

Bonds of Family:
*One Family's
Experience with Mass
Incarceration*

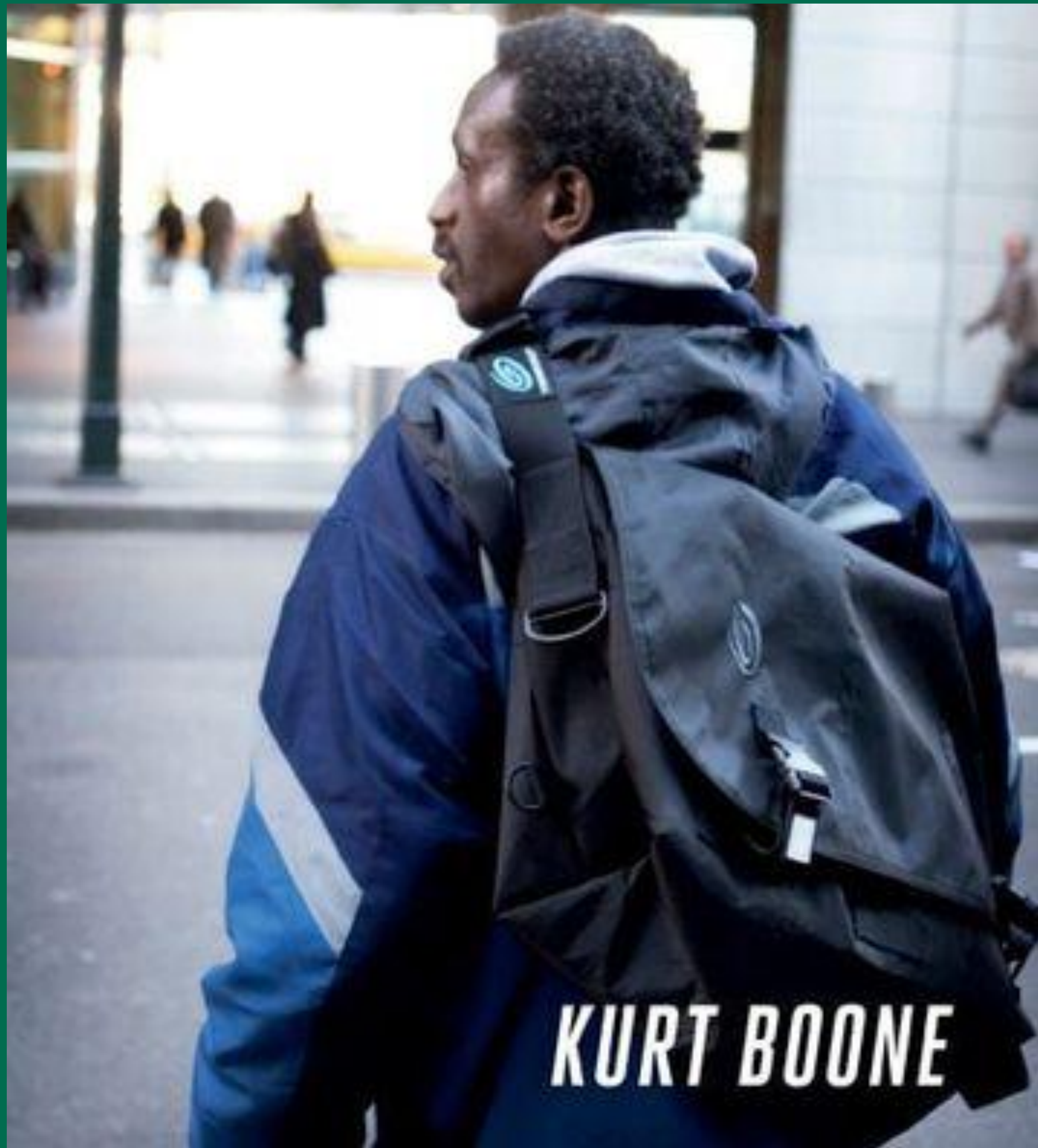
BACKGROUND:

- Mass incarceration unfolded from two 1960s transformations: rightward policy shift and urban deindustrialization.
- Generated a prison population of almost 2 million, with a disproportionate amount being people of color.
- Social history examines political issues such as mass incarceration from the perspective of those left out by the dominant narrative.
- Oral history is a key method for collecting such perspectives

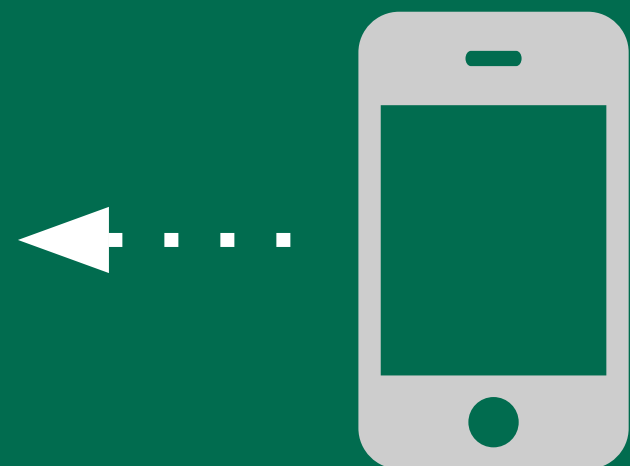
METHODS:

1. Exploration of Existing Scholarship
 - Mass Incarceration Background and Statistics
 - Social History
 - Oral History
 - Psychological Studies
2. Original Research of Oral History Archive
 - **Kurt Boone's 2019 Mass Incarceration Oral History Collection at Columbia University:** an unstudied oral history archive that engages with the voices of black women, black correctional officers, and black law enforcement.
 - Newspaper Clippings

One family's oral histories provide a unique view into mass incarceration, revealing the many sides of the prison-industrial complex.

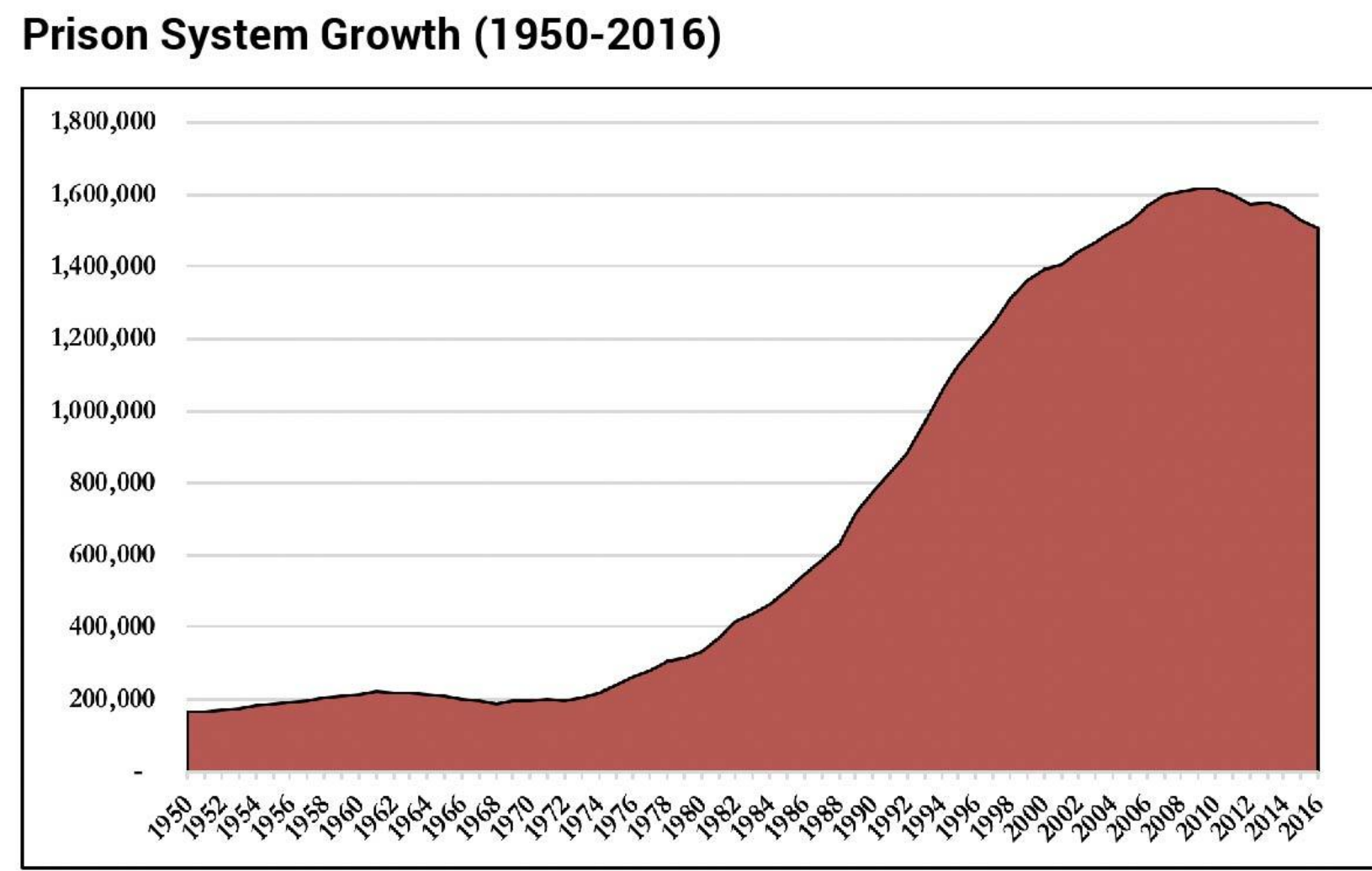


From 2018-2019, Kurt Boone conducted eight interviews with members of his family, including both formerly incarcerated individuals and those working as police and corrections officers.



Take a picture to
download the references

PRESENTER:
Cameron Stone



PURPOSE:

- Explore an unstudied archive through a research question:
What can we understand about mass incarceration from one family's experience?
- Examine the paradox of the prison-industrial complex through the interpretation of a singular family/community.
- Amplify the voices of those ignored in dominant history.

FINDINGS:

- **Prison-Industrial Complex:** Prisons can provide economic stability for some, but this is dependent on the incarceration of those from the same community, or even the same *family* as the system's beneficiaries.
- **Both Sides of the Bars:** The archive provides perspectives from both incarcerated individuals and employees of the carceral system.
- **Women's Voices:** Women are the fastest growing group within the prison population, but have sometimes been neglected in prison studies. Women experience violence and sexual abuse, but their stories are overshadowed by black and white men.
- **AIDS Epidemic:** People tend to suffer a "prison blindness," where they ignore how outside events impact incarcerated individuals, leading to inadequate care and ignorance of suffering.
- **Prisoner Activism:** Activism in prison is prevalent, but is often silenced by guards and even dangerous "treatments," such as diesel therapy.