

**ONLINE RECRUITMENT FOR
QUALITATIVE INTERVIEWS OF
JUSTICE-INVOLVED PEOPLE:
POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS**



**SARAH LAGESON, RUTGERS - NEWARK
CAROLINA RIBEIRO CALIMAN, RUTGERS - NEWARK
ELSA CHEN, SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY
ERICKA ADAMS, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY**

**LAW & SOCIETY ASSOCIATION - DENVER, COLORADO
JUNE 6, 2024**

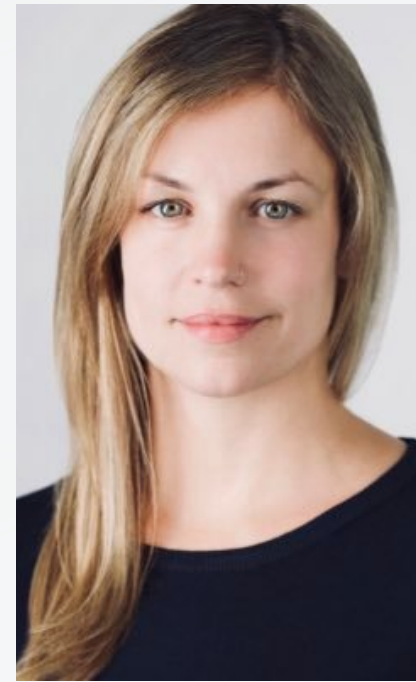
CLEAN SLATE RESEARCH TEAM



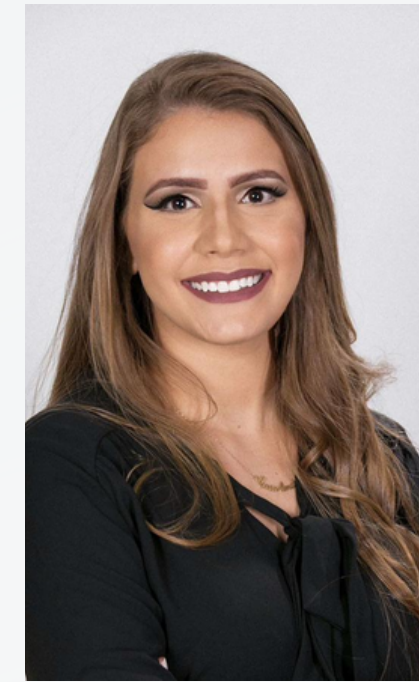
Elsa Chen, PI
Professor,
Santa Clara Univ.



Ericka Adams, Co-PI
Associate Professor,
San Jose State Univ.



Sarah Lageson, Co-PI
Associate Professor,
Rutgers-Newark



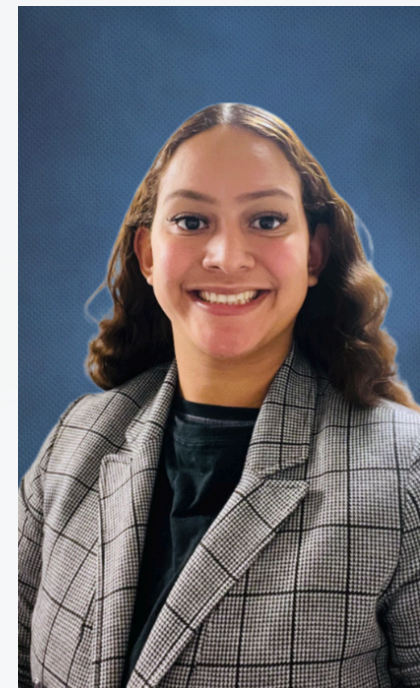
**Carolina
Ribiero Caliman**
Rutgers PhD
Candidate



Raven Lewis
Rutgers PhD
Candidate



Eva Gonzalez
SJSU Master's 2024



**Desaray
Castellanos Ordonez**
SJSU Master's 2023



Deirdre Crawford
SCU Class of 2022



Maile Belnap
SCU Class of 2024



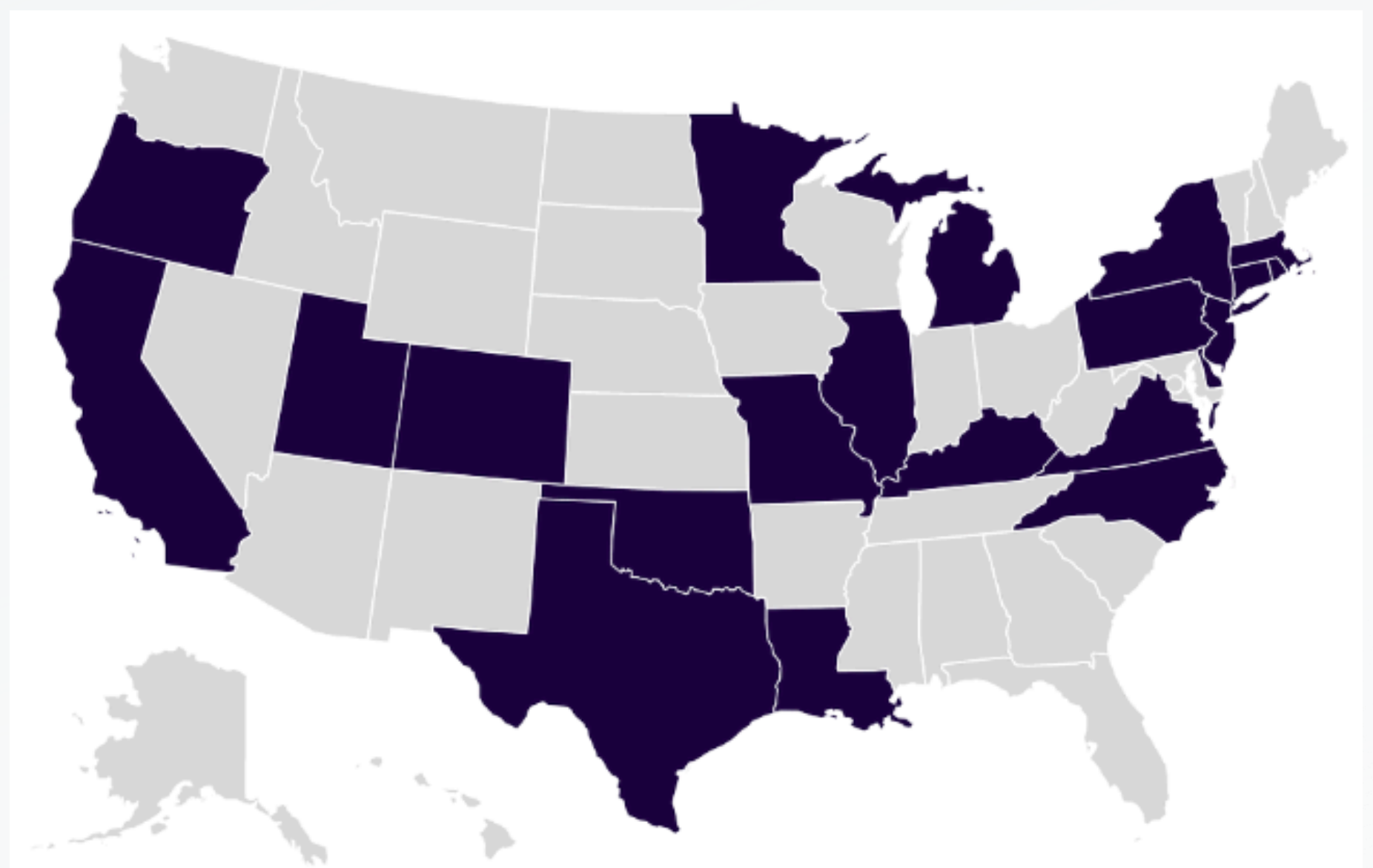
Rachel Stattion
SCU Class of 2024



Sam Campos
SCU Class of 2025

AUTOMATED RECORD CLEARANCE

- Expungement **without filing a petition** or (often) payment of a fee by the person who is the subject of the records to be **sealed or erased**
- **Automatic** clearance refers to the legal filing process as initiated by the state
- **Automated** clearance uses algorithmic or computerized means to accomplish automatic expungements
- Currently, 21 states have at least one statutory automatic record clearing provision



<https://www.cleanslateinitiative.org/states#states>

STUDY DESIGN



4 states with
automatic
expungement:
PA, UT, CA, NJ

Study Period:
2021-23

STATES + YEARS



Clean Slate-
eligible
participants
+ Follow-ups 1
year later

Community &
Govt.
Representatives

INTERVIEWS

Seeking Paid Participants For Study on Criminal Records



**Study Title: The Impact of Automated Record Clearance
on Individuals, Families, and Communities**

ABOUT

The study will address the effects of criminal records on individuals' lives. We will also investigate the impact of automated/petition-based record clearance on people's experiences and the experiences of their families and communities.

ELIGIBILITY

- People 21 years of age or older convicted of a cannabis offense in California before July 1, 2019
- OR
- People who have been arrested, but not convicted or incarcerated, for ANY misdemeanor after January 1, 2021

FOR QUESTIONS:

Email the study team at
cacannabisstudy@gmail.com

Text us at (669)-696-3967

Follow us on Twitter @cleanslatestudy

INFORMATION

- Your responses are confidential. Only our research team will have access to any of the information you tell us, and only the researchers will know you participated in this study.
- Interviews will last approximately 45-60 minutes and be conducted via zoom.

COMPENSATION WILL BE PROVIDED

\$40 gift card for an initial interview
\$40 gift card if selected for a follow-up
interview



SCAN FOR,
SIGNUP,
WEBSITE, SURVEY
ACCESS

COMPLETED INTERVIEWS

| State | Expungement-eligible individuals | Community/govt. representatives | Total |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| California | 23 | 28 | 51 |
| New Jersey | 20 + 2 | 10 | 32 |
| Pennsylvania | 24 + 1 | 15 | 40 |
| Utah | 43 + 5 | 11 | 59 |
| Other states | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 110 + 8 | 69 | 187 |

WORKFLOW

1 - Recruitment



Distribute digital flyers
w/ links to our website

2 - Intake



Initial screening via
Qualtrics intake surveys

3 - 2nd screening



Phone + text screening
via Google Voice

4 - Scheduling



Schedule interviews via
Calendly, send link +
consent form

5 - Interview



Conduct recorded Zoom
interviews

6. Compensation



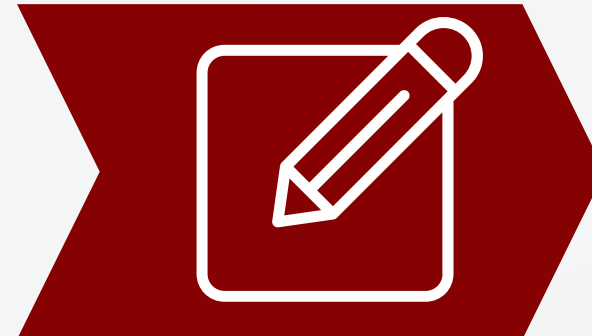
Gift card sent via
Tango Card

7. Transcription



Upload Zoom recording
to Otter.ai

8. Editing



Manually correct
Otter.ai transcripts

9. Coding



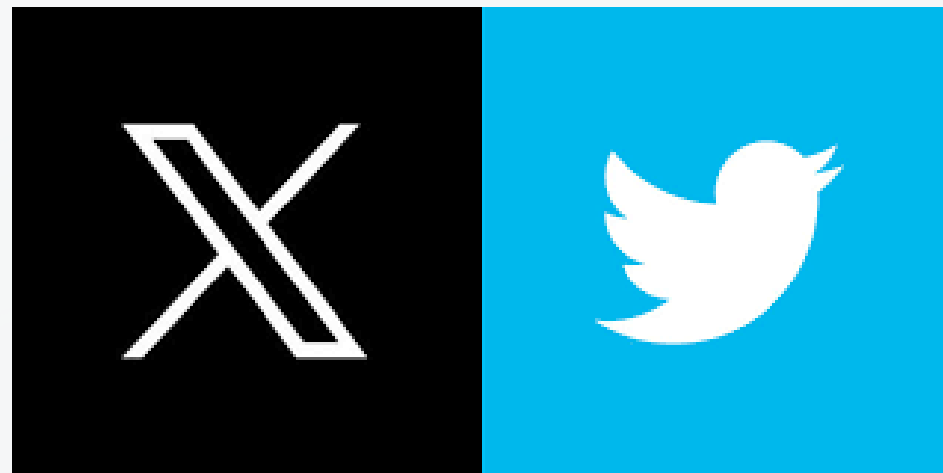
Upload transcripts to
Atlas.ti, code each 2x

10. Analysis + Writing



Generate thematic memos
+ analyze in Atlas.ti

DIGITAL RECRUITMENT APPROACHES



INTERVIEW OUTCOMES

| | Digital Flyering | MTurk | Prolific | Direct Referral | Total |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|----------|--------------------|-------|
| Intake Surveys | 1422 | 875 | 409 | NA | 2706 |
| Self Reported as Eligible | 451 | 158 | 76 | NA | 685 |
| Suspicious IP (not contacted) | 261 | 13 | 0 | NA | 274 |
| Unresponsive | 102 | 82 | 40 | NA | 224 |
| Invalid Contact Information | 5 | 53 | 3 | NA | 61 |
| Eligible but not interviewed | 9 | 0 | 1 | NA | 10 |
| Ineligible after second screening | 6 | 1 | 2 | NA | 9 |
| Declined during second screening | 4 | 0 | 0 | NA | 4 |
| No show | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 10 |
| Interviewed but flagged as fraudulent | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| Successful interview | 51 | 9 | 26 | 16 | 102 |

YIELDS + COSTS

| | Digital Flyering | MTurk | Prolific |
|--|--|---|---|
| N pre-screened | 1422 | 875 | 409 |
| N self-reported as eligible | 451 (31.7% of pre-screened) | 458 (18% of pre-screened) | 76 (18.6% of pre-screened) |
| N interviewed | 56 (3.9% of pre-screened, 11.3% of eligible) | 9 of (1% pre-screened, 5.7% of eligible) | 28 (6.3% of pre-screened, 34% of eligible) |
| Total cost to advertise / pre-screen | \$476.68 Nextdoor = \$186 Facebook + Instagram = \$291 | \$0.07 * 875 = \$61.75 | \$0.26 * 409 = \$106.34 |
| Total spent on participant compensation | \$41.40 * 56 = \$2318.40 | \$41.40 * 9 = \$372.60 | \$53.33 * 28 = \$1493.24 |
| Total spent: successful interviews | \$2336.88 | \$373.23 | \$1500.52 |
| Total spent | \$2813.56 | \$434.98 | \$1606.86 |
| Total cost per interview | \$50.24 | \$48.33 | \$57.38 |

REPRESENTATIVENESS ANALYSIS: RACE OF INTERVIEWED PARTICIPANTS

| | Digital Flyering (N = 56) | | MTurk (N = 9) | | Prolific (N = 28) | | Referral (N = 16) | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Asian | 3 | 5.4% | 1 | 11.1% | 2 | 7.1% | 1 | 6.3% |
| Biracial | 1 | 1.8% | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7.1% | 1 | 6.3% |
| Black | 12 | 21.4% | 1 | 11.1% | 7 | 25% | 5 | 31.3% |
| White | 34 | 60.7% | 7 | 77.8% | 15 | 53.6% | 3 | 18.8% |
| Hispanic/Latinx | 6 | 10.7% | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7.1% | 6 | 37.5% |

BENEFITS

- Potential cost savings
- Convenience
- Broader geographic coverage
- Platforms do some pre-screening
- Potential for targeted outreach
- Can implement real-time updates



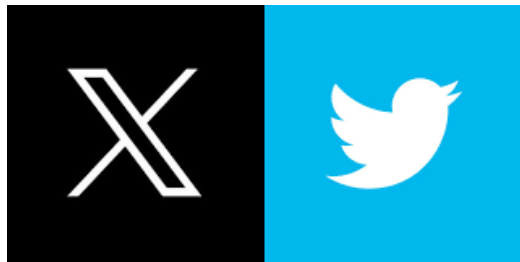
SHORTCOMINGS + CONCERNS

- Bots + scammers
- Costs – fees, labor
- Harder to establish trust + rapport
- Can be hard to verify “veracity” of respondents
- Some platforms control access to participant contact information
- Sample bias

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1** Online recruitment can be a useful way to recruit hard-to-reach and geographically diverse participants for qualitative interviews
- 2** Methodologically rigorous online recruitment can be costly in terms of money, labor, and time
- 3** Costs and yields vary between approaches and platforms
- useful to compare
- 4** Careful intake, filtering, and pre-screening are essential to ensure sample integrity and weed out bots and scammers
- 5** Screening, scheduling, transcription verification require hands-on and personal engagement
- 6** Targeted outreach through curated/verified e-mail lists is especially effective

THANK YOU!



@CleanSlateStudy



@RecordClearanceResearch

Our project website:



Contact Elsa Chen:

