

NOUR J. ABDUL-RAZZAK

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Research Director, The University of Chicago Inclusive Economy Lab July 2022 - present
Research Associate, The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy July 2022 – present
Postdoctoral Fellow, The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab October 2018-June 2022

AFFILIATIONS

Faculty Fellow (by courtesy), American Bar Foundation September 2022-present

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 2019
Ph.D. in Public Policy
Dissertation: “Essays in Social Policy and Crime”
Committee: Jens Ludwig (chair), Leonardo Bursztyrn, Chris Blattman, and Anuj Shah

General Qualifying Fields: Econometrics, Microeconomics, Political Economy
Substantive Qualifying Field: Econometrics and Statistics
Fields: economics of crime; criminal justice; health economics, urban economics; education; political economy

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA 2009
Bachelor of Science in Political Science; Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

HONORS

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship 2013

PUBLICATIONS

“After Citizens United: How Outside Spending Shapes American Democracy” with Stephane Wolton and Carlo Prato; *Electoral Studies*, Volume 67, October 2020, 102190.

“Immigrants’ Access to Financial Services & Asset Accumulation” with Una Okonkwo Osili and Anna Paulson, in *Handbook of the Economics of International Migration*, Volume 1, edited by Barry R. Chiswick and Paul W. Miller, 2015.

WORKING PAPERS / PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

“Unpacking the promise and limitations of behavioral health interventions on interactions with law enforcement” with Kelly Hallberg

Abstract: Racial disparities in violence exposure and criminal justice contact are a subject of growing policy and public concern. Through a large-scale randomized controlled trial and new data analysis techniques, this paper provides evidence on the promise and limits of an individual-level youth behavioral health program in reducing criminal justice contact by incorporating the role of police in measures of justice system contact. Recognizing that arrests are the result of both civilian and police behavior, this paper applies machine learning tools to arrest narratives to identify arrests that are driven by police discretion. We apply this technique to an RCT evaluation we conduct of a youth program in Chicago that provides intensive mentoring and group therapy to youth of color facing challenges such as justice involvement and school truancy. We find that the program significantly reduces both the intensive and extensive margin of arrests where officers have little discretion in initiating contact (such as violent offenses or those flagged for police through 911 calls), while having no significant impact on more discretionary contact arrests (e.g. a young person exhibiting “suspicious” behavior). A supplementary analysis of data on traffic and street stops, for which police have substantial discretion, finds that the youth program has no effect on the probability of being stopped by police. While this intervention is very effective at changing youth behavior and reducing violence, our findings indicate that it cannot reduce harmful justice system contact that is more influenced by police discretion.

“Providing Intensive Wraparound Supports for Disengaged Chicago Youth: A Randomized Evaluation” with Max Kapustin and Max Lubell

“Spillovers from a Youth Violence Prevention Program” with Kelly Hallberg, Cristobal Pinto, and Lucia Delgado

“Impact of the Alternative School Network in Chicago on Student Outcomes” with Monica Bhatt and Farah Mallah

“The Impact of Free Communication Technology in Prisons: An Evaluation of Amealio” with Ashna Arora and Panka Bencsik

“The Causal Effects of Unconditional Cash Transfers: Experimental Evidence from a U.S. County” with Alex Bartik, Sarah Miller, Elizabeth Rhodes, and Eva Vivalt

EXTERNAL GRANTS

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation (\$281,776). 2019-2022. Project Title: “Providing Intensive Wraparound Supports for Chicago Youth: A Randomized Evaluation”. Principal Investigators: Max Kapustin and Nour Abdul-Razzak

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (\$646,464). 2018-2021. Project Title: “Experimental Evidence on Reducing Youth Violence and Improving Life Outcomes in Chicago.” Principle Investigators: Jens Ludwig, Kelly Hallberg and Nour Abdul-Razzak.

MEDIA COVERAGE of RESEARCH:

“How to End the Cycle of Violence in Chicago” by David Kirp. *The New York Times* September 13, 2018.

“How Citizens United gave Republicans a bonanza of seats in U.S. state legislatures.” with Stephane Wolton and Carlo Prato. *The Washington Post*. February 24, 2017.

“Chicago Program Proven to Cut Youth Arrests Years After Program Ends” by *Newsy* February 21, 2020

CONFERENCE and SEMINAR ACTIVITY

Paper Presented: “Unpacking the promise and limitations of behavioral health interventions on interactions with law enforcement”

- Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime (October 2021)
- Economics of Crime Online Seminar, hosted by Dr. Jennifer Doleac (November 2021)
- Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference (March 2022)
- America Latina Crime and Policy Network Conference – AL CAPONE Conference (May 2022)

Paper Presented: “Impact of the Alternative School Network in Chicago on Student Outcomes”

- University of Chicago Urban Labs Internal Seminar, July 2021

Paper Presented: “Spillovers from a Youth Violence Prevention Program”

- Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference: November 2020

Paper Presented: “A Community-based Approach to Engaging Disconnecting Youth: Experimental Evidence in Reducing Youth Crime”

- Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference: November 2018 and November 2017
- Crossing Boundaries in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago: September 2017
- Center for Program Evaluation Workshop, University of Chicago: April 2017

Paper Presented: “After Citizens United: How Outside Spending Shapes American Democracy”

- Southern Political Science Association (SPSA): January 2015
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA): April 2015, April 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago Harris School

Quantitative Methods in Public Policy (Undergraduate Course)

Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018

Applied Regression Analysis (Masters Course)

Winter 2016

Applied Econometrics II (PhD Course)

Spring 2015

PREVIOUS RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Fellow at the University of Chicago's Crime Lab and Education Lab	February 2015-September 2018
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (Associate Economist)—(<i>Chicago, IL</i>)	July 2011- July 2013
NORC at the University of Chicago (Research Analyst)—(<i>Bethesda, MD</i>)	November 2010-June 2011
National Science Foundation (Science Assistant)—(<i>Arlington, VA</i>)	October 2009-October 2010
The Brookings Institution (Intern)—(<i>Washington, D.C</i>)	May 2008-August 2008

SERVICE

Public Policy PhD Student Council, 2016
Public Policy PhD Student Association Co-Chair, 2015
Referee Service: Journal of Quantitative Criminology

PERSONAL

Citizenship: United States of America
Gender: Female

REFERENCES

Professor Jens Ludwig
University of Chicago – Public Policy
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Professor Leonardo Bursztyn
University of Chicago – Economics
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Professor Christopher Blattman
University of Chicago – Public Policy
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Professor Aurélie Ouss
University of Pennsylvania – Criminology
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