

## Daniel LaChance

Winship Distinguished Research Professor in History, 2020-23  
Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Emory University  
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### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., American Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	2011
B.A., English, Carleton College	2001

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Winship Distinguished Research Professor in History, 2020-23	2020-
Associate Professor of History and Mellon Fellow in Law and the Humanities, Emory University	2018-
Assistant Professor of History and Mellon Fellow in Law and the Humanities, Emory University	2013-18
Visiting Associate Research Scholar, Princeton University	2013-14
Assistant Professor of Legal Studies, University of Massachusetts at Amherst	2011-13

### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and AWARDS

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Winship Distinguished Research Professorship in History, 2020-23	2020
University Research Committee Grant (\$30,000), Emory University	2020
<i>Choice</i> Outstanding Academic Title Award ( <i>Executing Freedom</i> ), American Library Association	2017
John Emory Award for Teaching and Advising, Emory Paladin Society (Student Organization)	2016
Law and Public Affairs Fellowship, Princeton University	2014
Best Dissertation in the Arts & Humanities, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities	2011
Distinguished Dissertation Award Finalist (One of Two), National Council of Graduate Schools	2011
Selected Participant, Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, University of Wisconsin	2009
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Minnesota	2008
Stout-Wallace Fellowship, University of Minnesota	2007

Graduate Instructor of the Year, Department of English (Composition), University of Minnesota	2006
Graduate Student Paper Prize, Law and Society Association	2005

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book

*Executing Freedom: The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment in the United States* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016).

### Refereed Journal Articles

(With Paul Kaplan) "Criminal Justice in the Middlebrow Imagination: The Punitive Dimensions of *Making a Murderer*," *Crime, Media, and Culture*. Pre-published (Online First) March 22, 2019.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1741659019835249>

"Executing Humanity: Legal Consciousness and Capital Punishment in the United States, 1915-1940," *Law and History Review* 35(2017): 929-976.

(With Paul Kaplan) "The Seductions of Crimesploitation: Apprehending Sex Offenders on Primetime Television," *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 15(2019): 127-150. (First published online in 2015).

"Executing Charles Starkweather: Lethal Punishment in an Age of Rehabilitation," *Punishment and Society* 11 (2009): 337-358.

Last Words, Last Meals, and Last Stands: Agency and Individuality in the Modern Execution Process," *Law and Social Inquiry* 32 (2007): 701-724.

### Invited Contributions to Journals, Edited Volumes, and Encyclopedias

[Peer Reviewed] "The Death Penalty in the Twenty-First Century." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Ed. Henry N. Pontell (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019). DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.462

"Author's Response to Readers," Symposium on *Executing Freedom: The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment in the United States* by Daniel LaChance. *Social Justice* 44(2018): 153-165.

"Existential Finality: Dark Empathy, Retribution, and the Decline of Capital Punishment in the United States," *Final Judgments: The Death Penalty in American Law and Culture*, Ed. Austin Sarat (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 123-152.

[Peer Reviewed] "Rehabilitating Violence: White Masculinity and Harsh Punishment in 1990s Popular Culture," Eds. Charles Ogletree, Jr., and Austin Sarat, *Punishment in Popular Culture* (New York: NYU Press, 2015), 161-196.

[Peer Reviewed] (With Paul Kaplan) "Crimesploitation," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice*. Ed. Henry N. Pontell. Online Publication. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.013.34. (6,000 words.). Reprinted in revised form in *The Routledge International Handbook of Visual Criminology*, Eds. Michelle Brown and Eamonn Carrabine (New York: Routledge, 2017), 229-40.

### **Book Reviews**

Paul M. Renfro, *Stranger Danger: Family Values, Childhood, and the American Carceral State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020). *Law and Society Review*. *Forthcoming*.

Seth Kotch, *Lethal State: A History of the Death Penalty in South Carolina* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2019). *Journal of Southern History* 86(2020): 192-3.

Floyd Abrahams, *The Soul of the First Amendment* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017); Thomas Healy, *The Great Dissent* (New York: Henry Holt, 2013); Burt Neuborne, *Madison's Music: On Reading the First Amendment* (New York: New Press, 2015). *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 15(2019): 277-8.

Michael L. Radelet, *The History of the Death Penalty in Colorado* (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2017). *Journal of American History* 105(2018): 367.

Keramet Reiter, *23/7: Pelican Bay Prison and the Rise of Long-Term Solitary Confinement* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016). *Law and Society Review* 51(2017): 1014-17.

Austin Sarat, *Gruesome Spectacles: Botched Executions and America's Death Penalty* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2014). *Law and Society Review* 48(2014): 979-81.

### **Works in Progress**

(With Paul Kaplan) *Crimesploitation: Crime, Punishment, and Pleasure on Reality Television*. A monograph under contract with Stanford University Press (Cultural Lives of the Law Series).

*Empathy for the Devil: The Condemned in the American Imagination*. Monograph in preparation.

### **Public Scholarship**

"Capital Punishment and the Battle for America's Soul," *Process: A Blog for American History* published by the *Journal of American History*. September 23, 2019.

"How *Black Mirror* Exposes the Racist Reality of the Death Penalty in America," *Washington Post* (Made by History Blog), February 7, 2018

"Will a Conservative Supreme Court Give New Life to the Death Penalty?" News Analysis, *The Conversation*, April 19, 2017.

“Some Find Redemption on Death Row, but Few Find Mercy,” News Analysis, *The Conversation*, November 4, 2015. Subsequently re-published online by *The New Republic*.

“Americans’ Long, Failed Search for A Perfect Execution Method,” News Analysis, *The Conversation*, April 8, 2015. Subsequently re-published online by *Quartz* and *Newsweek*.

“What Will Doom the Death Penalty,” Op-Ed, *The New York Times*, September 9, 2014.

“Last Words in Texas—What the Condemned Say,” Letter to the Editor, *The New York Times*, July 8, 2013.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Lectures

Contributor to Roundtable on “The Work of Death,” Emory Provost’s Faculty Impact Forum, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2019.

“Mrs. Miller’s Constitution: Civil Liberties and the Radical Right in Cold War America,” University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2019.

“Highbrow/Lowbrow: American Culture in an Age of Anxiety, 1950-1955” American Life in the 1950s Lecture Series, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2018.

Author Meets Reader: *Executing Freedom: The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment in the United States*, Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2017.

Book Talks for *Executing Freedom: The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment in the United States*

Decatur Book Festival, Decatur, Georgia, September 2017.

School of Law, University of Minnesota, April 2017.

Department of English and Program in American Studies, Carleton College, April 2017.

Department of Criminology, Law, and Society, University of California at Irvine, March 2016.

School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University, March 2016.

School of Law, Emory University, January 2017.

Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University, November 2016.

“The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment,” Phi Alpha Theta Society, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, April 2016.

“‘They Do Not Move:’ Lethal Violence in an Age of Super Due Process,” “Final Judgments: The Death Penalty and American Law,” University of Alabama Law School Symposium, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, April 2016.

“The Cultural Life of Capital Punishment,” Program in International Comparative Studies, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, October 2015.

“Executing Whiteness: Popular Representations of Capital Punishment in the United States, 1915-1940,” Junior Scholars Workshop, University of Southern California Center for Law, History, and Culture, Los Angeles, California, June 2014.

"Executing Whiteness: Popular Representations of Capital Punishment in the United States, 1915-1940," Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, April 2014.

"The Old West and the New American Death Penalty: Capital Punishment in Harris and Oklahoma Counties, 1980-2000," University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 2013.

### Conference Presentations

"Death in Black and White: The Representation of Race in Southern Newspaper Coverage of Executions in the United States, 1877-1967," European Social Science History Conference, Leiden, the Netherlands, March 2021. *Rescheduled due to COVID-19.*

Discussant, New Perspectives on the Death Penalty, Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Denver, Colorado, May 2020. *Moved online due to COVID-19.*

"'Cuffs of Love': The Spiritual Dimensions of Crimesploitation," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings, Ottawa, Canada, March 2019.

"Mrs. Miller's Constitution: Civil Liberties and the Radical Right in Cold War America," Rebellious Psychiatry Conference 2018, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, Conn., September 2018.

"Empathy for the Executioner: Democratic Distrust, Sentimental Narratives, and the Early Twentieth Century Consolidation of the Modern Killing State," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C., March 2018.

(With Paul Kaplan) "Criminal Justice in the Middlebrow Imagination: *Making a Murderer*," Western Society of Criminology Annual Meetings, Long Beach, California, February 2018.

Chair and Respondent, Author Meets Reader: *23/7: Pelican Bay and the Rise of Long-Term Solitary Confinement* by Keramet Reiter. Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2017

Contributor, Roundtable on Public Intellectualism, Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2017.

"Mental Illness, Law, and Anti-Psychiatry in the 1950s: The Case of Lucille Miller," American Studies Association Annual Meetings, Denver, Colorado, November 2016.

"Reactionary Civil Rights Activism in Cold War America: The Case of Lucille Miller," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 2016.

(With Paul Kaplan) "Respectable Crimesploitation," New Directions in Criminology Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 2016.

"Teaching Legal History through the Lens of Legal Studies," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings, Hartford, Connecticut, March 2016.

Chair and contributor, Roundtable: "*Gregg v. Georgia* at 40: The Past, Present, and Future of the American Death Penalty," American Historical Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2016. *Broadcast on C-SPAN.*

- Contributor, "Author Meets Reader: *Gruesome Spectacles: Botched Executions and America's Death Penalty* by Austin Sarat et al.," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C. March 2015.
- "Mental Illness, Law, and Ideology in the 1950s: The Case of Lucille Miller," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings, Washington, D.C. March 2015.
- (With Paul Kaplan) "Crimesploitation," American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings, San Francisco, California. November 2014.
- "Beyond Just Deserts: Redemption in an Age of Retribution," Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Meetings. Charlottesville, Virginia. March 2014.
- "Executing Whiteness: Capital Punishment and Film in the Early Twentieth Century," American Society of Legal History Annual Meetings, Miami, Florida. November 2013.
- (With Paul Kaplan) "To Catch a Predator without Becoming One: The Politics and Metaphysics of Sex Offenders and Vigilantes in Primetime Television," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Boston, Massachusetts. May 2013.
- "Leave it to Dexter: Capital Punishment as a Family Value," Western Society of Criminology Annual Meetings, Berkeley, California. February 2013.
- "The Paradox of the Death-Seeking District Attorney," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Honolulu, Hawaii. June 2012.
- "Rational Monsters: Evil and Culpability in Capital Trials," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings. Denver, Colorado. May 2009.
- "Condemned to be Free: Liberal Individualism, Capital Punishment, and Film, 1917-Present," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Montreal, Canada. May 2008.
- "Punishment and Anxiety Amid a Liberal Consensus," Law and Society Association Annual Meetings, Berlin, Germany. July 2007.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### Emory University

The First Amendment (Undergraduate Survey and Seminar)	2019-
Punishment, Politics, and Culture in the United States (Graduate Seminar)	2016-
American Constitutional and Legal History (Undergraduate Survey)	2016-
Crime and Punishment in American Culture (Undergraduate Seminar)	2015-
Introduction to College Teaching (Graduate Seminar)	2015-
Professionalization Seminar (Graduate Workshop)	2015-
Popular Culture and Politics in the United States, 1945-Present (Undergraduate Survey)	2015-

The American Death Penalty (Undergraduate Seminar) 2014-

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Law and Literature (Undergraduate Seminar) 2013

Introduction to Legal Studies (Undergraduate Survey) 2012-13

Law, Crime, and Society (Undergraduate Survey) 2011-12

**SERVICE**

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**Field**

Selection Committee, Kluge Fellowship, John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress 2019

Treasurer, Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities 2018-

Local Arrangements Committee, Annual Meetings of the American Historical Association 2015-16

Manuscript Reviewing 2011-

*American Quarterly*

*British Journal of American Legal Studies*

Cambridge University Press

*Crime, Media, and Culture* (2)

*Critical Studies in Media Communication*

*Law, Culture, and the Humanities* (4)

Law and Humanities Interdisciplinary Junior Scholars Workshop

*Law and History Review*

*Law and Society Review* (2)

*Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*

*Theoretical Criminology* (2)

University of Alabama Press (2)

University of California Press

**Emory University**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of History 2020-23

Advisory Board, Center for Law and Social Science, School of Law 2019-

Modern African American History Search Committee, Department of African American Studies 2019

Chair, U.S. History Search Committee (3 Positions), Department of History 2018-19

Honorary Degree Selection Committee 2018-19

Woodruff Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee, Laney Graduate School	2017-19
Organizer, "Between the Ivory Tower and the Prison," Laney Graduate School	2017-18
Early African American History Search Committee, Department of African American Studies	2016-17
Faculty Advisor, Honor Council, Emory College of Arts and Sciences	2016-17
Advisory Board, James Weldon Johnson Institute	2016-
Atlantic and British World Search Committee, Department of History	2015-16
Faculty Host, James Weldon Johnson Institute	2017-18 2015-16
Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of History	2014-15
Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta	2014-15

**University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Legal Studies Search Committee, Department of Political Science	2012-13
Events Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts	2012-13
Undergraduate Program Committee, Program in Legal Studies	2011-13