

SARA HELLER

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Criminology
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Academic Employment

Assistant Professor of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania, 2013 – present

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy, University of Chicago, 2008 – 2013
Master of Public Policy, Georgetown University, 2006 – 2008
B.A. in Psychology, *cum laude*, Harvard University, 1998 – 2002

Professional Affiliations

Penn Institute for Urban Research Faculty Fellow (2015 – present)
J-PAL North America affiliate (2015 – present)
University of Chicago Crime Lab/Urban Education Lab research affiliate (2013 – present)

Publications

Heller, Sara B. “Summer Jobs Reduce Violence among Disadvantaged Youth” (2014). *Science*, Vol 346 Issue 6214

Heller, Sara, Brian A. Jacob & Jens Ludwig (2011). “Family Income, Neighborhood Poverty, and Crime.” In *Controlling Crime: Strategies and Tradeoffs*, Eds. Philip J. Cook, Jens Ludwig & Justin McCrary. National Bureau of Economic Research Conference Report, University of Chicago Press

Working Papers

Heller, Sara B., Anuj K. Shah, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Sendhil Mullainathan & Harold A. Pollack (2015). “Thinking, Fast and Slow? Some Field Experiments to Reduce Crime and Dropout in Chicago.” NBER Working Paper 21178 (*Revise & Resubmit*)

Heller, Sara, Harold Pollack, Roseanna Ander & Jens Ludwig (2013). “Preventing Youth Violence and Dropout: A Randomized Field Experiment.” NBER Working Paper 19014

In Progress

Heller, Sara, Jonathan Guryan & Jens Ludwig, "Reducing Juvenile Delinquency: Experimental Evidence from Juvenile Detention"

Davis, Jonathan M.V. & Sara Heller, “The Heterogeneous Effects of Summer Jobs: Evidence from Two Field Experiments”

Bertrand, Marianne & Sara Heller, “One Summer Chicago Plus: Scaling and Unpacking a Successful Youth Summer Jobs Program”

Heller, Sara. Pilot study of WorkReady summer jobs program in Philadelphia

Other Writing

“Interventions for Urban Youth: Can a Summer Jobs and Mentorship Really Affect Violent Crime Rates?” *Urban Link*, University of Pennsylvania, August 2015.

“Summer Jobs and Youth Violence.” *Translational Criminology*, Spring 2015.

“Modest but meaningful: Sara Heller on the benefits and costs of a Chicago youth program,” blog post for Vera Institute of Justice’s Cost-Benefit Knowledge Bank, September 2013.

“Evidence from Chicago shows that a summer jobs program for youth can reduce violent crime arrests by 51 percent,” London School of Economics’ American Politics and Policy blog, September 2013.

Ludwig, Jens, Sara Heller, Jonathan Guryan & Thomas Miles (2011). “How Can We Know if Juvenile Justice Reforms are Worth the Cost?” Models for Change Knowledge Brief, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Selected Media Coverage

AAAS News, The Atlantic/CityLab, Boston Globe, Business Week, Chicago Tribune, Daily Mail (UK), FiveThirtyEight, Forbes, Huffington Post, NBC News, New York Magazine, New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, realclearscience.com, Reddit, Scientific American, U.S. News and World Report, Washington Post, Yahoo News

Grants & Awards

J-PAL North America, Co-PI (with Marianne Bertrand, 2015-2017), “One Summer Chicago Plus: Scaling and Unpacking a Successful Youth Summer Jobs Program,” \$195,638.

American Society of Criminology, Division of Experimental Criminology: 2015 Outstanding Experimental Field Trial

Association for Public Policy and Management Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention (2014).

U.S. Department of Labor Scholars Program (2013-14), PI, research grant \$34,304

U.S. Department of Labor (2013-2014), contract to evaluate “The Effects of Summer Jobs on Youth Outcomes, \$149,985

U.S. Department of Justice, OJJDP (Co-PI with Harold Pollack, 2012-2015), Community-Based Violence Prevention Field-Initiated Research and Evaluation Program, research grant \$277,621

National Science Foundation/National Bureau of Economics (2012-13), Crime Research Fellow

U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences (2008-13), Institute of Education

Sciences Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship

Georgetown Public Policy Institute (2006-08), Merit scholarship, Academy of Achievement's 2008 International Summit

Harvard University (1998-2002), Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, Doris Cohen Levi prize

Teaching

Graduate: Evidence-Based Crime Prevention (Crim 634), Research Methods/Crime Analysis Project (Crim 603)

Undergraduate: Practical Data Analysis (Crim 320)

Peer Reviews

American Economic Review, BEJEAP, Campbell Collaboration, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Labour Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

2015 (including upcoming)

SREE, Washington, D.C.

Midwest Economics Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN

University of Pennsylvania (x4), Philadelphia, PA

OJJDP Youth Employment Roundtable, Chicago, IL

MIT, Cambridge, MA

Columbia, New York, NY

Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, London, England

Aarhus University, Denmark

APPAM, Miami, FL

ASC, Washington, DC

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

2014

American Economics Association Meetings, Philadelphia, PA

SREE, Washington, D.C.

Urban Network Roundtable on Youth Employment, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.

Midwest Economics Association Conference, Evanston, IL

Evaluating for Peace: Impact Evaluation for Fragility, Conflict, Crime, and Violence Prevention,

Lisbon, Portugal, sponsored by the World Bank and Development Impact Evaluation

AL CAPONE 4th Annual Meeting, Sao Paulo, Brazil

NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, MA

MDRC, New York, NY

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

APPAM, Albuquerque, NM

2013

Conference on Crime in Latin America, Philadelphia, PA, sponsored by University of Pennsylvania, IADB, and AL CAPONE

Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Institute, Madison, WI

Global Youth Economic Opportunities Conference, Washington D.C.

SREE, Washington, D.C.

APPAM, Washington, D.C.

2012

SREE, Washington, D.C.

APPAM, Baltimore, MD

2011

APPAM, Washington, D.C.

2010

IES Conference, Washington, D.C.

APPAM, Boston, MA

Beyond Test Scores: Schooling and Life-course Outcomes in Early Adulthood, Duke University

Previous Professional Experience**Teaching and Research**

Pre-doctoral Research Fellow, *Crime Lab, University of Chicago*, Winter 2009 – June 2013

Teaching Assistant, *University of Chicago*, Winter 2009, Fall and Winter 2010

- Mathematical Statistics for Public Policy I with Robert LaLonde

- Mathematical Statistics for Public Policy II with Jeffrey Grogger

- Crime Policy with Jens Ludwig

Research Assistant, *The Hamilton Project, The Brookings Institution*, Summer 2007

English Teacher *Académie de Créteil*, France, Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

Research Assistant *Harvard Graduate School of Education* and *McLean Hospital*, Summer 2001

Research Assistant to Arthur Gelb, President, *New York Times Foundation*, Part-time 1999

Other

Event Coordinator, *Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center*, University of Maryland, Winter 2003 - Fall 2005

Assistant to the Artistic Director *Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company*, Summer – Winter 2003

Vilar Intern *Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*, Production Department, Winter - Spring 2003

Technical Manager *Edinburgh Fringe Festival*, CO₂C Venues, Scotland, Summer 2002