

JONATHAN KURZFELD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

email jkurzfeld@gmail.com
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics focusing on the role of the public sector, legal institutions, & political strategy. Particular policy areas include criminal justice, education, & housing.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2018 – 2023 Visiting Assistant Professor
Bates College Department of Economics
Courses: Law & Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Crime, Intermediate Micro Theory, and Principles of Econ.

EDUCATION

2012 – 2018 PhD in Economics
UC Riverside College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
Advisors: Prof. Richard ARNOTT & Prof. Steven CLARK
Dissertation: *Homo Economicus Goes to Prison: Individual and Group Behavior in Confinement*

2010 – 2012 Master of Science in Economics
University of Oregon College of Arts and Sciences
Specialization: *Microeconometrics*

2007 – 2010 Bachelor of Arts in Economics
CSU Sacramento College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies
Magna Cum Laude · Minor: *Theatre Arts*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

* indicates the course was taught a minimum of 3 times in the given format. † Indicates a TA role.

Bates College Intermediate Microeconomic Theory* · Econ of Crime* · Public Economics*
Law and Economics* · Principles of Econ

Graduate School Public Economics · Labor Economics · Industrial Organization · Graduate Microeconomic Theory*[†] · Intermediate Microeconomic Theory[†] · Intermediate Macroeconomics[†] · Law & Economics[†] · Gender Economics[†] · Money & Banking[†] · Principles of Microeconomics*[†] · Intro to Econometrics[†] · Intro to Environment Economics[†] · Principles of Macroeconomics[†]

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2021 – 2022 *Legal Consulting – Androscoggin County District Attorney's Office*
Advising and expert testimony on racial representation among panels of potential jurors and the application of 6th Amendment protections.

2018 – 2022 *Business Consulting – Kosher Sun Distribution Inc.*
Advising on market strategy and legal compliance with California cannabis regulation.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- 2022 – 2023 *Rental Housing Advisory Board Member – City of Portland, Maine*
Tenant member of the advisory board, which offers perspective, analysis, and recommendations to the City Council regarding housing policy.
- 2020 – 2021 *Food Bank Volunteer – Food Brigade L-A*
Organizing and distributing food boxes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESEARCH

Racial Bias and Statistical Discrimination in Criminal Justice: The Invisible Threat of Cumulative Systemic Bias

(Working Paper)

- Racial Bias* In this work I propose a simple model with the potential to harmonize the main concerns of the opposing rhetorical camps regarding systemic racial bias in policing in America. The model also highlights the inherent challenges to empirically identifying bias in multilevel systemic processes, such as the criminal justice system. Given the latter, it is alarming that recent research has seen so much success in identifying areas of bias in both judicial and policing practice.
Author: Jonathan KURZFELD

Prison Crowding and Violent Misconduct: Dissecting the Impacts of Prison Reforms and Decarceration

(Revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Law and Economics*)

- Prison Violence* This paper uses a significant shock to California prison populations to analyze the the impact of crowding on inmate violence. Using monthly observations of 30 California prisons, provides the first evidence of the effect of crowding on the rate of prison violence using a quasi-experimental design.
Author: Jonathan KURZFELD

Strategy or Anarchy?

Prison Violence as a Means to Informal Governance and Rent Extraction

(Revise and resubmit at *Economic Inquiry*)

- Prison Violence* The modeling framework provided in this paper offers new perspective on gang violence in the prison setting. Gangs are modeled as profit-maximizing entities in an informal marketplace where the gangs interact strategically to capture marketshare and provide contract enforcement.
Author: Jonathan KURZFELD

Blind and Unbiased:

An Impact Analysis of Eyewitness Reforms

- Witness Identification* State level reforms implementing sequential line-ups, in place of traditional simultaneous line-ups, are evaluated to determine the impact on clearance rates for law enforcement. Multiple identification strategies utilize variation across state, time, and crime category to isolate the impact on clearance rates.
Authors: Jonathan KURZFELD, Steven CLARK

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Informal Markets* *Transitioning Prohibited Goods to the Open Market:
Theory and Evidence of GE Consequences (with Matthew Taylor)*

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

<i>June 29th, 2022</i>	<i>Western Economic Association International, 97th Annual Conference Portland, OR - Open Submission</i>
<i>Mar. 25th, 2022</i>	<i>Midwestern Economics Association, 86th Annual Conference Minneapolis, MN - Organized Session</i>
<i>Jan. 9th, 2022</i>	<i>Allied Social Science Associations, 2022 Annual Meeting Boston, MA (virtual) - Session Chair</i>
<i>June 28th, 2019</i>	<i>Western Economic Association International, 94th Annual Conference San Francisco, CA - Organized Session</i>
<i>Nov. 19th, 2018</i>	<i>88th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economics Association Washington, DC - Organized Session</i>
<i>May 14th, 2018</i>	<i>67th Annual Meeting of the French Economics Association Paris, France - Open Submission</i>
<i>Oct. 13th, 2017</i>	<i>12th Annual Conference of Empirical Legal Studies Ithaca, NY - Open Submission</i>
<i>June 28th, 2017</i>	<i>Western Economic Association International, 92nd Annual Conference San Diego, CA - Organized Session</i>
<i>April 9th, 2017</i>	<i>2017 APPAM California Regional Conference Riverside, CA - Open Submission</i>
<i>Oct. 20th, 2015</i>	<i>Economics Department Research Colloquium, University of California Riverside, CA</i>

GRANTS & AWARDS

<i>Research</i>	2017 · Research Grant - UC Consortium on Social Science & Law
<i>Teaching</i>	2016 · Outstanding Teaching Award – UCR Graduate Division
<i>Research</i>	2015 · Grad. Research Fellowship - Presley Center for Crime & Justice Studies

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Jonathan is passionate about international travel, preferring cultural immersion over large tourist attractions. His favorite trip was to the Meghalaya region of India. He also enjoys hiking and hopes to soon revisit Glacier National Park. He is a regular at local trivia nights and storytelling events. Although no connoisseur, he does enjoy wine tasting and has a favorite label of Oregon Pinot Noir and of Cotes de Rhone. He is a bit of a nerd about tabletop games and puzzles.