



EFFECTS OF INCARCERATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND RECIDIVISM: EVIDENCE FROM A NATURAL EXPERIMENT

David Harding

Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley



About the Talk

Given the dramatic increase in the number of people incarcerated in the U.S. over the last three decades and the high public cost of incarceration compared to other forms of punishment, it is important to understand how incarceration affects criminal offending, as well as offenders' employment prospects when they return from jail or prison, particularly for low-level offenders "on the margin" for whom probation, jail, or other sanctions are potentially appropriate alternatives to incarceration. This project uses a natural experiment that capitalizes on the random assignment of judges to cases to identify the effect of incarceration in prison compared to alternative sentences. We use administrative data on all criminal cases sentenced for felonies in Michigan between 2003 and 2006 and measure outcomes for these offenders over time using new felony convictions to measure recidivism and unemployment insurance records to measure formal employment. Preliminary results suggest substantial negative effects of prison vs. probation on employment but smaller reductions in recidivism that are almost entirely driven by incapacitation.

About the Speaker

David J. Harding is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley.

Visit Professor Harding's webpage: <http://sociology.berkeley.edu/faculty/david-j-harding>

In collaboration with the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity (CRGE)

Visit the Maryland Population Research Center's webpage at www.popcenter.umd.edu

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Time: **12:00 PM**

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**Room 1101
Morrill Hall**

*This event is free and
open to the public.*

**Maryland Population
Research Center**

2105 Morrill Hall
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
Tel: 301.405.6403

www.popcenter.umd.edu