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## EMPLOYMENT

**2016– Visiting Instructor**, Department of Economics & Accounting, College of the Holy Cross

## EDUCATION

**2017 PhD in Social Science**, California Institute of Technology (expected 2017)

**2014 MS in Social Science**, California Institute of Technology

**2011 BS in Quantitative Economics**, Tufts University

- *Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

## JOB MARKET PAPER: **White, But not Black, Incarceration Reduces Crime**

In 37 U.S. states from 1979–1999, white incarceration reduced crime while black incarceration did not. I use state sentencing laws as instruments for both black and white incarceration rates, selecting which laws to include via Lasso (Belloni et al., 2012). The legislative changes that generate the exogenous variation are plausibly independent of crime rates. Changes in sentencing policy, particularly the introduction of determinate and structured sentencing, significantly affected both black and white incarceration rates, and in general white rates responded to a greater variety of policy changes. Using this identifying variation, I find that white incarceration significantly decreased robbery and burglary, while black incarceration had no effect on crime, or caused it to increase. I also provide a rational account of how increases in punishment can lead to increases in crime, which matches some stylized facts of the period I study.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- **The Drug War and Mass Incarceration.** I estimate the impacts of drug-related mandatory minimum sentences and sentence enhancements on incarceration rates. Drug laws are minimally predictive of increases in incarceration rates, especially for African-Americans, suggesting that the harsh laws associated with the war on drugs did not directly cause the contemporaneous steep increases in incarceration.
- **A Game-Theoretic Rationalization of Stochastic Choice** This paper rationalizes stochastic choice as the equilibrium strategy of a non-cooperative game. The model is motivated by evidence in evolutionary theory for the adaptiveness of protean behavior, and by the philosophical debate on free will revealing a widely held concern with acting unpredictably. I begin with a template for turning an arbitrary choice problem into a game, derive the Nash equilibrium of this game, then study its support as a choice correspondence. The model makes two predictions: first, that choices will always be multi-valued, and second, that an agent will select fewer alternatives the better the available options are.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- *White, but not Black, Incarceration Reduces Crime* Paper presented at **Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics**, Claremont McKenna College, April 2016
- *Differing Crime Reductions Effects of White vs. Black Incarceration* Paper presented at **American Society of Criminology**, Washington, DC, November 2015
- *A Gratton Effect on the Syntactic P600* (joint with Ellen Lau and Gina Kuperberg) Poster presented at **Cognitive Neuroscience Society**, San Francisco, April 2011.
- *Probability Matching as a Minimax Strategy* Paper presented at **Society for Judgment and Decision Making**, St Louis, November 2010.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center, 2013-14
- Summer Student Fellowship, American Institute for Economic Research, 2011
- Heidelberg Summer School in Neuroeconomics, Universität Heidelberg, 2010
- Roy Anderson Foulke, Jr. Graduate Scholarship, American Institute for Economic Research 2011

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- **Instructor** College of the Holy Cross
  - Principles of Macroeconomics (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)
  - Behavioral Economics (Spring 2017)
- **Teaching Assistant** Caltech
  - Principles of Economics for Scientists (MOOC, 2013-14, 14-15, 15-16)
  - Introduction to Social Psychology (Spring 2013)
  - Principles of Economics (Winter 2013)
  - Introduction to Political Science (Fall 2012)

## REFERENCES

**Erik Snowberg** (Dissertation Chair)  
Canada Excellence Research Chair in Data-Intensive Methods in Economics  
Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia  
Erik.Snowberg@ubc.ca

**Antonio Rangel** (Teaching Reference)

Bing Professor of Neuroscience, Behavioral Biology, and Economics  
California Institute of Technology  
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**Jean-Laurent Rosenthal**

Rea A. and Lela G. Axline Professor of Business Economics  
California Institute of Technology  
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