

## Faculty Bio – Dr. Lesley Bikos



Lesley Bikos (she/they) was first introduced to King's University College as an undergraduate student. Lesley loved the smaller class sizes that created spaces of authentic connection and engagement and the focus on social justice. While completing a Ph.D., Lesley joined the Department of Sociology as part-time faculty from 2018-2022 and recently became a full-time Assistant Professor. Much of Lesley's teaching, research, advocacy and activism, and community work focuses on systemic inequities and justice, with a particular focus on institutions. Currently, Lesley's research interests combine critical criminology and sociology to interrogate the Canadian criminal justice system. To date this work has focused primarily on the institution of policing, a topic of both academic and lived experience knowledge. Radical transformation of carceral systems including restorative and transformative justice and defunding and abolition are additional areas of focus.

Lesley currently teaches Crime and Society, Policing Mental Illness, Policing and Security, Qualitative Methods, and a seminar course, Critical Approaches to Policing. Of note is a new experiential learning course, Another World is Possible, co-developed with fellow Assistant Professor, Jess Notwell. As abolitionist Mariame Kaba invites us to consider "When something can't be fixed, then the question is: What can we build instead?" Come and join the Department of Sociology in working together to learn, (un)learn, and build a campus and society on the principles of empathy, community, social justice action, and rebuilding the world we want.



### For more information

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## Why study Criminology at King's?

Criminology is the study of legal and extra-legal sanctions, including their effects on individuals, the police, corrections, the judiciary, the state, and social and governmental reactions to it. The Criminology program at King's trains students in public policy, institutions, and critical skill building in data and interpretation. The program creates skilled communicators, researchers, and analysts who can enter the working world as imaginative thinkers with concrete technical abilities, writing, and critical thinking skills that are vital to being successful professionals. Students in their first year at King's will take Sociology 1020, 1020W/X, or 1021E in order to gain entry into a Criminology module in their second year.

## Career options

Few job titles say "criminologist," but graduates with this degree hold a wide range of positions in the fields of business, community affairs, government, social research and teaching/education. Here are just a few examples of the potential career paths available:

- Court Reporter
- Correctional officer
- Policy Analyst
- Labour Relations
- Probation & Parole
- Technical Writer
- Lawyer
- Human rights
- Youth outreach
- Foreign service
- Journalist
- Police officer
- Victim Care Officer
- Urban Planner
- Enforcement Officer



## Course offerings

King's offers an Honors Specialization, Major and Minor in Criminology to which students apply after completing first year. King's offers a variety of methods, research and theory courses in Sociology and Criminology. Some of the many popular Criminology courses include:

- Crime and Deviance in the Workplace
- Crime, Punishment, and Popular Culture
- Hate Crimes
- Restorative Justice
- Crimes of the Powerful
- Drugs and Society
- Gangsters and the Mob
- Population Change in Canada
- Critical Approaches to Policing
- Social Worlds of Drugs and Addiction
- Sociology of Corrections
- Sociology of Deviance
- Sociology of Law
- Sociology of Terrorism
- Violence in Cultural Perspective
- Women in Crime
- Youth and Conflict with the Law

## What students have to say

"Not only is King's a reputable school, but it provides students with opportunities that are unique to a small campus. In my four years of undergrad I had the chance to work closely with faculty, which ultimately enabled me to progress substantially in my academics and extracurricular activities. The skills I developed at King's continue to help me today as I'm completing my last year of law school at Western Law. I highly recommend King's to any student looking for a collegial environment that will challenge you, inspire you, and ultimately better you."

*Olivia Nisbet*

*'12 BA (Honors Specialization Criminology, Minor Philosophy); JD Candidate 2017*

"Studying criminology at King's is a path that has proven to be highly rewarding and worthwhile. It is a program with outstanding faculty who challenge their students while addressing and exploring pressing social issues, the realities of crime, misconceptions, and methods of prevention. The program is able to cater to varying interests because it offers a wide selection of courses. Conducting research, theorizing, analyzing and critiquing various works are examples of the practical skills students enrolled in criminology learn that enables them to thrive in a work environment. I strongly recommend this program to anyone who is passionate about crime and eager to examine the challenges surrounding crime that face our global society today."

*Kristine Petitta*

*'16 BA (Honors Specialization Criminology, Minor French Studies)*

"Being an active member in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Criminology program at King's has really propelled me to succeed and better understand the real world. It has provided me with a solid foundation in which I can use to push myself further in the field of law. Overall, enrolling in the Criminology program at King's is one of the best decisions I ever made."

*Harris Syed*

*'17 BA Criminology (Major)*

