

Aria Golestani

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Research Interests

Economics of Crime and Criminal Justice, Public Economics, Labor Economics

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of California, Irvine	June 2022 (expected)
<i>Dissertation Committee:</i> Professors Emily Owens (chair), Damon Clark, Matthew Freedman, Kerri Raissian	
M.A. Economics, California State University, Los Angeles	2015
B.A. Economics, University of Tehran, Iran	2011

Working Papers

“Silenced: Consequences of the Nuisance Property Ordinances” (*Job market paper*)

Nuisance property ordinances label a property as a nuisance, and violations are filed against landlords when the police respond to a home a set number of times within a certain period (e.g., three times in six months). After having a property declared a nuisance, property owners who do not abate the nuisance can face fines and criminal charges. Using individual- and agency-level data, I exploit time variation in the enactment of nuisance ordinances across 40 major MSAs to identify the impacts of these ordinances on the rate at which assault victimization is reported to police. I find that nuisance ordinances decrease the rate at which assaults that happen inside the home are reported, and those living in rental units are particularly affected by these ordinances. I also find evidence that these nuisances are followed by a significant increase in the number of reported intimate partner homicides.

“Specialization in Criminal Courts: Decision Making, Recidivism, and Re-victimization in Domestic Violence Courts in Tennessee” (*with Emily Owens and Kerri Raissian*)

Local governments increasingly rely on *specialized* or *problem solving* courts as a way to improve the provision of criminal justice. Using administrative data on misdemeanor DV cases between 2000 and 2006, we exploit the arbitrary courtroom assignment of low-income defendants to evaluate the social impact of specialized domestic violence courts in the General Sessions Court of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. We find that, compared to traditional court, defendants assigned to specialized court are less likely to be convicted, but no more likely to be charged with a future crime 1 to 3 years later. This offender-focused measure of recidivism masks a potentially important increase in safety. Police records suggest that victims in cases assigned to specialized court are less likely to be involved in a future domestic incident. These same victims appear to be more willing to cooperate with police and prosecutors in subsequent domestic violence incidents.

“Policing and Prosecuting Drug Offenses in Nashville: Drug Free School Zones” (*with Yoonjung Kim and Jaclyn Rosenquist*)

Drug free school zones (DFSZs) increase penalties for drug crimes committed near schools or places where children gather. We utilize a novel dataset and exploit the variation of arrestees' location to estimate the causal effect of DFSZ enhancements on court sentencing outcomes in Nashville, TN. We find that enhancement charges against eligible offenders are more likely to be applied to Black arrestees than White arrestees, leading to lasting impacts across races in sentencing outcomes. Our estimates suggest that being charged with the DFSZ enhancement increases the likelihood of an individual being found guilty by 11 percentage points (17%) - driven by large effects for White defendants. The enhancement also increases sentence length for Black defendants by roughly 1.25 years. We present evidence of White defendants being offered better plea deals as the mechanism driving these results.

Publication

"How Is the Worker's Weekly Hour Related To Wage Over The Life Cycle? The U.S. evidence" (with Madhu S. Mohanty), 2017, *Applied Economics*.

Work in Progress

"A Public Sin! Policing Sex Work in Nashville, TN"
"TANF Expansion and Crime" (with Yoonjung Kim)
"Does Eviction Cause Crime?"

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine, 2016-Present

Economic of Asymmetric Information, Global Economy, Basic Economics I and II, Intermediate Economics II, Money and Banking, Topics in Quantitative Methods, Applied Econometric, Econ of Accounting Decisions.

Teaching Assistant, California State University, Los Angeles, 2014-2015

Market Indicators and Federal Reserve Policy, Managerial Economics, Principles of Macroeconomics, Applied Statistics, Current Issues in Latin America.

Research Assistant Experience

Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Emily Owens, UC Irvine	summer 2021
Research Assistant for Professor Madhu Mohanty, California State University, LA	2015

Professional Activities and Service

Co-Organizer (with Magdalena Dominguez), Econ of Crime for Junior Scholars (WEC.Jr.)	2021
UCI Inclusive Excellence Ambassador	2020-2021
Co-Organizer (with Jennifer Doleac), Grad Student Econ of Crime Online Seminar	2020
Mentor, Econ Graduate Students Mentoring Program, UCI (volunteer)	2019-2021
Co-founder & Co-organizer, UCI Crime and Risky Behavior Workshop	2018-2021
UCI Department of Economics Graduate Council (elected)	2017-2021

Supervisor, The Economics Learning Center (ELC) , UC Irvine
 Instructional Student Assistant, Tutorial Center, California State University, LA

2017-2020
 2014-2015

Invited Seminars and Conferences Presentations

2022: NBER Public Economics Program Meeting, Centre for Economic Performance Policing and Crime Workshop (LSE), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

2021: Annual Meeting of the American Law and Economics Association (ALEA), Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Conference (*session co-organizer*), All-California Labor Economics Conference (ACLEC) Graduate Student Poster Session, University of Chicago and London School of Economics Conference on the Economics of Crime and Justice (*by coauthor*), Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO), Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting, Western Economic Association International (WEIA) Virtual Conference, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE), ASSA: Economists who Stutter (*co-organizer; with William Gale*)

2020: NBER Crime Summer Institute (*by coauthor*), Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Conference (*session co-organizer*), Grad Econ of Crime Online Seminar (*co-organizer*), UCI Labor-Public Seminar, Public Choice Society Annual Meeting, (*accepted; canceled*)

2019: Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Conference, All-California Labor Economics Conference (ACLEC) Graduate Student Poster Session, UCI Labor-Public Seminar, Initiative to End Family Violence Research Colloquium (UCI Law school)

Selected Participant & Workshop Scholarship: Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics (AMIE; 2021), J-PAL's Research Staff Training (2020), IRES Graduate Student Workshop on The Economics of Religion and Identity (2018)

Fellowships and Awards

California Policy Lab Graduate Fellowships	2021
Outstanding Poster Award, All-California Labor Economics Conference	2021
Social Sciences Graduate Students Fellowship, UC Irvine	2021-2022
Graduate Division Completion Fellowship, UC Irvine	2021-2022
UCI Inclusive Excellence Ambassador Fellowship	2020-2021
Christian Werner Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine	2021
Economics Summer Research Fellowship, UCI	2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
Travel Grant, UC Irvine Department of Economics	2019
The Initiative to End Family Violence (IEFV) Graduate Fellowship	2018
Merit Fellowship in Economics, University of California, Irvine	2016-present
Special Recognition in Graduate Studies, California State University, LA	2014, 2015
Leonard Mathy Fellowship in Economics, California State University, LA	2014

Referee Service

Journal of Labor Research

Technical Skills

Stata, ArcGIS, R, Python

References

Emily Owens (Chair)
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University of Connecticut

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Matthew Freedman
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Brian Jenkins (teaching)
bcjenkin@uci.edu
University of California, Irvine
Director of Undergraduate Studies