

Susana Avalos, ABD

Doctoral Candidate
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Criminology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University Dissertation: <i>Exploring safety, place, and space in the lives of transgender individuals.</i> (Committee: Dr. Vanessa Panfil, Dr. Amanda Petersen, Dr. Brandi Woodell, Dr. Valerie Jenness)	Expected: May 2025
M.A.S.	Criminology, Law and Society, University of California Irvine	06/2021
B.A.	Criminal Justice, Minor: Psychology, California State University Bakersfield	05/2019
A.S.	Administration of Justice, Bakersfield College	05/2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

LGBTQ+ Populations; Queer Victimology; Queer Criminology; Place & Space; Public Policy; Gender and Crime; Social Inequality; Police & Queer Identities; Cultural Criminology

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Reed, S. M., Kibler, M. & **Avalos, S.** (2024). "...It's just the barriers that can be so vast and different": Domestic violence advocates' perceived barriers for service across survivor subpopulations. *Crime & Delinquency*. (online).

Avalos, S., Jackey, H., & Wickel, I. (2024) 404 page not found: A mixed-method analysis of the news media framing of gender non-conforming victims of homicide in the U.S. from 2012-2022. *Critical Criminology*. (online)

Avalos, S. & Carrillo, A. (2024) "Took my money, called me a guy and made me sleep in jail overnight" Police procedural failings identifying and interacting with trans folk. *Policing & Society*. (online).

Avalos, S. (2023). A comparative content analysis of the media framing of trans homicide between trans men and trans women in the United States from 2016-2022. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. (online).

Avalos, S., DeJong, C., & Wood, H. (2023). “La loca” y “La Victima”: An analysis of penalizing gender non-conformity after death. *Homicide Studies*. (online)

Avalos, S. The Trans Experience with the Criminal Justice System. (2022). (Eds.) Maria Joao Lobo Antunes & Sarah E. Daly. *Crime & Delinquency, Special Issue on Intersections of Gender, Race, and Criminal Justice*, 1-11.

Avalos, S., Kibler, M., & Monk Turner, L. (2022). Out of the closet and onto the Olympic floor: A qualitative look at social media user’s perceptions of transgender Olympic athletes. *Gender Issues*, 1-18.

IN PROGRESS

Avalos, S., Mills, J. & Knapp, K. Unyielding resistance: A qualitative look at LGBTQ resistance at the height of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States. (submitted).

Avalos, S., & Panfil, V. R. “You don’t need violence to fight violence”: Trans people’s use of online forums to protect themselves from transphobic violence (In progress, draft complete)

Avalos, S. Resident confusion about Critical Race Theory in public schools: An analysis of the Life in Hampton Roads Survey, Op-Ed. (In progress)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Avalos, S. “Is my fear of transphobia just a little out of control?”: A qualitative exploration of the use of online forums by trans persons for support. In R. Graham, S. G. Humer, C. Seungeun Lee, & V. Nagy (Eds). *Routledge International Handbook of Online Deviance*. (Forthcoming, August 2024).

Avalos, S. Transgressions of the U.S. prison system: The mistreatment of incarcerated transgender persons. (Edited Book). *The Division on Corrections and Sentencing Handbook Series: Contemporary Issues in Health and Punishment*. (Forthcoming).

Avalos, S. “It is us who are the divine ones. We are the gods who are trapped in cocoons”: A critical analysis of GET OUT. (Edited Book). *Criminological Understandings of Horror Films: Reel Fear* by Walter DeKeseredy, Krista Gebring, Emily Lenning, & Stacie Merken. (Forthcoming).

Avalos, S., & Boppre, B. (2023). Queer Invisibility: LGBTQ+ Victimization in Carceral Settings. In S. Kelley, S. Clevenger, & K. Ratajczak, (Eds.) *Queer Victimology*, pp. 149-157. Routledge.

BOOK REVIEWS

Avalos, S. T. Linneman: The Horror of Police. (2023). *Critical Criminology*, 1-2.

Avalos, S. Adam M. Messinger & Xavier L. Guadalupe-Diaz. (2020). *Transgender Intimate Partner Violence: A Comprehensive Introduction*. *Journal of Criminal Justice Review*, 1-2.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

05/2022 – Present	Instructor (part-time) , Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University.
08/2021 – Present	Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant (part-time) , Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University.
02/2024 – 04/2024	Qualitative Peer Researcher (temporary contract) , Gambling Research Policy Initiative, East Carolina University
06/2022 – 06/2022	Telephone Interviewer (part-time, temporary) , Old Dominion University Research Foundation, Social Science Research Center
05/2022 – 06/2022	Qualitative Data Analyst (temporary contract) , Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, Old Dominion University
09/2020 – 06/2021	Social Ecology Graduate Ambassador (selected by faculty to volunteer) , School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine
01/2019 – 05/2022	Instructional Student Assistant (part-time) , Department of Criminal Justice, California State University Bakersfield

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Ruth D. Peterson Fellow for Racial and Ethnic Diversity, American Society of Criminology, 2024.
- Excellence in Research, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University, 2024.
- Doctoral Summit Fellowship, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. March 19-22, 2024.
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant – Classroom Instructor, Old Dominion University, 2024.
- Certificate of Commendation, Academic Success Center, Old Dominion University, 2024
- Honorable Mention Award, ASC Division on Queer Criminology Student Paper Award, 2022.
- Stephen M. Rosoff Distinguished Research Award, University of California, Irvine, 2021.
- Academic Excellence Award, University of California, Irvine, 2021
- Student Leadership Award, University of California, Irvine, 2021
- Golden Key International Honour Society, University of California, Irvine, 2020-present.
- Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society, California State University, Bakersfield, 2019 - present.
- Dean's list, California State University, Bakersfield, 2017-2019.

FUNDED AWARDS

- Ruth D. Peterson Fellowship, American Society of Criminology, 2024, \$8,000.

- Graduate Summer Award Program, The Graduate School, Old Dominion University, 2024. \$3,000.
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant – Classroom Instructor, Old Dominion University, 2024. \$1,000.
- Doctoral Student Research Assistance Award, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, Old Dominion University, 2024, \$750.
- Seigel Fellowship, Honorable Mention Award, ASC Division on Feminist Criminology, 2023, \$500.
- MAS Diversity Scholarship, University of California, Irvine, 2021, \$5,000.
- Dr. Robert W. & Jean L. Sheldon endowed scholarship, California State University, Bakersfield, 2018-2019, \$1,941.
- President Matching Scholarship, California State University, Bakersfield, 2018-2019, \$455.

COMMENTARY

Avalos, S. (2021). #SayHerName: Out of the darkness and into the light. *ASC Division on Women and Crime Black Lives Matter Special Edition Newsletter* (p. 7-10).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Avalos, S. Making space: An Exploration of Transgender People’s Spatial Experiences. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA, November 13-16, 2024. (Accepted).

Avalos, S., & Boppre, B. Queer Invisibility: LGBTQ+ Victimization in Carceral Settings. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA, November 13-16, 2024. (Accepted).

Osborn., M., Warren, J., **Avalos, S.,** Walker, A., Frederick, B. Queer Methods and Research Designs. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA, November 13-16, 2024 (Accepted).

Jackson., B., **Avalos, S.,** & Yu-Heng Chen, S. Incarceration and Mental Health of Incarcerated LGBTQ Populations. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA, November 13-16, 2024 (Accepted).

Avalos, S., Jackey, H., Wickel, I. A Mixed Method Analysis of the News Media Framing of Gender Non-conforming Victims of Homicide in the U.S. from 2012-2022. GSGA Annual Research Conference, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, April 5, 2024.

Avalos, S. (Chair), Paige, B., Haakmat, N., & Ovalle, B. Intersections of injustice: Understanding the criminal legal experiences of LGBTQ women of color. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, IL, March 19-23, 2024. Abstract accepted. *Canceled.*

Avalos, S. Are we seeing transitions in the media?: The news media framing of trans homicides. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 15-18, 2023.

Yu-Heng Chen (chair), **Avalos, S. (co-chair)**, Cooper, E. & Jackson-Green, B. Creating safe communities for incarcerated LGBTQ individuals in correctional facilities. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 15-18, 2023.

Petersen, A. (chair), Howard, N., **Avalos, S.**, & Askew, Q. What CRT taught me: Pedagogy edition. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 15-18, 2023.

Kibler, M., **Avalos, S.** & Reed, S. “Barriers Can Be So Different”: Domestic Violence Advocates’ Perceived Barriers for Service Across Survivor Populations. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Harbor, Maryland, March 14-18, 2023.

Avalos, S. ‘Trans’formations: How online spaces cultivate hope and resilience among trans people. Innovations in Queer Criminological Research, American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 16-19, 2022.

Avalos, S., & Carrillo, A. “Took my money and called me guy” Police procedural failings interacting with trans folx. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 16-19, 2022.

Avalos, S., DeJong, C., & Wood H. “La Loca” y “La Victima”: Framing Gender Nonconformity in Homicide Victims. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 16-19, 2022.

Sherrick, A. (chair), **Avalos, S.**, & Flonney, S. Navigating the grad experience as a Queer person. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 16-19, 2022.

Avalos, S., Kibler, M., & Monk-Turner, E. Social media platforms and hetero-cis-normative biases: How online attitudes shape transgender rights and protections. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA, November 16-19, 2022.

Kibler, M., Askew, L., Vonderhaar, R., **Avalos, S.**, & Haakmat, N. Perceptions of homelessness, mental illness, and attitudes towards the police: An analysis of citizen perceptions across Hampton Roads. Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, April 11-12, 2022.

Avalos, S. (chair), Askew, L., & Haakmat, N. The revolving door of victimization: The failure of reentry policies for LGBTQ+ people. Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA, April 11-12, 2022.

Boppre, B. & **Avalos, S.** An Exploration on Inclusive Practices for LGBTQ+ Clients in Correctional Facilities. The Association of Justice-Involved Females and Organizations, Virtual Conference. Co-facilitator. (October) 2021. *Cancelled*.

INVITED TALKS

Avalos, S. 2021. “Forum on Anti-Racism & Intersectionality in Feminist Criminology (& Academia)”. Invited Panelist. American Society of Criminology Division on Women and Crime, American University Antiracist Research & Policy Center, American University School of Public Affairs, Virtual.

Avalos, S. 2021. “Bullying in Academia”. Invited Panelist. American Society of Criminology Division of Victimology, Virtual.

Avalos, S. 2021. “Introduction to Queer Criminology.” Teaching demonstration for Graduate Teaching Assistant Instructors’ Institute. Old Dominion University.

Avalos, S. 2021. “The Criminal (In)Justice System: The Trans Experience.” Teaching demonstration for Social Ecology Digital Teaching Certificate. Virtual. University of California, Irvine.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Summer 2025	LGBTQ People, Crime & Justice (scheduled, online)
Spring 2025	Introduction to Criminology (scheduled)
Fall 2024	Introduction to Criminology (in-person, impact learning community)
Summer 2024	LGBTQ People, Crime & Justice (online)
Spring 2024	Graduate Teaching Assistant (Sexualities); Digital Artist – Sociology and Criminal Justice Career Fair
Fall 2023	Introduction to Criminology (in-person, impact learning community)
Summer 2023	LGBTQ People, Crime and Justice (online)
Fall 2022	Introduction to Criminology (in-person, impact learning community ¹)
Summer 2022	Introduction to Criminology (online)
Spring 2022	Graduate Teaching Assistant (Sexualities)
Fall 2021	Graduate Teaching Assistant (Sexualities; Diversity & Society) Research Assistant (transgender asylum seekers)

¹ These courses aid undergraduate students in the transition to college by allowing them to create an instant community with their peers. Students build deeper connections with faculty, participate in enrichment activities, and are supported by a peer mentor. See here: <https://www.odu.edu/asis/learningcommunities>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY

Social Ecology Digital Teaching Certificate, University of California, Irvine, 2021.

RESEARCH

Focus Groups/Qualitative Interviewing, Social Science Research Center, Old Dominion University. Workshop. 2023.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Webinar: Analyzing data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. Workshop. 2021.

MENTORSHIP

Mentor, ASC Division on Queer Criminology, Mentoring Program, 2023-2024.

Mentee, ASC Division on Convict Criminology, Mentoring Program, 2023-2024.

Mentee, ASC Division on Queer Criminology, Mentoring Program, 2022-2023.

Mentee, ASC Division of Feminist Criminology, Mentoring Program, 2021-2022.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

TO PROFESSION

Student Executive Counsel, Division on Queer Criminology, 2024-2025.

Social Media Committee Chair, Division on Queer Criminology, 2024-2025.

Mentoring Committee Member, Division on Queer Criminology, 2023-2024.

Co-Chair of the Mentoring Committee, Division on Queer Criminology, 2021-2022.

Social Media Committee Member, Division on Feminist Criminology, 2021-2023.

TO UNIVERSITY

American Association of University Professors, Member, 2022-2023, 2023-2024.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member, 1ODU, Old Dominion University, 2021-2022.

Social Ecology Graduate Ambassador, University of California, Irvine, 2020-2021.

STUDENT COMMITTEES

As(t*)erisk Student Board Member, LGBTQIA+ Initiatives, Old Dominion University, 2022-2024.

Social Media Committee Chair, Graduate Student Organization for Criminology and Sociology, Old Dominion University, 2021-2022, 2023-2024.

Social Media Committee Co-Chair, Graduate Student Organization for Criminology and Sociology, Old Dominion University, 2022-2023.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Crime & Delinquency; Homicide Studies; Journal of Interpersonal Violence; Journal of Homosexuality; Trauma, Violence & Abuse; Critical Criminology

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Research Design and Evaluation; Survey Instrumentation; Survey Administration; Data Collection; Qualitative Data Analysis (content analysis; collective case study analysis; grounded theory; thematic analysis); Qualitative Transcription; Interviewing; Ethnography; Statistical Analysis (SPSS, HLM); Graphic Design (Canva)

MEMBERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS

American Association of University Professors, Old Dominion University (2021-present)

American Society of Criminology (2020-present). Divisions: Queer Criminology; Victimology; Feminist Criminology; Critical Criminology and Social Justice

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (2019-present)

Member, Alpha Phi Sigma; Golden Key Honour Society