

# Jon Overton

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Department of Sociology  
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## EDUCATION

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2022	PhD Sociology Kent State University
2018	M.A. Sociology Kent State University
2015	B.A. Sociology, Ethics & Public Policy University of Iowa

## POSITION

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Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, 2022 – present  
Faculty Affiliate, Public Policy PhD Program

## INTERESTS

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### ▪ Research

Social Psychology, Intergroup Conflict, Political Polarization, Stereotyping, Discrimination, Status Processes, Quantitative Methods

### ▪ Teaching

Social Psychology, Political Polarization, Social Problems, Research Methods, Inequalities, Criminology

## RESEARCH

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### ▪ Peer-Reviewed Publications

Forthcoming **Jon Overton**. “Exploring Identity Avoidance in American Politics.” in *Identity Development and Maintenance in Context: Cases from Higher Education, Health Care, and Other Settings Identities in Context*. Edited by Kelly L. Markowski, Michael Harrod, and Philip S. Brenner. New York, NY: Springer.

Forthcoming Joseph Dippong and **Jon Overton**. “The Neural Dynamics of Interpersonal Synchrony.” *Handbook of Neurosociology*. Edited by Will Kalkhoff, Joseph Dippong, and Rengin Firat, New York, NY: Springer.

- Forthcoming **Jon Overton**, and Joseph Dippong. "Measuring Status and Expectations." *Handbook of Social Psychology*. Edited by Jan Stets, Long Doan, and Karen Hegtvedt, New York, NY: Springer.
- 2025 **Jon Overton**. "Quantitative Methods." *Handbook of Social Psychology*. Edited by Lisa Walker and Gretchen Peterson, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- 2025 **Jon Overton** and Gideon Cunningham. "Groups Activate Identities; Identities Activate Behavior: How Political Homogeneity Breeds Extremism and Apathy in American Politics." *Social Science Research* 132: 103234.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0049089X2500095X>
- 2024 **Jon Overton**, Michelle Fretwell, Kevin Weng, and Christopher P. Dum. "Softening the Stigma of Incarceration with Personal Narratives." in *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231241287246>
- 2022 **Jon Overton**, Michelle Fretwell, and Christopher P. Dum. "Who do you trust? College students' attribution of stigma to peers with incarceration histories." *Journal of Experimental Criminology* 18:847-70. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11292-021-09463-0>
- 2022 Will Kalkhoff, Joshua Pollock, Matthew Pfeiffer, Brian Chopko, Patrick Palmieri, Michael T. Lewis, Joseph Sidoti, Daniel Burrill, **Jon Overton**, and Graem Sigelmier. "The Effects of Camera Monitoring on Police Officer Performance in Critical Incident Situations: A MILO Range Simulator Study." *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology* 37: 619-36. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-022-09519-5>
- 2021 **Jon Overton**. "When Does Status Transfer between People? A Crowdsourced Experiment on the Scope of Status-by-Association." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 84(4):309-30. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01902725211042313>
- *Recipient of the 2022 Outstanding Recent Contribution Award, Honorable Mention, from the ASA Section on Social Psychology*
- 2020 Susan R. Fisk and **Jon Overton**. "Bold or reckless? The impact of workplace risk-taking on attributions and expected outcomes." *PLoS ONE* 15(3):e0228672.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0228672>
- 2020 Will Kalkhoff, David Melamed, Joshua Pollock, Brennan Miller, **Jon Overton**, and Matthew Pfeiffer. "Cracking the Black Box: Capturing the Role of Expectation States in Status Processes." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 83(1):26-48. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0190272519868988>
- *Recipient of the 2021 Best Paper Award from the ASA Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society*

- 2019 Susan R. Fisk and **Jon Overton**. "Who Wants to Lead? Anticipated Gender Discrimination Reduces Women's Leadership Ambitions." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 82(3):319-32. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0190272519863424>
- 2017 Susan R. Fisk, Brennan J. Miller, and **Jon Overton**. "Why Social Status Matters for Understanding the Interrelationships Between Testosterone, Economic Risk-Taking, and Gender." *Sociology Compass* 11(3):e12452. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12452>

#### ▪ Manuscripts in progress

**Jon Overton**. "Becoming a Partisan: American Identity Uncertainty Heightens Extremist Social Control in Political Parties" *Under Review*

Will Kalkhoff, Josh Pollock, Matthew Pfeiffer, Haley Crews, Graem Sigelmier, Chloe Miller, **Jon Overton**, Daniel Burrill, and Brennan Miller. "Status Under Threat." *In prep for Submission*.

**Jon Overton**, Joseph Dippong, and Gideon Cunningham. "Can Pro-Democracy Interventions Break Through Peer Influence?" *Data Analysis in Progress*

**Jon Overton**, Joseph Dippong, and Samantha Schuermann. "Vocal Accommodation in Groups: An Analysis of the Intelligence Squared Debates." *Data Collection in Progress*

#### ▪ Grants

##### External

- 2025 Lisa Walker and **Jon Overton**. Russell Sage Foundation. "Generalizing the Principle of Organized Subsets." Pending Decision on Letter of Intent.
- 2019 **Jon Overton**. "Status Contagion: The Spread of Status Value between People." Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association. Graduate Student Investigator Award. Funded at \$1,000.

##### Internal

- 2023 – 2024 **Jon Overton**. "Can Immersive Media Technology Overcome Conformity Pressures?" UNC Charlotte, Faculty Research Grant. Funded at \$8,000.
- 2021 **Jon Overton**. "Coalition of the Unnerved: How Uncertainty Drives Parties to Purify and Intensify." Kent State University, Graduate Student Senate Research Award. Funded at \$1,860.
- 2017 **Jon Overton**. "Status Contagion: It's Who You Know." Kent State University, Graduate Student Senate Research Award. Funded at \$2,000.

#### ▪ Competitive Awards

- 2022 Honorable Mention, Outstanding Recent Contribution Award, Social Psychology Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2021 University Fellowship (2-semester appointment)
- 2018 James T. Laing Scholarship in Sociology

2017 Elaine Mai Schock Award for Outstanding Master's Student in Sociology

▪ **Presentations**

- 2025 **Jon Overton** and Gideon Cunningham. "Groups Activate Identities; Identities Activate Behavior: How Political Homogeneity Breeds Extremism and Apathy in American Politics" *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society: Charlotte, NC*
- 2024 **Jon Overton** and Gideon Cunningham. "Networks Activate Identities; Identities Activate Behavior: How Political Networks Foster Extremism and Apathy in American Politics." *UNC Charlotte Department of Sociology Intellectual Engagement Series: Charlotte, NC*
- 2023 **Jon Overton** and Gideon Cunningham. "Commitment, Identity, and Political Extremism." *Identity Conference: Ellensburg, WA*
- 2023 **Jon Overton**. "Partisanship, Social Identity, and Conflict." *Annual Group Processes Conference: Philadelphia, PA*
- 2023 **Jon Overton**. "Expanding the Fringe, Hollowing Out the Middle: Social Identity and Racial Threat in Within-Party Social Control." *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: Philadelphia, PA*
- 2022 **Jon Overton**, Michelle Fretwell, Kevin Weng, and Christopher P. Dum. "An Intervention to Repair the Moral Stigma of Formerly Incarcerated College Students." *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association: Los Angeles, CA*
- 2019 Susan Fisk and **Jon Overton**. "Bold or reckless? The impact of workplace risk-taking on attributions and expected outcomes." *Annual Group Processes Conference: New York, NY*
- 2018 **Jon Overton**. "Status Contagion: The Spread of Status Value between People." *Annual Group Processes Conference: Philadelphia, PA*

**TEACHING / MENTORING**

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▪ **Courses Taught**

Online Course<sup>†</sup>

UNC Charlotte

Local Social Science: Sociological Approaches to Local Issues – Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Sociological Social Psychology – Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Social Problems – Summer 2025<sup>†</sup>, Fall 2022

Topics: The Social Psychology of Political Polarization (Graduate Course) – Fall 2025

### Kent State University

Individual & Society: Summer 2021<sup>†</sup>

Issues in Law & Society: Fall 2021, Fall 2020<sup>†</sup>

Social Problems: Spring 2021<sup>†</sup>, Summer 2019<sup>†</sup>

#### ▪ **Mentoring**

##### Thesis & Dissertation Committee Member

<b>Name</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Year Completed</b>
Gideon Cunningham	Public Policy	PhD	In-Progress
Alysha Bailey	Sociology	M.A.	In-Progress
Peyton Stewart	Sociology	M.A.	In-Progress
Iván Martinez	Public Policy	PhD	2023

### **SERVICE**

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#### ▪ **UNC Charlotte**

##### To the Department of Sociology

2022 – present Intellectual Engagement Committee

#### ▪ **Professional**

##### Conferences

2022	Presider, “Formerly Incarcerated People”, refereed roundtables, ASA Conference: Los Angeles, hosted by the ASA Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance
2022	Invited Panelist, “Preparing for the Academic Job Market”, Annual Group Processes Conference: Los Angeles, CA

##### ASA Sections

2023 – 2024	Graduate Student Affairs Committee, ASA Section on Social Psychology
2020 – 2022	Graduate Student Representative, Council for the ASA Section on Social Psychology (elected position)
2018 – 2021	Newsletter co-editor, ASA Section on Social Psychology
2017 – 2019	Graduate student member, Membership Committee, ASA Section on Social Psychology
2017 – 2018	Newsletter editor, ASA Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society

### Academic Journals

#### *Editorial Board Member*

Social Psychology Quarterly (2025 – 2028)

#### *Ad Hoc Reviewer*

American Journal of Sociological, American Sociological Review, Criminal Justice & Behavior, Gender & Society, International Journal of Contemporary Sociology, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Social Psychology Quarterly, Sociological Focus, Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World

### Invited Talks

2023, 2022      Invited Panelist, “Careers in Sociology”, Kent State University, Graduate Student Proseminar Brownbag

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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### American Sociological Association

- Sections: Social Psychology; Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity; Biosociology and Evolutionary Sociology; Political Sociology; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Organizations, Occupations, and Work

### Alpha Kappa Delta