AVANI MEHTA SOOD

amsood@law.berkeley.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS		
Professor of Law – University of California, Berkeley	2019 - present	
Visiting Professor of Law		
Cornell Law School	2021 - 2022	
University of Chicago Law School	Autumn quarter 2021	
New York University School of Law	Spring semester 2021	
Assistant Professor of Law – University of California, Berkeley	2013 - 2019	
EDUCATION & CLERKSHIP		
Princeton University – M.A. & Ph.D. in Psychology Dissertation: <i>Motivated Cognition in Criminal Law Judgments</i>	2007 - 2013	
Committee: John Darley, Joel Cooper, Susan Fiske, Betsy Levy Paluck, Kim Lane Scheppele		
United States District Court, Southern District of New York Chambers of the Honorable Kimba M. Wood – Judicial Clerkship	2004 - 2005	
Yale Law School – J.D. <i>Yale Law Journal</i> (Editor, Senior Editor)	2000 - 2003	
Princeton University – A.B. in Psychology, <i>summa cum laude</i> <i>The Daily Princetonian</i> (Senior Writer, Editorials & Opinions Editor)	1995 - 1999	

SCHOLARSHIP

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CRIMINAL LAW (book proposal under review, manuscript in preparation).

Format and Fairness: Experiments on the Legal and Psychological Effects of Special Versus General Verdicts in Criminal Law (manuscript in preparation for 2022 submission).

Have the Stakeholders Reached A Verdict? Empirically and Psychologically Examining Verdict Format in Criminal Jury Trials, N.Y.U. LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2023).

What's So Special About General Verdicts? Questioning Verdict Format Preferences in U.S. Criminal Trials, 22 THEORETICAL INQUIRIES IN LAW 55 (2021).

Attempted Justice: Misunderstanding and Bias in Psychological Constructions of Criminal Attempt, 71 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 593 (2019).

The 'Murder Scene Exception' – Myth or Reality? Empirically Testing the Influence of Crime Severity in Federal Search-and-Seizure Cases (with Jeffrey A. Segal & Benjamin Woodson), 105 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 543 (2019).

Applying Empirical Psychology to Inform Courtroom Adjudication, 130 HARVARD LAW REVIEW FORUM 301 (2017).

Cognitive Cleansing: Experimental Psychology and the Exclusionary Rule, 103 GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL 1543 (2015).

Motivated Cognition in Legal Judgments – An Analytic Review, 9 ANNUAL REVIEW OF LAW & SOCIAL SCIENCE 307 (2013).

The Plasticity of Harm in the Service of Criminalization Goals (with John M. Darley), 100 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 1313 (2012).

Aggressive Interrogation and Retributive Justice: A Proposed Psychological Model (with Kevin M. Carlsmith), *in* IDEOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND LAW 574-604 (JON HANSON ED., OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2012).

The Fine Line Between Interrogation and Retribution (with Kevin M. Carlsmith), 45 JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY 191 (2009).

Redressing Women's Rights Violations Through the Judiciary, 1 JINDAL GLOBAL LAW REVIEW 137 (2009).

Gender Justice through Public Interest Litigation – Case Studies from India, 41 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW 833 (2008).

Shorter Works & Published Reports

Was Revenge a Hidden Rationale for Torture? LOS ANGELES TIMES (Dec. 23, 2014).

Legal Efforts for Social Reform Through the Indian Supreme Court, 51 HARVARD INTERNATIONAL LAW JOURNAL ONLINE 63 (2010).

FAILURE TO DELIVER: VIOLATIONS OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN KENYAN HEALTH FACILITIES (with Elisa Slattery & Claris Ogangah) (CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, 2007).

LITIGATING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: USING PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW TO PROMOTE GENDER JUSTICE IN INDIA (CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, 2006).

Works in Progress

Homicidal Opacity and the Culpability of Killings (article) This project experimentally explores the extent to which legal terminology introduces cognitive distortions and biases in judgments about homicide liability and punishment.

Defining Duty in Criminal Law (article)

This article empirically examines legal versus cultural and psychological concepts of "duty" across different domains in criminal law, from common law crimes of omission to white collar offenses.

TEACHING

Law School Courses

- Criminal Law
- Evidence
- Colloquium on Law and Psychology
- Psychological Dimensions of Criminal Law
- Experimental Methods in Legal Scholarship (under development)
- Homicide: A Case Study (under development)

Doctoral Advising & Teaching (University of California, Berkeley)

- Advanced Degree Committees:
 - o Amanda Charbonneau (Ph.D., Goldman School of Public Policy)
 - Carly Griffin (Ph.D., Psychology)
 - Shao-Man Lee (J.S.D., Law)
 - Liza Yatsev (Ph.D., Psychology)
- Recurring Guest Lectures:
 - The Field of Law & Psychology
 - Psychologists Beyond Psychology
 - o Law School Pedagogy for Interdisciplinary Scholars

Undergraduate Teaching (Graduate Instructor, Princeton University)

- Social Psychology
- Social and Personality Development

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of California, Berkeley: Hellman Faculty Fellowship Award

Princeton University (Graduate School - Psychology): Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars; Center for Human Values Graduate Prize Fellowship; Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship; National Science Foundation & Law School Admission Council research grants

Yale Law School: Robert L. Bernstein Fellowship in International Human Rights

Princeton University (Undergraduate): *Phi Beta Kappa*; Howard Crosby Warren Senior Prize in Psychology; Edward E. Jones Memorial Thesis Prize

LEGAL EXPERIENCE	
Center for Reproductive Rights, International Legal Program Legal Fellow (New York, India, and Kenya)	2005 - 2007
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP Litigation Associate (New York)	2003 - 2004
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP Summer Associate (New York)	Summer 2002
National Center for Youth Law Summer Associate (Oakland)	Summer 2001
New York County District Attorney's Office Paralegal, Appeals Bureau (New York)	1999 - 2000

SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

Select Professional Leadership & Memberships

- Law & Society Association Co-Founder of CRN 54 on Law, Society, & Psychological Science
- Society for Empirical Legal Studies
- American Psychology-Law Society
- Admitted to the New York State Bar (2004, currently non-active)

University of California, Berkeley

- UC Berkeley Committee for Protection of Human Subjects (2019 2020, Fall 2020)
- UC Berkeley Gift Acceptance Policy Working Group (2019 2020)
- Institute of Personality and Social Research Affiliate
- Institute for South Asia Studies Affiliate
- Institute of Governmental Studies Affiliate

Berkeley Law School

- Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee (2018 2019, 2019 2020, Fall 2020)
- Equity and Inclusion Committee Member (2019 2020), Co-Chair (Fall 2020)
- Families at Berkeley Law Faculty Advisor (2015 2020)
- Faculty Retreat Planning Committee Subcommittee on Scholarship (2018 2019)
- Academic Placement Committee (2017 2018)
- J.D. Admissions Committee (2015 2016, 2017 2018)
- Faculty Scholarship Fund Committee (2016 2017)
- Thelen Marrin Writing Prize Committee (2014 2015, 2016 2017)
- Faculty Workshop Co-Chair (2015 2016)
- Criminal Law Lateral Faculty Search Committee (2015 2016)
- Junior Faculty Working Ideas Group Co-Chair (2014 2015)
- Judicial Clerkship Committee (2013 2014, 2014 2015)
- Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program Affiliate
- Center for the Study of Law and Society Affiliate

Select Peer Reviewing

- Behavioral Sciences and the Law
- Cognition
- Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
- Journal of Experimental Social Psychology
- Journal of Law, Economics and Organization
- Journal of Legal Studies
- Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin
- Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences
- Social Justice Research
- Timesharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (grant reviewer)

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Courtroom Decision Making – Berkeley Judicial Institute Program for Judges (upcoming May 2022)

Format and Fairness / Have the Stakeholders Reached A Verdict?

- Colloquium on Courts and Judicial Process UC Berkeley School of Law (with Judges William Orrick & Jeremy Fogel) (2022)
- NYU Law School Faculty Workshop (2021)
- University of Chicago Law School Faculty Workshop (2021)
- Cornell Law School Faculty Workshop (2021)
- UC Berkeley School of Law Faculty Workshop (2021)
- Chicago/Michigan Psychology and Lab Studies Group (2021)
- University of Arizona Law Faculty Enrichment Series (2021)
- Northwestern Law School Faculty Workshop (2021)
- Duke Law School Empirical Criminal Law Roundtable (2020)
- ETH Zurich Experimental Methods in Legal Scholarship Conference (2019)

Systemic Inequality and the Courts – Berkeley Judicial Institute (with Judges Raymond Lohier & Jeremy Fogel) (2020)

Study of Access to Justice and Justice Systems – Law, Society, and Psychological Science CRN Summer Research Series (conference co-organizer, chair, and presenter) (on-line, 2020)

How Law Changes What You Want: Positive and Normative Effects of Law on Values and Preferences – Conference in Honor of Professor Bob Cooter (conference co-organizer and presenter) (Berkeley Law, 2020)

What's So Special about General Verdicts?

- University of Virginia Law School Law and Social Sciences Colloquium (2020)
- SMU Dedman School of Law Faculty Forum (2020)
- Columbia Law School Experimental Methods in Legal Scholarship Conference (2018)

Psychology in Criminal and Evidence Law – Law & Society Association, Annual Meeting (coorganizer of 6 conference panels and presenter) (Washington DC, 2019)

Justice and Society Seminar – The Aspen Institute (Aspen, 2019)

Evidence and Admissibility – International Judiciary Program (Berkeley Law School, 2019)

The Psychology of Legal Decision Making – Keynote Address, Annual Conference of the California Appellate Defense Counsel (Burlingame, 2018)

Workshop on Field Experimentation – Access to Justice Lab (Harvard Law School, 2018)

Psychology of Criminal Justice – Law & Society Association, Annual Meeting (co-organizer of 4 conference panels and presenter) (Toronto, 2018)

Attempted Justice: Misunderstanding and Bias in Psychological Constructions of Criminal Attempt

- UC Davis Department of Psychology Speaker Series (2018)
- Stanford Law School Faculty Workshop (2017)
- University of Chicago Law School Public Law and Legal Theory Workshop (2017)
- UC Berkeley School of Law Faculty Workshop (2017)
- Cornell Law School Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2017)
- Center for the Study of Law and Society, UC Berkeley Speaker Series (2017)
- UC Irvine School of Law Faculty Workshop (2017)
- USF School of Law Faculty Workshop (2017)
- University of Colorado Law School Faculty Workshop (2016)
- UCLA School of Law Experimental Methods in Legal Scholarship Conference (2016)
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology Psychology and Law Preconference (2016)

The 'Murder Scene Exception' – Myth or Reality?

- University of Chicago Law School Workshop on Judicial Behavior (2018)
- UC Berkeley School of Law Faculty Workshop (2016)
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle (2015)
- UC Berkeley School of Law Kadish Workshop in Law, Philosophy, & Political Theory (2015)
- Cornell Law School Journal of Empirical Legal Studies Junior Workshop (2015)

Law, Society, and Psychological Science – Law & Society Association, Annual Meeting (co-organizer of 5 conference panels and presenter) (New Orleans, 2016)

Culture, Creativity, and Technology – Council for the US and Italy's Young Leaders Conference (Matera, Italy, 2014)

Law and Morality – International Society of Justice Research, Biennial Conference (symposium organizer, chair, and presenter) (NYU, 2014)

Understanding Prosecutorial Discretion: How Prosecutors Make Decisions – Stanford Symposium on Prosecutorial Discretion (Stanford Law School, 2014)

Cognitive Cleansing: Experimental Psychology and the Exclusionary Rule

- UC Consortium on Social Science and Law Inaugural Conference (UC Irvine, 2015)
- Center for the Study of Law and Society, UC Berkeley Speaker Series (2014)
- UC Berkeley School of Law Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2014)
- Institute of Personality and Social Research, UC Berkeley Faculty Colloquium (2013)
- Princeton University Law and Public Affairs Workshop (2012)

The Plasticity of Harm in the Service of Criminalization Goals

- Harvard Law School Law and Cognition Colloquium (2011)
- Princeton University Law and Public Affairs Workshop (2011)
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (San Francisco, 2011)
- New York Law School Law, History, and Social Sciences Colloquium (2010)
- Yale Law School Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2010)

Mind Sciences and Punishment – Law and Mind Sciences Conference (Harvard Law School, 2010)

International Dispute Resolution: Legal Efforts at Social Reform in Foreign Fora – Harvard International Law Journal Symposium (Harvard Law School, 2010)

The Fine Line Between Interrogation and Retribution

- Society for Psychological Study of Social Issues Biennial Conference (New Orleans, 2010)
- Amherst College Northeast Law and Society Conference (2010)
- Princeton University Princeton Conference on Psychology and Policymaking (2008)

Using Public Interest Litigation to Address Violations of Women's Rights in India – Robert L. Bernstein Symposium on International Human Rights (Yale Law School, 2006)

International Law Instruments for Advancing Gender Justice in Indian Courts – Indian National Judicial Academy (Bhopal, India, 2006)