

# DAVID SKARBEK

King's College London ♦ Department of Political Economy  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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### **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

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### **George Mason University**

Ph.D. in Economics

2010

M.A. in Economics

2008

### **San Jose State University**

B.Sc. in Economics

2006

## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

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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

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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

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**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, 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

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- “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

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- “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

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- 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

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£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

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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

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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

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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 <i>The Social Order of the Underworld</i> , 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

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- 2017 Plenary Lecture at the Public Choice Society Conference, 3 May (upcoming)
- 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

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- 2016 Bristol Festival of Economics (upcoming in November)
- 2016 Keynote Lecture at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Seminar (upcoming 26 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

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### Journals

American Political Science Review  
 American Journal of Political Science  
 Comparative Political Studies  
 Criminal Justice and Behavior  
 Criminology  
 Econ Journal Watch  
 Economic Affairs  
 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  
 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: 14 September 2016*