

Michael G. Mueller-Smith

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Appointments:

University of Michigan

Department of Economics, Associate Professor (with tenure), 2024-
Assistant Professor, 2017-2024

Population Studies Center, Faculty Associate, 2017-
NICHD Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2015-2017

National Bureau of Economic Research

Research Associate, Law & Economics, Children & Families, 2024-
Faculty Research Fellow, Law & Economics, Children & Families, 2023-2024

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:

“Race and Ethnicity (Mis)Measurement in the U.S. Criminal Justice System” with Keith Finlay and Elizabeth Luh. *Race, Ethnicity and Economic Statistics for the 21st Century*, edited by Randall Akee, Lawrence Katz, and Mark Lowenstein, February 2026.

“The Impact of Criminal Financial Sanctions: A Multi-State Analysis of Survey and Administrative Data” with Keith Finlay, Matthew Gross, Carl Lieberman and Elizabeth Luh. *American Economic Review: Insights*, 6(4), 490-508, December 2024.

Subsumes two prior working papers, previously circulated as:

- “Criminal court fees, earnings, and expenditures: A multi-state RD analysis of survey and administrative data” with Carl Lieberman and Elizabeth Luh
- “The Impact of Financial Sanctions: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Driver Responsibility Fee Programs in Michigan and Texas” with Keith Finlay, Matthew Gross, and Elizabeth Luh

“Children’s Indirect Exposure to the U.S. Justice System: Evidence from Longitudinal Links between Survey and Administrative Data” with Keith Finlay and Brittany Street. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(4), 2181-2224, November 2023.

- “Inventory of U.S. public data sources to measure the socioeconomic impact of interpersonal violence” with Megan Kearns, Jordan Papp, and Cora Peterson. *AJPM Focus*, 2(3):100114, July 2023.
- “Hierarchical Approaches to Text-based Offense Classification” with Jay Choi, David Kilmer, and Sema Taheri. *Science Advances*, 9(9), 1-15, March 2023.
- “Criminal Justice Involvement, Self-employment, and Barriers in Recent Public Policy” with Keith Finlay and Brittany Street. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 42(1), 11-34, January 2023.
- “Does Welfare Prevent Crime? The Criminal Justice Outcomes of Youth Removed from SSI” with Manasi Deshpande. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 137(4), 2263-2307, November 2022.
- “The Criminal Justice Administrative Records System: A Next-Generation Research Data Platform,” with Keith Finlay and Jordan Papp. *Scientific Data*, 562(9), 1-11, September 2022.
- “Violence while in Utero: The Impact of Assaults During Pregnancy on Birth Outcomes” with Janet Currie and Maya Rossin-Slater. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 104(3): 525-540, May 2022.
- “Justice-involved Individuals in the Labor Market since the Great Recession” with Keith Finlay. What has happened to the American Working Class since the Great Recession? in *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 695, May 2021.
- “Diversion in the Criminal Justice System,” with Kevin Schnepel, *Review of Economic Studies*, 88(2): 883–936, March 2021.
- “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:

- “The Direct and Intergenerational Impacts of Criminal History-Based Safety-Net Bans in the U.S.” with Kevin Schnepel, James Reeves, and Caroline Walker. Revise and Resubmit at *The Journal of Political Economy*.
- “Criminal Justice Involvement and Well-Being in Old Age” with Jennifer Doleac, Jonathan Eggleston, William Gale, and Briana Sullivan
- “Estimating the Impact of the Age of Criminal Majority: Decomposing Multiple Treatments in a Regression Discontinuity Framework” with Ben Pyle and Caroline Walker
- “Modernizing Person-Level Entity Resolution with Biometrically Linked Records” with Matthew Gross
- “Inequalities in U.S. Criminal Justice and Economic Outcomes” with Keith Finlay
- “Convictions, Incarceration, and Earnings in an Event Studies Framework” with Keith Finlay and Brittany Street

“The Criminal and Labor Market Impacts of Incarceration” Revise and Resubmit at the *American Economic Review*

Works-In-Progress:

“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 Ben Pyle, Hina Usman, Russell Weinstein

Undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral collaborators noted with underline.

Grants:

Laura and John Arnold Foundation, “Criminal Justice Administrative Records System Pilot,” 2016-2018, \$922,484, PI

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, “Transitional Support of the CJARS Pilot,” 2019, \$145,091, PI

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “National Criminal Justice Data Expansion,” 2018-2020, \$1,247,725, PI

National Science Foundation, “RIDIR: Developing and Deploying the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System,” 2019-2023, \$1,659,717, PI

Laura and John Arnold Foundation, “Measuring eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program with respect to restrictions on criminal histories of equity owners,” 2020, \$25,000, PI

University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, “Justice research on preventing and alleviating poverty,” 2020-2023, \$140,000, PI

Michigan Institute for Teaching and Research in Economics, “The Social Safety Net and Criminal Activity,” 2021, \$25,000, PI

Centers for Disease Control and Prevent, “Taking inventory of data resources and recommending research designs to study the long-term effects of victimization in the United States,” 2021-2022, \$150,000, PI

Arnold Ventures, “Reintegration Policies, the Safety Net, and Spillover Impacts of Justice Involvement,” 2021-2024, \$744,712, PI

National Science Foundation, “Effects of Financial Sanctions in the Criminal Justice System,” 2021-2023, \$299,545, PI

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “Criminal Justice Administrative Records System: Public Reporting and Fellowship Competition,” 2021-2023, \$976,201, PI

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, “Strengthening the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System to address limitations in data integration between criminal justice and public health,” 2021-2024, \$746,721, PI

Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Local Jail Reporting Program (LJRP) Pilot Test,” 2022-2024, \$499,056, PI

Arnold Ventures, “RESET Stage Two,” 2022-2025, \$80,286, PI (subcontract from RAND)

Annie E. Casey Foundation, “Children and the U.S. Justice System,” 2022-2024, \$300,000, PI

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “Reentry 2030 Data Capacity,” 2023-2025, \$599,527, PI (subcontract from Council of State Governments)

Arnold Ventures, “CJARS Training Workshop,” 2023-2024, \$99,772, PI

National Science Foundation, “CAREER: Advancing Knowledge on the U.S. Justice System through CJARS,” 2024-2029, \$500,599, PI

Arnold Ventures, “The Long-term Benefits of Removing Lead Exposure: Evidence from the Omaha Superfund Site Cleanup,” 2025-2026, \$289,288, PI

Arnold Ventures, “Scale-up of the Criminal Justice Administrative Records System,” 2025-2028, \$6,000,000, 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:

2026: UC Berkeley

2025: Arnold Ventures Public Safety Boot Camp, UNC Chapel Hill, Indiana University, UCLA

2024: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, Data Funders Collaborative, Brown University, Lorentz Center Workshop, University of Washington West Coast Poverty Center, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar, NBER CRIW Race, Ethnicity, and Economic Statistics for the 21st Century conference, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Workshop, NBER Summer Institute, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, San Diego State University, Howard University,

Justice & Injustice Annual Conference, UNC Chapel Hill, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

2023: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, U.S. Census Bureau, NBER Children Spring Meeting, Vanderbilt, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, CEPRA/NBER Workshop on Aging and Health, NBER Summer Institute, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar, University of British Columbia, University of California Berkeley Goldman, Stanford, University of Michigan ISR, Boston Federal Reserve Bank

2022: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, University of Michigan School of Information, APPAM Annual Conference, UT Austin, UChicago/LSE Joint Crime Conference, NBER Summer Institute, Yale Politics of Criminal Justice Conference, Niskanen Center, Georgetown University, RDC Annual Research Conference, University of California Berkeley Goldman, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, University of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Interactions Conference, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar, Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Northwestern University, University of Michigan, Social Science Research Council, University of California San Diego

2021: London School of Economics, National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, RAND, University of Chicago Harris School, Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Workshop, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime, Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Bocconi University, University of Michigan, Virtual Crime Economics Seminar

2020: AEA-ASSA Annual Meeting, Georgetown, Brigham Young University, University of California Los Angeles (cancelled – Covid19), University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Workshop (postponed – Covid19), Association of Public Data Users Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University (cancelled – Covid19), West Virginia University, University of Michigan MIDAS Symposium, Southern Economics Association

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:

Director and Co-Founder, *Criminal Justice Administrative Records System, Justice Outcomes Explorer*

Board of Editors, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

Referee for *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review: Insights*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economic Journal*, *Evaluation Review*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *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*, *Science Advances*, *Social Forces*

Reviewer, *National Science Foundation*, *European Research Council*, *Israel Science Foundation*

Board Member, *American Economic Association's Committee on the Status of LGBTQ+ Individuals in the Economics Profession*, *American Economic Association's Committee on Professional Climate*

Member, *Arnold Ventures/NORC Expert Panel on Firearms Data Infrastructure*, *Michigan Data Convening Advisory Board*

Organizing Committee, *Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop*, *Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime*