

Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies,
14 Queen's Park Crescent West
University of Toronto,
Toronto, ON M5S 3K9.

(647) 819 8355 📞
@alexlusco 🐦
alex.luscombe@mail.utoronto.ca ✉️
www.alexluscombe.ca 🌐

Alex Luscombe

research keywords

Policing; information politics; research methods; computational social science

education

Ph.D, Criminology, University of Toronto, 2017-2022 (Expected)

Thesis: *Police Responses to Complex Economic Crime in Canada*

Committee: Matthew Light, Ayobami Lanionu, Elizabeth Acorn

M.A., Sociology, Carleton University, 2015

Thesis: *Where States Lie: A Historical Sociological Investigation into the Art of Cover Storying in a Secret Cold War Intelligence Operation*

Committee: William Walters, Neil Gerlach, John Walsh

B.A. (Honours), Sociology, University of Victoria, 2012

Thesis: *Outside Accountability: The Canadian Security Intelligence Service and the Textual Organization of Surveillance*

Advisor: Kevin Walby

publications

Books and edited volumes

Forthcoming. [Alex Luscombe](#), Kevin Walby, and Derek Silva, eds. *Changing of the Guards: Private Influences, Privatization, and Criminal Justice in Canada*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.

2019. Walby, Kevin and [Alex Luscombe](#), eds. *Freedom of Information and Social Science Research Design*. New York: Routledge.

Journal articles

2021. [Alex Luscombe](#), Kevin Dick, and Kevin Walby. "Algorithmic Thinking in the Public Interest: Navigating Technical, Legal, and Ethical Hurdles to Web Scraping in the Social Sciences." *Quality & Quantity*.

2021. Alexander McClelland and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Policing the Pandemic: Counter-mapping Policing Responses to COVID-19 across Canada." *Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Studies*.

2021. Kevin Walby and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Freedom of Information Research and Cultural Studies." *Cultural Studies<->Critical Methodologies*.

2020. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Race, Cannabis and the Canadian War on Drugs: An Examination of Cannabis Arrest Data by Race in Five Cities." *International Journal of Drug Policy*.
2020. Kevin Walby, Randy K. Lippert, and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Police Foundation Governance and Accountability: Corporate Interlocks and Private, Non-profit Influence on Public Police." *Criminology and Criminal Justice*.
2018. [Alex Luscombe](#). "Deception Declassified: The Social Organisation of Cover Storying in a Secret Intelligence Operation." *Sociology*. [**Shortlisted, SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence, 2019**].
2018. Kevin Walby, [Alex Luscombe](#), and Randy K. Lippert. "Going to the Dogs? Police, Donations and K9s." *Policing*.
2018. [Alex Luscombe](#), Kevin Walby, and Justin Piché. "Making Punishment Memorialization Pay? Marketing, Networks, and Souvenirs at Small Penal History Museums in Canada." *Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Research*.
2017. Daniel Fridman and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Gift-Giving, Disreputable Exchange, and the Management of Donations in a Police Department." *Social Forces*.
2017. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Kevin Walby. "Theorizing Freedom of Information: The Live Archive, Obfuscation, and Actor-Network Theory." *Government Information Quarterly*.
2017. Kevin Walby, Randy K. Lippert, and [Alex Luscombe](#). "The Police Foundation's Rise: Issues and Implications for Public Policing's Dark Money." *British Journal of Criminology*.
2017. [Alex Luscombe](#), Kevin Walby, and Randy K. Lippert. "Brokering Access Beyond the Border and in the Wild: Comparing Freedom of Information Experiences in Canada and the United States." *Law and Policy*.
2017. [Alex Luscombe](#), Randy K. Lippert, and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Online Readers' Comments as Popular Texts: Public Opinions of Paid Duty Policing in Canada." *Canadian Journal of Communication*.
2016. [Alex Luscombe](#), Kevin Walby and Randy K. Lippert. "Public Police Sponsorship Networks: Benign Ties or Relations of Private Influence?." *Policing & Society*.
2016. William Walters and [Alex Luscombe](#). "Hannah Arendt and the Art of Secrecy; Or, the Fog of Cobra Mist." *International Political Sociology*.

2016. Kevin Walby and [Alex Luscombe](#). “Criteria for Quality in Qualitative Inquiry and Use of Freedom of Information Requests in Social Research.” *Qualitative Research*.
2015. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Kevin Walby. “High Policing and Access to Information.” *Police Practice and Research: An International Journal*.
2014. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Kevin Walby. “Occupy Ottawa, Conservation Officers, and Policing Networks in Canada’s Capital City.” *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*.

Book chapters

- Forthcoming. [Alex Luscombe](#). “Where Public Meets Private: In Search of Evidence of an Emerging ‘Industrial-Espionage Complex’ in Canada” in *Changing of the Guards: Privatization, Private Influences, and Criminal Justice in Canada*, edited by A. Luscombe, D. Silva, and K. Walby. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. [**Winner, Ericson Prize, University of Toronto, 2019**].
2019. Kevin Walby and [Alex Luscombe](#). “Using Freedom of Information Requests in Socio-Legal Studies, Criminal Justice Studies, and Criminology,” in *Methods of Criminology and Criminal Justice Research*, edited by M. Deflem and D. Silva. Emerald Publishing Limited.
2019. William Walters and [Alex Luscombe](#). “Postsecrecy and Place: Secrecy Research Amidst the Ruins of an Atomic Weapons Research Facility,” in *Secrecy and Methods in Security Research: A Guide to Qualitative Fieldwork*, edited by M. de Goede, E. Bosma, and P. Pallister-Wilkins. New York: Routledge.
2019. Akwasi Owusu-Bempah, [Alex Luscombe](#), and Brandon M. Finlay. “Unequal Justice: Race and Cannabis Arrests in a Post-Legal Landscape,” in *High Time: The Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada*, edited by A. Potter and D. Weinstock. Kingston, ON: McGill-Queen’s University Press.

Reports

2021. Abby Deshman, [Alex Luscombe](#), Alexander McClelland, Ariel Wheway, Julia Sande, Emily Symons, and Alexandra Alayche. *COVID-19 and Law Enforcement in Canada: The Second Wave*. Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project.

2020. [Alex Luscombe](#), and Alexander McClelland. *An Extreme Last Resort”: Monetary Penalties and the Policing of COVID-19 in Canada*. Montreal, QC: Centre for Media, Technology, and Democracy.
2020. Abby Deshman, Alexander McClelland, and [Alex Luscombe](#). *Stay Off the Grass: COVID-19 and Law Enforcement in Canada*. Canadian Civil Liberties Association and the Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project.
2020. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Alexander McClelland. *Policing the Pandemic: Tracking the Policing of COVID-19 Across Canada*. White Paper for Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project.

Op-eds

2021. Jamie Duncan and [Alex Luscombe](#). “What Clearview AI Did Was Illegal, But Don’t Play Down The RCMP’s Role In It.” *Huffington Post*, February 9.
2020. Abby Deshman, [Alex Luscombe](#), and Alexander McClelland. “COVID-19 fines will likely make pandemic worse.” *Georgia Straight*, November 13.
2020. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Alexander McClelland. “Tickets and fines unlikely to help in battle against COVID-19.” *Montreal Gazette, The Province*, April 23.
2018. [Alex Luscombe](#) and Akwasi Owusu-Bempah. “Why Legalization is Unlikely to Reduce Racial Disparities in Cannabis Arrests.” *Vice News*, April 19.
2017. Kevin Walby, Randy K. Lippert, and [Alex Luscombe](#). “Federal Access to Information Act Reform is Overdue.” *Montreal Gazette*, April 6.

Book reviews

2017. [Review](#) of *The Vigilant Eye: Policing Canada from 1867 to 9/11* by Greg Marquis. *Surveillance & Society*.

software resources

- [compositr](#). An R package providing a convenient and beginner-friendly means of cleaning and preprocessing text data.
- [r-scrape-docker](#). A free and open-source docker image for cloud-based web scraping using R.
- [atip-ocr](#). An easy to use custom python script and step-by-step tutorial for rendering image format documents machine readable.

selected
invited talks

“Police responses to COVID-19 in Canada.” Guest lecture for Dr. Holly Pelvin, Centre for Criminology & Social Legal Studies, University of Toronto, March 2021.

“What Does it Mean to Police a Pandemic?” Guest lecture for Dr. Julius Haag, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto Mississauga, November 2020.

“Policing the Pandemic Mapping Project: Trends Since the end of Wave 1.” Guest lecture for Dr. Holly Pelvin, Centre for Criminology & Social Legal Studies, University of Toronto, October 2020.

“Data Activism in R.” Speaker, Toronto Data Workshop, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto, August 2020.

“Policing the Pandemic: Counter Mapping the Expansion of COVID-19.” Speaker, Ethics of Covid, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, 2020.

“Colonialism and Criminal Justice: Addressing the Legacy.” Speaker, Massey Talks, Massey College, University of Toronto, 2020.

“Freedom of Information Requests as a Means of Data Collection in the Social Sciences.” Guest lecture for Dr. Alexander McClelland, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa, 2020.

“Racial Injustice and the Canadian War on Drugs.” Presenter, Junior Fellow Lecture Series, Massey College, University of Toronto, 2019.

“Qualitative Methods.” Guest lecture for Dr. Rosemary Gartner, Centre for Criminology & Social Legal Studies, University of Toronto, 2018.

selected
conference
presentations

American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (2019, 2018, 2017, 2014)

European Society of Criminology Annual Meeting (2018)

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Conference (2016)

Millennium Conference (2016)

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (2015)

Canadian Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2015)

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2014)

grants,
honours,
& awards

External grants, honours, and awards

Knowledge Mobilization Grant (with A. McClelland), SSHRC, 2021 (\$7,000)
 Connection Grant (with K. Walby), SSHRC, 2021 (\$7,140)
 Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement, SSHRC, 2020 (\$6,000)
 Shortlisted, SAGE Prize for Innovation and Excellence, 2019
 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, SSHRC, 2017 (\$105,000)
 Outstanding Graduating Student Award, Canadian Sociological Association, 2016
 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario, 2015 (\$15,000)
 Travel bursary, London of School of Economics, 2015
 Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship, SSHRC, 2013 (\$17,500)
 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Government of Ontario, 2013 (\$15,000)

Internal grants, honours, and awards

R.V. Ericson Best Graduate Student Paper Award, University of Toronto, 2019
 Junior Fellowship, Massey College, University of Toronto, 2018-Present
 Faculty of Arts and Sciences Top Doctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto, 2017
 Distinction at master's level, Carleton University, 2015
 John Porter Graduate Bursary, Carleton University, 2015
 Carleton University Entrance Scholarship, 2013
 Alan Hedley Sociology Honours Essay Award, University of Victoria, 2012
 University of Victoria Rising Star Award, University of Victoria, 2012
 President's Scholarship, University of Victoria, 2011
 Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award, University of Victoria, 2011
 Hazel T. Knox Memorial Scholarship, University of Victoria, 2011
 Charles Howatson Scholarship, University of Victoria, 2011

service to the
profession

Peer-review: *International Political Sociology, Policing & Society, Security Dialogue, European Journal of Criminology, Quality & Quantity, Criminological Encounters, Alberta Law Review, Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*
 Co-organizer (with E. Cornelius), Economic Crimes Working Group at the University of Toronto, 2019-Present

Editorial board, *Criminological Highlights*, 2018-Present

Elected Member of House Committee, Massey College, University of Toronto,
April 2019-September 2019

miscellaneous **workshops**
and courses Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Université de Québec
à Montréal, 2021

Deep Learning Reading Group, Department of Electric Engineering and Com-
puter Science, York University, May 19 - July 19 2021

Biology-Sociology Methods Exchange, University of Toronto, May 10-13

Digital Policing: Facial Recognition Software and Community Resistance, West-
ern University, Faculty of Information & Media Studies, February 25-26
2021

Social Sciences Methods Week, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto,
May 2018/2019

Intermediate Social Network Analysis, LINKS Center for Social Network Analysis,
Gatton College of Business and Economics, University of Kentucky, 2016

employment Research Affiliate, Centre for Access to Information and Justice, University of
Winnipeg, 2019-Present

Teaching Assistant, Centre for Criminology & Sociolegal Studies, University of
Toronto, 2017-Present

Research Assistant, Sociology, University of Toronto, 2018-Present

Research Associate, Criminal Justice, University of Winnipeg, 2015-2017

Teaching Assistant, Law & Legal Studies, Carleton University, 2015

Research Assistant, Criminology, University of Ottawa, 2014

Research Assistant, Political Science, Carleton University, 2014-2015

Research Assistant, Criminal Justice, University of Winnipeg, 2013-2015

Teaching Assistant, Sociology & Anthropology, Carleton University, 2013-2015

Research Assistant, Sociology, University of Victoria, 2012-2013

languages English, French

- programming
experience R, Python, SPSS, LaTeX, UCINET
- in the media
- Research featured in op-ed by Tari Ajadi and Dr. Debra Thompson for *The Globe & Mail*, published May 22 2021: “[The two pandemics of anti-Black racism and COVID-19 are tied together](#)”
 - Research featured in story by Maan Alhmidi for Canadian Press, reprinted in *Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, National Post* etc., published May 13 2021: “[Provinces issued more COVID-19 tickets during second wave: CCLA report](#)”
 - Research featured in story by David Rémillard for *Radio Canada*, published May 13 2021: “[COVID-19 : le Québec se distingue des autres provinces par son approche répressive](#)”
 - Research featured in statement by *Ontario COVID-19 Bioethics Table*, published Apr 19 2021: “[Ontario COVID-19 Bioethics Table Statement of Concern about Public Health Measures](#)”
 - Research featured in story by Alyshah Hasham for *Toronto Star*, published Apr 16 2021: “[Civil liberties watchdogs say stay-at-home order opens door to ‘return to carding’](#)”
 - Interview with Daniel Konikoff and Jona Zyfi for podcast *Criminologia*, published Dec 11 2020: “[Policing the Pandemic](#)”
 - Interview with Jacob Serebrin for Canadian Press, reprinted in *Toronto Star, Global News*, published Nov 4 2020: “[Quebec threatens COVID-19 fines as researchers question if penalties deter behaviour](#)”
 - Research featured in story by Canadian Press, reprinted in *Toronto Star, National Post, toronto.com*, published Nov 4 2020: “[Quebec threatens COVID fines as researchers question if penalties deter behaviour](#)”
 - Research featured in *Radio Canada*, published July 2 2020: “[Une «pandémie» de contraventions et de profilage, dénonce un organisme](#)”
 - Research featured in story by Jillian Kestler-D'Amours for *Vice News*, published June 24 2020: “[Officers Targeted Racialized Canadians When Enforcing COVID-19 Rules: Report](#)”

- Research featured in story by Solarina Ho for *CTV News*, published June 24 2020: “Millions of dollars in COVID-19 fines disproportionately hurting Black, Indigenous, marginalized groups: report”
- Research featured in story by Marg Bruineman for *Barrie Today*, published June 24 2020: “New report raises ‘ugly’ concerns over COVID-related tickets”
- Research featured in story by Colin Perkel for Canadian Press, reprinted in *CBC News, Globe & Mail*, published June 24 2020: “Majority of Canada’s \$13M in pandemic fines were issued in Quebec, report finds”
- Research featured in story by Mike Hall for *City News*, published June 24 2020: “Tickets, fines for coronavirus rules target minorities: CCLA”
- Research featured in story by Canadian Press, reprinted in *CTV News*, published June 24 2020: “Pandemic fines top \$13 million, study says; punitive approach criticized”
- Research featured in story by Andrew Russell for *Global News*, published June 24 2020: “Canadians have racked up \$13M in coronavirus fines, racial profiling evident: report”
- Research featured in story by Jason Magder for *Montreal Gazette*, published June 24 2020: “Report: Quebec led the country in fines for violating distance orders”
- Research featured in story by Robert Benzie *Toronto Star*, published June 24 2020: “Civil liberties watchdog warns of ‘ugly ticketing pandemic’ during COVID-19 outbreak”
- Research featured in story by Karissa Donkin for *CBC News*, published June 23 2020: “More than \$20,000 in COVID-19 fines issued, but few details on violations”
- Interview with Saritha Ramakrishna for *The Baffler*, published June 22 2020: “Giving Back to Themselves: Police Foundations Exemplify the Logic of Racial Capitalism”
- Research featured in story by Shree Paradkar for *Toronto Star*, published May 24 2020: “(Mostly) white covidiot at Trinity Bellwoods think the rules don’t apply to them. They’re right”
- Research featured in the University of Toronto’s *Crimbrary Blog*, published May 22 2020: “Policing the Pandemic: Tracking the Policing of Covid-19 Across Canada”

- Research featured in story by Meenakshi Mannoe for *The Tyee*, published May 21 2020: “[Police Are Making Pandemic Life Worse for Already Oppressed People](#)”
- Research featured in story by Justin Ling for *National Magazine*, published May 11 2020: “[A Patchwork Response: The trouble with legislating pandemic rules in Canada](#)”
- Research featured in video for *CTV News*, published May 6 2020: “[Policing the Pandemic in Canada](#)”
- Research featured in story by Caora McKenna for *The Coast*, published May 6 2020: “[Locked down: Halifax’s police state of emergency](#)”
- Research featured in *BBC News*, published May 5 2020: “[Canadians fined for coronavirus infractions](#)”
- Research featured in story by Alexandra Mae Jones for *CTV News*, published May 5 2020: “[Report: Fines issued for breaking pandemic measures top \\$5.8M, questions raised over ‘snitch lines’](#)”
- Research featured in story by Kevin Ritchie for *Now Toronto*, published May 5 2020: “[Canadians charged \\$5.8M in coronavirus fines: Report](#)”
- Interview with Jane Gerster for story in *Global News*, published May 4 2020: “[Canadians have racked up \\$5.8M in coronavirus fines, report says.](#)”
- Research featured in story by Inayat Singh for story in *CBC News*, published May 2 2020: “[Got a COVID-related ticket? Here’s why some lawyers say you might want to fight it.](#)”
- Research featured in story by Jane Gerster for story in *Global News*, published April 30 2020: “[Crowded shelter or \\$880 fine? Homeless face ‘impossible’ coronavirus choice.](#)”
- Interview with Jane Gerster for story in *Global News*, published April 28 2020: “[Fines, snitch lines: Crackdown on coronavirus rule breakers could have consequences.](#)”
- Interview with Sharon Lindores for story in *National Post*, published April 22 2020: “[COVID-19 and the rising costs of social distancing.](#)”
- Interview with Giuseppe Valiante for story in *Canadian Press*, published April 15 2020, reprinted in *National Post*, *CTV News*, *Times Colonist*, *CBC Radio*

Canada, and La Presse among others: “Harsh policing and big fines don’t make people safer from COVID-19: criminologists.”

Research featured in story by Shree Paradkar for *Toronto Star*, published April 15 2020: “Who will police the COVID-19 police?”

Research featured in story by Dale Curruthers for *London Free Press*, published April 14 2020: “Canadian Civil Liberties Association put enforcement of pandemic orders under spotlight.”

Research featured in blog post by Lisa Silver for *Ideablawg*, published April 12 2020: “Criminal Law in the Time of Covid-19: Part One.”

Research featured in op-ed by Samantha Peters for *National Magazine*, published April 10 2020: “Increasing criminalization during a pandemic is not the solution.”

Research featured in op-ed by Robyn Maynard and Andrea J. Ritchie for *Vice News*, published April 9 2020: “Black Communities Need Support, Not a Coronavirus Police State.”

Research featured in *Sputnik News*, published April 6 2020: “New Website Monitors the Policing of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Canada.”

Research featured in story by Kevin Ritchie for *Now Toronto*, published April 6 2020: “Online map tracks police charges related to COVID-19.”

Interview with Wendy Gillis for story in *Toronto Star*, published February 19 2020: “Contractors’ Association Withdraws Offer to Fund New Armoured Car for Toronto Police Emergency Task Force.”

Research featured in Library of Parliament Legislative Summary by Julia Nicol, published April 3, 2019: “Legislative Summary of Bill C-93: An Act to provide no-cost, expedited record suspensions for simple possession of cannabis.”

Interview with Ry Rivard for story in *Voice of San Diego*, published November 1, 2018: “Chula Vista Police’s Unusual Fundraising Arrangement Draws Scrutiny.”

Research featured in op-ed by Dr. David Moscrop in *Washington Post*, published July 18, 2018: “Legalization Alone Won’t Erase Canada’s Prejudiced Pot Convictions. We Weed Mass Pardons.”

Analysis for Rachel Browne for story in *Vice News*, published April 18, 2018: “Black and Indigenous People are Overrepresented in Canada’s Weed Ar-

rests.”

Interview with Dr. Derek Silva for podcast *What’s That Noise?!*, published May 14, 2018: “[Volume 8: Freedom of Information.](#)”

references

Available upon request