

# David Pritchard

Department of Economics  
Texas A&M University

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*email for cell*

## Research Interests

Crime, Education, and Health

## Education

**Texas A&M University**  
Ph.D. Student in Economics

Expected Graduation: May 2022

**Purdue University**  
M.S., Economics

2015

**University of Central Florida**  
B.S., Mathematics

2013

## Job Market Paper

**The Impact of the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Stimulus Payments on Crime**

*Abstract:* The fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic led to a massive economic downturn in 2020. In response, the U.S. federal government passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that, in part, provided financial resources to millions of households across the country. To study how access to additional financial resources impacts criminal behavior, I exploit the CARES Act stimulus checks' sudden arrival on April 15. Specifically, I implement a regression discontinuity design using daily crime incident data from 47 large police departments to measure the impact on crime. I find little evidence of an effect on the overall crime rate, which disproportionately consists of minor crimes and crimes that may suffer from reporting biases. In contrast, however, the stimulus payments appear to have reduced homicides which is particularly notable because homicides have higher social costs and are better measured in official crime statistics than other types of crime. Furthermore, my estimates suggest stimulus payments reduced aggravated assaults and increased rape and sexual-related offenses.

## Published Papers

**Legal Access to Reproductive Control Technology, Women's Education, and Earnings Approaching Retirement** with Jason Lindo, Mayra Pineda-Torres, and Hedieh Tajali, in *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 119:231-35, 2020

*Abstract:* What do historical changes in legal access to reproductive health care technology tell us about the long-run effects of such changes? We investigate this question using data from the Health and Retirement Study and an identification strategy leveraging variation in exposure to legal changes in access cross cohorts born in the same states. We find positive effects on educational attainment that align with prior work but are not statistically significant. We also find positive effects on working in a Social Security-covered job in women's 20s and 30s but no evidence of positive effects on women's earnings in their 50s.

**Which Prisoner Reentry Programs Work? Replicating and Extending Analyses of Three RCTs** with Jennifer Doleac, Chelsea Temple, and Adam Roberts in *International Review of Law and Economics*, Vol. 62, 2020

*Abstract:* Conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT) can be an ideal way to avoid omitted variable and selection biases that complicate other research designs. However, the way that the data from an RCT are collected and analyzed can unintentionally reintroduce those biases. In this study we replicate and extend the analyses of data from three RCTs related to prisoner reentry, to more cleanly identify the causal effects of treatment. In two of the three experiments, our conclusions differ substantially from those of the original studies. We discuss best practices for running and analyzing RCTs, and consider our extension results in the context of the prisoner reentry literature.

## Works in Progress

**The Impact of Income Shocks on Crime: Evidence from Random Assignment to Social Security Numbers**

*Abstract:* Household finances can affect criminal behavior through several channels. To explore these channels, I study the effect of stimulus payments provided by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. These laws provided a one-time payment to tens of millions of households where the timing of payment was determined by the last two digits of a tax filer's social security number. Using administrative arrest data from California, Florida, and Texas, I exploit the truly randomized timing of these laws to estimate the impact on criminal infractions, misdemeanors, and felonies that led to arrests. I explore heterogeneity by measuring the impact on arrests by age group, ethnicity, and sex.

## Works in Progress (cont.)

### How do Students Respond to Historical Course Grade Information? with Jonathan Tillinghast and Jason Lindo

*Abstract:* Students typically make course decisions lacking information because colleges rarely provide historical course grades in any easily digestible manner. We conduct a field experiment to examine how making this information accessible to students alters their choices. Specifically, we developed a computer-based, interactive course planning application that displays historical average GPA and grade distributions in an easy to compare scatter plot for all courses and professors at a large public university. To measure how access to this information impacts student outcomes, we provided a link to the application to 5,000 randomly selected undergraduate students. We examine the effects on application usage, course-taking behavior, grade outcomes, and graduation status by student's sex and prior GPA level. First-stage results indicate female students were more likely to use the tool than male students, and higher GPA students were more likely to use the tool than lower GPA students. We find multifaceted effects on course-taking, grade, and graduation outcomes highlight multifaceted effects that vary by sex and a prior GPA level. Future analysis will examine the impacts by different class year levels.

## Teaching Experience

### Instructor

- Undergraduate Microeconomic Theory Summer 2020
  - Mean evaluation score: 4.5/5.0

### Teaching Assistant

- Undergraduate Microeconomic Theory Fall 2020, Spring 2017
- Program Evaluation Spring 2020
- Undergraduate Economic Data Analysis Fall 2019
  - Instructed weekly recitations
  - Mean evaluation score: 4.86/5.0
- PhD Econometrics II Spring 2018
  - Instructed weekly recitations
  - Mean evaluation score: 4.7/5.0
- Undergraduate Intro to Econometrics Fall 2017

### Texas A&M Tutoring Lab

Fall 2016, Spring 2017 & 2020

## Research Experience

Research Assistant, Dr. Jason Lindo

Summer 2018 & 2019, Fall 2018 & 2019, Spring 2019 & 2021

Research Assistant, Dr. Dennis Jansen

Summer 2017

## Conferences

**2022** APPAM Annual Conference (planned presentation) **2021** Southern Economic Association 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting (two planned presentations) **2020** Texas Economics of Crime Workshop at Texas A&M University **2019** Texas Health Economics Conference at Baylor University (presented), PLIO Alumni Conference at Texas A&M University (presented), Texas Economics of Crime Workshop at Texas A&M University, Empirical Legal Studies Replication Conference at Claremont McKenna College **2018** 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Economics Conference at Texas A&M University

## Awards

Best Graduate Student Course Instructor

2020

Excellence in Economics Scholarship

2013 – 2015

Florida Bright Future's Scholarship

2008 – 2013

## References

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