

MICHAEL LAFOREST

Curriculum Vitae

Pennsylvania State University
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(269) 470-0958

PRIMARY POSITION

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

OTHER 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 & FORTHCOMING PAPERS

Shaw, Anuj, and Michael LaForest. "Knowledge About Others Reduces One's Own Sense Of Anonymity." Forthcoming, *Nature*

Chalfin, Aaron, Michael LaForest, and Jacob Kaplan, 2021. "Can Precision Policing Reduce Gun Violence? Evidence from "Gang Takedowns" in New York City." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 40(4): 1047-1082

Chalfin, Aaron, Jacob Kaplan, and Michael LaForest, 2021. "Street Light Outages, Public Safety and Crime Attraction." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. Advanced online publication.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-021-09519-4>

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

WORKING PAPERS

LaForest, Michael. “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*

LaForest, Michael. “Parole Conditions and Early Release at the Margin.”

Aboaba, Oludamilare, Benjamin Hansen, Michael LaForest, Lucie Parker, and Patrick Sharkey. “A Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating the Effect of the New York State Gun Violence Reduction Program.”

Bucklen, Kristofer B., and Michael LaForest. “Comparing COVID-19 Mortality Rates between Prisons and the Community.”

LaForest, Michael, and Steven Stern. “Wald Test for Common Mean Probabilities across Geographic Areas.”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

LaForest, Michael. “Racial Bias and the Effect of Parole Officers on Reentry.”

Bhatt, Monica, Jonathan Guryan, and Michael LaForest. “Increasing the Reach of Promising Individualized Academic Supports: Experimental Evidence of a Lower-Cost Technology-Infused Intervention.”

Goodman, Zachary, and Michael LaForest. “The Short and Long-Term Effects of the Thinking for a Change Program for Incarcerated Individuals.”

LaForest, Michael. “Temporal Bias in Officer Arrest and Use of Force Decisions – Evidence from Dallas.”

LaForest, Michael. “A Comparison of the Effects of High School Career and Technical Education over the Past Five Decades.”

LaForest, Michael. “The Effects of Mandatory Minimum Sentence Laws on Crime, Incarceration, and Plea Bargaining.”

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), Online Seminar on the Economics of Crime (Fall), Online Seminar on the Economics of Crime (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 Services, 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

<i>Instructor</i> , University of Virginia	
Economics of the Public Sector	2014
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , University of Virginia	
Graduate Microeconomic Theory II	2012 – 2013
Graduate Microeconomic Theory I	2011
Game Theory	2012
Principles of Macroeconomics	2011, 2015 – 2016
Principles of Microeconomics	2010

AWARDS & GRANTS

“Increasing the Reach of Promising Individualized Academic Supports: Experimental Evidence of a Lower-Cost Technology-Infused Intervention” (<i>co-PIs: Monica Bhatt, Jonathan Guryan, and Michael LaForest</i>), 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

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

<i>Founder and Officer</i> , UVA Economics Graduate Club	2011 – 2016
Founded bi-weekly graduate student research collaboration meetings, a yearly graduate student-run seminar, and a graduate fellowship directory	
<i>Vice President of Operations</i> , UVA Graduate Student Council	2013 – 2016
Oversaw all committees; chaired a committee which organized a university-wide graduate student conference; chaired a committee which organized monthly social events for graduate students	

REFERENCES

John Pepper	jvp3m@virginia.edu	(434) 924-3402
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Aaron Chalfin	achalfin@sas.upenn.edu	(215) 573-9097
Jonathan Guryan	j-guryan@northwestern.edu	(773) 848-9408
Thomas A. Loughran	tal47@psu.edu	(814) 865-8668
Jens Ludwig	jludwig@uchicago.edu	(773) 834-0811
Steven Stern	steven.stern@stonybrook.edu	(631) 632-1328
Lee Coppock (<i>teaching</i>)	coppock@virginia.edu	(434) 924-6747

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Undergraduate Activities, University of Michigan (2003-2007)

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