

MICHAEL LAFOREST

Curriculum Vitae

Pennsylvania State University
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PRIMARY POSITION

Postdoctoral Scholar, Criminal Justice Research Center, Pennsylvania State University 2020 – Present

AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate, Crime & Education Lab, University of Chicago 2020 – Present

Affiliate, Wilson Center for Science and Justice, Duke University 2020 – Present

Guest Researcher, Copenhagen Business School 2022 – Present

PRIOR POSITIONS

Research Director, Crime and Education Lab New York, University of Chicago 2017 – 2020

Research Assistant, for Professor Benjamin Castleman, University of Virginia 2016 – 2017

Strategy and Change Consultant, IBM Global Business Services 2007 – 2010

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Virginia 2017

M.A. Economics, University of Virginia 2012

B.S. Economics & Political Science, Mathematics minor, University of Michigan 2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Crime, Economics of Education, Public Economics, Labor Economics

PUBLICATIONS

[The Effects of High School Career and Technical Education on Employment, Wages, and Educational Attainment](#). Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Capital*.

[Knowledge About Others Reduces One's Own Sense Of Anonymity](#) (with Anuj Shah). 2022. *Nature* 603: 297–301.

[Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from “Gang Takedowns” in New York City](#) (with Aaron Chalfin and Jacob Kaplan). 2021. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 40(4): 1047-1082.

[Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Attraction](#) (with Aaron Chalfin and Jacob Kaplan). 2021. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4>.

Variation in Mental Illness and Provision of Public Services (with William C. Johnson, Brett Lissenden, and Steven Stern). 2017. *Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology* 17: 1-30.

WORKING PAPERS

Parole Supervision at the Margins. Current draft - September 2022.

Racial Bias, Gender Bias, and the Effects of Parole Officers on Reentry. Current draft - September 2022.

A Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating the Effect of the New York State Gun Violence Reduction Program (with Oludamilare Aboaba, Benjamin Hansen, Lucie Parker, and Patrick Sharkey). Current draft - June 2022.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Increasing the Reach of Promising Individualized Academic Supports: A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Lower-Cost Technology-Infused Intervention (with Monica Bhatt, Jonathan Guryan, and Salman Khan).

The Short and Long-Term Effects of the Thinking for a Change Program for Incarcerated Individuals (with Zachary Goodman).

Neighborhood Beautification and Crime – The Effects of the Toronto Street Arts Initiative (with Katherine DeCelles and Nicola Lacerta).

Temporal Bias in Officer Arrest and Use of Force Decisions – Evidence from Dallas.

The Effects of Mandatory Minimum Sentence Laws on Crime, Incarceration, and Plea Bargaining.

Estimating the Effects of High School Career and Technical Education over the Last Fifty Years To Simulate Future Effects.

Wald Test for Common Mean Probabilities across Geographic Areas (with Steven Stern).

PEER REVIEWER

Quarterly Journal of Economics; Review of Economics and Statistics; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Comparative Economics; Oxford Economic Papers; International Review of Law & Economics; Journal of Experimental Criminology; Law & Policy; Educational Researcher; Criminal Justice Review; Journal of Empirical Legal Studies; International Journal of Drug Policy

PRESENTATIONS

2023 (scheduled) Lund University, Malmö University, University of Alabama

2022 American Economic Association, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management,

- Copenhagen Business School, ROCKWOOL Foundation, Southern Economic Association, University of Copenhagen (Center for Economic Behavior and Inequality), University of Southern Denmark
- 2021 American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Copenhagen Business School, Niskanen Center (Webinar on Reducing Violence), Virtual Crime Economics Seminar – Fall, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar – Spring, Penn State University, Southern Economic Association
- 2020 American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Mississippi State University, Office of Evaluation Sciences, Penn State University (Criminal Justice Research Center), Southern Economic Association, Tulane University (Education Research Alliance for New Orleans)
- 2017 Bureau of Economic Analysis, Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, University of Chicago (Crime and Education Lab New York)
- 2016 Association for Education Finance and Policy, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Southern Economic Association, University of Virginia

TEACHING (*Evaluations*)

Instructor, University of Virginia

Economics of the Public Sector

Teaching Assistant, University of Virginia

Graduate Microeconomic Theory II

Graduate Microeconomic Theory I

Game Theory

Principles of Microeconomics

Principles of Macroeconomics

Guest Lectures

Graduate Pro-Seminar in Criminal Justice - University of Pennsylvania (2021)

GRANTS & AWARDS

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| Co-Principal Investigator (with Monica Bhatt and Jonathan Guryan). “Increasing the Reach of Promising Individualized Academic Supports: Experimental Evidence of a Lower-Cost Technology-Infused Intervention.” Laura and John Arnold Foundation (\$350,505), Overdeck Family Foundation (\$122,000) | 2018 – 2023 |
| Southern Economic Association Graduate Student Award, University of Virginia | 2016 |
| Bankard Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Virginia | 2014 – 2015 |
| Radulovacki Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia | 2013 |
| Quantitative Collaborate Fellowship, University of Virginia | 2012 – 2013 |

POLICY BRIEFS & REPORTS

[Community Supervision and Public Safety: What We Know and Directions for Future Work](#) (with Jennifer Doleac). July 29, 2022. Arnold Ventures Public Safety Series Report, commissioned by Arnold Ventures.

[Comparing COVID-19 Mortality Rates between Prisons and the Community](#) (with Kristofer B. Bucklen), 2022. *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23774657.2022.2110174>.

A Review of the Literature on Trauma-Informed Care for Incarcerated Individuals (with Julia Dillavou). 2021. Penn State Criminal Justice Research Center Report, prepared for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

The Estimated Effect of the Youth Reentry Network on Criminal Justice Outcomes (with Oludamilare Aboaba and Jason Learner). 2019. Crime Lab New York Policy Brief, prepared for the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, the New York City Department of Correction, and the Friends of Island Academy.

A Review of Literature on the Effects of Social Support Services Programs on Criminal Behavior. 2018. Crime Lab New York Report, prepared for the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice.

Analysis of the “Friday Night Lights” Evening Youth Basketball Initiative (with Zach Honoroff, Natalee Rivera, and Anna Solow-Collins). 2018. Crime Lab New York Policy Brief, prepared for the New York County District Attorney’s Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Institutional Service, University of Virginia

Founder and Officer, UVA Economics Graduate Club

Vice President of Operations, UVA Graduate Student Council

Institutional Service, University of Michigan

External Relations Committee, Michigan Student Assembly

Director, Disarmament & International Security Committee, Model United Nations Conference

Executive Board, College Democrats

Board Member and Actor, Residential College Players

Internships, University of Michigan

Intern, FTI Consulting, Washington, DC

Intern, United States House of Representatives (*Fred Upton - R, MI*), Washington, DC

Branch Operator, College Works Painting, Ann Arbor, MI

Computing Proficiency

Stata, Matlab, R, Fortran 95, Microsoft Office

REFERENCES

Economics of Crime

John Pepper

Merrill S. Bankard Professor of Economics

University of Virginia

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Aaron Chalfin

Associate Professor of Criminology

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Jens Ludwig
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Economics of Education

Jonathan Guryan
Lawyer Taylor Professor of Education and
Social Policy
Northwestern University
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Structural Labor Economics

Steven Stern
Professor of Economics
Stony Brook University
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Teaching

Lee Coppock
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University of Virginia
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Government Partnership

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