

# Sierra L. Nelson

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## **EDUCATION:**

**Mississippi State University** 2021- 2024

*Pursuing Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology*

*Concentration: Criminology*

**Mississippi State University** 2020

*Master of Science in Sociology*

*Concentration: Criminology*

**Delta State University** 2014

*Bachelor of Science in Social Justice and Criminology*

*Minor: Psychology*

*Minor: Geospatial Information Technology (Certificate Program)*

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

- Utilizing open source intelligence and open source data to examine online extremism, online radicalization, and the spread of online propaganda
- Examining social media sentiments surrounding highly publicized events—including those pertaining to mass violence
- School safety and school bullying
- Spatial variations in suicide and homicide
- Policy analysis and creating scalable research that can result in both impactful and sustainable social change.

## **RESEARCH & SOFTWARE SKILLS**

- Mixed Methods Analyses
- Report Writing
- Policy Analysis
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Peer-Reviewed Manuscript Development
- IBM SPSS
- MAXQDA
- STATA
- NVivo
- Python (working knowledge)
- Tableau (working knowledge)

**PEER-REVIEWED MANUSCRIPT AND REPORTS*****Published Manuscripts:***

2021 Utley, J., Sinclair, H.C., **Nelson, S.**, Ellithorpe, C., and Stubbs-Richardson, M. “Behavioral and psychological consequences of social identity-based aggressive victimization in high school youth.” *Self and Identity*. DOI: [10.1080/15298868.2021.1920049](https://doi.org/10.1080/15298868.2021.1920049)

2020 Stubbs-Richardson, M., Hubert, J., **Nelson, S.**, Reid, A., Johnson, T., Young, G., and Hopkins, A. “Not Your Typical Social Media Influencer: Exploring the Who, What, and Where of Islamic State Online Propaganda.” *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4772656>

***Published Reports:***

Research and Learning of the McGovern Dole School Meals Program in Africa, funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) (2022)

**Nelson, S.**, Reid, A., Stubbs-Richardson, M., & May, D. (2020). UAS Technology in the Former Eastern Bloc Study: Using Open Source Intelligence to Identify and Locate UAS Technologies. (Report)

Gardner, S. & **Nelson, S. L.** (2019). Fannie Lou Hamer’s America: Evaluation Report. W.K. Kellogg Foundation. (Program Evaluation Report)

Gardner, S. & **Nelson, S. L.** (2018). Division of Youth Services 2018 Annual Report. Mississippi Department of Human Services. (Report)

**Nelson, S. L.** & Stubbs-Richardson, M. (2018). Incarceration of illegal immigrants. Entry in *American Prisons and Jails: An Encyclopedia of Controversies and Trends*. (Eds.) Worley, V. & Worley, R. (Encyclopedia Entry)

***Manuscripts in Progress:***

2023 May, D. C., **Nelson, S.**, Johnson, T., Sinclair, C., Stubbs-Richardson, M., and Reid, A. “Counting the Number of School Shootings that Don’t Happen Using Open Source Intelligence Analysis”.

2023 **Nelson, S.**, Stubbs-Richardson, M., and May, D. C. “A Test of General Strain Theory: Which types of bullying result in the highest risk for self-harm related behavior among youth?”

2023 **Nelson, S. L.**, & Stubbs-Richardson, M. “Tweeting Place”: An Analysis of Tweets on the Detainment of Immigrants”.

**RESEARCH TRAINING:**

***Research Training:***

Arkansas Summer Research Institute DART program completion (June 2022)

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

**Social Science Research Center** 2023 (Present)  
**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Research Associate I for the National Institute of Justice funded “Research on Juvenile Court Intake Practices and Reoffending” grant*

- Managed and processed intake and court data
- Performed data coding and data analysis
- Evaluated and provided input on research instruments
- Assisted in writing official reports

**Social Science Research Center** 2023 (Present)  
**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Research Associate I providing evaluation services for Mississippi Department of Mental Health’s “Mississippi’s Emergency Response to COVID-19 (MERC-19)” program*

- Managed and processed MERC-19 data
- Performed data coding and data analyses
- Assisted in writing official reports and creating data visualizations for the Mississippi Department of Mental Health

**High Performance Computing Center (HPC2)** 2023 (Present)  
**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Research Associate I for the Mississippi State University Open Source Intelligence Laboratory (MOSES)*

- Assists with all aspects of project research and development
- Performed data collection and analysis
- Presented research at academic conferences and to military stakeholders
- Wrote, edited, and published scholarly articles using grant data

**Social Science Research Center** 2022  
**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Graduate Research Assistant for the USDA/USAID Funded “Research and Learning from the McGovern-Dole Food for Education Programs in Africa” grant*

- Assisted with all aspects of research on the USDA/USAID grant
- Developed, collected, and processed consent forms
- Performed qualitative interviews
- Performed policy analysis of school meal policies
- Managed project SSRC student research assistants
- Evaluated and provided input on research instruments
- Performed data collection
- Performed data coding and data analysis

- Assisted in writing official reports

**Closing the School to Prison Pipeline Grant** 2019

**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. David May*

- Assisted with the preparation of reports, tables, and documents utilizing collected data
- Collected and processed survey and focus group interview data

**Social Science Research Center** 2019

**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Graduate Research Assistant for The Evaluation & Research Group*

- Prepared statistical tables for the 2018 Division of Youth Services (DYS) Report project
- Assisted with the assembly of the 2018 DYS Report
- Assisted with program evaluation for a program funded by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

**Social Science Research Center** 2018

**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Graduate Research Assistant for the National Institute of Justice funded "School Safety Project" grant*

- Managed multiple aspects of research on School Safety Project" grant
- Collected and processed consent forms from grant participants
- Managed social media outreach (Facebook) for the grant funded SSRC's Social Relations Lab
- Assessed and provided input on research instruments
- Assisted in data collection and data processing
- Published peer-reviewed manuscripts using grant data

**Teaching Experience** 2015

**(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS**

*Graduate Teaching Assistant for the MSU Department of Sociology*

- Graded undergraduate student coursework
- Proctored undergraduate student tests and final exams
- Provided feedback on student assignments and final projects to students

**Classes**

- **Sociology of Sports, Fall 2014**
- **Sociology of Gender, Spring 2015**
- **Social Research Practice, Spring 2015**
- **Introduction to Social Research, Fall 2015**
- **Marriage & Family, Fall 2015**

**Delta State Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies** 2014  
**(Delta State University) Cleveland, MS**

*Project Manager and Geospatial Information Technologies Tech*

- Utilized aerial imagery to analyze land loss/land gain attributed to Hurricane Katrina, other natural occurrences, and human disturbance
- Developed maps of Louisiana coastal wetlands that exposed land loss and land gain for the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- Organized and coordinated students employed on the Wetlands project
- Prepared Wetlands project reports for USGS officials
- Assisted with the creation of maps used by MEMA emergency officials during hurricane relief
- Created address maps to aid Bolivar county's 911 emergency department in increasing emergency response

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

**Nelson, Sierra**, May, David, Izzy Pellegrine, and Reid, Audrey. "Counting the Number of School Shootings that Are Averted Using Open Source Intelligence Analysis." Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Conference. Daytona Beach, FL. September 2021.

Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, Gilbreath, Shelby, Hopkins, Alicia, Smith, Dylan, Hubbert, Jessica B, **Nelson, Sierra** and Reid, Audrey. "It's a Global #MeToo: A Cross-National Comparison of Public Figures Exposed in the Movement." The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference. Atlanta, GA. February 2020.

Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, Barranco, Raymond E., Brink, Jessica N., **Nelson, Sierra L.**, Johnson, Taylor, Reid, Audrey, Stokes, Ethan and May, David C. "Not Your Typical Social Media Influencer: Exploring the Who, What, and Where of Islamic State Online Propaganda." Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference. Nashville, TN. September 2019.

May, David, Wells, Makeela, **Nelson, Sierra**, Stubbs-Richardson, Cresswell, Maggie, and Stubbs-Richardson, Megan. "The Impact of a Caring Adult on Fear and Avoidance Behaviors at School." Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference. Starkville, MS. February 2019.

Xue, Yuanjiaozi, **Nelson, Sierra**, May, David, Sinclair, H. Colleen, and Stubbs-Richardson, Megan. "Examining Racial Differences in Cyberbullying among Youth." Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference. Starkville, MS. February 2019.

Shumate, Cory, **Nelson, Sierra**, Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, Utley Weiss, Jessica, and Ellithorpe Chelsea. "Identifiable Impact: Consequences of Identity-Based Bullying in High School." Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference. Starkville, MS. February 2019.

- Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, **Nelson, Sierra**, Harris, Colleen, and Haynes, Stacy. "A Spatial Analysis of Rape Culture News Events on Twitter." Sociologists for Women in Society Conference. Atlanta, GA. January 2018.
- Nelson, Sierra**, Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, Sinclair, Colleen and Goldberg, Rebecca M. "The Frenemy Online is Still a Friend Offline: Examining Responses to Relation Aggression in Cyber Contexts." Poster Presentation. Society for Personality and Social Psychology Conference. Atlanta, GA. March 2018.
- Nelson, S.**, Stubbs-Richardson, M., Cresswell, M., and May, D. C. "A Test of General Strain Theory: Which types of bullying result in the highest risk for self-harm related behavior among youth?" Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference. Pensacola, Florida. September 2018.
- Nelson, Sierra** and May, David C. "The Impact of Mentoring At-Risk Youths on College Students' Perceptions of Self-Efficacy." Mid-South Sociological Association Conference. Birmingham, Alabama. October 2018.
- Megan Stubbs-Richardson, David C. May, **Sierra Nelson**, and Maggie Cresswell. "Bullying, Powerless, and Fear: Examining Responses to Bullying through the Lens of the Shadow of Powerlessness." Mid-South Sociological Association Conference. Birmingham, Alabama. October 2018.
- Nelson, Sierra**, Sinclair, Colleen, Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, May, David, Goldberg, Rebecca and McCleon, Tawny. "Us Against the World": An Overview of groups and bullying using findings from the Reasons for Retaliation Project. Mid-south Sociological Association Conference. Chattanooga, TN. 2017
- Trinh, Maria and **Nelson, Sierra**. "Exploratory Study on How U.S. Counties' Rape Rates Vary by Demographics." Southern Sociological Conference. Atlanta, GA. 2016.
- Nelson, Sierra** and Stubbs-Richardson, Megan. "Tweeting Politics: An Analysis of Tweets on the Incarceration of Immigrants." Big Data Seminar for the Social and Policy Sciences: Seminar on Immigration. Split, Croatia. 2016
- Trinh, Maria and **Nelson, Sierra**. "Exploratory Study of Rape Rates in the United States." Southern Sociological Society Conference. New Orleans, LA. 2015.
- May, David and **Nelson, Sierra**. "Examining the Effectiveness of Mentoring At-risk Youths by College Students." Southern Criminal Justice Association Conference. Charleston, SC. 2015.
- Nelson, Sierra**. "Melting the Iron Curtain while standing on the bricks of a fallen wall." Mississippi Political Science Association Conference. Cleveland, MS. 2012.

**INVITED TALKS:**

**Nelson, Sierra, and David C. May. [Classified Presentation]. Presented to Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. (Upcoming).**

**Rico Mendez, Gina, Nelson, Sierra, and Robert Kolbila. “Research and Learning of the McGovern Dole School Meals Program in Africa: Partnerships.” Presented at USDS Whitten Building in Washington, DC. May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Nelson, Sierra, and David C. May. [Classified Presentation]. Presented at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Megan Stubbs-Richardson and Sierra L. Nelson. “Bulldogs Against Sexual Violence.” Presented at Magnolia Hall dorm at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Mississippi. March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Stubbs-Richardson, Megan, and Sierra L. Nelson. “Bully Stoppers: An Overview of Types of Bullying and How to Take Action in Your Community.” Presented at the Bully Stoppers Action Summit in Starkville, Mississippi. September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**SOCIAL MEDIA RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS:**

2018 “Cyberbullying.” An animated vlog funded by the National Institute of Justice School Safety Initiative. School Safety YouTube Channel, Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3LIpp9Mbzc>

2017 “In Crowds Vs. Out-Crowds Part 2: Year 1 Findings on Perceived Groupness.” A vlog funded by the National Institute of Justice School Safety Initiative. School Safety YouTube Channel, Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiDpz8iF3WY>

2016 “In-Crowds Vs. Out-Crowds Part 1: Defining Groupness” A vlog funded by the National Institute of Justice School Safety Initiative. School Safety YouTube Channel, Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnUlnIdTT8A>

2016 “School Safety – Year One Results.” A vlog funded by the National Institute of Justice School Safety Initiative. School Safety YouTube Channel, Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG8WDSj53rk>

2016 “When does rejection trigger aggression? A vlog funded by the National Institute of Justice School Safety Initiative. School Safety YouTube Channel, Web link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZH2Ycr5ZDk>

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEERING:**

***AKD (Alpha Kappa Delta)*** 2022

***(Mississippi State University) Starkville, MS***

*Member*

- Helped with planning and volunteering opportunities
- Aided with fundraising opportunities
- Assisted with organizational planning and chapter direction

***Noxubee County Community Work Center*** 2021

***Macon, MS***

*Graduate Student “Thinking For A Change” Program Volunteer*

- Presented workshop presentation meant to teach work, finance, and social skills for incarcerated individuals
- Prepared and formatted resumes for soon to be released incarcerated individuals
- Mentored work center detainees to ensure proper work and social skill building for post-release life

***Delta Center for Culture and Learning*** 2012

***(Delta State University) Cleveland, MS***

*Reading Volunteer*

- Assisted with the processing of paperwork for student summer workshops
- Prepared a portfolio of Delta Center media releases
- Managed consumer activity in the Delta Center’s visitor center
- Facilitated the sale of Delta Center paraphernalia
- Expedited communications from outside sources to management staff



**REFERENCES:**

Dr. Sheena Gardner  
Assistant Research Professor  
Social Science Research Center  
Mississippi State University  
1 Research Blvd, Suite 103  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
662-325-1738; sheena.gardner@ssrc.msstate.edu

Dr. Gina Rico Mendez  
Assistant Research Professor  
Social Science Research Center  
Mississippi State University  
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Mississippi State, MS 39762  
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Dr. Megan Stubbs-Richardson  
Assistant Research Professor  
Mississippi State University  
Social Science Research Center  
1 Research Blvd. Ste. 103  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
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Dr. David May (Major Professor)  
Professor and Social Science Research Center Fellow  
Department of Sociology  
Mississippi State University  
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Dr. Angela Robertson  
Associate Director and Research Professor  
Social Science Research Center  
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