

DAVID SKARBEK

King's College London ♦ Department of Political Economy
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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.S. 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, and in particular, how people define and enforce property rights and trade in the absence of effective government.

BOOK

The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System. Oxford University Press, 2014.
Chinese translation, China University of Political Science and Law Press, 2016.

- 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, 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 and Discussions (selected): The Atlantic, BBC, Business Insider, The Economist, Estado de São Paulo, Forbes, The Independent, Marginal Revolution, The Times (London).

- “Covenants without the Shank? Comparing Prison Self-Governance Globally” *Revisions requested at 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, forthcoming.
 - 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.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“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

\$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

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” (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.

2008-09 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 TALKS

Ministry of Justice, UK (upcoming March 2016)

Keynote 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, October 2015

University of Reading, Department of Politics and International Relations, October 2015

University of Bergen, Department of Economics, December 2014

University of Strathclyde, Department of Economics, December 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 2014

Texas Tech University, Department of Political Science, November 2013

Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation, April 2013

REFEREE

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 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 Qualitative Criminology & Criminal Justice

National Science Foundation

Oxford University Press

Palgrave Macmillan

Public Choice
Rationality & Society
Review of Austrian Economics
Review of Behavioral Economics
Social Sciences
Templeton Foundation
University of California Press

Updated: 21 January 2016