



Alexis Harris, PhD
University of Washington Presidential Term Professor
Professor, Department of Sociology
Faculty Athletics Representative
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Pronouns: She/her
Preferred title: Professor Harris

Extended Professional Bio:

Alexis Harris, Ph.D., is the Presidential Term Professor and Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington. Dr. Harris' work has spanned the criminal legal system, including juvenile justice, case processing outcomes, and monetary sanctions. Her research fundamentally centers on issues of inequality, poverty and race in United States' legal systems. Her book, *A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor* details the ways in which sentenced fines and fees often put an undue burden on disadvantaged populations and place them under even greater supervision of the criminal legal system. Her current project extends this line of research in eight states with funding from *Arnold Ventures*.

Dr. Harris has been appointed to serve on several federal advisory boards, including the Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Board and the National Task Force on Fines and Fees, and Bail Practice. She has also been called to testify for numerous state and federal governing bodies about inequalities in the criminal justice system and sentencing (including speaking at the White House on the issue of poverty and criminal justice). Dr. Harris has been inducted into the Washington State Academy of Sciences (2017) and is the chair of the Washington State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (2017-current). She was acknowledged for her teaching with the University of Washington's highest teaching honor, the Distinguished Teaching Award (2018). She has also worked with UW Athletics as a member of the Advisory Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics since 2011 and has served as the Chair from 2014-2019. In 2019, Dr. Harris was appointed as the UW Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR). Most recently, in 2021 she was appointed to serve as Special Assistant to the Provost at the University of Washington and will design and implement a mentoring and training program for incoming URM and first generation assistant professors.

Alexes Harris is a local Seattleite, she graduated from Garfield High School in 1993 and earned her B.A degree from the University of Washington in 1997 and received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2002.

Dr. Harris speaks publically about her research with the aim of translating empirical findings into real substantive policy reform. She frequently presents her research to academics, practitioners, and policy makers on monetary legal sanctions, how they disrupt individuals' abilities to lead successful lives and tether them to the criminal legal system. She engages with public and academic audiences on issues related to the U.S. criminal legal system, structural racism and inequalities, and health disparities. Dr. Harris is a proud first generation college and graduate student, and enjoys talking with students of all ages to encourage them to find their passions.

Abbreviated Professional Bio (150 words):

Alexes Harris, Ph.D., is the Presidential Term Professor and Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington. Her research fundamentally centers on issues of inequality, poverty and race in United States' criminal legal systems. Her book, *A Pound of Flesh: Monetary Sanctions as a Punishment for the Poor* details the ways in which sentenced fines and fees often put an undue burden on disadvantaged populations and place them under even greater supervision of the criminal justice system. Dr. Harris has been appointed to serve on several federal advisory boards, she has been inducted into the Washington State Academy of Sciences (2017), and is currently the chair of the Washington State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. In 2018, Dr. Harris was acknowledged for her teaching with the University of Washington's highest teaching honor, the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Personal Bio re: Cancer

In May 2016, Dr. Harris was diagnosed with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), a rare form of blood cancer. She immediately started in-patient intensive chemotherapy in June 2016 at UW Medicine and received a cord blood stem cell transplant on September 21, 2016 at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance. She is currently in remission. Since her diagnosis she has worked with Be the Match (BTM) and Save the Cord to help raise awareness of the opportunity for people to sign-up for the marrow registry - to be real super heroes and save lives. Through this work, in 2018, the University of Washington became the only institution in the United States to develop a formal partnership with BTM. Her aim is for every member of the UW community from staff, student, professor and alumni to know about the life saving process of marrow and cord blood donation. Dr. Harris shares her experiences with medical and patient-oriented panels, as well as the public, to raise awareness about health in general, empowerment, her experiences with cancer treatment and transplant, and the marrow and cord blood programs. She firmly believes that there is life after any cancer diagnosis and with her mantra Grind, Grit and Grace we can all live more full and healthy lives.



(2020 Picture)

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