Ashley Currier, and Z’étoile Imma, African Studies Association, Virtual.
- October 2020: “‘A Challenge to Law and Order’: Contesting Police, Empire, and State in Tanganyika.” The Sociology of Gender Brownbag (FemSem), University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- September 2020: “Contesting Police, Empire, and State in Tanganyika.” Law and Society Graduate Fellows, Institute for Legal Studies, Law School University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- September 2020: “How ‘Post’ was Post-Colonial Policing in Independent Tanzania?” American Political Science Association, Virtual.
- (Cancelled) April 2020: “Exposing the Colonial Roots of Policing Gender and Sexuality in Tanzania.” Gender and Women’s Studies Conference, Madison, WI.
- February 2020: “The Colonial Roots of Policing Gender and Sexuality in Tanzania.” The Sociology of Gender Brownbag (FemSem), University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- November 2019: “Colonization through Policing Gender and Sexuality in Tanganyika.” African Studies Association, Boston, MA.
- August 2019: “How Nonnormative Gender and Sexuality Became a Target of Violent Repression.” Co-organized panel on State Power and Political Identities with Maayan Mor. American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
- April 2019: “How Nonnormative Gender and Sexuality Became a Threat to the State: Institutionalized Violence in Post-Colonial Africa.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- April 2018: “What Drives Political Actors to Restrict the Rights of Marginalized Groups? Contemporary Evidence from Tanzania.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- November 2017: “New Trends in Constitutional Reform and Women’s Rights in Africa,” with Aili Mari Tripp. African Studies Association, Chicago, IL.

- November 2017: “Why Do Political Actors Pull Back Rights? Historical and Contemporary Evidence from Tanzania.” Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- February 2017: “Gender and the Expression of International Relations Knowledge and Attitudes,” with Rachel Merriman-Goldring and Susan Peterson. International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- October 2016: “Why Has the International Community So Significantly Impacted Public Opinion and Discourse on LGBTQ Rights and Politics in Certain African States Over the Past Decade?” Comparative Politics Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
- April 2016: “How Maps Shape Perceptions of International Security Issues,” with Daniel Maliniak, Elizabeth Martin, and Ashley Nicole Napier. Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

TEACHING

University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth:

- Abolitionism
- The Criminal Justice System
- Criminal Justice Reform? (Capstone)
- Global Inequality and Social Change
- Global Politics of Policing
- A History of Criminology
- Introduction to Black Studies
- Introduction to Crime and Justice Studies
- Justice and Power (Inside-Out)
- Youth, Crime, and Justice

University of Wisconsin–Green Bay:

- First Year Seminar: Birth of the Police
- Gateways to Phoenix Success Service-Learning Seminar
- Global Politics and Society
- Global Politics of Policing
- Introduction to Democracy and Justice Studies
- Introduction to LGBTQ Studies
- Politics of Developing Areas

Odyssey Beyond Bars (Tutor):

- Introduction to College Composition,
Columbia Correctional Institution and Green Bay Correctional Institution

University of Wisconsin–Madison (Teaching Assistant):

- Courts, Constitutionalism, and Human Rights (Tinashe Hofisi)
- The Comparative Study Of Genocide (Scott Straus)
- Africa: An Introductory Survey (Matthew Brown, Neil Kodesh)
- Culture and the Global Workplace (International Internships Program)
- Introduction to Political Theory (Daniel Kapust)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Consultant

March - December 2020

Armed Conflict Location and Events Data Project (ACLED)

Program Manager

July 2015 - May 2016

Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) at the Global Research Institute
College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Special Assistant to Co-Executive Director
AidData, Williamsburg, VA

June 2014 - July 2015

SERVICE

- College of Arts & Sciences Assessment Coordinator for Crime & Justice Studies, 2024-2026
- Co-Advisor/Advisor, Crime and Justice Studies Honors Society, 2023-2026
- Member, Crime & Justice Studies Curriculum Committee, PTR Standards Committee, Advising and Curricular Map Committee, Events Committee, Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee, CJS Minors/Concentrations Committee, Committee on Bachelor's of Science Degree Creation, 2024-2025
- Member, Crime & Justice Studies Curriculum Committee, PTR Standards Committee, Advising and Curricular Map Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Events Committee, 2023-2024
- Member, Instructional Development Council, UW–Green Bay, 2022-2023
- Member, LGBTQ Studies Certificate Committee, UW–Green Bay, 2022-2023
- Member, Criminal Justice Minor Committee, UW–Green Bay, 2022-2023
- Co-developer & facilitator, Gateways to Phoenix Success, UW–Green Bay, 2022
- Member, UW System Prison Education Curriculum Initiative, 2022
- Reviewer for: *African Studies Review*; *American Political Science Review*; *Feminist Pedagogy*; *Frontiers in Psychology*; *Policing and Society*; *Rowman & Littlefield*; *Small Wars and Insurgencies*
- Subject Editor (Political Science) for the *American Journal of Undergraduate Research*

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Studies Association
- Law & Society Association
- American Society of Criminology
- African Studies Association

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Online Teaching Learning Strategies, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, 2024 (month-long online course)
- Faculty Learning Community, University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth, 2024
- Teacher Peer Mentoring Program, University Committee and the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, 2022
- Distance Education Course Design Trail Guide, Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, Spring 2022 (online course)
- Teaching with Technology Basecamp, Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, Fall 2021 (online course)
- Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program Training Institute, Temple University, July 11-16, 2021 (40+ hours)
- The Discussion Project Training, Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin–Madison, June 1-10, 2021 (14 hours)
- “Abolitionist Restorative Justice Workshop.” Transformative Action Network, July-August 2020 (8 hours)
- “Wiki Scholar Training” Wiki Education, June-July 2020 (6 weeks)
- “Remote Readiness” (5-part training on online instruction), University of Wisconsin–Madison, March 2020 (7.5 hours)
- “Indigenous Political Science: Opportunities for Innovation and Inclusion” (Pre-Conference Short Course), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2019 (4 hours)
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, New York, June 2017 (2 weeks)

SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Swahili (ACTFL Advanced-Mid 2018), French (advanced), Spanish (novice)

Software: L^AT_EX, Stata, Qualtrics