

David Skarbek

Brown University
Department of Political Science
Political Theory Project
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Employment

Brown University

Associate Professor of Political Science
Political Theory Project

September 2017 – present
September 2017 – present

King's College London

Senior Lecturer in Political Economy
Lecturer in Political Economy

July 2015 – August 2017
September 2012 – June 2015

Duke University

Searle Visiting Assistant Professor in Political Science

August 2010 – August 2012

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, George Mason University 2010
M.A. in Economics, George Mason University 2008
B.S. in Economics, San Jose State University 2006

Other Affiliations

Founding Member, Network for Constitutional Economics and Social Philosophy 2017 – present
Director on the Executive Board, Public Choice Society 2017 – present
Member, Global Prisons Research Network 2014 – present
Associate Member, Extra-legal Governance Institute at University of Oxford 2013 – present
Editorial Board Member, Global Crime 2012 – present

Research Grants

£9,796 British Academy (RCUK) Small Research Grant (w J. Meadowcroft) 2016
\$16,500 Earhart Foundation (for 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

Book

The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System.

Oxford University Press.

Hardcover, 2014. Paperback, 2014. E-book, 2014.

Chinese translation (Chinese University of Political Science and Law), 2016.

- Winner, 2016 William H. Riker Award for Best Book in Political Economy in the previous three years, 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, Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law, 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.

Life on the Inside: The Institutional Diversity of Prison Governance. In progress. Under contract with Oxford University Press.

Journal Articles

“The Decline and Rise of Institutions” (with L. Palagashvili and E. Piano) **Cambridge Elements: Austrian Economics**. 2017.

“Covenants without the Sword? Comparing Prison Self-Governance Globally” **American Political Science Review** 110(4) 2016: 845-862.

“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**. O. Hayden Griffin III and Vanessa Woodward (eds). Routledge. 2018.

“Self-Governance, Property Rights, and Illicit Commerce” **Research Handbook on Austrian Law & Economics**. Peter Boettke and Todd Zywicki (eds). Edward Elgar Publishing. 2017.

“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.

Service

2018 Conference Program Committee, Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics.

2014-2016 Chair, Undergraduate Assessment Sub-Board, King’s College London

2013-2014 Deputy Chair, Undergraduate Assessment Sub-Board, King’s College London

2012-2014 Co-leader, “Regulation, Governance, and Order” research cluster, King’s College London

Teaching

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

PhD Supervision

Irena Schneider, 2017

Dalibor Rohac, 2014

Brown University

Analytical Foundation of Political Economy
Institutions, Crime, and Violence (graduate)

UK Home Office

Short course on the economics of crime

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

Awards & Fellowships

- 2016 William H. Riker Award, American Political Science Association, Political Economy Section
- 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

- 2017 Institutional and Organizational Economics Academy, Corsica, 22-27 May
- 2017 Plenary Lecture at the Public Choice Society Conference, 3 March
- 2017 New York University, Colloquium on Market Institutions & Economic Processes, February 27
- 2017 Oxford University, Seminar for the Study of Violence, 13 February
- 2017 The Home Office, 19 January
- 2016 University College London, “Governing the Illegal Cocaine Trade: Workshop” 4 July
- 2016 University of Glasgow, “Inequality, Conflict, and Violence: Workshop” 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,” 10 December
- 2015 London School of Economics, Department of Law, 16 November
- 2015 Trinity College CT, 29 October
- 2015 University of Reading, Department of Politics and International Relations, 27 October
- 2015 Mercatus Center Book Launch, with Peter Reuter and Bert Useem, 19 February
- 2014 University of Bergen, Department of Economics, 18 December
- 2014 University of Strathclyde, Department of Economics, 10 December
- 2014 Oxford University Book Launch, with Sir Paul Collier and Heather Hamill, 27 November
- 2014 Research Institute of Industrial Economics, 5 November
- 2014 University of Middlesex, School of Law, 29 October
- 2014 Chapman University, Economic Science Institute, 12 September
- 2014 UC Berkeley, School of Public Policy, 11 September
- 2014 Santa Clara Law School, 10 September
- 2014 Cardiff University, Department of Economics, 5 March
- 2014 George Mason University, Department of Economics, 23 January
- 2014 University of Buckingham, Department of Economics and International Studies, 22 January
- 2013 Texas Tech University, Department of Political Science, 7 November
- 2013 Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation, 19 April
- 2012 National Bureau of Economic Research, Summer Institute, July

Public Lectures

- 2018 Keynote address at “Criminal (In)Justice and Self-Governance” conference, Texas Tech, February
- 2017 Kenyon College, Department of Economics, 27 April
- 2017 Ball State University, Department of Economics, 26 April
- 2017 Wabash College, Department of Economics, 25 April
- 2017 Troy University, Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy, February 21
- 2017 Prison Reform Working Group (with Department of Corrections), Montgomery Alabama, February 20
- 2017 University College London, prison reform event, February 16
- 2016 Keynote Lecture at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Seminar, November 26
- 2016 Bristol Festival of Economics, November 19
- 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, Department of Criminology, 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 TEDx Warwick, 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, Department of Economics, 18 September
- 2014 Metropolitan State University, Denver, Department of Economics, 15 September
- 2014 San Jose State University, Department of Economics, 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, School of Business and Economics, March
 2011 Beloit College, Department of Economics, December
 2011 James Madison University, Department of Economics, September
 2011 Western Carolina University, Department of Economics, September
 2010 Western Carolina University, Department of Economics, September

Popular & Other Writings

- 2017 “Varieties of Prison Social Order: Extralegal Governance Behind Bars” *The Political Economist*, Fall.
 2015 “To end prison gangs, it’s time to break up the largest prisons” (w C. Michaluk) *Politico*, June 18.
 2015 “States shouldn’t backpedal on prison reform” (w C. Michaluk), *Orange County Register*, March 13.
 2011 “It’s time to get rid of FEMA” (w E. Skarbek) *The Atlantic*, September 12.
 2005 “Third World Work in the Apparel Industry: No Sweat?” (w B. Powell) *East Valley Tribune, and Scottsdale Tribune (AZ)*, June 7.
 2005 “Don’t get into a lather over sweatshops” (w B. Powell) *Christian Science Monitor*, August 2.

Referee

Journals

American Political Science Review
 American Journal of Political Science
 Asian Journal of Criminology
 British Journal of Political Science
 Comparative Political Studies
 Contemporary Economic Policy
 Criminal Justice and Behavior
 Criminology
 Econ Journal Watch
 Economic Affairs
 European Journal of Law and Economics
 Evaluation and Program Planning
 Games
 Global Crime
 Howard Journal of Crime and Justice
 International Criminal Justice Review
 International Economic Review
 International Journal of Business Management and Administration
 International Journal of Drug Policy
 Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology
 Journal of Business Ethics
 Journal of Conflict Resolution

Journal of Comparative Politics
 Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization
 Journal of Institutional Economics
 Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics
 Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization
 Journal of Peace Research
 Journal of Politics
 Journal of Private Enterprise
 Journal of Public Economics
 Journal of Qual. Criminology & Criminal Justice
 Justice Quarterly
 Perspectives on Politics
 Public Choice
 Rationality & Society
 Review of Austrian Economics
 Review of Behavioral Economics
 Review of Economic Studies
 Social Sciences
 Socio-Economic Review
 St. Antony’s International Review
 Trends in Organized Crime

Funding Bodies

British Academy
 Economic and Social Research Council

Leverhulme Trust
National Science Foundation
Templeton Foundation

Presses

Cambridge University Press
Harvard University Press
Oxford University Press
Palgrave Macmillan
University of California Press

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