

Adam Soliman

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Education

Ph.D., Economics, Duke University, 2023 (Expected)
Dissertation Committee: Bocar Ba, Jason Baron, Patrick Bayer, Christopher Timmins (Chair)
M.A., Economics, University of California, San Diego, 2019
M.S., Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics, Michigan State University, 2016
B.A., Economics & B.S., Health Science, Boston University, 2009

Research

Job Market Paper

Illegal Activity in Legal Drug Markets

Publications

Prescriptive Drought Policy and Water Supplier Compliance, *Ecological Economics* (197), 2022.

Working Papers

Crime and (a Preference for) Punishment: The Effects of Drug Policy Reform on Policing Activity

We still know very little about the incentives of police. Using geocoded crime data and a novel source of within-city variation in punishment severity, I am able to shed light on enforcement behavior. I find that in parts of a city where drug penalties were weakened, there is a 13% decrease in drug arrests within a year; there is no displacement of non-drug offenses and majority black neighborhoods have a larger decline in drug arrests. If offenders were significantly deterred by harsher penalties, as the law intended and Becker's (1968) model predicts, there should have been an increase in drug arrests. My results are therefore consistent with police treating enforcement effort and punishment severity as complementary. I also find that citywide crime and drug use do not increase following the weakening of drug penalties; this calls into question the "War on Drugs" view of punishment and suggests that certain types enforcement can be reduced without incurring large public safety costs.

Rebel Funding Strategies: Illicit Activities, Natural Resources, and Substitution Behavior

Rebel groups often exploit natural resources in order to finance their operations, yet we still know little about their basic funding decisions. Given the prevalence of asymmetric warfare, I examine how rebel groups choose between funding strategies using a unique panel dataset on the activities of 297 groups. I find that when the world price of a natural resource they exploit rises, rebel groups substitute away from extortion, smuggling, kidnapping, and theft. These results suggest that policies attempting to shut down these groups by cutting their main sources of funding may produce harmful unintended consequences in the short run.

Work In Progress

School Funding, Accountability, and the Opioid Epidemic (with Jason Baron and Brian Jacob)

Pill Mills and Corner Crews: Estimating the Elasticity of Substitution between Legal and Illegal Markets (with Stephen Billings, Jesse Bruhn, and Kevin Schnepel)

Master's Thesis

To What Water Price Do Consumers Respond? A Study of Increasing Block Rates and Mandatory Water Restrictions

Thesis Committee: Soren Anderson, Ken Baerenklau, Joe Herriges, Nicole Mason

Research Positions

Research Assistant, Jason Baron, Duke University, 2021 - Present

Research Assistant, Erica Field, Duke University, 2020 - 2021

Research Assistant, Food Security Group, Michigan State University, 2014 - 2016

Teaching

Duke University

Certificate in College Teaching, 2021 - 2023

Instructor of Record, Stata for Economics PhD Students (Graduate Course), Summer 2022

Head Teaching Assistant, Probability and Statistics (Undergraduate Course), Fall 2019

International School of Choueifat, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Teacher, Mathematics (Grades 3 - 6) & Economics (Grade 11), 2009 - 2011

Honors and Awards

Teaching on Purpose Fellowship, The Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, Spring 2022

Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, Duke University, Summers 2020, 2021, & 2022

Graduate Fellowship, Department of Economics, Duke University, 2019 - 2020

Graduate Research and Travel Award, International Institute, UC San Diego, Summer 2019

San Diego Fellowship, Program for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research, UC San Diego, 2017 - 2019

Schmid Fellowship in Institutional Economics, Michigan State University, 2015

Best Primary School Mathematics Teacher, International School of Choueifat, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 2010 - 2011

Presentations

2022: Southern Economic Association, 2022 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Western Economic Association International, Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day, ASSA 2022 Annual Meeting (Poster Presenter, Online)

2021: Workshop on the Economics of Crime for Junior Scholars (Online), Southern Economic Association, 2021 APPAM Fall Research Conference, Urban Economics Association (Online), Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day (Online), Eastern Economic Association (Online)

Workshops

Summer School in Marine Biodiversity, Conservation, and Global Change, UC San Diego, Summer 2018

Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics, UC Berkeley, Summer 2016

Field Work

Accra, Ghana (Scoping Visit), November 2019

Huambo, Angola (10 enumerators, 404 households, 3 weeks), January 2015

Durban, South Africa (20 enumerators, 4007 households, 11 weeks), Summer 2013

Personal

Citizenship

USA, Egypt

Languages

English (Native), Spanish (Proficient), Arabic (Conversational)

Policy Work

Water Policy Center Intern, Public Policy Institute of California, Summer 2015

[“Reducing the Costs of Drought: Lessons from Australia,”](#) September 2015

[“What if California’s Drought Continues,”](#) August 2015

[“The ‘Inexact Science’ of Water Pricing,”](#) July 2015

Development Reports

"Raising the Incomes of Smallholder Farmers in the Central Highlands of Angola: A Model Project for Improving Agricultural Value Chains in Post-Conflict Nations," (with Eunice Cavane and Cynthia Donovan), prepared for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and World Vision, June 2015.

"Economic Benefits of the Wonderbag Cooking Technology: An Impact Assessment," (with David Roland-Holst and John Wisnioski), Center for Energy, Resources, and Economic Sustainability Research Paper No. 14012601, UC Berkeley, January 2014.