

Evidence Based Crime Prevention
CRIM 634
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30am-noon

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Office Hours:

MW 10:30-noon

or by appointment

- Grade:** Your grade will be determined as follows: Final Paper (60%); 4 Interim Papers (10% each).
- Final Paper:** You will articulate a hypothesis regarding the effect of some change in crime policy, develop a research design (e.g., difference-in-difference; regression discontinuity; etc) to examine the hypothesis, find data to implement the research design, and discuss the conclusions, policy implications, and limitations of your study. This paper will be due by midnight on December 22, 2016.
- Interim Papers:** These papers will sketch out a potential research design to answer a policy question related to the topics we study in class. The paper should identify an open question in the area (either because it has not been studied or because it has not been studied credibly or because there are conflicting results in the literature, etc) and propose a credible research design including a description of the data that would be necessary to implement the research design. However, you should not constrain yourself to designs or data that are feasible (i.e., ignore real life data limitations), nor will you implement the research design. Discuss how your approach would add to the existing knowledge in the policy area examined. These papers should not exceed 5 pages each. They are due by midnight on the following dates: September 27 (involving a topic discussed from the beginning of the semester through that date); October 20 (involving a topic discussed between September 28 and October 20); November 22 (involving a topic discussed between October 21 and November 22); and December 10 (involving a topic discussed between November 23 and the end of the semester). You may use the ideas explored in these papers as the basis for your final paper.
- Submission of Papers:** email all papers to jklick@law.upenn.edu using the subject heading "CRIM 634".
- Attendance:** You should come to class.
- Participation:** You should participate in class.
- Schedule** (all readings available in zip file at <http://law.upenn.edu/fac/jklick/CRIM.zip>)

- August 30 Empirical Primer
- Jonah Gelbach and Jonathan Klick, "Empirical Law and Economics," Oxford Handbook of Law and Economics, forthcoming (available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2507324>).
- September 1 Empirical Primer Continued
- September 6 Introduction
- Steven Levitt (2004), "Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(1): 163-190.
- Mark Cohen, Roland Rust, Sara Steen, and Simon Tidd (2004), "Willingness to Pay for Crime Control Programs," *Criminology*, 42(1): 55-88.
- Aaron Chalfin (2015), "The Economic Cost of Crime," *Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment*, 1-12.
- September 8 Police
- Steven Levitt (1997), "Using Electoral Cycles in Police Hiring to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime," *American Economic Review*, 87(3): 270-290.
- Jonathan Klick and Alexander Tabarrok (2005), "Using Terror Alert Levels to Estimate the Effect of Police on Crime," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 48(1): 267-279.
- Mirco Draca, Stephen Machin, and Robert Witt (2011), "Panic on the Streets of London: Police, Crime, and the July 2005 Terror Attacks," *American Economic Review*, 101: 2157-2181.
- September 13 Police
- Aaron Chalfin and Justin McCrary, "Are U.S. Cities Underpoliced? Theory and Evidence," *Review of Economic and Statistics*, forthcoming.
- John MacDonald, Jonathan Klick, and Ben Grunwald (2016), "The Effect of Private Police on Crime: Evidence from a Geographic Regression Discontinuity Design," *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A*, 179: 831-846.
- September 15 Police
- Justin McCrary (2007), "The Effect of Court-Ordered Hiring Quotas on the Composition and Quality of Police," *American Economic Review*, 97(1): 318-353.

Itai Ater, Yehonatan Givati, and Oren Rigbi (2014), "Organizational Structure, Police Activity, and Crime," *Journal of Public Economics*, 115: 62-71.

September 20

Prisons

Steven Levitt (1996), "The Effect of Prison Population Size on Crime Rates: Evidence from Prison Overcrowding Litigation," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111(2): 319-351.

Eric Helland and Alexander Tabarrok (2007), "Does Three Strikes Deter? A Nonparametric Estimation," *Journal of Human Resources*, 42(2): 309-330.

September 22

Paul Heaton – Guest Lecturer: Swift, Certain, and Fair Sanctions

Nancy Nicosia, Beau Kilmer, Paul Heaton (2016), "Can a criminal justice alcohol abstinence programme with swift, certain, and modest sanctions (24/7 Sobriety) reduce population mortality? A retrospective observational study," *Lancet*, 3(3): 226-232.

Beau Kilmer, Nancy Nicosia, Paul Heaton, and Greg Midgette (2013), "Efficacy of Frequent Monitoring with Swift, Certain, and Modest Sanctions for Violations: Insights From South Dakota's 24/7 Sobriety Project," *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(1): e37-e43.

September 27

Prisons

Lawrence Katz, Steven Levitt, and Ellen Shustorovich (2003), "Prison Conditions, Capital Punishment, and Deterrence," *American Law and Economics Review*, 5(2): 318-343.

Kelly Bedard and Eric Helland (2004), "The Location of Women's Prisons and the Deterrence Effect of 'Harder' Time," *International Review of Law and Economics*, 24(2): 147-167.

September 29

Sentencing

David Abrams (2012), "Estimating the Deterrent Effect of Incarceration Using Sentencing Enhancements," *AEJ Applied Economics*, 4(4): 32-56.

David Abrams (2011), "Building Criminal Capital vs Specific Deterrence: The Effect of Incarceration Length on Recidivism," working paper.

October 4

Sentencing

Joanna Shepherd (2002), "Police, Prosecutors, Criminals, and Determinate Sentencing: The Truth about Truth-in-Sentencing Laws," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 45(2): 509-533.

Joanna Shepherd (2007), "Blakely's Silver Lining: Sentencing Guidelines, Judicial Discretion, and Crime," *Hastings Law Journal*, 58(3): 533-590.

October 6 Discuss Semester Paper Topics

October 11 Pre-Trial

Eric Helland and Alexander Tabarrok (2004), "The Fugitive: Evidence on Public Versus Private Law Enforcement from Bail Jumping," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 48: 93-122.

Ian Ayres and Joel Waldfogel (1994), "A Market Test for Race Discrimination in Bail Setting," *Stanford Law Review*, 46: 987-1047.

October 13 Death Penalty

John Donohue and Justin Wolfers (2005), "Uses and Abuses of Empirical Evidence in the Death Penalty Debate," *Stanford Law Review*, 58: 791-846.

October 18 Stop and Frisk

David Weisburd, Alese Wooditch, Sarit Weisburd, and Sue-Ming Yang (2015), "Do Stop, Question, and Frisk Practices Deter Crime?" *Criminology and Public Policy*, 15(1): 31-56.

Decio Coviello and Nicola Persico (2013), "An Economic Analysis of Black-White Disparities in NYPD's Stop and Frisk Program," NBER Working Paper 18803.

Andrew Gelman, Jeffrey Fagan, and Alex Kiss (2007), "An Analysis of the New York City Police Department's 'Stop-and-Frisk' Policy in the Context of Claims of Racial Bias," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 102(479): 813-823.

October 20 Cancelled (to be made up with meetings regarding semester paper)

October 25 In-Utero

John Donohue and Steven Levitt (2001), "The Impact of Legalized Abortion on Crime," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 116(2): 379-420.

Ted Joyce (2004), "Did Legalized Abortion Lower Crime?" *Journal of Human Resources*, 39(1): 1-28.

John Donohue and Steven Levitt (2004), "Further Evidence that Legalized Abortion Lowered Crime: A Reply to Joyce," *Journal of Human Resources*, 39(1): 29-49.

October 27 Juvenile

Anna Aizer and Joseph Doyle (2015), "Juvenile Incarceration, Human Capital, and Future Crime: Evidence from Randomly Assigned Judges," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130(2):759-803.

David Lee and Justin McCrary, "The Deterrence Effect of Prison: Dynamic Theory and Evidence," *Advances in Econometrics*, forthcoming.

November 1

Early Intervention

Lex Borghans, Angela Duckworth, James Heckman and Bas ter Weel (2008), "The Economics and Psychology of Personality Traits," *Journal of Human Resources*, 43(4): 972-1059.

Flavio Cunha, James Heckman, and Susanne Schennach (2010), "Estimating the Technology of Cognitive and Noncognitive Skill Formation," *Econometrica*, 78(3): 883-931. Note: This article is very technical; just skim it.

November 3

Schools

Lance Lochner and Enrico Moretti (2004), "The Effect of Education on Crime: Evidence from Prison Inmates, Arrests, and Self-Reports," *American Economic Review*, 94(1): 155-189.

David Figlio and Jens Ludwig (2000), "Sex, Drugs, and Catholic Schools: Private Schooling and Non-Market Adolescent Behaviors," NBER Working Paper 7990.

Margaret Brinig and Nicole Garnett (2012), "Catholic Schools, Charter Schools, and Urban Neighborhoods," *University of Chicago Law Review*, 79:31-57.

November 8

Labor Markets

Eric Gould, Bruce Weinberg, and David Mustard (2002), "Crime Rates and Local Labor Market Opportunities in the United States: 1979–1997," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 84(1): 45-61.

Mikko Aaltonen, John Macdonald, Pekka Martikainen, and Janne Kivivuori (2013), "Examining the Generality of the Unemployment-Crime Association," *Criminology* 51: 561-594.

Crystal Yang, "Local Labor Markets and Criminal Recidivism," Working Paper.

November 10

Drugs

Jeff Grogger and Michael Willis (2000), "The Emergence of Crack Cocaine and the Rise in Urban Crime Rates," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 82(4): 519-529.

Roland Fryer, Paul Heaton, Steven Levitt, and Kevin Murphy (2013), "Measuring Crack Cocaine and Its Impact," *Economic Inquiry*, 51(3): 1651-1681.

November 15

Alcohol

Emily Owens (2014), "The American Temperance Movement and Market-Based Violence," *American Law and Economics Review*, 16(2): 433-472.

SeungHoon Han, Charles Branas, John MacDonald (2016), "The Effect of a Sunday Liquor-Sales Ban Repeal on Crime: A Triple-Difference Analysis," *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 40(5): 111-1121.

Sara Markowitz (2005), "Alcohol, Drugs, and Violent Crime," *International Review of Law and Economics*, 25(1): 20-44.

November 17

Private Interventions

Philip Cook and John MacDonald (2011), "Public Safety through Private Action: An Economic Assessment of BIDS," *Economic Journal*, 121(252): 445-462.

Ben Volland and Jan Ours (2011), "Does Regulation of Built-in Security Reduce Crime? Evidence from a Natural Experiment," *Economic Journal*, 121(552): 485-504.

John MacDonald, Jonathan Klick, and Thomas Stratmann (2012), "Mobile Phones and Crime Deterrence: An Underappreciated Link," *Research Handbook on Criminal Law*, Alon Harel and Keith Hylton, eds. (New York: Edward Elgar).

November 22

Guns

Ian Ayres and John Donohue (2003), "Shooting Down the More Guns, Less Crime Hypothesis," *Stanford Law Review*, 55: 1193-1312.

Naci Mocan and Erdal Tekin (2006), "Guns and Juvenile Crime," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 49(2): 507-531.

November 29

Immigration

John MacDonald, John Hipp, and Charlotte Gill (2013), "The Effects of Immigrant Concentration on Changes in Neighborhood Crime Rates," *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 29: 191-215.

Aaron Chalfin (2013), "What is the Contribution of Mexican Immigration to U.S. Crime Rates? Evidence from Rainfall Shocks in Mexico," *American Law and Economics Review*, 16(1): 220-268.

Elina Treyger, Aaron Chalfin, and Charles Loeffler, "Estimating the Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Local Policing and Crime: Evidence from the Secure Communities Program," *Criminology & Public Policy*, forthcoming.

December 1

White Collar Crime – Insider Trading

H. Nejat Seyhun (1992), "The Effectiveness of the Insider-Trading Sanctions," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 35(1): 149-182.

Alan Ziobrowski, Ping Cheng, James Boyd, and Brigitte Ziobrowski (2004), "Abnormal Returns from the Common Stock Investments of the U.S. Senate," *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, 39(4): 661-676.

Meng Gao and Jiekun Huang, "Capitalizing on Capitol Hill: Informed Trading by Hedge Fund Managers," *Journal of Financial Economics*, forthcoming.

December 6

White Collar Crime – Antitrust

Nathan Miller (2009), "Strategic Leniency and Cartel Enforcement," *American Economic Review*, 99(3): 750-768.

Margaret Levenstein and Valerie Suslow (2011), "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do: Determinants of Cartel Duration," *Journal of Law and Economics*, 54(2): 455-492.

Robert Crandall and Clifford Winston (2003), "Does Antitrust Policy Improve Consumer Welfare? Assessing the Evidence," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(4): 3-26.

December 8

Forensic Econometrics

Stefano DellaVigna Eliana La Ferrara (2010), "Detecting Illegal Arms Trade," *AEJ: Economic Policy*, 2(4): 26-57.

Brian Jacob and Steven Levitt (2003), "Rotten Apples: An Investigation of the Prevalence and Predictors of Teacher Cheating," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118: 843-77.

William Christie and Paul Schultz (1994), "Why do NASDAQ Market Makers Avoid Odd-Eighth Quotes?," *Journal of Finance*, 49(5): 1813-1840.