


School of Criminal Justice,
Rutgers University,
123 Washington St.,
Newark, NJ 07102-3094.

(973) 353-2805 
@vbacak 
valerio-bacak 
valerio.bacak@rutgers.edu 

VALERIO BAĆAK

- appointments Assistant Professor, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, 2015–present.
- previous appointments Consultant, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF (West Bank and Gaza, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Iraq), 2006–2014.
Research Fellow, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, 2008–2010.
Research Fellow, World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Capacity Building in HIV/AIDS Surveillance, Zagreb, Croatia, 2007.
- affiliations Member, Rapid Response Research Team, American Council of Chief Defenders, National Legal Aid & Defender Association, 2019–present.
Faculty Associate, Center on Gun Violence Research, Rutgers University, 2018–present.
Member, Prison Life and the Effects of Imprisonment, European Society of Criminology Working Group, 2016–present
Member, Rutgers Center for Gender, Sexuality, Law and Policy, 2016–present.
Consultant, Prospective Biopsychosocial Study of the Effects of Sexually Explicit Material on Young People’s Sexual Socialization and Health (PROBIOPS), University of Zagreb, 2016–present.
Collaborator, WHO Collaborating Centre for HIV Strategic Information, 2007–present.
- education PhD, Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 2015.
(Committee: Paul Allison, John MacDonald, Jason Schnittker (Chair), Christopher Uggen, and Christopher Wildeman)
AM, Statistics, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2014.
MA, Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 2012.
MSc, Sociology, University of Oxford, 2008.
Weidenfeld Fellow
BA, Sociology, University of Zagreb, 2007
(University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2003-04)
- publications *forthcoming & published*
* denotes student co-author.
Baćak, V., Bright, K.* & Wilson, L.* Gender affirmative housing in the criminal justice system: A path to transgender health and safety. *Lancet Public Health*.

- Bačak, V., Lageson, S. E., & Powell, K.* “Fighting the good fight:” Why do public defenders remain on the job? *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.
- Bačak, V. & Apel, R. The thin blue line of health: Police contact and wellbeing in Europe. *Social Science & Medicine*.
- Bačak, V., Mausolf, J.*, & Schwarz, C.* How comprehensive are media-based data on police officer-involved shootings? *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
- Bačak, V. & Nowotny, K. M. Race and the association between police stops and depression among young adults: A research note. *Race and Justice*.
- Bačak, V., Andersen, L. H., & Schnittker, J. (2019). The effect of timing of incarceration on mental health: Evidence from a natural experiment. *Social Forces*, 98(1), 303–328.
- Bačak, V. & Kennedy, E. H. (2019). Principled machine learning using the Super Learner: An application to predicting prison violence. *Sociological Methods & Research*, 48(3), 698-721.
- Bačak, V. & Karim, M. E. (2019). The effect of serious offending on health: A marginal structural model. *Society and Mental Health*, 9(1), 18-32.
- Bačak, V., Thurman, K., Eyer, K., Qureshi, R., Rivera, L. M., Bird, J. D. P., & Kim, S. A. (2018) Incarceration as a health determinant for sexual orientation and gender minority persons. *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(8), 994-999. Joined by a commentary in the same issue by Kosenko and Nelson.
- Bačak, V. & Ridgeway, G. (2018). Availability of health-related programs in private and public prisons. *Journal of Correctional Health Care*, 24(1), 62–70.
- Bačak, V. (2018). Measuring inequalities in health from survey data using self-assessed social class. *Journal of Public Health*, 40(1), 183–190.
- Bačak, V. & Ólafsdóttir, S. (2017). Gender and validity of self-rated health in nineteen European countries. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 45(6), 647-653.
- Štulhofer, A., Sinković, M., Božić, J., & Bačak, V. (2017). Victimization and HIV risk among Croatian female sex workers. *Violence Against Women*, 23(1), 67-88.
- Schnittker, J., & Bačak, V. (2016). Orange is still pink: Mental illness, gender roles, and physical victimization in prisons. *Society and Mental Health*, 6(1), 21-35.
- Bačak, V., & Wildeman, C. (2015). An empirical assessment of the “healthy prisoner hypothesis.” *Social Science & Medicine*, 138, 187-191.
- Bačak, V., & Kennedy, E. H. (2015). Marginal structural models: An application to incarceration and marriage during young adulthood. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 77(1), 112-125.
- Schnittker, J. & Bačak, V. (2014). The increasing predictive validity of self-rated health. *PloS One*, 9(1), e84933.
- Schnittker, J. & Bačak, V. (2013). A mark of disgrace or a badge of honor? Subjective status among former inmates. *Social Problems*, 60(2), 234-254.

- Bačak, V., Laušević, D., Mugoša, B., Vratnica, Z., & Terzić, N. (2013). Hepatitis C Virus infection and related risk factors among injection drug users in Montenegro. *European Addiction Research*, 19(2), 68-73.
- Ajduković, D., Štulhofer, A., & Bačak, V. (2012). Rising popularity of anal intercourse and sexual risk taking: Findings from two national probability studies of young Croatian adults. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 23(11), 785-791.
- Bačak, V., & Štulhofer, A. (2012). Condom use errors and problems in a national sample of young Croatian adults. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 41(4), 995-1003.
- Štulhofer, A., & Bačak, V. (2011). Is anal sex a marker for sexual risk-taking? Results from a population-based study of young Croatian adults. *Sexual Health*, 8(3), 384-389.
- Božić, J., Bačak, V., & Štulhofer, A. (2011). Sexual conversation networks and young adults' sexual health in a Southeast-European context. *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 20(4), 167-179.
- Štulhofer, A., Šoh, D., Jelaska, N., Bačak, V., & Landripet, I. (2011). Religiosity and sexual risk behavior among Croatian college students, 1998–2008. *Journal of Sex Research*, 48(4), 360-371.
- Bačak, V., & Štulhofer, A. (2011). Masturbation among sexually active young women in Croatia: Associations with religiosity and pornography use. *International Journal of Sexual Health*, 23(4), 248-257.
- Landripet, I., Štulhofer, A., & Bačak, V. (2011). Changes in HIV and STI-related sexual risk taking among young Croatian adults: Findings from the 2005 and 2010 population-based surveys. *Croatian Medical Journal*, 52, 453-463.
- Štulhofer, A., Bačak, V., Ajduković, D., & Graham, C. (2010). Understanding the association between condom use at first and most recent sexual intercourse. *Social Science & Medicine*, 70(12), 2080-2084.
- Štulhofer, A., Laušević, D., Božičević, I., Bačak, V., Mugoša, B., Terzić, N., & Drglin, T. (2010). HIV risks among female sex workers in Croatia and Montenegro. *Collegium Antropologicum*, 34(3), 881-886.
- Štulhofer, A., Bačak, V., Drglin, T., Puljiz, M., & Miklin, M. (2009). Female sex work and HIV risks in Croatia. *AIDS Care*, 21(11), 1439-1446.
- Štulhofer, A., Bačak, V., Božičević, I., & Begovac, J. (2008). HIV-related sexual risk taking among HIV-negative men who have sex with men in Zagreb, Croatia. *AIDS and Behavior*, 12(3), 505-512.
- Bačak, V., & Šoh, D. (2006). On the road: Croatian truck drivers, commercial sex and HIV/AIDS. *Collegium Antropologicum*, 30(2), 99-103.

book reviews

- Hedstrom, P. 2005, "Dissecting the Social: On the Principles of Analytical Sociology," Cambridge University Press. *Croatian Sociological Review*, 35(3-4):231–234, 2009.

Halkias, A. 2004, "The Empty Cradle of Democracy. Sex, Abortion, and Nationalism in Greece," Duke University Press. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 36:868–870, 2007.

other publications

Bačak, V. (2011). The spectre of internationalization in Croatian sociology. *Croatian Sociological Review*, 41(2), 239-245.

Štulhofer, A., Bačak, V., & Šuljok, A. (2010). A parochial status of Croatian sociology? *Croatian Sociological Review*, 40(1), 103-108.

Interviews with Jeffrey Alexander, Gary Fine, Erik Olin Wright, Susan Watkins, Matthew Salganik, and Samuel Friedman. Available by request.

awards

Research Council Award, Rutgers University, "The Weight of Public Service: Occupational Stress and Wellbeing among Public Defenders." PI. \$2,200.

Initiative for Multidisciplinary Research Teams (IMRT) Award, "Interdisciplinary Research Initiative on LGBTQ Inmates and Health." PI. \$157,810.

Rutgers Grant Award in Big Data Analytics, Rutgers University, "Understanding Systems and Outcomes of Indigent Defense using Big Data." Co-PI. \$40,000.

Initiative for Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences, and Business Research Teams (IHASSRT) Award, Rutgers University, "Interdisciplinary LGBTQ Health Disparities and Health Promotion Research Initiative." Co-Project Director. \$50,000.

Chancellor's Strategic Seed Grant, Rutgers University, "The Weight of Public Service: Occupational Health among Public Defenders." PI. \$60,000

Research Council Award, Rutgers University, "Using Text Mining to Analyze Reports of Officer Involved Shootings." PI. \$1,500.

teaching

Rutgers University (instructor):

Applied Machine Learning (G), 2019

Introductory Statistics (G), 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Data Analysis in Criminal Justice (UG), 2016, 2017, 2018

University of Pennsylvania (teaching assistant):

Criminal Justice Data Analytics (G), Instructor: Greg Ridgeway 2015

Drugs and Gangs (UG), Instructor: Emily Owens, 2014

Introduction to Sociology (UG), Instructor: Onoso Imoagene, 2013

Quantitative Methods II (G), Instructor: Paul Allison, 2013

Quantitative Methods I (G), Instructor: Paul Allison, 2012

Social Statistics (UG), Instructor: Hyunjoon Park, 2012

Quantitative Methods I (G), Instructor: Herbert Smith, 2011

Non-university teaching:

Workshops on research design, data collection, and data analysis for social epidemiological research among vulnerable populations.

- advising Dissertation committee: Kathleen Powell, Ntasha Bhardwaj, Christiane Schwarz, Lauren Wilson, Ashley Appleby.
 Empirical paper committee: Katherine Bright (Chair), Brandon Turchan, Alisa Matlin, Christiane Schwarz, Danielle Shields, Jo Kubik, Ntasha Bhardway, Sadaf Hashimi, Chase Montagnet, Ashley Appleby.
- presentations “The weight of public service: Occupational stress and wellbeing among public defenders.” American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, November 2018.
 “Punishment at the intersection of race, gender, and skin tone.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 2018.
 “Police contact and wellbeing across Europe: is there a core-periphery divide?.” Measures and Meanings of Crime and Justice in the Global South Conference, Rutgers University, October 2018.
 “The effect of timing of incarceration on mental health: Evidence from a natural experiment.” NYU, Department of Sociology, March 2018.
 Discussant, “Law enforcement and population processes” session. Population Association of America, Chicago, April 2017.
 “The prison red zone: Assessing the temporal risk of sexual victimization in U.S. prisons.” American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, November 2016.
 “Comparing inmate wellbeing between private and public prisons: A counterfactual analysis.” Assn. for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Albuquerque, November 2014.
 “Crime, delinquency and mental health: A marginal structural model.” American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 2014.
 “Incarceration and health in life course perspective: A semiparametric approach.” Population Association of America, Boston, April 2014.
 “Incarceration and educational attainment: A propensity score analysis.” Assn. for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington D.C., November 2013.
- training Presenting Data and Information, Instructor: Edward R. Tufte, NYC, Summer 2019
 Causal Inference in Statistical Text Analysis, Instructor: Brandon Stewart, Department of Sociology, NYU, Spring 2017
 Causal Inference with Directed Graphs, Instructor: Felix Elwert, Statistical Horizons, Philadelphia, Spring 2016
 Causal Mediation Analysis, Instructor: Kosuke Imai, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2014
 Propensity Score Methods, Instructor: Elizabeth Stuart, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2012
 Fragile Families Workshop, Social Work, Columbia University, Summer 2012

Policy Analysis Workshop, RAND Europe, Cambridge, UK, Winter 2010
 Network Analysis with Pajek, European Science Foundation, University of Ljubljana, Summer 2009
 Youth Research Summer School, Society for Research on Adolescence, University of British Columbia, Summer 2009
 Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research, University of Manchester, Summer 2008

fellowships

Fulbright U.S. Scholar award (Croatia), 2020
 Mathematica Policy Research Summer Research Fellowship, 2014
 Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 2014
 Clifford Clogg Scholarship, ICPSR Summer Program, 2013
 Benjamin Franklin/Pew Presidential Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-15
 International Fulbright Science and Technology Award, 2010
 Weidenfeld Scholarships and Leadership Programme, Oxford University, 2007
 Open Society Institute, Undergraduate Exchange Program, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 2003

service to the university

School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, member of the Research & Professional Development Committee, 2015–present.
 School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, member of the Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2015–present.

service to the profession

Chair, Methods Workshop Committee, American Society of Criminology, 2018-19
 Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring, Section on Law and Deviance, American Sociological Association, 2019
 Member, Methods Workshop Committee, American Society of Criminology, 2017-18
 Organizer of an interdisciplinary conference: “LGBTQ Health & Resilience: Promoting LGBTQ Health in Schools, Prisons, and the Military,” Rutgers University, 2019.
 Member, Editorial Board, Croatian Sociological Review 2009-2013; 2015-present
 Editor, SANscript, Newsletter of the Sociologists AIDS Networks, 2011-14
 Co-founder & vice-president, European Sociology Students’ Association, 2003-4; 2005-6

peer review

American Sociological Review; American Journal of Public Health; Aggressive Behavior; Archives of Sexual Behavior; AIDS Care; BMC Public Health; BMC Women’s Health; British Medical Journal (Open); Criminology; Crime & Delinquency; Demography; European Sociological Review; European Journal of Criminology; Ethnicity and Health; Health Affairs; International Criminal Justice Review; International Journal of Comparative Sociology; International Journal of Sexual Health; International Journal for Equity in Health; Journal

of Computational Social Science; Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health; Journal of Experimental Criminology; Journal of Health and Social Behavior; Journal of Quantitative Criminology; Journal of Public Health; Journal of Research on Adolescence; Journal of Sex Research; Journal of Youth Studies; Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency; Justice Quarterly; Journal of Correctional Health Care; Journal of Epidemiology and Global Health; Psychology, Health, & Medicine; Kriminologie; PeerJ; Public Opinion Quarterly; Social Problems; Social Science & Medicine; SSM-Population Health; Social Indicators Research; Scandinavian Journal of Public Health; Sexuality and Culture; Society and Mental Health; Sociology Compass; Social Currents; Social Forces; Sociological Methods & Research; Youth & Society.

Cambridge University Press; Princeton University Press; SAGE.

references Professor Jason Schnittker, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
Professor Paul Allison, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
Professor Robert Apel, School of Criminal Justice, Rutgers University
Professor Shadd Maruna, School of Law, University of Manchester
Professor Christopher Wildeman, Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
Professor Aleksandar Štulhofer, Department of Sociology, University of Zagreb