

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, 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

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

- “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.
- Discussed in the Wilson Quarterly
- “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.
 - Discussed on Marginal Revolution
- “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

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| \$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

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

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