

## BONNIE ERNST

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023- Present      Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice,  
Indiana University Bloomington
- 2019 – 2022      Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law,  
Affiliate Faculty, Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies,  
University of Florida
- 2018 – 2019      Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Criminal Justice,  
Indiana University Bloomington

### EDUCATION

- 2018    Ph.D. in American History, Northwestern University  
Dissertation: “Women in the Age of Mass Incarceration: Punishment, Rights, and  
Resistance in Michigan,” Committee: Michael Sherry (Chair), Martha Biondi, Kevin Boyle
- 2010    M.Sc. in Criminology and Criminal Justice, New College, University of Oxford  
Coursework completed 2010, Degree conferred *in absentia* 2013
- 2007    A.B. in American History with Honors, The University of Chicago

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

United States History, African American History, History of Women and Gender, Criminal Justice,  
Oral History, History of Science and Technology

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOK

*Challenging Confinement: Mass Incarceration and the Fight for Equality in Michigan’s Prisons for Women*  
(New York University Press, Forthcoming October 2023)

#### PEER-REVIEW ARTICLES

“The Influence of the Women’s Movement Cannot Stop at the Prison Door”: The Prisoners’ Rights  
Movement in Michigan Correctional Facilities for Women, *The Michigan Historical Review*,  
vol. 47, no. 2 (Fall 2021): 61-88.

“Between Justice and Total Depravity”: The Criminalization of Black Women and Growth of the  
Carceral State in Detroit, 1870-1900 (In progress)

“Black Freedom and the Franchise: Voter Suppression in the Sunshine State,”  
Co-author Unna Yared (In progress)

### AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2022      Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,  
University of Florida (\$12,000)
- 2021      Rothman Summer Faculty Fellowship, Center for the Humanities and the Public  
Sphere, University of Florida (\$2,100)

- 2017-2018 T.H. Breen Dissertation Fellowship, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University
- 2017-2018 Graduate Writing Fellow, Northwestern University Writing Program
- Summer 2017 Sam Fishman Travel Award, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University
- 2016-2017 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, History Department, Northwestern University
- Summer 2016 Chabreja Center for Historical Studies Summer Fellow, Northwestern University and the Evanston History Center
- 2015 –2018 Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies, Northwestern University
- 2014-2015 Graduate Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2011- 2016 University Fellowship, The Graduate School, Northwestern University
- 2011-2013 Science in Human Culture Cluster Fellow, Northwestern University
- 2009-2010 Graduate Tuition Fellowship, The Centre for Criminology, University of Oxford
- Fall 2006 Arthur Mann Research Grant, History Department, The University of Chicago
- Summer 2006 Human Rights Fellowship, Human Rights Program, The University of Chicago

### **PROFESSIONAL TALKS**

- April 2023 Prison Reform Speaker Event, Alternative Break at Indiana University, Panel Discussion, Bloomington, IN
- November 2022 “The Criminalization of Black Women and the Carceral State in Detroit, 1870-1900,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- October 2022 “From Civil Rights to Human Rights,” Faculty Workshop, Department of Sociology and Criminology and Law, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
- September 2022 “Challenging Confinement: Mass Incarceration and Women’s Liberation in American Prisons,” Crime, Justice, and the Human Condition, Howard League for Penal Reform and Keble College, Oxford University, Oxford, England
- March 2022 “Mass Incarceration,” National Lawyers Guild Chapter, University of Florida Law School, Gainesville, FL, Online Panel Discussion
- March 2022 “Prison Activism Among Incarcerated Women in Michigan, 1979-1999,” Center for Law, Society and Culture, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, IN
- February 2022 “The Application of Title IX in the Prison System,” Center for Equity Education, Ann Arbor, MI, Online Speaker Series
- November 2021 “Reconsidering Decarceration and Social Justice in Women’s Prisons,” American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- November 2021 “Challenging Confinement: Feminist Activism and Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Women in Detroit,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Online Panel
- November 2021 “We Were All Feminists,” Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, University of Florida, Online Presentation

- September 2021 “Black Freedom and the Franchise,” Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Online Conference
- May 2021 “Feminism Confined: Rethinking Equality and Prisoners’ Rights,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Online Panel
- February 2021 “Black Freedom and the Franchise: Voter Suppression in the Sunshine State, 1920-2020,” Florida Conference of Historians, Online Conference
- February 2020 “Who is this girl and what is she to you?”: The Influence of the Women’s Movement in Criminal Justice Reform, Florida Conference of Historians, Lake City, FL
- November 2019 “Rethinking Feminism and Prisoners’ Rights,” The (re)Making of a Movement: New Perspectives on the 1960s Counterculture, Humber College and the Toronto International Festival of Authors, Toronto, Ontario
- March 2019 “From Claims of Gender Equality to Gendered Claims: Women in Michigan Prisons, 1979-2000,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario
- November 2018 “Making the Prisoners’ Rights Movement for Women,” Midwest Law and Society Retreat, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- October 2018 “Prisons and Profit,” Symposium for Indiana University Kelley School of Business Bloomington, IN
- April 2018 “The Women’s Movement Goes to Prison,” Resistance in History Graduate Student Conference (Convener), Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- November 2017 “Historical and Comparative Perspectives on Mass Incarceration,” Guest Lecture, Stateville Correctional Center, Crest Hill, IL
- July 2017 “Women in the Age of Mass Incarceration: Gender, Rights, and Punishment in Michigan,” Walter P. Reuther Library Brown Bag Lunch Series, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- June 2017 “From Mass Action to Class Actions: Prison Protest and Litigation in Michigan, 1973-2003,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico
- May 2017 “Resisting the Carceral State: Examining the Women’s Liberation Movement in Prison,” Punishment and Its Discontents Graduate Student Conference, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- November 2016 “Collective Action in the Valley: How Women Fought for Their Rights in Michigan Prisons,” Midwest Law and Society Retreat, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

October 2016 “Gender Equality and the Work of Reforming Prisons: Fighting Mass Incarceration in Detroit, Michigan,” Urban History Association Biennial Meeting, Chicago, IL

February 2016 “Mass Incarceration: Historical Explanations and Goals,” Guest Lecture, *Mass Incarceration*, Stateville Correctional Center, Crest Hill, IL

May 2015 “Female Inmates in the Age of Mass Incarceration: Gender, Rights, and Punishment in Michigan,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### Indiana University

Mass Incarceration

Legacies of Slavery in Criminal Justice

Introduction to Criminal Justice

Science, Technology, and the Law

Regulating Immigration and Crime

### University of Florida

Advanced Principles of Criminal Justice

Criminalization of Immigration

Mass Incarceration

Criminal Justice Process, Graduate Seminar

### Northwestern University

Philosophy Seminar: Power, Cook County Jail, Northwestern Prison Education Program

Crime and Punishment in American History, Northwestern School of Professional Studies

Incarceration in American History, History Department

## **DISSERTATION COMMITTEES**

### In Progress

Cari Beth Head, University of Florida

## **DIGITAL HUMANITIES AND PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE**

Digital Archivist, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL,

December 2015 to July 2018. Constructed a digital archive on the nation’s first major housing desegregation lawsuit, *Gautreaux et al. v. Chicago Housing Authority*.

Summer Fellow, Chabraja Center for Historical Studies at Northwestern University and the Evanston History Center, Evanston, IL, June 2016 to September 2016. Scanned images from microfilm, edited digital files, and prepared archive of Evanston historical newspapers, from 1872 to 1922, for storage on HathiTrust Digital Library. Collaborative project with librarians and archivists at the Evanston History Center and the Northwestern University Library.

## **RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Researcher, Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, New York, NY,

July 2010 to July 2011. Conducted research and advocacy work for state and national campaigns to restore voting rights for people disenfranchised after criminal convictions.

Research Assistant for Professor Mary Bosworth, Centre for Criminology at the University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, April 2010 to June 2010. Conducted interviews of detainees in Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre. Used a survey to gather information about the quality of life and case status of individuals in the detention center.

Paralegal, Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL, June 2007 to June 2009.  
Met with inmates requesting legal assistance. Investigated mitigating circumstances for clients on death row and for children sentenced to life without parole. Conducted research for reports and developed curriculums for public schools and on race, poverty, and jury selection practices in the South.

Research Assistant, MacArthur Foundation and Sin Fronteras, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2006 to August 2006. Translated and compiled 90 interview transcripts of women detained in the Mexico City Migration Detention Center.

### **MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS**

*Justice Quarterly*

Routledge, Criminal Justice and Criminology

### **SERVICE**

Indiana University

Graduate Committee, 2023-Present

American Society of Criminology

ASC Division of Historical Criminology, Historian (elected board member)

University of Florida

Graduate Committee, Criminology & Law Program, 2020-2022

Criminal Justice Area Exam Committee, 2020-2022

Faculty Advisor, Students Against Mass Incarceration at UF, 2021-2022

Department By-laws Committee, 2022

Northwestern University

Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Northwestern Prison Education Program, 2017-2018

### **PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

American Society of Criminology, American Historical Association, Law and Society Association, Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Urban History Association

### **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Spanish (high proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking)