

Nathan LaMothe

Legal Sociologist | Sociology PhD Student | University of Central Florida
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Education

In progress	PhD, Sociology University of Central Florida
2026	MA, Applied Sociology University of Central Florida Master's product: Routine or Responsive? Domestic Violence Release Conditions at First Appearance
2024	BS, Sociology University of Central Florida Capstone research: The Polarizing Effects of Social Media on Attitudes Toward Police Legitimacy Certificate in Behavioral Forensics
2023	AA, General Studies Valencia College

Academic Experience

2025-present	Graduate Teaching Assistant Department of Sociology, University of Central Florida Graduate teaching assistant experience includes Sociology of Law, Minority Aging and Health, Men and Masculinities, Social Power and Inequalities, and Social Theory.
2026-present	Undergraduate Research Mentor Knight Research Scholars Program, University of Central Florida Lead undergraduate researchers working on Hope Card laws and domestic violence court research through UCF's Knight Research Scholars Program.

Research and Scholarly Activity

2025-present	Domestic Violence Decision-Making at First Appearance Graduate Researcher, University of Central Florida Designed and implemented a quantitative study of bond and non-contact decisions in misdemeanor domestic violence cases in Orange County, Florida.
2026-present	Hope Card Laws and Regulations Across the United States Knight Research Scholars Program, University of Central Florida Lead a fifty-state study of statutes, regulations, and implementation materials governing Hope Card programs.
2026-present	Judicial Discretion and No-Contact Orders Graduate Researcher, University of Central Florida Conducting a qualitative interview study of how Florida judges understand and exercise discretion when imposing pretrial no-contact orders in intimate partner violence cases.

2025	Statewide Homeless Camping Ban Research Research Assistant, UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science Contributed to collaborative legal and policy research on statewide restrictions on public sleeping and camping.
Spring-Summer 2026	Life Happens Graduate Research Assistant, Cares Research Collective Contributed to data coding for the Life Happens project during Spring and Summer 2026.
2024-2025	Perinatal Intimate Partner Violence and Cannabis-Use Research Research Assistant, UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science Contributed to literature review, data collection, and qualitative coding for collaborative studies of online pregnancy-forum discussions.
2024	Florida Domestic Violence Data Research Undergraduate Research Assistant, UCF Institute for Social and Behavioral Science Coded Uniform Crime Reporting data to document domestic violence reports across Florida counties.
2024	Social Media and Attitudes Toward Police Legitimacy Undergraduate Capstone Researcher, University of Central Florida Designed and administered a survey examining social-media use, political polarization, and attitudes toward police legitimacy, then analyzed the resulting data.

Publications and Manuscripts

Manuscript in preparation	Routine or Responsive? Domestic Violence Release Conditions at First Appearance LaMothe, Nathan
Manuscript under review	An Analysis of State Laws Restricting Public Sleeping: Sociological Implications for Social Work Practice Donley, Amy, Julio Montanez, and Nathan LaMothe Under review at Publius: The Journal of Federalism.
Manuscript in preparation	Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence During the Perinatal Period: An Analysis of Online Posts Reiss, Jacquelyn, Julio Montanez, Colby Kopf, Nathan LaMothe, and Skyler Rodenhuis
Manuscript in preparation	Garden Moms: Understanding Women's Experiences with Cannabis Use During the Perinatal Period Reiss, Jacquelyn, Amy Donley, Nathan LaMothe, Alexandra McCreary, and Callynn Johnson

Presentations

Nov 2026	Routine or Responsive? Domestic Violence Release Conditions at First Appearance American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting Scheduled conference presentation of my first-appearance decision-making research.
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Prior Professional Experience

Jul-Dec 2022	Trial Clerk, Criminal Division Orange County Clerk of Courts Worked with criminal case creation, jail intake, bond processing, initial appearances, and court records.
2018-2022	Emergency Communications Specialist II Orange County Sheriff's Office Coordinated emergency information among members of the public, deputies, and other public-safety personnel. Trained twelve teletype and 911 operators, developed an agency-wide processing guide, and periodically served in an acting assistant squad leader capacity.

Training and Certification

2024-2027	Human Subjects Research and Ethics CITI Program CITI research ethics training for human-subjects research.
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Honors

2023-2024	President's Honor Roll and Dean's List University of Central Florida President's Honor Roll, Spring and Summer 2024; Dean's List, Fall 2023 and Fall 2024.
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Methods and tools

Quantitative research design, regression modeling, survey design, semi-structured interviewing, qualitative coding, human-subjects research, data management, court-record research, legal and policy analysis, and literature review. Tools include SPSS, Python, Qualtrics, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, and Adobe Creative Suite.