

DAVID SKARBEK

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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.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

I study the political economy of institutional development from a comparative perspective. My current focus is on how extralegal governance institutions form, operate, and evolve.

BOOK

Varieties of Prison Social Order. In progress. Under contract with Oxford University Press.

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 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.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“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**. Hayden Griffin and Vanessa Woodward (eds). Routledge. Forthcoming.
- “Self-Governance, Property Rights, and Illicit Commerce” **Research Handbook on Austrian Law & Economics**. Peter Boettke and Todd Zywicki (eds). Edward Elgar Publishing. 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**. 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 <i>The Social Order of the Underworld</i>)	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.

PhD Supervision

Dalibor Rohac, completed 2014
Irena Schneider
Danilo Freire
Sophia Ostler

King's College London

Economics of Crime
Political Economy of Organized Crime (graduate)
Research Methods for Politics
Principles of Economics
Supervision of Undergraduate and Master's dissertations

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

- 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 Oxford University, Seminar for the Study of Violence, 13 February (upcoming)
- 2017 New York University, Colloquium on Market Institutions & Economic Processes, February (upcoming)
- 2017 Plenary Lecture at the Public Choice Society Conference, 3 May (upcoming)
- 2017 Institutional and Organizational Economic Academy, Corsica, 22-26 May (upcoming)
- 2017 The Home Office, 19 January
- 2016 University College London, 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 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, 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
Asian Journal of Criminology
Comparative Political Studies
Criminal Justice and Behavior
Criminology
Econ Journal Watch
Economic Affairs
European Journal of Law and Economics
Games
Howard Journal of Crime and Justice
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
Review of Economic Studies
Social Sciences
Socio-Economic Review

Funding Bodies

Economic and Social Research Council
National Science Foundation
Templeton Foundation

Presses

Oxford University Press
Palgrave Macmillan
University of California Press

Updated: 2 February 2017