

# DAVID SKARBEK

King's College London ♦ Department of Political Economy  
Strand Building, Second Floor ♦ London WC2R 2LS  
David.Skarbek@kcl.ac.uk ♦ www.DavidSkarbek.com

## EMPLOYMENT

---

### **King's College London**

Senior Lecturer in Political Economy  
Lecturer in Political Economy

July 2015 – present  
September 2012 – June 2015

### **Duke University**

Searle Visiting Assistant Professor in Political Science

August 2010 – August 2012

## EDUCATION

---

### **George Mason University**

Ph.D. in Economics  
M.A. in Economics

2010  
2008

### **San Jose State University**

B.Sc. in Economics

2006

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

---

Global Prisons Research Network, Member

2014 – present

Oxford University, Extra-legal Governance Institute, Associate Member

2013 – present

Global Crime, Editorial Board Member

2012 – present

## RESEARCH INTEREST

---

My research uses comparative institutional analysis to examine how extralegal governance institutions form, operate, and evolve.

## BOOK

---

**The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System.** Oxford University Press, 2014. Paperback, 2014. Chinese translation, 2016.

- Winner, 2016 William H. Riker Award for Best Book in Political Economy, American Political Science Association, Political Economy Section.
- Winner, 2014 Outstanding Publication Award, International Association for the Study of Organized Crime
- Shortlisted, 2014 Thinking Allowed Ethnography Award, British Sociological Association & the BBC.

Academic Reviews: American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Criminology, Cato Journal, Contemporary Sociology, Criminal Justice Review, Economic Affairs, ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime, Global Crime, Independent Review, Latin American Research Review, LSE Review of Books, Public Choice, Punishment & Society, Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics, Theoretical Criminology

Media Reviews (selected): The Atlantic, BBC, Business Insider, The Economist, Estado de São Paulo, Forbes, The Independent, Marginal Revolution, The Times.

- “Covenants without the Sword? Comparing Prison Self-Governance Globally” accepted for publication in **American Political Science Review**
- “Criminal Rituals” (with P. Wang) **Global Crime** 16(4) 2015: 288-305.
- “Prison Gangs and the Community Responsibility System” (with M. Garrett Roth) **Review of Behavioral Economics** 1(3) 2014: 223-243.
- “The Effect of Prison Gang Membership on Recidivism” (with B. Dooley and A. Seals) **Journal of Criminal Justice** 42(3) 2014: 267-275.
- “Why Didn’t Slaves Revolt More Often During the Middle Passage?” (with A. Marcum) **Rationality & Society** 26(2) 2014: 232-262.
- “The Governance Institutions of a Drug Trafficking Organization” (with J. Kostelnik) **Public Choice** 156(1-2) 2013: 95-103.
- “The Industrial Organization of Street Gangs” (with R. Sobel) **Journal of Gang Research** 20(1) 2012: 1-17.
- “Anarchy, Groups, and Conflict: An Experiment on the Emergence of Protective Associations” (with A. Smith and B. Wilson) **Social Choice & Welfare** 38(2) 2012: 325-353.
- “Prison Gangs, Norms, and Organizations” **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization** 82(1) 2012: 96-109.
- Winner, Emerald Citations of Excellence 2015
  - Winner, FEE Prize for Best Article in Austrian Economics 2013
- “Sweatshops, Opportunity Costs, and Non-Monetary Compensation: Evidence from El Salvador” (with E. Skarbek, B. Skarbek, and E. Skarbek) **American Journal of Economics & Sociology** 71(3) 2012: 539-561.
- “Governance and Prison Gangs” **American Political Science Review** 105(4) 2011: 702-716.
- Reprinted in *The Economics of Governance* (ed. Donald Wittman) Edward Elgar Publisher, 2016.
  - Reprinted in *Transnational Organized Crime* (ed. James Sheptycki) Sage Publications, 2014.
- “What Aid Can’t Do: Reply to Ranis” (with P. Leeson) **Cato Journal** 31(1) 2011: 83-86.
- “Putting the ‘Con’ into Constitutions: The Economics of Prison Gangs” **Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization** 26(2) 2010: 183-211.
- “Criminal Constitutions” (with P. Leeson) **Global Crime** 11(3) 2010: 279-298.
- “Self-Governance in San Pedro Prison” **The Independent Review** 14(4) 2010: 569-585.

“Alertness, Local Knowledge, and Johnny Appleseed” **Review of Austrian Economics** 22(4) 2009: 415-424.

“What Can Aid Do?” (with P. Leeson) **Cato Journal** 29(3) 2009: 391-397.

“F.A. Hayek’s Influence on Nobel Prize Winners” **Review of Austrian Economics** 22(1) March 2009: 109-112.

“Market Failure and Natural Disasters: A Reexamination of Anti-Gouging Laws” **Public Contract Law Journal** 37(4) 2008: 771-780.

“The Price is Right: Regulation, Reputation, and Recovery” (with B. Skarbek) **Dartmouth Law Journal** 6(2) 2008: 235-276.

“Occupational Licensing and Asymmetric Information: Post-Hurricane Evidence from Florida” **Cato Journal** 28(1) 2008: 71-80.

“Sweatshops Wages and Third World Living Standards: Are the Jobs Worth the Sweat?” (with B. Powell) **Journal of Labor Research** 27(2) 2006: 263-274.

## CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

---

“Prisoner’s Law” **Legal Systems Very Different From Ours**. David D. Friedman.

“Prison Gangs” (with D. Freire) **Handbook of Corrections in the United States**. Hayden Griffin and Vanessa Woodward (eds). Routledge. Forthcoming.

“Polycentrism and Prison Gangs” (with A. Marcum) **The Annual Proceedings of the Wealth and Well Being of Nations**. Upton Forum. Beloit College. 2012.

“Restricting Reconstruction: Occupational Licensing and Natural Disasters” in **The Political Economy of Hurricane Katrina and Community Rebound**. E. Chamlee-Wright and V.H. Storr (eds). Edward Elgar Publisher. 2010: 72-83.

“Adam’s Apple: Using Johnny Appleseed to Teach the Invisible Hand” (with J. Hall) in **Expanding Teaching and Learning Horizons in Economic Education**. F.G. Mixon, Jr. and R.J. Cebula (eds). Nova Science Publishers. 2009: 199-206.

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

Review of *Outlaws of the Atlantic: Sailors, Pirates, and Motley Crews in the Age of Sail*, by Marcus Rediker **Journal of Economic History** 74(4) 2014: 1238-1239.

Review of *The Modern Prison Paradox: Politics, Punishment, and Social Community*, by Amy E. Lerman **Public Choice** 161(3-4) 2014: 537-539.

Review Essay of *Prisonomics: Behind Bars in Britain’s Failing Prisons*, by Vicky Pryce **Economic Affairs** 34(3) 2014: 411-421.

Review of *Mafias on the Move: How Organized Crime Conquers New Territories*, by Federico Varese **Public Choice** 151(1-2) 2012: 405-407.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

---

£9,796 — British Academy (RCUK) Small Research Grant (w J. Meadowcroft)	2016
\$16,500 — Earhart Foundation (for research project on Global Prisons)	2014
\$20,500 — Earhart Foundation (for The Social Order of the Underworld)	2012
\$5,500 — Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research (for “Governance and Prison Gangs”)	2009

## TEACHING

---

Professional Certification: Post-Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice in Higher Education, King’s College London, 2014.

### King’s College London

Economics of Crime  
Political Economy of Organized Crime (graduate)  
Research Methods for Politics  
Principles of Economics

### Duke University

The Rule of Law (graduate)  
Analysis of Political Decision Making  
Quantitative Political Analysis

### George Mason University

Intermediate Microeconomics

## SERVICE

---

2014-2016 Chair, Undergraduate Assessment Sub-Board  
2013-2014 Deputy Chair, Undergraduate Assessment Sub-Board  
2012-2014 Co-leader, “Regulation, Governance, and Order” research cluster

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

---

2015 Shortlisted, Bracken Bower Prize, Financial Times and McKinsey & Company  
2014 Shortlisted, Thinking Allowed Ethnography Award, British Sociological Association & the BBC  
2014 Winner, Outstanding Publication Award for *The Social Order of the Underworld*, International Association for the Study of Organized Crime.  
2013 FEE Prize, for Best Article in Austrian Economics, given to “Prison Gangs, Norms, and Organizations”  
2010 Israel M. Kirzner Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Austrian Economics.  
2009 Don Lavoie Memorial Essay Contest Winner, Society for the Development of Austrian Economics.  
2009 Robert K. Merton Award, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research.  
2008 Roy A. Foulke Award, American Institute for Economic Research.  
2008-09 Summer Fellowship, American Institute for Economic Research.  
2006 Global Technology Initiative Scholar, San Jose State University.  
2004 Winner, James F. Willis Award for Excellence in Economics, San Jose State University

## INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

---

- 2016 University College London (upcoming 4 July)
- 2016 University of Glasgow, 9-10 June
- 2016 King's College London, Department of War Studies, 13 May
- 2016 Ministry of Justice, UK, 17 March
- 2015 Keynote Address at "Judicial Symposium on Using the Law & Economics to Reform the System of Criminal Justice," December
- 2015 London School of Economics, Department of Law, November
- 2015 Trinity College CT, October
- 2015 University of Reading, Department of Politics and International Relations, October
- 2015 Mercatus Center Book Launch, with Peter Reuter and Bert Useem, 19 February
- 2014 University of Bergen, Department of Economics, December
- 2014 University of Strathclyde, Department of Economics, December
- 2014 Oxford University Book Launch, with Sir Paul Collier and Heather Hamill, 27 November
- 2014 Research Institute of Industrial Economics, October
- 2014 University of Middlesex, School of Law, October
- 2014 Chapman University, Economic Science Institute, September
- 2014 UC Berkeley, School of Public Policy, September
- 2014 Santa Clara Law School, September
- 2014 Cardiff University, Department of Economics, March
- 2014 George Mason University, Department of Economics, January
- 2014 University of Buckingham, Department of Economics and International Studies, January
- 2013 Texas Tech University, Department of Political Science, November
- 2013 Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation, April
- 2012 National Bureau of Economic Research, Summer Institute, July

## PUBLIC LECTURES

---

- 2016 Bristol Festival of Economics (upcoming in November)
- 2016 Volte Face "Betwixt and Between: Prison and Drug Reform", June 14
- 2016 UCL Mexico Summit, June 13
- 2016 Howard League for Penal Reform, 3 May
- 2016 Anglia Ruskin University, 18 April
- 2016 SOAS, 22 February
- 2015 Birkbeck, University of London, 15 October
- 2015 Think conference, 11 July
- 2015 CEVRO Institute, Prague, 2 July
- 2015 Oxford University, 11 May
- 2015 TEDxWarwick, 28 February
- 2014 Institute of Economic Affairs, 8 December
- 2014 University of Warwick, 27 October
- 2014 University of Manchester, 20 October
- 2014 Loyola University, New Orleans, 18 September
- 2014 Metropolitan State University, Denver, 15 September
- 2014 San Jose State University, 8 September
- 2014 Adam Smith Institute panel with Nick Herbert MP, 3 March
- 2013 University of Leuven, March

2012 Bryn Mawr College, March  
2012 Fayetteville State University, March  
2011 Beloit College, December  
2011 James Madison University, September  
2011 Western Carolina University, September  
2010 Western Carolina University, September

## REFEREE

---

### **Journals**

American Political Science Review  
American Journal of Political Science  
Comparative Political Studies  
Criminology  
Econ Journal Watch  
European Journal of Law and Economics  
Games  
International Economic Review  
International Journal of Business Management and Administration  
Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology  
Journal of Business Ethics  
Journal of Conflict Resolution  
Journal of Comparative Politics  
Journal of Institutional Economics  
Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics

Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization  
Journal of Peace Research  
Journal of Private Enterprise  
Journal of Qual. Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Justice Quarterly  
Public Choice  
Rationality & Society  
Review of Austrian Economics  
Review of Behavioral Economics  
Social Sciences

### **Funding Bodies**

Economic and Social Research Council  
National Science Foundation  
Templeton Foundation

### **Presses**

Oxford University Press  
Palgrave Macmillan  
University of California Press

*Updated: 30 June 2016*