NBER Call for Proposals Research Grants on Women, Victimization, and COVID-19

Title: The Determinants and Aftermath of Victimization in U.S. households and the Implications of Covid-19

Authors: Keith Finlay, U.S. Census Bureau
Michael Mueller-Smith, University of Michigan
Brittany Street, University of Missouri

Date: 05/11/2020

Estimates suggest crime in the United States generates over a trillion dollars in welfare losses per year (Ludwig 2006). One-third of violent offenses reported to police in eighteen states over one year were domestic offenses, and 73% of domestic violence victims are women (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005). Moreover, nearly one-third of all women in the United States experience domestic violence in their lifetime, which is concentrated among low-income and minority women (Smith et al., 2017; Currie et al., 2018). Unfortunately, research related to understanding the population of those impacted by household crime and the events leading up and following victimization is challenging due to a variety of data constraints. We often do not observe victims or those indirectly impacted due to under reporting and privacy concerns; plus, we typically cannot link these individuals to socio-economic measures at the person-level over time. This is particularly true in the United States where national registries do not exist for criminal justice records, let alone victimization. The National Crime Victimization Survey has played a critical role in quantifying the scope of victimization in the U.S., yet it's repeated cross-section survey structure constrains the ability of researchers to study dynamic questions around victimization and place these events in the broader contexts of their lives. Many important questions remain open including: What events put individuals at higher risk of becoming victims? How do their lives evolve after a victimization episode? What degree of overlap is there in the victim and offender populations? How are these households structured? Who is at risk of future victimization? All of these issues are critical for better understanding the nature of crime and victimization, specifically within the household, and improving policies to reduce the harm of crime in the United States.

We propose using the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) produced by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the newly developed Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS). CJARS is a joint project between the University of Michigan and the U.S. Census Bureau to create an integrated data repository in which records are systematically collected from individual criminal justice agencies and harmonized into a national format. The CJARS repository is designed to overcome barriers to criminal justice research and provide access to researchers through the Federal Statistic Research Data Centers (FSRDCs), fundamentally changing the nature of criminal justice research in the United States. These data can be linked at the person level with extensive restricted survey and administrative microdata held by the U.S. Census Bureau to explore these themes.

This project will have the following primary aims:

1. Describe the evolution of earnings, criminal involvement (including release of a known violent offender with household ties), family structure, benefit receipt, and residency in the lead up to a self-reported domestic victimization in the NCVS using non-NCVS panel data sources, allowing for individual fixed effects in an event-study framework.

2. Examine the agreement and discordance between the NCVS and victimization measures derived purely from administrative data sources represented in CJARS. The combination of administrative and survey-based records allow for significant exploration in calculating victimization rates from administrative records in the face of known reporting hurdles. Specifically, household surveys are particularly problematic during the shelter-at-home orders as fieldwork is currently suspended, and domestic violence reporting is especially difficult if the offender still resides in the home.

3. Estimate the number of individuals at risk of domestic violence in response to the onset of COVID-19, which may force households to shelter in undesirable, vulnerable locations that escalate their risk of being harmed. Specifically, we will identify household members at-risk for increased domestic violence during shelter-at-home orders based on geographic residence and cohabitation,[1] prior victimization history, and employment information of household members. This analysis will seamlessly evolve as the most recent data becomes available to track how the lives of these household members evolve after shelter-at-home orders.

We will identify victims and offenders in two ways. First, we will identify victims and likely offenders using microdata from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), a nationally representative annual survey starting in 1973, along with national longitudinal residency and relations crosswalks developed through the CJARS project in the FSRDC. Second, we will identify offenders and likely victims using the relation and residency crosswalks linked with the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS). Specifically we can identify instances of domestic violence through administrative records and the likely victim, but also observe household members living with a violent offender, even if a domestic victimization is never reported in either survey or administrative records. CJARS currently includes records for ten states covering 32% of the U.S. population, with coverage starting as early as the 1970s, depending on the state, and continuing until the present. Ongoing data collection efforts are in place to expand geographic coverage and keep records up to date. These population-level longitudinal records are used to identify dated incidences of charges, convictions, and spells in the correctional population from multiple agency level sources. That is, for individuals in covered states, we have life course records of contact with the justice system. We further observe administrative details of the offenses, such as offense and sanctions types, associated with these records. CJARS, linked with annual residency crosswalks, presents a significant contribution in our ability to identify domestic victimization due to its broad geographic population-level coverage and panel structure constructed from administrative records.

[1] Cohabitation for year 2019 and 2020 is primarily based off of tax filings. A benefit of using tax filings is that it is national population-level coverage for all tax filers. However, some particularly vulnerable populations may not routinely file and it may be difficult to discern the type of relationship between household members beyond cohabitation. Future work will be able to leverage the 2020 Decennial Census which will be available in the Fall of 2021.

A critical feature of this project is that we have the ability to integrate both NCVS and CJARS with socio-economic outcomes at the person-level through the FSRDCs. Our project (7500378) already holds approvals for a variety of restricted Title 13 and Title 26 data sources, which we have developed significant expertise in utilizing. Title 13 data approved for this project include the Decennial Census, American Community Survey, Current Population Survey, and Survey of Income and Program Participation microdata and the Social Security Administration Numident file, which provides information on birth, death, and demographics at the population-level. The IRS has approved the use of Title 26 data for the project, including administrative IRS filings and information returns (1040, 1099, W-2). Administrative program records include HHS Medicaid, Medicare, and Indian Health Service enrollment data, and HUD Public and Indian Housing (PIC) and Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System (TRACS) data. Data generally span 2000-present, with additional IRS 1040 records covering roughly every five years from 1969-1998. This data will allow us to measure employment, earnings, and program participation in the lead up to victimization events and the shelter-at-home orders. We now have Census approval to include the NCVS and are in the process of getting approval from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

Importantly, we have already developed longitudinal crosswalks that track the evolution of kinship relationships and geographic residency through drawing on Census Bureau survey data, reported dependencies in tax filings, and program participation data as a part of the CJARS project. Specifically, the relations crosswalk establish person to person relations and the residency crosswalk identifies cohabitation patterns at the address level annually. These will enable our team to identify cohabitant/victims of violent offenders, measure the broader spillovers of victimization to other family members, study household formation patterns, and investigate the household dynamics (e.g., income dependencies) that might contribute to domestic violence as well as neglect and abuse.

The investments in data infrastructure, through CJARS and the work in FSRDCs, allow us to better understand the socio-economic lives of victims, how they evolve, family dynamics, and spillovers to household members. Given the permissions in place, the project will be able to start immediately and will be able to include updated data spanning the pandemic as the datasets are continually updated.

Proposed Budget: $19,930

Personnel Add a Row	Role	Base Salary	Effort (CM)	Salary	Fringe rate	Fringe	YEAR 1
Graduate Student Researcher	GRA	$ 24,036	6.20	$ 12,419		$ -	$ 12,419
0.5 FTE, 1 semester plus 1.5 summer		$ -		$ -		$ -	$ -
			Personnel sub-totals	*$ 12,419*		*$ -*	*$ 12,419*
						Tuition	$ 3,870
						GRA Medical Insurance	$ 1,829
						Other F&A base sub-total	*$ 5,699*
						F & A base	$ 18,118
						F & A rate	10.0%
						F & A total	$ 1,812
						Total direct + F & A (Sponsor Budget)	*$ 19,930*

Description of work:

1. This work will first involve identifying known victims, offenders, and kin through the NCVS, administrative criminal justice records, and the relations crosswalk coupled with cohabitation histories from the residency crosswalk. Due to the large and complex nature of files across multiple sources and fluid household structures, identifying persons directly and indirectly impacted by criminal violence requires a significant amount of research assistance.
2. The second task is to synthesize socioeconomic outcome data across the extensive data holdings in the FSRDCs, to create measurable outcomes in a panel structure for individuals identified as being impacted by criminal violence.
3. Estimate household members at-risk of domestic violence at the onset of Covid-19 using this constructed data.

Michael G. Mueller-Smith

May 8, 2020

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Appointments:

University of Michigan
Department of Economics, Assistant Professor, 2017-
Population Studies Center, NICHD Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2015-2017

Education:

2015	Ph.D.	Economics	Columbia University
2012	M.Phil.	Economics	Columbia University
2011	M.A.	Economics	Columbia University
2006	B.A.	Economics; Int'l Studies	Johns Hopkins University

Fields of Specialization: Labor Economics, Public Economics, Applied Econometrics
Research interests: Crime, discrimination, public assistance

Publications:

"Effect of Registered Partnership on Labor Earnings and Fertility for Same-Sex Couples: Evidence From Swedish Register Data" (with Lina Alden, Lena Edlund, Mats Hammerstedt), *Demography*, 52(4): 1243-1268, August 2015.

Working Papers:

"Inequalities in U.S. Criminal Justice and Economic Outcomes" with Keith Finlay
"Violence while in Utero: The Impact of Assaults During Pregnancy on Birth Outcomes" with Janet Currie and Maya Rossin-Slater. Revise and Resubmit at the *Review of Economics and Statistics*.
"Diversion in the Criminal Justice System," with Kevin Schnepel, Forthcoming at the *Review of Economic Studies*
"The Criminal and Labor Market Impacts of Incarceration" Revise and Resubmit at the *American Economic Review*.

Works-In-Progress:

"Modernizing person-level entity resolution with biometrically linked records" with Matthew Gross
"Convictions, Incarceration, and Earnings in an Event Studies Framework" with Brittany Street
"Second Chance for the Second Generation: The Intergenerational Impacts of Felony Diversion" with Kevin Schnepel and Brittany Street
"Convictions, Occupational Restrictions, and Labor Market Outcomes" with Russell Weinstein

Grants:

Michigan Institute for Teaching and Research in Economics, "Criminal Justice Research using integrated Census and Administrative Records" 2016-2018, $53,250, PI
Laura and John Arnold Foundation, "Criminal Justice Administrative Records System," 2016-2018, $922,064, PI
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, "Mobility from Poverty Center and National Criminal Justice Data Expansion," 2018-2020, $2,999,803, co-PI
National Science Foundation, "RIDIR: Developing and Deploying the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System," 2019-2023, $1,659,717, PI

Honors, Awards, and Affiliations:

UniCredit & Universities: Economics of Crime Prize (2015)
W.E. Upjohn Institute Dissertation Award Honorable Mention (2015)
Herbert and Lorraine Podell Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University (September 2013 – May 2014)
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (2013 – 2015)
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award for Best Proposal by a 4th-Year Student (runner-up)
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (2009 –2013)
Price Theory Scholar, Becker Center on Price Theory at the University of Chicago (2012)
Graduate Student Fellow, Columbia Population Research Center (2011-2014)
Vickrey Prize for Best 3rd Year Paper
Member, Phi Beta Kappa

Invited Talks:

2020: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, Brigham Young University, University of California Los Angeles (pending), University of Michigan (pending), University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Workshop (pending), Vanderbilt University (pending), West Virginia University (pending)
2019: Northeastern University, Wilfred Laurier University, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Rutgers University, Princeton University, University of Michigan, NBER Summer Institute, Research Convening on Clean Slate Initiatives, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, Interamerican Development Bank, Brookings Institute, University of California Santa Barbara, Queen's University
2018: Michigan State University, University of Michigan Law School, University of Gothenburg, Stockholm University, NBER Summer Institute, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, America Latina Crime and Policy Network Annual Conference, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies
2017: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, University of Notre Dame, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, UM-MSU-UWO Labour Day Conference, US Census Bureau, Ohio State University, UC Irvine, American Society of Criminologists Annual Meeting
2016: NBER Summer Institute, Clemson University, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, Rutgers University, DePaul University, UT Austin, University College London
2015: Chicago Harris School, W.E. Upjohn Institute, Cornell, UC San Diego, UC Riverside, Towson University, Harvard Kennedy School, University of Michigan, NYU Brennan Center, UC

Davis, IRP Summer Research Workshop, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, SEA Annual Meeting
2014: NBER Summer Institute, University of California at Berkeley D-Lab and Center for Labor Economics
2013: Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting

Professional Service:

Referee for *American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Inquiry, Evaluation Review, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Legal Studies, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Labour Economics, Nature Communications, PLOS One, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Social Forces*
Reviewer, *National Science Foundation*
Member, *American Economic Association's Ad Hoc LGBTQ Economics Working Group's Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Economists*
Co-Founder and Director, *Criminal Justice Administrative Records System*

Work Experience:

Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Research Assistant 2008-2009
The Lewin Group, Research Analyst, 2006-2008

KEITH FINLAY

OCTOBER 30, 2019

Keith Finlay
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Business Development Staff
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U.S. Census Bureau
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EDUCATION

PhD University of California, Irvine, Economics (2007)
MA University of California, Irvine, Economics (2006)
BA Reed College, Economics (2000)

APPOINTMENTS

Research Economist, U.S. Census Bureau (2015–)
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Tulane University (2007–2015)

AFFILIATIONS

Co-PI, Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS), University of Michigan (2016–)

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor economics, applied econometrics, health economics

RESEARCH INTERESTS

External effects of incarceration and crime, substance abuse and addiction, program evaluation, administrative record linkage

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Keith Finlay and Leandro M. Magnusson. 2019. Two Applications of Wild Bootstrap Methods to Improve Inference in Cluster-IV Models. Journal of Applied Econometrics 34 (6): 911–33. https://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jae.2710.

Scott Cunningham and Keith Finlay. 2016. Identifying Demand Responses to Illegal Drug Supply Interdictions. Health Economics 25 (10): 1268–90. https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.3213.

Scott Cunningham, Keith Finlay, and Charles Stoecker. 2015. Is Mississippi's Prescription-Only Precursor Control Law a Prescription to Decrease the Production and Raise the Price of Methamphetamine? International Journal of Drug Policy 26 (11): 1144–49. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2015.05.020.

Keith Finlay, Charles Stoecker, and Scott Cunningham. 2015. Willingness-to-Accept Pharmaceutical Retail Inconvenience: Evidence from a Contingent Choice Experiment. PLoS ONE 10 (5): e0126790. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0126790.

James Alm and Keith Finlay. 2013. Who Benefits from Tax Evasion? Economic Analysis and Policy 43 (2): 139–54. https://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0313-5926(13)50015-4.

Scott Cunningham and Keith Finlay. 2013. Parental Substance Use and Foster Care: Evidence from Two Methamphetamine Supply Shocks. Economic Inquiry 51 (1): 764–82. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1465-7295.2012.00481.x.

Keith Finlay and David Neumark. 2010. Is Marriage Always Good for Children?: Evidence from Families Affected by Incarceration. Journal of Human Resources 45 (4): 1046–88. https://dx.doi.org/10.3368/jhr.45.4.1046.

Keith Finlay. 2009. Effect of Employer Access to Criminal History Data on the Labor Market Outcomes of Ex-Offenders and Non-Offenders. In Labor Market Intermediation, edited by David Autor, 89–125. University of Chicago Press. http://www.nber.org/books/auto07-1.

Keith Finlay and Leandro M. Magnusson. 2009. Implementing Weak Instrument Robust Tests for a General Class of Instrumental Variables Models. Stata Journal 9 (3): 398–421. http://ideas.repec.org/a/tsj/stataj/v9y2009i3p398-421.html.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Keith Finlay, Leandro Magnusson, and Mark E. Schaffer. 2013. weakiv: Stata Module to Perform Weak-Instrument-Robust Tests and Confidence Intervals for Instrumental-Variable (IV) Estimation of Linear, Probit, and Tobit Models. Software published 13 August 2013 on Statistical Software Components at http://ideas.repec.org/c/boc/bocode/s457684.html. Last updated 4 October 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

2020 University of Maryland Population Studies Center (planned)
2017 American Society of Criminology
· George Washington University School of Public Health
· American Enterprise Institute (AEI)
· University of Virginia Batten School
· University of Chicago Crime Lab
2015 Emory University
· Notre Dame University
· U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies
2013 Tulane University, Department of Psychiatry
2009 Louisiana State University
2008 Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco
· National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) 10th Anniversary Conference, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington
· Baylor University

2007 University of California, Riverside
· University of Toronto, Centre for Industrial Relations and Human Resources
· Tulane University
· California State University, East Bay

Conference presentations

2020 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Conference, Washington
· Population Association of America (PAA) Meetings, Washington (2)
2019 Government Advances in Statistical Programming, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington
2018 FCSM Conference, Washington
2017 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference, Chicago
2016 Southern Economics Association (SEA) Meetings, Washington
2014 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Public Health Law Research Annual Meeting, Atlanta
2013 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Summer Institute Economics of Crime, Working Group, Cambridge
· American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) Meetings, Nashville
· RWJF Public Health Law Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans
· American Economics Association (AEA) Meetings, San Diego
2012 European Society of Population Economics, Bern
· SEA Meetings, New Orleans (2)
2011 SEA Meetings, Washington (3)
2009 Institute of the Study of Labor (IZA) 1st Annual Meeting on the Economics of Risky Behaviors, Washington
· PAA Meetings, Detroit
· European Meeting of the Econometric Society, Barcelona
· SEA Meetings, San Antonio
2008 Economic Demography Workshop, PAA Meetings, New Orleans
2007 PAA Meetings, New York
· SEA Meetings, Chicago
· NBER Labor Market Intermediation Conference, Cambridge
· SEA Meetings, New Orleans
· Measuring Discriminations Conference, Université d'Evry Val d'Essonne, France

FUNDING

· National Science Foundation (NSF), RIDIR: Developing and Deploying the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System, Co-PI, $1,659,718 (2019–2023)
· Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS), Co-PI, $922,064 (2016–2018)
· RWJF, Assessing the Impact of Regulating Purchase of Pseudoephedrine on the Public Health Costs of Methamphetamine Production and Use, PI, $116,462 (2012–2014)
· NSF, Tulane Research Experience for Undergraduates in Applied Microeconomics and Program Evaluation (Treu-Ampe), Co-PI, $346,280 (2010–2013)

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Appointments

University of Michigan Criminal Justice Administrative Records System (CJARS)
Post-Doctoral Researcher, 2019-present
University of Missouri, Assistant Professor, Fall 2020

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Texas A&M University, Committee Chair- Mark Hoekstra, May 2019
B.S. Economics and Mathematics, *Summa Cum Laude*, Missouri State University, May 2014

Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Crime, Education

Publications

The Effect of Investments in Physical Education on Student Health and Achievement (with Analisa Packham), *Economics of Education Review* 2019

Working Papers (available online and linked in title)

The Impact of Economic Opportunity on Criminal Behavior: Evidence from the Fracking Boom [Job Market Paper]

The Effect of Own-Gender Juries on Convictions (with Mark Hoekstra), Under Review

The Vicious Circle of Blackouts and Revenue Collection in Developing Economies: Evidence from Ghana (with James Dzansi, Steve Puller, and Belinda Yebuah-Dwamena)

Works in Progress

Convictions, Incarceration, and Earnings in an Event Studies Framework
(with Michael Muller-Smith)
Second Chance for the Second Generation: The Intergenerational Impacts of Felony Diversion
(with Michael Muller-Smith and Kevin Schnepel)
The Effect of Household Financial Resources on Educational Attainment
(with Steve Puller and David Ripplinger)
Measuring the Impact of Economic Opportunity on Mortality
The Effect of Own-Gender Mediators on Divorce Agreements

Conferences (*scheduled,)

AL CAPONE 11th Annual Conference (*presentation, 2020)
MEA-SOLE (*cancelled, 2020)
Public Choice Conference (*cancelled, 2020)

Endogenous Rules, Risk, and Legal Institutions Workshop (presentation, 2020)
AEA American Economic Association (presentation, 2020)
SOLE Society of Labor Economists (presentation, 2019)
APEE Association of Private Enterprise Education (presentation, 2019)
TxECW Texas Economics of Crime Workshop (participant, 2019)
AEA American Economic Association (presentation, 2019)
APPAM Association for Public Policy & Management (presentation, 2018)
SEA Southern Economic Association (two presentations, 2018)
STATA TX Empirical Microeconomics Conference (poster, 2018)
SEA Southern Economic Association (presentation, 2017)
APPAM Association for Public Policy & Management (poster, 2017)
WEAI Western Economic Association International (presentation, 2017)
SAAER Symposium for Agricultural & Applied Economics Research (presentation, 2017)

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Intermediate Microeconomics (ECON 323)	Texas A&M University	SP2018
Class size: 228 students		
Overall instructor rating: mean 4.8/5.0		

Teaching Assistant

Sports Economics, Mark Hoekstra	Texas A&M University	FA2017
Econometrics, Steven Puller	Texas A&M University	SP2016
Econometrics, George Naufal	Texas A&M University	FA2015
Macroeconomics, Mahua Mitra	Missouri State University	FA2013/SP2014

Honors and Awards

Best Graduate Instructor Award (2018)
Gail Frey Monson Memorial Scholarship (2018-2019)
Private Enterprise Research Center Graduate Fellow (2016-2018)
Summer Time Advancement in Research (STAR) Award (2017)
First place 4th-year graduate departmental presentations (2018)
First place 3rd-year graduate departmental presentations (2017)
Diversity Fellowship (2014-2017)
APPAM First Place Poster Presentation (2017)
SAAER Top Paper Award (2017)

References

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