

# Ryan Safner

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Assistant Professor of Economics  
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## Academic Appointments

### Hood College – Frederick, MD

Assistant Professor of Economics (2019–Present)  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (2016–2019)

### Wake Forest University – Winston-Salem, NC

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (2015–2016)

### George Mason University – Fairfax, VA

Adjunct Lecturer (Summer 2015)  
Graduate Lecturer (Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

## Education

Ph.D. (Economics), George Mason University, 2015

Dissertation: *Essays on the Institutional Analysis of Copyright and its Alternatives*

M.A. (Economics), George Mason University, 2013

B.A. (Economics), University of Connecticut, 2011

## Research

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Safner, Ryan, 2016, “[Institutional Entrepreneurship, Wikipedia, and the Opportunity of the Commons](#),” *Journal of Institutional Economics* 12(4): 743-771

Safner, Ryan, 2016, “[The Perils of Copyright Regulation](#),” *The Review of Austrian Economics* 29(2): 121-137

### Under Review

[The Production of Increasing Returns: Physical Technology, Institutional Technology, and the Pitfalls of Production Functions](#) (with Santiago Gangotena)

“‘Public Goods’ or ‘Good for the Public?’ How Political Entrepreneurship Endogenizes Public Goods”

## Working Papers

“A Tale of Two Capitals: Modelling the Interaction between Ideas, Physical Capital, and Growth” (with Santiago Gangotena)

“[Distributing Patronage: Intellectual Property in the Transition from Natural State to Open Access Order](#)”

“[Pirate Thy Neighbor: The Protectionist Roots of International Copyright](#)”

“Kickstart My Art: Is Crowdfunding a Substitute or a Complement to Intellectual Property Laws?”

“A Structural Analysis of Regulatory Capitalism” (with Julia Norgaard and Vlad Tarko)

“Ideas, Networks, and Institutions” (with Santiago Gangotena, Pedro Romero, and Alex Xerves)

“Patent Warlords: How the Logic of the Natural State Holds Innovation Hostage”

“Crypto-Copyright: The Potential of Protecting Intellectual Property with the Blockchain”

## Research Interests

Public goods, innovation & technological growth, and intellectual property, using the tools of game theory, new institutional economics, market process economics, and public choice

## Teaching

### Hood College

ECMG 212 – Statistics for Economics & Management (Spring 2017)

ECON 205 – Principles of Macroeconomics (Fall 2018)

ECON 304 – International Political Economy (Fall 2017)

ECON 306 – Microeconomic Analysis (Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019; Fall 2019; [Spring 2020](#); Fall 2020)

ECON 316 – Game Theory (Spring 2019)

ECON 317 – Economics of Development ([Fall 2019](#))

ECON 324 – International Trade (Fall 2016; Fall 2018; [Fall 2020](#))

ECON 326 – Industrial Organization (Spring 2017; [Spring 2020](#))

ECON 410 – Public Economics (Spring 2018; [Spring 2020](#))

ECON 452 – History of Economic Thought ([Fall 2020](#))

ECON 480 – Econometrics (Fall 2016; Fall 2017; Fall 2018; Fall 2019; [Fall 2020](#))

MGMT 399 – Internship for Business (Spring 2018)

See also [my blog](#) for posts relevant to teaching and pedagogy, particularly related to econometrics, data science, and workflow

## Wake Forest University

ECN 150 – Introduction to Economics (Fall 2015; Spring 2016)

ECN 271 – Special Topics: Austrian Economics (Spring 2016)

## George Mason University

ECON 385 – International Economic Policy (Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

ECON 403 – Austrian Economics (Summer 2015)

ICES – High School Economics Workshops (Summer 2012, cotaught with Paul Mueller)

## Academic Presentations

2019, “A Tale of Two Capitals,” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

2019, “Magic Internet Money? How Blockchain Technology Might Revolutionize the 21st Century Economy,” *Phi Kappa Phi* Lecture, Hood College

2018, “Distributing Patronage: Intellectual Property in the Transition from Natural State to Open Access Order,” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

2017, “The Network Origins of Economic Growth”, *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

2016, “Ideas, Institutions, and Technological Progress,” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

2015, “Institutional Entrepreneurship, Wikipedia, and the Opportunity of the Commons,” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

2015, “Pirate Thy Neighbor: The Protectionist Roots of International Copyright,” *Public Choice Society* Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

2015, “Wiki-nomics: Bringing Institutions Back into Copyright Analysis with a Case Study of Wikipedia,” *Public Choice Society* Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

2014, “Crowdfunding Creative Goods, Crowding out Intellectual Property?” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2014, “Learning by Doing: Who’s Learning? Who’s Doing? and other Production Function Myths,” (with Santiago Gangotena), *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

2014, “‘Public Goods’ or ‘Good for the Public?’ - Endogenizing Public Goods,” *Association of Private Enterprise Education* Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

2014, “A Structural Analysis of Regulatory Capitalism” (with Julia Norgaard and Vlad Tarko), *Association of Private Enterprise Education* Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

2014, “Democracy and Political Cost - A Framework for Understanding Political Entrepreneurship in an Entangled Political Economy”, *Public Choice Society* Annual Conference, Charleston, SC.

2013, “Copyright Since 1976: An Interventionism Framework,” *Southern Economic Association* Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.

2013, “Towards an Institutional View of Ideas, Copyright, and Piracy,” *Institute for Humane Studies*: Symposium on Scholarship and a Free Society, Arlington, VA.

## Professional Development

2014, *Institute for Humane Studies* and *The Liberty Fund, Inc.* Advanced Topics Seminar: City-States as an Alternative to Nation States. Arlington, VA

2013, *Institute for Humane Studies*: Symposium on Scholarship and a Free Society. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* and *The Liberty Fund, Inc.* Advanced Topics Seminar: The Growth of Government. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* Advanced Studies Seminar: The Challenges and Future of Liberty. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* Workshop: Career Development Workshop. Arlington, VA

## Academic Awards and Grants

Hood College Center for Teaching Academic Innovation Grant 2019

Hood College Board of Associates McCardell Professional Development Grant 2018

Hood College Board of Associates McCardell Professional Development Grant 2017

F. A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2015

F. A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2014

Earhart Foundation Fellowship 2014-2015

Mercatus Center Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship 2014

Graduate Student Travel Fund Grant (George Mason University) 2014

Earhart Foundation Fellowship 2013-2014

F. A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2013

Dunn Foundation Fellowship 2012-2013

## Professional Memberships

Society for the Development of Austrian Economics

Southern Economic Association

American Economic Association

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

## Consulting

Member of City of Frederick Mayor's Strategic Opportunities Advisory Team, Economic Resilience Work Group, Ted Gregory, chair (2018)

## Service

### To Hood College

Member of Curriculum Committee (Fall 2018–Spring 2020)

Committee Chair (Fall 2019–Spring 2020)

Member of SPIRES Committee (Fall 2019–Spring 2020)

Chaired search committee for Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (2019-2020) position (successful hire)

Taught mini-course “Magic Internet Money? How Blockchain Technology Could Revolutionize the 21st Century Economy,” Accepted Students Day, April 6, 2019

Panel discussant for “The EU: Dead At 60?” Panel, Hood College, September 7, 2018

Proposed change to Economics major, approved by the Curriculum Committee (Spring 2018)

Taught mini-course “A Pirate’s Life for Me – The Economics of Intellectual Property and (Digital) Piracy”, Accepted Students Day, April 11, 2018

Taught mini-course “A Pirate’s Life for Me – The Economics of Intellectual Property and (Digital) Piracy”, Accepted Students Day, April 8, 2017

Panel discussant for “Globalization and Its Discontents” Panel, Hood College, March 2, 2017

Committee chair for Departmental Honors Thesis undergraduate students Elias Nicholson (2018-2019); Zack Miller (2016-2017)

Elias Nicholson’s thesis published as Nicholson, Elias, 2019, “Regulation and Discrimination: Race and Interest Rate Mark-Ups in the Auto Loan Industry,” *Issues in Political Economy* 28(1)

Committee member for Departmental Honors Thesis undergraduate students Jaclyn Bealer (2016-2017); Jared Knowles (2016-2017)

Department Library Liason (Fall 2016–Present)

### To the Profession

Reviewer for *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Review of Austrian Economics*

Committee member for Senior Thesis undergraduate student Adrian Martino (WFU, 2016);

Faculty reviewer for *Institute for Humane Studies’* Humane Studies Fellowships (2016, 2017)