

Kennesaw State University

DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University

---

Symposium of Student Scholars

---

## Smoke but No Fire: Convicting the Innocent of Crimes that Never Happened

Autumn Huber

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/undergradsymposiumksu>



Part of the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

Huber, Autumn, "Smoke but No Fire: Convicting the Innocent of Crimes that Never Happened" (2022). *Symposium of Student Scholars*. 340.

<https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/undergradsymposiumksu/Fall2022/presentations/340>

This Oral Presentation (15-min time slots) is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of Undergraduate Research at DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Symposium of Student Scholars by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Kennesaw State University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@kennesaw.edu).

**Smoke but No Fire: Convicting the Innocent of Crimes that Never Happened**

Autumn O. Huber

Kennesaw State University

Professor Churchwell

**Author Note**

Autumn O. Huber is a Senior at Kennesaw State University.

Major in Criminal Justice.

## **Abstract**

“Smoke but no Fire” published by Jessica Henry provides various discussions of no-crime wrongful convictions of those who are innocent. Throughout this novel, the evaluation of forensic error, police roles, judiciary roles, and misdemeanors bring to light the phantom crimes that occur within our criminal justice system. The criminal justice system brings the injustice of those wrongfully convicted to the eyes of readers worldwide. Part of this research provided throughout her novel includes the National Registry of Exonerations, short for NRE, which assesses evidence of exonerations of those who were innocent and those who remain inside the four walls of prison that are factually innocent. The question of who is guilty and who is innocent lies in the palms of prosecutors who withhold evidence and judges who are cognitively biased. The author includes possible reforms to be made in order to provide justice to those who have been wrongfully convicted and for those who wrongfully convict the innocent.

*Keywords:* wrongful convictions, phantom crimes, cognitive bias, reform, exonerations, factually innocent

## **Reference**

Henry, J. S. (2020). *Smoke but No Fire: Convicting the Innocent of Crimes that Never Happened*. University of California Press. ISBN 978-052-038-5801.