

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

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

Applied Microeconomics - Crime, Education, Labor

PUBLICATIONS

Knowledge About Others Reduces One's Own Sense Of Anonymity (with Anuj Shaw). 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

A Structural Model of the Effects of High School Career and Technical Education on Employment, Wages, and Educational Attainment. Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Human Capital*.

Comparing COVID-19 Mortality Rates between Prisons and the Community (with Kristofer B. Bucklen). Revise & Resubmit, *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*.

Parole Supervision and Early Release at the Margin. Current draft – March 2022.

Racial Bias and the Effect of Parole Officers on Reentry. Current draft – April 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 – March 2022.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Increasing the Reach of Promising Individualized Academic Supports: Experimental Evidence of a Lower-Cost Technology-Infused Intervention (with Monica Bhatt and Jonathan Guryan).

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 and Predicting the Effects of High School Career and Technical Education Over the Last Fifty Years and Beyond.

PEER REVIEWER

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

PRESENTATIONS

2022 American Economic Association

2021 American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Copenhagen Business School (Economics), Niskanen Center (Webinar on Reducing Violence), Virtual Crime Economics Seminar – Fall, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar – Spring, Penn State University (Sociology and Criminology), Southern Economic Association

- 2020 American Society of Criminology, Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, Mississippi State University (Economics), 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 (Economics)

TEACHING

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 |

NON-REFEREED POLICY BRIEFS & REPORTS

Commissioned Paper on Supervision and Safety (with Jennifer Doleac). *In progress*. Commissioned by Arnold Ventures.

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.

REFERENCES

John Pepper (<i>graduate advisor</i>)	jvp3m@virginia.edu	(434) 924-3402
Aaron Chalfin (<i>economics of crime</i>)	achalfin@sas.upenn.edu	(215) 573-9097
Jonathan Guryan (<i>economics of education</i>)	j-guryan@northwestern.edu	(773) 848-9408
Thomas A. Loughran (<i>criminology</i>)	tal47@psu.edu	(814) 865-8668
Steven Stern (<i>structural labor economics</i>)	steven.stern@stonybrook.edu	(631) 632-1328
Lee Coppock (<i>teaching</i>)	coppock@virginia.edu	(434) 924-6747

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Graduate Activities, University of Virginia

Founder and Officer, UVA Economics Graduate Club

Vice President of Operations, UVA Graduate Student Council

Undergraduate Activities, University of Michigan

Executive Board, College Democrats

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

External Relations Committee, Michigan Student Assembly

Board Member and Actor, Residential College Players

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