

Shi Yan, PhD
(Updated October 2025)

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Academic Appointments

Arizona State University

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Associate Professor, 2024-present (Assistant Professor, 2016-24)

Law and Behavioral Science Group, Affiliated Faculty, 2020-present

Education

University at Albany, SUNY

PhD in Criminal Justice, 2016

MA in Criminal Justice, 2013

Current Research

For a summary of my ongoing research, see <https://iamshiyang.com/current-research/>.
Additional information on specific projects is available upon request.

Research Publications

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Full text of all first-/corresponding-authorship articles and most other articles can be accessed for free at <https://iamshiyang.com/papers/> in post-peer-review, pre-publication format.

⁺ denotes graduate student coauthor

Hickert, A., Shi, L., Shaw, O. P. ⁺, & **Yan, S.** (2025). Do direct and courtesy prison stigma hinder support for a startup business? A vignette experiment. *Crime & Delinquency*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287251363969>

Wilson, T. H., **Yan, S.**, Kijowski, M., & Forston, J. (2025). Testing an expanded model of deterrence applied to guilty plea decision making. *Justice Quarterly*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2025.2527112>

Yan, S., Montes, A. N., Omori, M., Petersen, N., & Spohn, C. (2025). Revisiting the use of total incarceration variables in understanding racial and ethnic disparities in sentencing. *Crime & Delinquency*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287251344534>

- Hickert, A., Shi, L., Shaw, O. P. ⁺, & **Yan, S.** (2025). Do direct and courtesy prison stigma hinder support for a startup business? A vignette experiment. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-025-09664-x>
- Fradella, H. F., Spohn, C. C., Salerno, J. M., **Yan, S.**, Beety, V., & Eerdmans, R. E. ⁺ (2025). Justice system actors' perceptions of the elimination of peremptory challenges in Arizona. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 38(3), 274-303. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601X.2025.2531755>
- Yan, S.** & Augustine, B. ⁺ (2025). Parental monitoring, exposure to family violence, and delinquency: A latent class analysis on Arizona youth. *Victims & Offenders*. 20(3), 608-629. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2023.2189192>
- Petersen, N., Mitchell, O., & **Yan, S.** (2024). Do progressive prosecutors increase crime? A quasi-experimental analysis of crime rates in the 100 largest counties, 2000–2020. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 23(2), 459-490. <http://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12666>
- 2025 Best Paper Award for Later-Career Scholars, *Criminology & Public Policy* Editorial Office
- Yan, S.**, Wilford, M. M., & Ferreira, P. A. ⁺ (2024). Terms and conditions apply: The effect of probation length and obligation disclosure on true and false guilty pleas. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 20(2), 457-483. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-022-09543-9>
- This article is published open access with funding from Arnold Ventures. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-025-09691-8>
- Yan, S.**, Zgoba, K. M., & Pizarro, J. M. (2023). Restrictive housing placement and length of stay: A Latent class analysis with mixed distributions. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 34(5), 462-487. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08874034231184139>
- Tahamont, S., Jelveh, Z., McNeill, M., **Yan, S.**, Chalfin, A., & Hansen, B. (2023). No ground truth? No problem: Improving administrative data linking with an active learning algorithm and a little bit of guile. *PLOS ONE*, 18(4), e0283811. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0283811>
- Also available as National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 31100. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w31100>
- Mitchell, O., **Yan, S.**, & Oramas Mora, D. ⁺ (2023). Trends in prison sentences and racial disparities: 20-years of sentencing under Florida's criminal punishment code. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 60(2), 300-338. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00224278221120677>
- Yan, S.**, & Walker, J. W. ⁺ (2022). Does the premium fit the risk? The role of criminal escalation in case processing. *Crime & Delinquency*, 68(9), 1462-1491. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287211061719>

- Yan, S.,** & Lao, J. (2022). Sex disparities in sentencing and judges' beliefs: A vignette approach. *Victims & Offenders*, 17(4), 597-619. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2021.1947427>
- Yan, S.** (2022). What exactly is the bargain? The sensitivity of plea discount estimates. *Justice Quarterly*, 39(1), 152-173. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2019.1707856>
- Wu, S., Yoder, G.⁺, Lee, N., **Yan, S.**, & Wolfersteig, W. (2021). Racial disparities in school lunch program participation and cigarette use: Evidence from Arizona Youth Survey data. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 56(10), 1516-1526. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2021.1942051>
- Wilford, M. M., Zimmerman, D. M., **Yan, S.**, & Sutherland, K. T.⁺ (2021). Innocence in the shadow of COVID-19: Plea decision making during a pandemic. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*, 27(4), 739-750. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000367>
- Covered by *The Conversation*, *KTAR*, and *ASU News*
- Tahamont, S., Jelveh, Z., Chalfin, A., **Yan, S.**, & Hansen, B. (2021). Dude, where's my treatment effect? Errors in administrative data linking and the destruction of statistical power in randomized experiments. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 37(3), 715-749. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-020-09461-x>
- An earlier version is available as National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 25657. <https://doi.org/10.3386/w25657>
- Wu, S., **Yan, S.**, Marsiglia, F. F., & Perron, B. (2020). Patterns and social determinants of substance use among Arizona youth: A latent class analysis approach. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 110, 104769. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.104769>
- Yan, S.** (2019). Does criminal specialization predict case processing? *Crime & Delinquency*, 65(12), 1648-1688. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011128718765123>
- Yan, S.**, & Bushway, S. D. (2018). Plea discounts or trial penalties? Making sense of the trial-plea sentence disparities. *Justice Quarterly*, 35(7), 1226-1249. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2018.1552715>
- Redlich, A. D., **Yan, S.**, Norris, R. J., & Bushway, S. D. (2018). The influence of confessions in guilty plea decisions and sentences. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 24(2), 147-157. <https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000144>
- Yan, S.** (2017). Search for the hidden punishments: An alternative approach to studying alternative sanctions. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 33(1), 21-44. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-015-9275-4>
- Tahamont, S., **Yan, S.**, Bushway, S. D., & Liu, J. (2015). Pathways to prison in New York State. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 14(3), 431-453. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9133.12136>

Book Chapters and Reports

- Yan, S.**, Goodson, M. V., Blount-Hill, K.-L., Raskauskas, J.⁺, Sarpong, D.⁺, Phillips, B. (2025). *An evaluation of the City of Phoenix's Prostitution Diversion Program (PDP) and Prostitution Solicitation Diversion Program (PSD)*. Final report to the City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office.
- Forston, J. W.⁺, **Yan, S.**, Wilford, M. M., & DiFava, R. J.⁺ (2025). Plea bargaining later in the pandemic: COVID-19 mitigation strategies and false guilty pleas. In B. Pleggenkuhle & J. A. Schafer (Eds.), *Crime, corrections, and the COVID-19 pandemic: Responses and adaptations in the U.S. criminal justice system* (pp. 126-146). Southern Illinois University Press.
- Yan, S.** (2020). Estimating the size of plea discounts: Why does it matter? In C. Spohn & P. K. Brennan (Eds.), *Handbook on sentencing policies and practices in the 21st century, The ASC Division on Corrections & Sentencing's Handbook Series* (Vol. 4, pp. 188-207). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429027765-10>
- Yan, S.**, Bushway, S. D., & Redlich, A. D. (2018). Discretion in the absence of guidelines: Charge bargaining and sentencing for felony defendants in New York. In J. T. Ulmer & M. S. Bradley (Eds.), *Handbook on punishment decisions: Locations of disparity, The ASC Division on Corrections & Sentencing's Handbook Series* (Vol.2, pp. 133-151). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315410371-7>
- Redlich, A. D., Bushway, S. D., Norris, R. J., & **Yan, S.** (2013). *Bargaining in the shadow of trial: Exploring the reach of evidence outside the jury box*. Final report to the National Institute of Justice. United States Department of Justice.

Research Grants Awarded

- City of Phoenix (2023): Evaluating City of Phoenix's Prostitution-Related Diversion Programs (Role: PI), \$175,000.
- National Institute of Justice (2022): The Greater Impact of Bans on Peremptory Challenges (Role: Co-PI, PI: Jessica Salerno, W. E. B. Dubois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System), \$636,038.
- Arizona Supreme Court (2022): Assessment of Maricopa County Attorney's Office Felony Diversion Programs (Role: Co-PI, PI: Gary Sweeten), \$24,320.
- National Science Foundation (2021): RAPID: The Impact of Bans on Peremptory Challenges on Voir Dire, Jury Composition, and Case Outcomes (2202144, PI: Jessica Salerno; Role: Co-PI), \$199,750.

Research Grants Not Awarded

- Arnold Ventures: *Assessing the Impact of Reducing Long-Term Sentences* (Role: Co-I, PI: Cassia Spohn, not awarded).
- National Science Foundation: *The Greater Impact of Bans on Peremptory Challenges* (Role: Co-PI, PI: Jessica Salerno, not awarded).

ASU Watts College Anne Larason Schneider Faculty Endowment for Community Research (Role: PI, not awarded).

ASU Institute for Social Science Research Seed Grant (Role: PI, not awarded).

National Institute of Justice: *Examining Technology-Facilitated Abuse among adults: Risks, Consequences, and Justice Involvement* (PI: Megan Lindsay Brown; Role: Senior Personnel, not awarded).

ASU Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center Pilot Project: *Patterns and Determinants of Substance Use Among Arizona Youth: A Multi-Racial/ethnic Group Comparison* (an NIH/NIMHD Specialized Center of Excellence on Minority Health and Health Disparities; 2U54MD002316-11; PI: Shiyu Wu; Role: Co-I, not awarded).

Invited Talks and Colloquia

2022: University of Macau

2020: Arizona Association of Crime Analysts (Quarterly training held at ASU); Southern Illinois University

Conference Presentations (Details for Past Five Years)

Hickert, A., Shi, L., & Yan, S. (2023, November 15-18). *Courtesy stigma and carceral citizenship: An experimental survey approach* [paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Yan, S., Montes, A., Omori, M., Petersen, N., & Spohn, C. (2022, November 16-19). *Revisiting the use of total incarceration variables in sentencing models* [paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Wilson, T., Yan, S., Kijowski, M., & Forston, J. (2022, November 16-19). *Perceptions in the court: Relevance for plea and offender decision making scholars* [paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

A revised version of the paper was presented at the American Psychology-Law Society Annual Meeting (March 16-18, 2023), Philadelphia, PA.

Spohn, C., Salerno, J., Beety, V., Fradella, H., & Yan, S. (2022, November 16-19). *In their own words: Judges and trial attorneys react to Arizona's 2022 ban on peremptory challenges* [paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

A revised version of the paper was presented at the European Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (September 6-9, 2023), Florence, Italy.

Yan, S., Wilford, M. M., & Ferreira, P. (2022, March 17-19). *Terms and conditions apply: The effect of probation details and duration on true and false guilty pleas* [paper presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, USA.

A revised version of the paper was presented at the European Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (September 22-24, 2022), Málaga, Spain.

Forston, J. W., Wilford, M. M., DiFava, R. J., & Yan, S. (2022, February 3-5). *Pandemic plea bargaining: COVID-19 mitigation strategies and plea decision making* [Conference session canceled]. Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI.

Montes, A., Spohn, C. C., Omori, M., Petersen, N., & Yan, S. (2022, February 3-5). *Revisiting the use of total incarceration variables in sentencing research* [Conference session canceled]. Western Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI.

Yan, S., Wilford, M., Zimmerman, D., Sutherland, K., & Ferreira, P. (2021, November): *Two experiments on guilty pleas with a novel animated simulation tool*. [Paper presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Sutherland, K., Zimmerman, D., Yan, S., Wilford, M. M., & DiFava, R. (2021, March). *Innocence in the shadow of COVID-19: Plea decision making during a pandemic*. [Poster presentation]. American Psychology-Law Society Annual Meeting.

2020: Western Society of Criminology; Empirical Research on Sentencing Annual Meeting; American Society of Criminology (conference canceled)

2019: Western Society of Criminology; American Society of Criminology

2018: Western Society of Criminology; American Society of Criminology

2017: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, American Society of Criminology

2016: Concluding Conference of the Research Coordination Network on Understanding Guilty Pleas, American Society of Criminology

2015: Mid-Atlantic Law and Society Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, American Society of Criminology

2014: American Society of Criminology

2013: Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; American Society of Criminology

Awards

Gene Carte Student Paper Award, First Place, American Society of Criminology, 2015, \$1,000.
Title: "An alternative approach of studying alternative sanctions."

Recipient, Cass/Lynch Travel Award, School of Criminal Justice, University at Albany, 2015, \$500.

Recipient, Bureau of Justice Statistics/Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Fellowship, Quantitative Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice Data, University of Michigan, 2012, \$3,500.

Graduate and Honors Student Mentorship

PhD Students

Dissertation committee member:

Qingting Hu (Summer 2021, visiting assistant professor, Whitman College): “Examining Plea Bargaining and Charge Reduction in Three U.S. Federal District Courts”

Karissa Pelletier (Spring 2021, postdoctoral researcher, University of Michigan): “An Examination into the Covariates Surrounding Children and Teen Firearm Homicide Victimization”

Olivia Shaw and Jason Walker (both in progress)

Supervisory committee (all in progress): Matthew Durán (chair), Olivia Shaw, Kathryn Tapp, Sabrina Williamson

MS Students

Thesis chair: Cheyenne Weaver (Spring 2024); Jacob Forston (Spring 2022)

Thesis committee member: Ciara Ruiz-Earle (Fall 2023); Kymani Erskine (Summer 2022); Morgan (Jeri) Isabella (Spring 2022); Shayla Gilleland (Fordyce, Spring 2018)

First-year academic advisor: Samantha Perez (2022-23); Cassie Harvey (2020-21)

Honors Undergraduate Students

Thesis chair: Aimee Le (Spring 2024)

Courses Taught

Arizona State University

Undergraduate:

CRJ 100 Introduction to Criminal Justice (online)

CRJ 203 Courts and Sentencing

CRJ 302 Research Methods

CRJ 303 Statistical Analysis

Graduate:

CRJ 504 Statistical Tools for Criminology and Criminal Justice

CRJ 513 Seminar in Courts and Sentencing (both in-person and online)

Teaching Professional Development

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Certificate in Effective College Instruction, Fall 2018-Spring 2019

ASU Provost's Teaching Academy, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Academic Service

Arizona State University

School of Criminology and Criminal Justice: Awards Committee: 2025-27 (chair); Tenure & Promotion Committee*: 2024-present; Undergraduate Committee: 2023-25; Executive Committee (elected): 2022-23, 2021-22; Search Committee (special): Spring 2022; Comprehensive Exam Committee: 2018-20

* The Tenure & Promotion Committee consists of all tenured faculty per unit Bylaws

American Society of Criminology

Award Committees: Gene Carte Student Paper Award (2025)

Annual Meeting Program Committees: Sub-area Chair for Prosecutorial Discretion and Plea Bargaining (2022, 2023) and Courts and Sentencing (2020, conference cancelled)

Division on Corrections and Sentencing: Nominations Committee (2024, 2025), Special Events Committee (2022), Newsletter Committee (2020)

American Psychology-Law Society

Reviewer for Early Career Professional Grant-in-Aid: 2021/22 cycle

Reviewer for Annual Conference Proposals: 2022, 2023

The Association of Chinese Criminology and Criminal Justice in the United States

Non-Officer Board Director (elected), November 2016-November 2018, November 2018-November 2020

Grant Reviews

National Science Foundation

Ad Hoc Reviewer, Law and Science Dissertation Grant Program, 2021, 2022, 2024

Service for Peer-Reviewed Journals

Editorial Board Membership

Criminology, Editorial Board Member, 2024-present

Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, Principal Reviewer, 2025-present

Ad Hoc Reviewer/Referee

The American Statistician; Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy; Archives of Public Health; Asian Journal of Criminology; Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice/La Revue canadienne de criminologie et de justice pénale; Child & Youth Care Forum; Cogent Social Sciences; Crime & Delinquency; Criminal Justice and Behavior; Criminal Justice Policy Review; Criminal Justice Review; Criminal Justice Studies; Criminology; Criminology & Criminal Justice; Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society; Criminology & Public Policy; Deviant Behavior; Digital Threats: Research and Practice; Feminist Criminology; Homicide Studies; International Criminal Justice Review; Journal of Criminal Justice; Journal of Empirical Legal Studies; Journal of Experimental Criminology; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Journal of Quantitative Criminology; Journal of

Research in Crime and Delinquency; Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A; Justice Quarterly; Law & Society Review; PLOS One; Psychology, Crime, and Law; Punishment & Society; Sexual Abuse

Professional Affiliations

American Psychology-Law Society (APLS)

American Society of Criminology (ASC)

ASC Divisions on/of Corrections and Sentencing, Developmental and Life-Course Criminology, and Experimental Criminology

Arizona Association of Crime Analysts (AACA)

European Society of Criminology (ESC, 2027)

Western Society of Criminology (WSC)

Public Writings, Comments, and Media Speaking

For public writings on and media coverage of a specific study, see the research publications section

Forensics Colleges Blog. (2023, August 8, invited blog contribution). *What to know about wrongful convictions*. <https://www.forensicscolleges.com/blog/wrongful-convictions>

Arizona Republic. (2022, February 21, coauthored op-ed). *Arizona bill would end an effort to stop racial bias in jury selection before it begins*. <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2022/02/22/arizona-bill-allowing-peremptory-challenges-would-stop-reform/6871234001/>

A&E True Crime Blog. (2021, November 2, invited blog contribution). *What is a plea bargain—and who takes them?* <https://www.aetv.com/real-crime/who-takes-a-plea-bargain>

Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor's Office. (2021, April 29, comment). *Report highlights racial disparities, need for second-degree statute change*. <https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/Lieutenant-Governor-Details.aspx?newsid=114>

Arizona Daily Star. (2017, August 5, comment). *Study: Arizona spends \$600K a day to house drug offenders in prison*. https://tucson.com/news/local/study-arizona-spends-600k-a-day-to-house-drug-offenders-in-prison/article_80c84817-9a40-5f29-946a-dcf44fd1de01.html

Language Proficiency

Native or Bilingual: English and Mandarin Chinese

Elementary: French and Japanese