

GAYLENE M. GORDON

Ph.D. Childhood Studies | M.A., Criminal Justice | B.A., Criminal Justice

contactme@gaylenegordonphd.com

RESEARCH & TEACHING PROFILE

Interdisciplinary Childhood Studies educator and researcher whose work examines resilience, identity development, and the role of social institutions in shaping developmental outcomes across childhood and adolescence. Drawing from Childhood Studies, Criminology, and Sociology, my research explores how children and young people navigate adverse environments, with particular attention to girls and women, juvenile justice, educational experiences, and community contexts. My teaching encourages students to connect theory with lived experience while critically examining the social structures that influence individual and community outcomes.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Childhood Studies, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ (May 2026)

- GPA: 3.97 | Graduate Assistantship (2025–2026) | Graduate Writing Assistantship (2019–2025)
- **Dissertation:** Navigating Safety: A Study of Developmental Mechanisms within Childhood Resilience

M.A., Criminal Justice, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ (2019)

- GPA: 3.91 | Graduated with Distinction | CISS Scholar

B.A., Criminal Justice, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ (2017)

- GPA: 3.98 | Summa Cum Laude | Student Commencement Speaker

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Critical criminology; juvenile justice; school pushout; adultification bias; trauma-informed practices in justice settings; gender and crime; violence in social settings; resilience amongst vulnerable youth; intersectionality, race, and carcerality; human rights of children and women.

TEACHING

Courses Taught — Rutgers University–Camden

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice

- **Part-Time Lecturer**, Introduction to Criminal Justice (LEAP Dual-Enrollment Program) — Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- **Part-Time Lecturer**, Graduate Research Methods in Criminal Justice — Fall 2022
- **Part-Time Lecturer**, Violent Crime — Fall 2021
- **Instructor**, Gender and Juvenile Justice / Gender Advocacy (ROSES Program) — Fall 2018, Fall 2019
- **Instructor**, Methods & Techniques of Social Research (Recitation) — Fall 2017–Fall 2019
- **Teaching Assistant**, Women and Gender Studies — Spring 2017
- **Teaching Assistant**, Poor Minorities & Criminal Justice — Spring 2017

Student Instructional Rating Surveys (SIRS) available upon request.

Additional Pedagogical Experience

Graduate Writing Assistant

Fall 2019 – 2026

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Rutgers University–Camden

- Provided individualized academic writing support to graduate students completing theses, dissertations, capstones, research papers, and other scholarly projects.

- Designed and facilitated professional development programming, writing workshops, and educational resources focused on scholarly writing, research communication, and academic success.
- Supported student success initiatives throughout the graduate student lifecycle, from recruitment and admissions through degree completion.
- Contributed to graduate admissions, applicant management, matriculation, and admitted-student programming efforts within a nationally recognized research university.
- Collaborated with faculty, staff, and administrators across more than 30 academic programs to support graduate student development and engagement initiatives.
- Assisted with communications, outreach campaigns, event coordination, and engagement initiatives supporting graduate student recruitment, participation, and success.
- Developed and recorded educational webinar content archived by the Graduate School and the Executive Master of Public Administration Program for ongoing student and program support.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher

2022 – 2026

Department of Childhood Studies, Rutgers University–Camden

- Conducting qualitative analysis of childhood vulnerability and trauma within familial and school systems for the dissertation project on developmental mechanisms of childhood resilience.

Graduate Research Assistant

2017 – 2023

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice, Rutgers University–Camden

- Conducted qualitative coding and analysis on projects examining children and adolescents in violent, economically disadvantaged communities.
- Developed expertise in census-data interpretation and geographic crime mapping (GIS).
- Monitored trends in violent hot spots and open-air drug markets in Camden, NJ.

PUBLICATIONS & PEER REVIEW

Peer-Reviewed Article

Meloy, M., Curtis, K., Tucker, S., Previ, B., Storrod, M. L., **Gordon, G.**, ... Delacruz, M. (2018). Surviving all the way to college: Pathways out of one of America's most crime-ridden cities. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518789899>

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Gordon, G. *Adultification bias and the development of resilience in Black girlhood*.
- Gordon, G. *A qualitative analysis of survival strategies among Black women in strained workplace environments*.
- Gordon, G. *Black girlhood, womanhood, and school pushout: An empirical study of misogynoir across Northern and Southern regions of the U.S. East Coast*.

Volume Peer Review

- Reviewer, *Violence: The Enduring Problem*, 9th Edition, Sage Publications, Inc. (March 2023)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Gordon, G. (2023, November). *Trapped in the quagmire: The psychological and physical violence the American educational system and police-initiated contact wreak on Black girlhood/womanhood*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Gordon, G. (2023, April). *Circumnavigating harsh terrains: A glimpse into the lives of Black girls in school and beyond*. Graduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

- Gordon, G. (2023, April). *Hostile hosts: Black girls' endless problematic relationship within the milieus of the American educational system*. Childhood Application Seminar Series, Stockton University, NJ.
- Gordon, G. (2022, November). *Experiences of survival and resilience in one of America's most dangerous cities: Does crime density matter?* American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Gordon, G. (2022, April). *Black girlhood, identity development, and the school-to-prison pipeline*. Graduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.
- Gordon, G. (2021, November). *Late adolescent and early adulthood survival pathways: Circumnavigating hazards in violent hot spots*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Gordon, G. (2021, November). *Adultification bias: Gateway to criminalization of Black girls*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Gordon, G. (2021, November). *Adultification bias: Gateway to criminalization of Black girls*. Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gordon, G. (2021, September). *Gender-based programming in the juvenile justice system: The ROSES Program*. Camden, NJ.
- Gordon, G. (2021, April). *Schooling, adultification, and the criminalization of Black girls*. Graduate Research Symposium, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.
- Gordon, G. (2020, November). *Residents of homicide hot spots speak out: Does it matter what neighborhood you live in when your city is one of America's most dangerous?* American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. (Conference canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.)
- Gordon, G., & Tucker, S. (2019, November). *Criminal hot spots and the perceptions of their residents*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Gordon, G., & Tucker, S. (2019, September). *Effective presidential leadership (HELP! What does that even mean?!)*. Nuts & Bolts Leadership Workshop, Camden, NJ. (Invited Host.)
- Gordon, G. (2019, April). *The Latino paradox in stressed communities*. CGRCA Poster and Digital Display Exhibition, Camden, NJ.
- Gordon, G., & Tucker, S. (2018, November). *GIS mapping of race and crime in Camden, NJ*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- Gordon, G., & Delacruz, M. (2018, April). *Is the Latino paradox providing a protective element against crime?* CGRCA Poster and Digital Display Exhibition, Camden, NJ.
- Gordon, G., & Tucker, S. (2017, November). *Is the Latino paradox at work in one of America's most dangerous cities?* American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gordon, G., Gilliard, T., Johnson, M., Racoboldo, N., & Schnyer, C. (2015, November). *Police homicide: Myths concerning the face of cop killers*. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Gordon, G., Gilliard, T., Johnson, M., Racoboldo, N., & Schnyer, C. (2015, April). *Police homicide: Myths concerning the face of cop killers*. CURCA Poster and Digital Display Exhibition, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

INVITED TALKS & GUEST LECTURES

- Gordon, G. (2024, March). *Combatting socio-psychological strain present in Black girlhood/womanhood through methods of care used in the process of academic research*. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, NM.
- Gordon, G. (2024, February). *Effectively carving your niche along your academic journey*. Recording Rutgers Podcast (guest), Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2023, March). *Panel: Marketing and regulating Black femininity*. The Girl in Theory: Toward a Critical Girlhood Studies Symposium, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2023, January). *Violence in our communities*. South Jersey Teenshop, Creative Arts High School, Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, December). *White supremacy culture and its effects on communities of color*. House of Light Church Highlight Series, Charlotte, NC.

Gordon, G. (2022, December). *Racism and the church: A discussion of healing through trauma-informed care*. House of Light Church Highlight Series, Charlotte, NC.

Gordon, G. (2022, November). *Mommy & daughter letters: Healing traumatic wounds*. Women of the Dream, Inc., Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, October). *Skills-based volunteering for vulnerable populations*. Women of the Dream / Campbell's Soup Partner Breakfast, Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, April). *Plenary contribution*. Northeast Regional Honors Council Annual Conference, Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, April). *The Sankofa Collective Graduate Panel*. Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, March). *Centering Black childhoods*. Speakers Series, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2022, March). *Funneling Black girlhood into the school-to-prison pipeline: Addressing adultification bias in the school environment*. Childhood Application Seminar Series, Stockton University, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2021, November). *Racial trauma, identity development, and defying stereotypes*. Women of the Dream, Inc., Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G., & Storrod, M. (2021, April). *ROSES Advocacy Program for girls in Camden's juvenile justice system*. Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

Gordon, G. (2018, Fall). *Moderator*. Community Partners Breakfast, Office of Civic Engagement, Rutgers University–Camden, NJ.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE & FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Student Representative, Board of Directors <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2023 – 2025
Search Committee Member, Vice Chancellor of Research <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2022 – 2023
Strategic Planning Committee Member <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2022 – 2023
Chair, Public Arts Building & Spaces Subcommittee <i>Committee on Plaques, Major Markers, Monuments, and Artwork, Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2020 – 2021
Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2019 – Present
Civic Engagement Graduate Fellow <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2018 – 2019
Graduate School Advisory Council <i>Rutgers University–Camden</i>	2017 – 2019

HONORS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- **Chancellor's Dissertation Completion Award** — Rutgers University–Camden (Spring 2023)
- **David K. Sengstack Fellowship Award** — Rutgers University–Camden (Spring 2023)
- **Mellon Fund Award** (Spring 2023)

- **Dean's Graduate Conference Travel Grant** — Rutgers University–Camden (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2022)
- **Childhood Studies Conference Travel Grant** — Rutgers University–Camden (Fall 2019, Fall 2022)
- **Chancellor's Award for Academic Civic Engagement** (Spring 2019)
- **Leader of Distinction Award** — Rutgers University–Camden (Spring 2019)
- **Humphries Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Criminal Justice** (Spring 2019)
- **RU-Camden Graduate School Travel Fellowship** (Fall 2018)
- **President, Criminal Justice Organization** — Rutgers University–Camden (Fall 2018 – 2019)
- **CISS Scholar** — Two-year graduate teaching contract, Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice (Fall 2017 – 2019)
- **George Masterton Award in Criminal Justice** (Spring 2017)
- **Robert C. Sheppard Endowed Scholarship** (Spring 2017)
- **Osher Reentry Scholarship** (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
- **Vice President, Pi Beta Alpha / Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society** (Fall 2016)
- **Laubacher Law Domestic Violence Awareness Scholarship** (Fall 2014)
- **Athenaeum Honor Society Member** (Spring 2017 – Present)
- **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Member** (Fall 2013 – Present)

MENTORING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Invited Mentor & Trainer — Women of the Dream, Inc.

2021 – 2024

Camden, NJ

- Initial engagement: hosted a college-prep writing workshop (2021), leading to an invited mentor and trainer role.
- **Co-creator and trainer** for race- and ethnicity-centric trauma-informed care programs, including Girl Talk Trauma-Informed Care groups (six-, eight-, and twelve-week formats).
- **Co-facilitator:** Girls Talk Trauma Group and Life Skills Group.
- **Project Leader, SPEAK Young Brown People, Speak. We Are Listening!** (Lamkins, 2022) — managed the writing and creative process for 10 youth contributors on social justice and the lived experiences of youth of color.

INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE STUDY

Comparative Criminal Justice Study — United Kingdom

Spring 2017

Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice, Rutgers University–Camden

- Examined differences between the criminal justice systems of the United States, England, Scotland, and Wales.
- Participated in investigative examination of violent crime in the UK using tactical and operational analysis with emphasis on spatial data.
- Convened with the Juvenile Offending Team in Cardiff, Wales, and visited the Cardiff Police Institute.
- Met with juvenile justice specialists in Glasgow; observed court sessions at the Old Bailey (London) and in Glasgow.

TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

- **Fall 2021 — Violent Crime (Part-Time Lecturer Evaluation, Department Chair's designee):** SIRS scores in the high 4 range with a 90% response rate; "extensive and very positive" student comments. Sample comment: "The ability of Professor Gordon to make the

topics discussed interesting and easy to digest, while not taking away the gravity of the issues."

- **Fall 2022 — Graduate Research Methods (Classroom Observation, Department Chair's designee):** "Very organized... excellent rapport with the students... The professor's questions were noteworthy for their insight and served to elevate the discussion... This was the best student presentation I have ever seen in a class observation... a credit to the professor."
- **Fall 2024 — Introduction to Criminal Justice, LEAP (Classroom Observation, Department Chair's designee):** "Gifted at translating complex ideas and making them more relatable and digestible... full command of the classroom... an excellent course offering for the LEAP students, with interesting content delivered by a highly qualified instructor."

TECHNICAL & METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS

- Qualitative methods (coding, narrative inquiry, trauma-informed interviewing); NVivo; GIS / geographic crime mapping; census-data interpretation; survey design; Mac OS; Windows OS.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.