
TYRELL R. SPENCER
Department of Sociology
Washington University in St. Louis
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Education

Washington University in St. Louis

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, expected 2030

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Master of Arts, Criminology and Criminal Justice, 2018

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology, 2016

Research Interests

Social inequality, sociology of law, historical sociology, policing and criminal justice, social movements

Publications

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

Nowacki, J. and Spencer, T. (2019). Police Discretion, Organizational Characteristics, and Traffic Stops: An Analysis of Racial Disparity in Illinois. *Journal of Police Science & Management*. DOI: 10.1177/1461355719832617.

Spencer, T. and Kochel, T. R. (2018). An Inductive Approach to Examining Racial Majority Versus Minority Expectations and Appraisals of Police Legitimacy in a Small-Town Context. *Race and Justice*. DOI: 10.1177/2153368718814156.

Encyclopedia Entries

Kochel, T. R. and Spencer, T. (2018). Police use of force. In B.M. Huebner (Ed.) *Oxford Bibliographies in Criminology*. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780195396607-0166.

Manuscripts in Progress

Wingfield, A. H. and Spencer, T. “The Doctor Will See You Now – Or Will They? Health Care, Technological Innovation, and Racial Workplace Inequality”

Conference Presentations

2017: “Rural Residents’ Views About Police: Majority and Minority Expectations,” presented at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

2016: “Incarceration’s Impact on Marriageability: An Examination of Race,” presented at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Denver, CO.

Awards and Honors

April 2025: Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, Missouri Beta Chapter, Washington University in St. Louis

August 2024- present: Dean’s Distinguished Graduate Fellow in Arts and Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis

April 2022: Department of Criminal Justice Team Player Award (Faculty), North Carolina A&T State University

April 2021: Department of Criminal Justice Teaching Excellence Award (Faculty), North Carolina A&T State University

April 2017: Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice Outstanding Graduate Student, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

January 2017: College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Nominee, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

April 2016: Department of Sociology Outstanding Criminology Undergraduate Student, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

April 2015: Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Professional Experience

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Sociology

Assistant in Instruction, Fall 2025 (with Dr. Jake Rosenfeld)

- Complete mentored teaching experience under the direction of Dr. Jake Rosenfeld for his undergraduate course, “The Roots of Ferguson: Understanding Racial Inequality in the Contemporary U.S.”

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Sociology

Mentored Research, Fall 2024-present (with Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield)

- Review research on inequalities in healthcare and organizations.
- Synthesize literature on the use of AI technology in healthcare.
- Work on submitting manuscript for publication on the impact of AI on healthcare workers.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Bryan School of Business and Economics

Academic Advisor, 2023-2024

- Created graduation plans and advising models for students.
- Reviewed major sequencing and curriculum guides for recommendations and improvement.
- Participated in freshman and transfer student orientation and Bryan School events.

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Department of Criminal Justice

Academic Advisor, 2021-2022

- Developed individualized success plans for students.
- Utilized data management and information systems for student performance reports.
- Advised students and assisted with course selections for registration.

North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Department of Criminal Justice

Instructor, 2019-2022

- Facilitated instruction for online (remote) and in-person criminal justice courses.
- Supervised student research projects.
- Drafted curricula and program/internship requirements.

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association