

BESIKI LUKA KUTATELADZE



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- Associate Professor in the [Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice](#) at Florida International University (FIU), where I manage multiple research projects and mentor doctoral students.
- 20 years of experience conducting criminal justice research internationally, including in DR Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Liberia, and across U.S. jurisdictions. Worked on various rule-of-law and justice reform initiatives supported by the United Nations.
- Led the launch of [Prosecutorial Performance Indicators](#), a research and technical assistance project which helps local prosecutorial offices develop public-facing data dashboards, assess racial and ethnic disparities across prosecutorial decision points, improve data and analytical capacity, and build data culture.
- Raised over \$21m in research funds, including \$9m+ while at Florida International University, since 2016. Led multiple *National Institute of Justice (NIJ)*-funded projects.
- Solo- and first-author publications in each of the three highly-prestigious flagship journals in criminal justice, criminology, and legal psychology—*Justice Quarterly*, *Criminology*, and *Law & Human Behavior*.
- Research and op-eds featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Miami Herald, The Tampa Bay Times, The Orlando Sentinel, The Huffington Post, and The Crime Report.
- Previously: Research Director at the *Institute for State & Local Governance (ISLG)*, and Research Director in the Prosecution and Racial Justice Program of the *Vera Institute of Justice*.
- Research interests: prosecution, equality, racial justice, hate crimes, international rule of law, measurement and evaluation, and the development of performance indicators.
- Personal: a queer immigrant from Georgia. Married with three children. Obsessed with Art Nouveau.

Employment

2016 – present: **Associate Professor** in the *Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, Florida International University (FIU). Assistant Professor in 2016 – 2019.

Research projects:

Improving strategies for investigating and prosecuting hate crimes: A national yet local approach.

The project will (a) assess the indicators of bias motivation, and the process for flagging and prosecuting hate crimes; (b) understand key attributes of cases filed and prosecuted as hate crimes, compared to those with a bias indicator but not charged as such; (c) explore the role of external and internal factors enabling or hindering hate crime detection, investigation, and prosecution; and (d) identify system challenges and opportunities for reform.

Prosecutorial Performance Indicators: A research and technical assistance project. The goal is to help prosecutors' offices to redefine the ways they measure success using a new set of performance indicators. The project also aims to update and advance the social science research on prosecution

and sentencing using recent quantitative and qualitative data. Visit www.ProsecutorialPerformanceIndicators.org

LGBTQ/GNC hate crimes in Miami-Dade County: Improving awareness, service delivery, reporting, investigation, and prosecution. The goal of this study is to enhance public safety through effective identification, investigation and prosecution of anti-LGBTQ/GNC hate crimes in Miami. The research was featured on the front page of [The Miami Herald](#) (Monday, Sep 21, 2020). For more information, see [Technical Report](#) and [Policy Brief](#).

Courses taught:

Applied Research in Human Rights and Criminal Justice, CCJ6675:

Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Research Methods, CCJ4700: Spring 2017

2014 April – 2016 May: **Research Director** for the *Institute for State and Local Governance*, the City University of New York. Responsible for developing the vision and plan for the institute’s research department, hiring and supervising research staff, overseeing all research projects and building and maintaining relationships with funders and clients. Founder of the Equality Indicators Project, which measures equality over time (see equalityindicators.org).

2012 August – 2014 April: **Governance Consultant**, United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In 2012-2013, developed the guide to help UNDP country offices design Rule of Law programs/projects, monitor their implementation, and measure their effectiveness (see “Measurement, Evaluation and Technical Guides” below).

2010 March – 2014 March: **Research Director**, Prosecution & Racial Justice Program, *Vera Institute of Justice*.
Select projects:

Race and Prosecution in New York County. Measuring racial and ethnic disparities in prosecutorial decisions in Manhattan, and developing policy recommendation to remedy them. The New York Times [article](#) and [editorial](#) were devoted to study findings.

Disability Service Indicators. Developing indicators and guides to help disability and domestic violence organizations, as well as rape crisis centers, build their capacity to serve survivors with disabilities and track performance over time.

Evaluation of Victim Service Agencies for LGBTQ Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence. Developing indicators to measure the capacity and commitment of victim service agencies to serve LGBTQ survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

Continued serving as a senior researcher for Vera’s International Department.

In 2011-12, headed up data collection, analysis and report development for the UN Rule of Law Indicators project in Haiti and Liberia.

2008 March – 2010 February: **Senior Research Associate**, International Program, *Vera Institute of Justice*.
Select projects:

United Nations Rule of Law Indicators. The project involved the development of the UN Rule of Law Indicators and piloting them in Haiti and Liberia. Responsibilities included: building relationships with the UN country missions, local governments and civil societies; assessing data availability and data collection capacity; developing data collection instruments; designing a public opinion sampling frame; cleaning and analyzing data; interpreting results; and writing technical reports for the UN Security Council on countries’ progress toward building criminal justice institutions (see “Reports” and “Measurement and Evaluation Guides” below).

Security Reform Project in the DR Congo. Served as a research consultant to the Effective Development Group (funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID)). Developed a quasi-experimental design framework for evaluating DFID-funded justice and security reforms in the Kivu region.

Police Stations Visitors Week, a project of the Altus Global Alliance (funded by DFID). Served as a lead researcher responsible for overseeing data entry in 25 countries, data accuracy, analyses, and drafting reports.

2008 March – 2008 May: **Research Consultant:** World Justice Project, American Bar Association
The project was carried out in Chile, India, Nigeria and the U.S. Responsible for public opinion and administrative data collection, statistical analysis, and the preparation of a final report for New York City.

2005 September – 2008 May: **Adjunct Professor/Graduate Teaching Fellow,** John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Courses taught:
Statistics, STA250: Fall 07, Spring 08 (2 sections per semester)
Comparative Corrections, COR303: Spring 07
Eastern European Criminal Justice, PSC250: Spring, Fall 06; Winter, Spring 07
Introduction to Criminal Justice, Spring 05

2001-2002: Lecturer and Research Fellow at Tbilisi State University, Georgia.
Lectured on *Criminal Procedure* and *Criminalistics* in Georgian and Russian languages (4 semesters)

Education

2008: PhD in Criminal Justice. The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. USA.
Dissertation: Introducing a new measurement of state punitiveness and testing it across the United States
Committee: Candace McCoy, James P. Lynch, and Diana R. Gordon

2005: MA in Criminal Justice. John Jay College of Criminal Justice. New York, USA.
Thesis: U.S. versus Europe: A comparative analysis of American, German, French and Russian punitiveness

2002: U.S. State Department Fellow from the Republic of Georgia – *Regional Scholar Exchange Program*

2002: ABD PhD in Criminal Procedure Law. Tbilisi State University, Criminal Procedure. Republic of Georgia.

1999: Qualification of a Jurist. Kutaisi State University, Faculty of Law. Republic of Georgia.

Awards

2021: Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award

The award recognizes exceptional performance of FIU faculty members and provides a one-time \$5,000 honorarium, an engraved award, and an FIU medal.

2020: Champions of Equality Award (SAVE Foundation)

This award honors individuals who have significantly advanced the cause of equality for the LGBTQ community.

2019: FIU Top Scholar for Research Award

The Top Scholar recognition honors full-time faculty and administrators whose work demonstrated significant impact in their respective fields, whether in the areas of research & creative activities or teaching & mentorship.

Successful Fundraising History

Raised over \$9m in research grants while at FIU since 2016

2023-2025: **The National Institute of Justice, DOJ**: “Improving strategies for hate crime investigation and prosecution: A national yet local approach.” 2022 NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Hate Crimes.
Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: M. Pearson & N. Palmer] (**\$994,787**)

2021-2023: The MacArthur Foundation: “Expanding the Scope of Prosecutorial Performance Indicators Nationally.”
Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: D. Stemen, R. R. Dunlea, & M. Pearson] (**\$2,000,000**)

2021-2023: The Microsoft Foundation: “Implementing Prosecutorial Performance Indicators in Colorado).”
Co-Principal Investigator [PI: Don Stemen; Co-PIs: M. Pearson & R. R. Dunlea] (**\$882,633**)

2021-2023: The Schusterman Family Philanthropies: “Developing and Testing the Community-Prosecutor-Researcher Partnership Model in Two Florida Jurisdictions.”
Co-Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: M. Pearson & R. R. Dunlea] (**\$760,000**)

2020-2022: The MacArthur Foundation: “Prosecutorial Performance Indicators: A research and technical assistance project.”
Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: D. Stemen & R. Richardson] (**\$2,000,000**)

2020-2022: Bureau of Justice Assistance: “Assisting the combating violent crime in Jacksonville through strategic partnerships with communities, law Enforcement, and data scientists.”
Co-Principal Investigator [PI: R. Richardson] (**\$119,710**)

2019-2020: The Charles Koch Foundation: “Advancing research on prosecutorial charging decision making.”
Co-Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: R. Richardson & R. Meldrum] (**\$36,000**)

2018-2020: **The National Institute of Justice, DOJ**: “LGBTQ/GNC hate crimes in Miami-Dade County: Improving awareness, service delivery, reporting, investigation, and prosecution.” 2017-IJ-CX-0031
Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: M. Williams & R. King] (**\$499,597**)

2018-2020: The MacArthur Foundation: “Advancing prosecutorial fairness and effectiveness through data and innovation: A multi-jurisdictional initiative.”
Principal Investigator [Co-PIs: D. Stemen & R. Meldrum] (**\$1,700,000**)

2018-2018: The Charles Koch Foundation: “A study of the influence of charging decisions on disproportionate Sentencing.”
Principal Investigator [Co-PI: R. Meldrum] (**\$82,734**)

Before joining FIU

2015-2017: The Rockefeller Foundation: “The implementation of equality indicators in New York City in 2016 and 2017, and expansion to five other cities.”
Co-Principal Investigator [Co-PI: V. Lawson] (**\$3,500,189**)

2015: The Rockefeller Foundation: “The implementation of equality indicators in New York City in 2015.”
Principal Investigator [Co-PI: V. Lawson] (**\$400,000**)

- 2015-2017: The New York County District Attorney's Office: Serving as the technical assistance consultant on "The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative." (\$2,500,000). Worked on the fundraising strategy with M. Jacobson, S. Carney, & V. Lawson
- 2015-2017: The MacArthur Foundation: "Performance Measurement for the Safety and Justice Challenge." (\$2,880,000) Worked on the fundraising strategy with M. Jacobson, S. Carney, R. Daly & V. Lawson
- 2014: The Rockefeller Foundation: "Developing Indicators for Measuring Equality over Time"
Principal Investigator [Co-PI: V. Lawson] (\$350,000)
- 2012-2014: The Office on Violence against Women, DOJ "Developing Disability Service Indicators for Victim Agencies."
Principal Investigator (\$400,000)
- 2012-2014: **The National Institute of Justice, DOJ** "Race and Prosecution in New York County."
Principal Investigator (\$389,000)
- 2012-2013: The United Nations Development Programme: "Developing a Guide for Measuring Programme Effectiveness."
Principal Investigator (\$40,000) [Co-PI: J. Parsons]
- 2011-2014: Office for Victims of Crime, DOJ "Evaluation of Victim Service Agencies for LGBTQ Survivors of Sexual and Domestic Violence."
Principal Investigator (\$180,000)
- 2011-2012: The Ford Foundation, "Helping Prosecutors Manage Discretion and Reduce the Risk of Racial Bias."
Principal Investigator (\$450,000)
- 2010-2012: The United Nations, "The Rule of Law Indicators Project, Phase II."
Senior Researcher (\$982,822) [Chief researcher: J. Parsons]
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Measurement, Evaluation, and Implementation Guides

[Implementation Guide for Prosecutorial Performance Indicators](#)

B. L. Kutateladze, R. Richardson, R. Meldrum, L. Liu, D. Stemen, D. Olson, & B. DuPont. Florida International University and Loyola University Chicago (2020)

[Why, What and How to Measure? A User's Guide to Measuring Rule of Law, Justice and Security Programmes](#)

B. Kutateladze & J. Parsons. United Nations Development Program (2014)

[The United Nations Rule of Law Indicators: Implementation Guide and Project Tools](#)

(no authorship attributed) The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (2011)

Journal Publications

All publications stem from funded research projects designed and implemented by me and my co-investigators. They all use original data collected for these projects. Their development took the following steps: Concept → proposal → funding → partnerships → implementation → data collection & analyses → papers

- King, R. & Kutateladze, B. L. (equal authorship) (Accepted for publication). Law, knowledge, and the organizational impediments to prosecuting hate crimes. ***Law & Society Review***.
- Kutateladze, B. L., & Liu, L. (2022). Is Internalized Racism One More Piece of the Puzzle in Racial Disparities in Prosecution?. ***Justice Quarterly***, 40(5):725-743
- Kutateladze, B. L. (2022). Hate crime victimization and reporting within Miami's queer Latine immigrant population. ***Law & Human Behavior***, 46(6):429-439.
- Kutateladze, B. L., Dunlea, R. R., Liu, L., & Arndt, M.* (2022). A test of the bifurcation hypothesis in prosecutorial diversion. ***Criminology & Public Policy***, 21(2):359-378.
- Kutateladze, B. L. (2021). Acting "straight": Socio-behavioral consequences of anti-queer hate crime victimization. ***Justice Quarterly***, 39(5):802-824.
- Palmer, N., & Kutateladze, B. L. (2021). What prosecutors and the police should do about underreporting of anti-LGBTQ hate crime. ***Sexuality Research & Social Policy***, 19(1):1-15.
- Liu, L., Dunlea, R. R., & Kutateladze, B. L. (2021). Time for time: Uncovering case processing duration as a source of punitiveness. ***Crime & Delinquency***, 68(9):1375-1401.
- Meldrum, R., Stemen, D., & Kutateladze, B. L. (2021). Progressive and traditional orientations to prosecution: An empirical assessment in four prosecutorial offices. ***Criminal Justice & Behavior***, 48(3):354-372
- Richardson, R., & Kutateladze, B. L. (2020). Tempered expectations: A qualitative study of prosecution reform. ***Journal of Research in Crime & Delinquency***, 58(1):41-73.
- Kutateladze, B. & Leimberg, A.* (2019). The influence of type of defense counsel on prosecutorial and judicial decision making in domestic violence cases. ***Crime & Delinquency***, 65(12):1623-1647.
- Kutateladze, B. (2018). Tracing charge trajectories: A study of the influence of race in charge changes at case screening, arraignment, and disposition. ***Criminology***, 56(1):123-153.
- Kutateladze, B., & Lawson, V.* (2018). Is a plea really a bargain? An analysis of plea and trial dispositions in New York City. ***Crime & Delinquency***, 26(7):856-887.
- Kutateladze, B., & Lawson, V.* (2016). A new look at inequality: Introducing and testing a cross-sectional equality measurement framework in New York City. ***Social Indicators Research***, 132(3):993-1022.
- Kutateladze, B., & Lawson, V.* (2016). How bad arrests lead to bad prosecution: Exploring the impact of prior arrest on plea bargaining. ***Cardozo Law Review***, 37(3):973-993.
- Kutateladze, B., Andiloro, N.,* & Johnson, B. (2016). Opening Pandora's Box: How Does Defendant Race Influence Plea Bargaining Outcomes? ***Justice Quarterly***, 33(3):398-426.
- Kutateladze, B., Lawson, V.,* & Andiloro, N.* (2015) Does evidence really matter? An Exploratory analysis of the role of evidence in plea bargaining in felony drug cases. ***Law & Human Behavior***, 36(5):431-442.

- Kutateladze, B., Andiloro, N.,* Johnson, B., & Spohn, C. (2014). Cumulative disadvantage: Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Prosecution and Sentencing. *Criminology*, 52(3):514-551.
- Johnson, B., Spohn, C., King, R., & Kutateladze, B. (2014). Understanding Guilty Pleas: The National Science Foundation's Research Coordination Network. *The Criminologist*, 39(6).
- Kutateladze, B. (2011). Measuring state punitiveness in the United States. *Kriminalität und Kriminalpolitik (Crime & Crime Policy, German publication)*, 8(1):151-179.
- Parsons, J., Kutateladze, B., Thornton, M., Bang, A., & Yaya, A. (2010). Justice indicators for post-conflict settings. *Hague Journal on the Rule of Law*, 2(2):203-217.
- Kutateladze, B. (2009). *Is America really so punitive? Exploring a continuum of the U.S. criminal justice polices.* LFB Scholarly Publishing (298 pages).
- Kutateladze, B., & Crossman, A. M. (2009). An exploratory analysis of gender differences in punitiveness in two countries. *International Criminal Justice Review*, 19(3):322-343.
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Manuscripts under Review or in Preparation

- Palmer, N., Silverthorn, R.,* & Kutateladze, B. L. (under review). Exploring the relationship between domestic violence and hate crimes within the LGBTQ population. *Crime & Delinquency*.

*denotes graduate students, research associates, or post-doctoral associates under my supervision

Research Reports

- [Reject or dismiss? A prosecutor's dilemma.](#) Prosecutorial Performance Indicators & Florida International University (2022).
- [Race and prosecutorial diversion.](#) Prosecutorial Performance Indicators & Florida International University (2021).
- [Anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in Miami-Dade County: Research Summary and Policy Recommendations.](#) National Institute of Justice (2020).
- [Anti-LGBTQ hate crimes in Miami-Dade County: Improving awareness, service delivery, reporting, investigation, and prosecution: Technical Report.](#) National Institute of Justice (2020).
- [Race, Ethnicity and Prosecution in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties, Florida.](#) Florida International University (2019).
- [Race, Ethnicity and Prosecution in Hillsborough County, Florida.](#) Florida International University (2019).
- [Prosecutorial Attitudes, Perspectives, and Priorities: Insights from the Inside.](#) Florida International University (2018).
- [Equality Indicators: Baseline Data for Measuring Progress Toward Greater Equality in New York City.](#) The CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance (2015).
- [Race and Prosecution in Manhattan: Research Summary.](#) Vera Institute of Justice (2014).
- [Prosecution and Racial Justice in New York County: A Technical Report.](#) National Institute of Justice (2014).

[Prosecution and Racial Justice in New York County: A Partnership Report](#). National Institute of Justice (2014).

[Do Race and Ethnicity Matter in Prosecution: A Review of Empirical Studies](#). Vera Institute of Justice (2012)

Country Report – Liberia; The United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Project - Submitted to the Steering Committee of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Project (2010).

Country Report – Haiti; The United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Project - Submitted to the Steering Committee of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Project (2010).

Police Stations Visitors Week: Global Report 2009. Altus Global Alliance (March 2010).

Rule of Law Indicator Instruments: A Literature Review. A report to the Steering Committee of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Project (2008).

Recent Coverage in the News and Op-Eds *(selection)*

[When DeSantis removed Orlando prosecutor, he ignored the data and democracy | Opinion](#) (Aug 13, 2023). The Miami Herald.

[‘We only teach facts’: FIU students, faculty protest against DeSantis’ higher ed tactics](#) (Feb 23, 2023). The Miami Herald.

[DeSantis’ removal of Andrew Warren is based on false assumptions](#) (Aug 5, 2022). The Tampa Bay Times. Op-ed.

The op-ed was cited by [The Washington Post](#) (Balko, Aug 12) and [The Marshall Project](#) (Lartey, Aug 20).

[Reject or dismiss? A prosecutor’s dilemma](#) (July 28, 2022). The Crime Report. Op-ed.

[Right-wing violence threatens Georgian democracy](#) (July 13, 2021). The Bulwark. Op-ed.

[State Attorney Monique Worrell joins nationwide effort to increase prosecutorial accountability with data](#) (March 31, 2021). The Orlando Sentinel.

[Manhattan district attorney to release years of racial data as part of nationwide accountability push](#) (March 18, 2021). The Washington Post.

[New prosecutorial tool promises better outcomes for racial justice, fairness](#) (Feb 19, 2021). American Bar Association News.

[With data, prosecutors can gauge impact of their decisions | Miami Herald](#) (Dec 25, 2020). The Miami Herald. Op-ed.

[Racial disparity is a ‘cancer’; Here’s how prosecutors can cure it](#) (Dec 22, 2020). The Crime Report. Op-ed.

[Hate crimes against gay Hispanic community in Miami rising](#) (Sep 21, 2020). The Miami Herald (front page).

[A new law was supposed to make Florida’s criminal justice data radically transparent. It failed.](#) (July 2, 2020). The Florida Times Union.

[Change agents: A new wave of reform prosecutors upends the status quo](#) (June 1, 2019). The ABA Journal.

[Hillsborough prosecutors dish on racial disparities, fairness for FIU study](#) (Dec 18, 2018). The Tampa Bay Times.

[What makes a good prosecutor? A new study of Melissa Nelson's office hopes to find out](#) (March 12, 2018). The Florida Times Union.

[Study Finds Racial Disparity in Criminal Prosecutions](#) (July 8, 2014). The New York Times.

[How Race Skews Prosecutions](#) (July 14, 2014). The New York Times.

[Study Finds Racial Disparities In Manhattan DA's Office](#) (July 8, 2014). The Huffington Post.

Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Fellow Mentorship

Maria Arndt, 2020-present – *Dissertation co-chair*

- In 2022, she received a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Criminal Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Rebecca Richardson Dunlea, 2018-2019, Post-doctoral associate – *Primary mentor/supervisor*

- In 2019, she received a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida International University; in 2022, she received a tenure-track assistant professor position at University of Massachusetts Lowell

Peculiar Awa, 2016-2019, doctoral student – *Dissertation chair*

- In 2019, she received a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of Central Missouri

Service

Two rounds of the FIU SIPA Dean search and screen committee member (2011-2023).

The Miami Dade LGBTQ Advisory Board communications committee (since 2020).

The Tbilisi Pride Advisory Board member (since 2020).

Steering committee membership: Research Coordinating Network: Understanding Plea Bargaining, funded by the National Science Foundation. (2013-2015).

CUNY Equality Conference organizing committee (2015). The conference included 26 high-profile speakers and more than 300 invited guests from community groups, policy think-tanks, government agencies and academia.

Advisor on the research project examining racial and ethnic disparities in Brooklyn's District Attorney's Office by the Institute for State and Local Governance with funding from the Arnold Foundation.

Peer reviewer for: *Law & Human Behavior*; *Crime & Delinquency*; *Criminology & Public Policy*; *Social Forces*; *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*; *Criminology*; *Justice Quarterly*; *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *the International Criminal Justice Review*; *Criminal Justice Review* and others.