

Ryan Safner

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

George B. Delaplaine Jr. School of Business, Hood College, Frederick, MD

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📁 Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Economics

HOOD COLLEGE

Frederick, MD

2019–Present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

HOOD COLLEGE

Frederick, MD

2016–2019

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Winston-Salem, NC

2015–2016

Adjunct Lecturer

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA

2015

Graduate Lecturer

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA

2013–2015

🎓 Education

George Mason University

PH.D — ECONOMICS

Fairfax, VA

2015

George Mason University

M.A. — ECONOMICS

Fairfax, VA

2013

University of Connecticut

B.A. — ECONOMICS

Storrs, CT

2011

🧪 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

📄 PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Safner, R. (2021). 'Public good,' or 'good for the public?' Political entrepreneurship and the public funding of scientific research. *Journal of Private Enterprise*, 36(1), 17–44.
2. Safner, R. (2016). Institutional entrepreneurship, wikipedia, and the opportunity of the commons. *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 12(4), 743–771.
3. Safner, R. (2016). The perils of copyright regulation. *Review of Austrian Economics*, 29(2), 121–137.

🔧 UNDER REVIEW

1. Tarko, V., & Safner, R. (2021). *Varieties of regulatory regimes*.
2. Safner, R. (2021). *I don't always teach the history of economic thought, but when i do, i prefer an NCAA-style tournament*.
3. Safner, R. (2021). *Honor among thieves: How 19th century american pirate publishers simulated copyright protection*.
4. Gangotena, S., & Safner, R. (2021). *The production of increasing returns: Physical technology, institutional technology, and the pitfalls of production functions*.

⚙️ WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Safner, R. (2020). *Distributing patronage: Censorship, freedom of the press, and copyright in the english transition from natural state to open access order.*
2. Safner, R. (2020). *Pirate thy neighbor.*
3. Safner, R. (2020). *Kickstart my art: Is crowdfunding a substitute or a complement to intellectual property laws?*
4. Safner, R. (2021). *Mutually assured litigation.*
5. Gangotena, S., & Safner, R. (2021). *A tale of two capitals: Modeling the interaction between ideas, physical capital, and growth.*
6. Gangotena, S., Romero, P., & Safner, R. (2020). *The network origins of economic growth.*

Teaching

SUMMARY

I have taught a wide variety of economics electives and principles courses. At Hood college, I regularly teach intermediate microeconomics (every semester), econometrics (every fall), and economics electives (1-2 each semester). See links below to my individual course websites, where all material is made public. See also [my blog](#) for posts relevant to teaching and pedagogy, particularly related to econometrics, data science, and workflow.

HOOD COLLEGE

- ECMG 212 — Statistics for Economics & Management (S2017)
- ECON 205 — Principles of Macroeconomics (F2018)
- ECON 304 — International Political Economy (F2017)
- ECON 306 — Microeconomic Analysis (F2016; S2017; F2017; S2018; F2018; S2019; F2019; S2020; F2020; [S2021](#); F2021)
- ECON 315 — Economics of the Law ([S2021](#)) [**Developed course**]
- ECON 316 — Game Theory (S2019; [F2021](#))
- ECON 317 — Economics of Development ([F2019](#); F2021)
- ECON 324 — International Trade (F2016; F2018; [F2020](#))
- ECON 326 — Industrial Organization (S2017; [S2020](#))
- ECON 410 — Public Economics (S2018; [S2020](#))
- ECON 452 — History of Economic Thought ([F2020](#))
- ECON 480 — Econometrics (F2016; F2017; F2018; F2019; [F2020](#); F2021)
- MGMT 399 — Internship for Business (S2018)

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)

Talks

- 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

- 2021, *Institute for Humane Studies* Discussion Colloquium: Scientific Research and Economic Growth
- 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

- F.A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2021
- 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

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—)

- Inaugural SPIRES symposium (April 2021)
- Member of TEDx Committee (Fall 2021—)
- 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
- Created and approved new economics course: ECON 315 — Economics of the Law (2020)
- 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:
 - Natalie Kolosieke (2020—2021)
 - Kevin Ciocco (2020—2021)
 - Valentin Donchev (2019—2020)
 - Emily Stubits (2019—2020)
 - Elias Nicholson (2018—2019)
 - * Nicholson, Elias, 2019, “Regulation and Discrimination: Race and Interest Rate Mark-Ups in the Auto Loan Industry,” *Issues in Political Economy* 28(1)
 - Zack Miller (2016—2017)
- Committee member for Departmental Honors Thesis undergraduate students:
 - Jared Knowles (2016-2017)
 - Jaclyn Bealer (2016-2017)
- Department Library Liason (Fall 2016–Present)

TO WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

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

TO THE PROFESSION

- Reviewer for *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Review of Austrian Economics*
- Faculty reviewer for *Institute for Humane Studies*’ Humane Studies Fellowships (2016, 2017)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Law & Economics Association
- Society for the Development of Austrian Economics
- Southern Economic Association
- American Economic Association
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Skills

- **Languages:**
 - English ★★★★★
 - Russian ★★☆☆☆
 - Spanish ★★★★★
- **Software:**
 - R: ★★★★★
 - Stata: ★★★★★