

# Annie Phoenix, PhD

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 PhD Sociology: City, Culture and Community, **Tulane University**, New Orleans, LA  
*Dissertation:* Should It Even Be A Question?: A Critical Discourse Analysis Of Efforts To Remove Barriers To College Admission For People With Criminal Convictions  
*Committee:* Michele Adams (Chair), Xiaojin Chen, Nghana Lewis
- 2011 Bachelor of Arts, **Scripps College**, Claremont, CA  
Magna Cum Laude, Dean's List, 2008-2011

## INTEREST AREAS

Social Movement Theory; Social Policy; Legal Studies; Criminology; Gender Studies; Critical Race Theory; Critical Discourse Analysis; Student Advocacy; Community-Engaged Research; Participatory Action Research; Critical Pedagogy

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-Present Executive Director, Jesuit Social Research Institute, Loyola University New Orleans

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 General Operating Support for Loyola at Rayburn. Laughing Gull Foundation. \$60,000. November 2024-December
- 2024 Identifying and Scaling Programmatic Technical Assistance Resources in Higher Education in Prison. American Institutes for Research. Ascendium Foundation. November 2024- October 2026.
- 2024 Light of Justice Program. Proteus Fund. \$75,000. September 2024-September 2025.
- 2024 Serving Rural Learners in Carceral Spaces. Ascendium Foundation. Seeding Innovation Fund. \$50,000. July 2024-December 2024
- 2023 "Building an Evidence Base and University Resources for Expansion of Higher Education in Prison in Louisiana". Mellon Foundation. \$750,000, March 2023 - February 2026
- 2022 "Catholic Teach-Ins on Mass Incarceration(CTIMI)". Porticus North America Foundation. \$150,000, December 2022 - November 2024
- 2022 "Jesuit Prison Education". Ascendium Foundation. \$1,200,000, December 2022 - November 2025
- 2022 Ignatian Colleagues Program. 2022-2023.

- 2021 American Council of Learned Societies Leading Edge Fellowship (Finalist)
- 2021 American Council of Learned Societies Emerging Voices Fellowship (Finalist)
- 2019 Tulane School of Liberal Arts Dissertation Completion Grant

## PUBLICATIONS

**Phoenix, Annie.** 2024. “Men and Women With and For Others Researching Jesuit Higher Ed in Prison.” Making the Case for Jesuit Prison Education. Essays compiled for the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) Faith, Justice and Reconciliation Assembly 2024

**Phoenix, Annie.** 2021. "Should It Even Be a Question?": A Critical Discourse Analysis of Efforts to Remove Barriers to College Admission for People with Criminal Convictions. Tulane University, School of Liberal Arts ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. 28416578.

**Phoenix, Annie & Steib, Syrita,** 2021. “Ban the Box in Higher Education: Lessons From Louisiana on Changing Laws and Leading Movements.” Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice.

**Freitas, Annie.** 2017. "Beyond Acceptance: Serving the Needs of Transgender Students at Women's Colleges." Humboldt Journal of Social Relations. 39(1). (NOTE: Maiden Name)

## PRESENTATIONS

- 2024. Moderator. “Jesuit Prison Education Commission Presentation. 2024 AJCU Assembly. Loyola University Chicago
- 2024. Facilitator. University Session. Catholic Consortium for Higher Education in Prison. Notre Dame University.
- 2023. Panelist. “Jesuit Prison Education Network”. Thomas More Center. Rockhurst University.
- 2023. Panelist. “What Civilian Oversight Can Learn from College Education Programs in Prisons”. National Association of Civil Oversight of Law Enforcement Conference.
- 2022. Session Facilitator, "Legal Antecedents of Mass Incarceration in Louisiana". In Pursuit of Equal Justice Symposium. Angola Museum
- 2021. *Invited Panelist*, “Leadership Summit: Transformative Leadership”. LAPSA Center for Leadership, Scripps College, virtual event
- 2021. *Invited Panelist*, “Civic Engagement: A Conversation with Dr. Jeffrey Benjamin and Annie Phoenix” Catholic Charities, Symposium for Systemic Change, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2019. *Moderator/ Session Organizer/ Discussant*, “Unlock Higher Ed: The Movement to Increase Access to Higher Education for the Currently and Formerly Incarcerated”, National Conference on Higher Education in Prison, St. Louis, Missouri

- 2019 *Session Organizer/ Discussant*, “Ban the Box/Fair Chances in Higher Education: Local and National Movement Building Strategies and Support”, National Conference on Higher Education in Prison, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2019 *Session Organizer/ Discussant*, “Illuminating the Social and Invisible Consequences of Mass Incarceration, Society for the Study of Social Problems”, New York, New York
- 2019 *Presenter*, “Dismantling Debtors’ Prisons: Research on Ability to Pay Determinations in New Orleans Courts”, Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, New York
- 2019 *Invited Panelist*, “Educational Justice: Centering The Voices And Experiences of Incarcerated Individuals”, The Education Trust, Washington, D.C.
- 2019 *Invited Panelist and Session Facilitator*, “Equity in Higher Education Lunch and Learn”, The Education Trust, Washington, D.C.
- 2018 *Invited Panelist*, Division on Women and Crime Policy Panel: Justice for Currently & Formerly Incarcerated Women”, American Criminology Society, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2018 *Session Organizer/ Discussant*, “Ban The Box in Higher Education: Local and National Movement Building Strategies and Support”, National Conference on Higher Education in Prison, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2018 *Invited Moderator/ Discussant*, Reflections on Movement Building and Prison Abolition, National Conference on Higher Education in Prison, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 2018 *Invited Panelist*, Beyond the Box Panel: Criminal History, College Admissions, and Second Chances” Invited by Senator Schatz, The United States Capitol, Washington, DC
- 2018 *Presenter*, “Should It Even Be a Question?: The Relationship Between Criminal History Admissions Considerations and College Crime Prevalence in Louisiana” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *Presenter*, “Should It Even Be a Question?: The Relationship Between Criminal History Admissions Considerations and College Crime Prevalence in Louisiana” Problems in Higher Education: Resistance and Transformation, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *Session Organizer/ Presenter*, “‘Covert Operations’ and ‘Strange Bedfellows’: Possibilities and Limitations of Abolitionist Policy Change” Critical Dialogue: Abolition versus Reform? Controversies in Criminal Justice, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *Commencement Speaker*, Oakland School for the Arts, Oakland, CA
- 2018 *Invited Panelist*, “Education and Reentry” Beyond Incarceration Summit, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 *Session Organizer/Moderator*, “The role of higher education in ending mass incarceration: Reflections from Louisiana” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2018 *Invited Presenter*, “Should It Even Be a Question?: The Relationship Between Criminal History Admissions Considerations and College Crime Prevalence in Louisiana”, City, Culture and Community Symposium, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Session Organizer/ Moderator*, “Ban the Box in Higher Education: Policy Dissemination and

- Implementation Strategies”, National Conference for Higher Education in Prison, Arlington, TX
- 2017 *Invited Presenter*, “Louisiana Pathways to Higher Education in Prison”, Illinois Alliance for Higher Education in Prison, Chicago, Illinois
- 2017 *Featured Discussant*, “Visions of Justice”, Vera Institute of Justice, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Event Organizer/ Moderator*, “ Women FIRST: A conversation and benefit concert for formerly incarcerated women”, Stand Up, Speak Out, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 *Session Organizer/ Discussant*, “Connecting Education and the Criminal Justice System I / II: Research & Policies / Narratives & Practice”, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Section: Crime and Juvenile Delinquency/ Educational Problems, Montreal, QC
- 2017 *Invited Panelist*, “New Orleans Women Living Our Values Everyday Criminal Justice Screening Series”, Jazz and Heritage Foundation, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *Invited Presenter*, “Putting School FIRST: Challenges Women Overcome to Continue their Education after Prison”, Fridays at Newcomb: Lecture Series, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *Invited Presenter*, “Incarceration and Education in Louisiana: Problems and Possibilities”, New Orleans Carrollton Circle Discussion Series: Race in America: Past, Present & Future, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *Event Organizer/ Moderator*, First Degree: A Call to Action for College Programs in Louisiana Prisons, New Orleans, LA
- 2016 *Invited Panelist*, Pomona College Criminal Justice Symposium, Claremont, CA
- 2016 *Presenter*, “Beyond Acceptance: Serving the Needs of Transgender Students at Women’s Colleges”, American Sociological Association, Section: Teaching and Learning, Session: Challenges of Teaching the 21st Century Student Body, Seattle, WA

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Co-Investigator*** Louisiana's Incarcerated Mothers (IRB Approved), 2020-2021 **Tulane University**
- Principal Investigator***, Ban the Box Policy (IRB Approved), 2018-2020 **Tulane University**
- Principal investigator***, Pathways to Higher Ed in LA Prisons (IRB Approved), 2019 **Tulane University**
- Research Assistant***, Dr. David Seal, 2016-2017 **Tulane University**

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Instructor, Religion, Crime, and Justice (LIM-G841-Y1G0E, CRIM-A705-YT1), Loyola University New Orleans, New Orleans, LA. Summer.
- 2020 Instructor, Introduction to Women’s Imprisonment (SOC12103), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Spring.
- 2020 Instructor, Service Learning: Introduction to Women’s Imprisonment (SOC12890), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Spring.
- 2020 Instructor, Introduction to Women’s Imprisonment (SOC12103), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Fall.
- 2020 Instructor, Service Learning: Introduction to Women’s Imprisonment (SOC12890), Tulane

- University, New Orleans, LA. Fall.
- 2019 Instructor, Introduction to Women's Imprisonment (SOC12103), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Spring.
- 2019 Instructor, Service Learning: Introduction to Women's Imprisonment (SOC12890), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Spring.
- 2018 Instructor, Introduction to Women's Imprisonment (SOC12103), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Fall.
- 2018 Instructor, Service Learning: Introduction to Women's Imprisonment (SOC12890), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Fall.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant, Women's Imprisonment (SOC16014), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Spring.
- 2018 Teaching Assistant, Service Learning: Women's Imprisonment (SOC16892), Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, Spring.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2022-2023 **Faculty Senate** (Member), Loyola University New Orleans
- 2022 **Working Group on Prison Education** (Chair), Loyola University New Orleans
- 2017-2021 **College in Prison Program** (Founder/Fundraiser), Tulane University
- Conducted a capacity-building study and subsequent report on higher education in prison in Louisiana and leveraged report findings to build relationships with Tulane administration and Department of Corrections leaders
  - Designed and launched a bachelor of arts in social science degree program for 40 women incarcerated at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women
  - Co-taught the first course offered in Spring 2018 and designed and taught a service-learning course on campus to support the program
  - Developed and facilitated training for students and faculty to enter the prison
  - Fundraised over one million dollars to support program sustainability and growth
- 2017- 2020 **Newcomb Prison Project** (Founder/Advisor), Tulane University
- Founded the Newcomb Prison Project, an on-campus organization that provides the Tulane community with opportunities to engage with criminal justice reform through education and direct service.
  - Facilitated weekly meetings and quarterly events
  - Built and maintained a contact list of over 500 supports
  - Transitioned to group advisor and supported student leaders from Fall 2017 to Spring 2020
- 2016-2017 **Sociology Colloquium** (Assistant), Tulane University
- Worked closely with sociology faculty to identify speakers and organize a weekly (or monthly) event series to highlight professors' current research in the department and invite an external speaker to present on a relevant topic

## PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Founder, Lead Consultant, Rosewater Advisors LLC**  
**New Orleans, LA, May 2021-Present**

Work closely with organizations and universities to provide the following services: program design/evaluation, proposal development, fundraising, partnership support, training, and

mentorship. Recent clients include: St. Vincent de Paul New Orleans, Tulane University Center Center for Public Service, Tulane University Phyllis M. Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking, University of Washington Husky Post-Prison Pathways Project, Feed the Second Line

***Co-founder, Opportunity 2 Restore (501c4)***

**New Orleans, LA, August 2019-May 2021**

Co-founded a non-profit 501c(4) organization to increase advocacy opportunities for currently and formerly incarcerated people and end the incarceration of women and girls. Completed all necessary steps to establish the organization as a 501c(4) and receive IRS approval. Secured funding from foundations to support legislative advocacy. Coordinated 501c(4) and 501c(3) efforts to ensure compliance with legal standards and maximum benefit for both organizations.

***Co-Founder/ Growth and Development Director, Operation Restoration (501c3)***

**New Orleans, LA, October 2016-May 2021**

Co-founded a non-profit 501c(3) organization to support currently and formerly incarcerated women. Built the organization from two co-founders and a zero budget in 2016 to 20 full-time staff, with a budget of over five million dollars in 2020. Wrote all grants and grant reports. Managed relationships with funders and donors. Secured funding from over 60 foundations and four federal funding programs. Coordinated with a communications firm to provide direction and oversight of all organizational communications and media, including drafting and editing social media posts, op-eds, and donor communications. Built a donor database in a customer relationship management (CRM) system to track all donors and communications across 16 programs.

***Founder, Louisiana Prison Education Coalition***

**New Orleans, LA, August 2015- August 2017**

Built a coalition of educators committed to increasing educational opportunities in prisons. Received funding to contract formerly incarcerated leaders to conduct focus groups. Interviewed education directors and teachers in all nine prisons in Louisiana to determine how Tulane and LPEC could build more opportunities.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
Society for the Study of Social Problems  
American Society of Criminology  
Law and Society Association  
American Evaluation Association  
Gulf Coast Evaluation Network  
Formerly Incarcerated and Convicted People's and Families' Movement  
Alliance for Higher Education in Prison  
Jesuit Prison Education Network