

David Skarbek

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Employment

King's College London

Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, Department of Political Economy, 2015 — .

Lecturer in Political Economy, Department of Political Economy, 2012 — 2015.

Duke University

Searle Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2010 — 2012.

Education

Ph.D. Economics, George Mason University, 2010.

M.A. Economics, George Mason University, 2008.

B.S. Economics, San Jose State University, 2006.

Other Affiliations

Member, Global Prisons Research Network, 2014 —.

Associate Member, Extra-Legal Governance Institute, University of Oxford, 2013 —.

Member, Editorial Board, *Global Crime*, 2012 —.

Research Interest

My research uses comparative institutional analysis to examine how extralegal governance institutions form, operate, and evolve, and in particular, how people define and enforce property rights and trade in the absence of strong, effective governments.

Research

Book

The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System Oxford University Press. July 2014.

- 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: British Journal of Criminology, Economic Affairs, ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime, Global Crime, The Independent Review, LSE Review of Books, Public Choice

- Popular Reviews: the Economist, Forbes, the Atlantic, Business Insider, the Independent, and discussed in the Times, Estado de São Paulo (Brazil), and PhoenixTV (Hong Kong).

Journal Articles

- “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
- “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 *Transnational Organized Crime* (ed. James Sheptycki) Sage Publications, 2014.
- “What Aid Can’t Do: Reply to Ranis” (with P. Leeson) The Cato Journal 31(1) 2011: 83-86.
- “Putting the ‘Con’ into Constitutions: The Economics of Prison Gangs” The 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) The 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” The 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.

Book Chapters

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

“A Modern Survey of Austrian and Institutional Economics” (with L. Palagashvili) Oxford Handbook on Austrian Economics 2015

“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 Emily Chamlee-Wright and Virgil Henry Storr (eds). Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publisher. 2010: 72-83.

“Adam’s Apple: Using Johnny Appleseed to Teach the Invisible Hand” with Joshua Hall in Expanding Teaching and Learning Horizons in Economic Education Franklin G. Mixon, Jr. and Richard J. Cebula (eds). New York: 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

\$16,500 — Research Grant, The Earhart Foundation, (for research project on Global Prisons), 2014.

\$20,500 — Research Grant, The Earhart Foundation (for *The Social Order of the Underworld*), 2012.

\$5,500 — Research Grant, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research (to work on “Governance and Prison Gangs”), 2009.

Teaching

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

King’s College London

Economics of Crime, Spring 2014, 2015, Fall 2015

Political Economy of Organized Crime (grad), Spring 2014, 2015

Research Methods for Politics, Fall 2013, 2014

Principles of Economics, Fall 2012 - Spring 2013

Duke University

The Rule of Law (grad), Spring 2012

Senior Research and Independent Study, Fall 2011, Spring 2012

Analysis of Political Decision Making, Fall 2011

Quantitative Political Analysis, Fall 2010, Spring 2011

George Mason University

Intermediate Microeconomics, Fall 2008

Awards & Fellowships

2014 Shortlist, 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” (Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization).

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, 2009 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.

Referee

American Political Science Review
American Journal of Political Science
Comparative Political Studies
Criminology
European Journal of Law and Economics
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Comparative Politics
Journal of Institutional Economics
Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics
Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization
National Science Foundation
Oxford University Press
Palgrave Macmillan
Public Choice
Rationality & Society
Review of Behavioral Economics

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