

RYNE ROHLA

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PERSONAL

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CITIZENSHIP: United States UPDATED: July 25, 2018

EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D. (expected), Economics, **Washington State University** PULLMAN, WA
Committee: Gregmar GALINATO, Raymond BATINA, and Benjamin COWAN
Fields of Study: Public Economics, Econometrics
2013 B.A., Economics, **Eastern Washington University** CHENEY, WA
Minors: Mathematics, Government — *summa cum laude*
2010 A.A., Political Science, **Everett Community College** EVERETT, WA

FIELDS

Primary: Political Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary: Economics of Religion and Culture, Behavioral Economics

PUBLICATIONS

- 1 M. Keith Chen and Ryne Rohla. “The Effect of Partisanship and Political Advertising on Close Family Ties.” *Science*, 360, no. 6392 (2018): 1020-1024.
- Coverage: *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Popular Mechanics*, *NBC*, *CNN*, *BBC*, *The Times*, *Politico*,
Axios, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Seattle Times*, *Spokesman-Review*
- Research Highlight in *Nature Human Behavior*, July 2018

CURRENT RESEARCH

WORKING PAPERS

“Do Privately-Owned Prisons Increase Incarceration Rates?” (*with Gregmar Galinato*)
- Revise and resubmit: *Journal of Public Economics*
“A Tale of Three Elections: Precinct-Level Voting in the 2008-2016 American Presidential Contests”
“The Partisan Tith: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Attendance”
(*with M. Keith Chen*)
“Electoral Responses to Post-Affordable Care Act Insurance Coverage Changes”

IN PROGRESS

“Political Storms: Differential Partisan Evacuation Responses Amid the Politicization of Hurricane Irma”
(*with M. Keith Chen and Elisa Long*)
“Politics and Search Choice in Housing Purchases” (*with M. Keith Chen and Yi-Lin Tsai*)
“Pork and Political Minorities: Determinants of Public Capital Allocation” (*with Christopher Clarke*)
“A Structural Model of Campaign Rally Location Choice and Support Transmission” (*with Gabriele Borg*)
“Democratic Depression: Social Isolation in the Wake of Electoral Upset” (*with M. Keith Chen*)

TEACHING

INSTRUCTOR	Fundamentals of Macroeconomics Money and Banking	FALL 2018 and SPRING 2019 (<i>Scheduled</i>) FALL 2014 and SPRING 2015 (<i>Online</i>)
DEVELOPER	Intermediate Macroeconomics	FALL 2016 and SPRING 2017 (<i>Online</i>)
ASSISTANT	Intermediate Macroeconomics Fundamentals of Macroeconomics Fundamentals of Microeconomics	FALL 2015, SPRING 2016, FALL 2016, and SPRING 2017 FALL 2013 and SPRING 2014 FALL 2013 and SPRING 2014

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “How Private Prisons Affect Incarceration Likelihood.” Baylor University Department of Economics seminar, Waco, TX, March 2018.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Partisan Tithe: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Selection and Attendance.” Western Economics Association International, Vancouver, BC, June 2018.
- 2017 “Politics Gets Personal: Effects of Salient Partisan Differences on Time Spent at Thanksgiving Dinner.” Washington State University *Half-Baked Ideas* seminar, Pullman, WA, October 2017.
- “How Private Prisons Affect Incarceration Likelihood.” Washington State University School of Economic Sciences seminar, Pullman, WA, September 2017.
- 2016 “Do Privately-Owned Prisons Increase Incarceration Rates?” Western Economics Association International, Portland, OR, June 2016.
- 2013 “A Spatial Caucus Effect: Jesse Jackson and South Carolina in the 1988 Presidential Primaries.” National Conference for Undergraduate Research, La Crosse, WI, April 2013.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2013 — 2019 Graduate Assistantship, *Washington State University*
- 2012 — 2013 Nate Narrance Economics Scholarship, *Eastern Washington University*
- 2010 Student Commencement Speaker, *Everett Community College*

SERVICE

- MEMBERSHIP American Economic Association, Catholic Research Economists Discussion Organization, Western Economics Association International, American Political Science Association
- REFEREE *Applied Economic Perspectives & Policy*

SKILLS

- Working Knowledge: Python, SQL, MatLab, SAS, QGIS
- Proficient Knowledge: R, Stata, ArcGIS

REFERENCES

- | | |
|---|---|
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- 1 “*A Tale of Three Elections: Determinants and Applications of Precinct-Level Voting in the 2008-2016 U.S. Presidential Elections*”

This paper documents the first national, multi-election, geocoded precinct-level result dataset for American presidential contests. Linear and non-linear regressions establish stylized facts concerning the 2008, 2012, and 2016 elections including widening outcome variance driven by polarization along racial, education, and density lines, and diminishing importance of local economic conditions as electoral predictors in favor of identity-related measures. The paper’s second half investigates direct causal impacts of geography-specific policies and exogenous shocks on election-to-election support changes. Key results from instrumental variable, difference-in-difference, and matching designs include: (1) new shale oil production from “fracking” wells polarized precincts to the net gain of the Republicans, (2) areas adjacent to Hurricane Sandy inundation swung more toward Obama than those directly damaged, (3) public and high-victim mass shootings close to an election induced a more pro-Democratic swing compared to local or family-related murders, and (4) Medicaid expansion generated a swing toward Trump and increased polarization while Medicaid coverage increases impacted voting differentially with local income. Proximity to negative shocks may induce more conservative responses while their observation may produce more liberal reactions, while positive shocks seem to be evaluated more rationally.

- 2 “*The Partisan Tithe: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Selection and Attendance*”

Recent studies link growing political polarization with effects on personal and economic life. Using 270,000 geocoded church addresses, national precinct election results, and anonymized smartphone location tracking data for 5 million Americans, this study analyzes three ways in which partisanship impacts church selection and time allocation. First, using a mixed effects random coefficients logit, the additional distance an individual chooses to travel to attend a politically like-minded church is calculated. Estimated distances vary by denomination, with the lowest estimates residing with polities which practice church assignment—Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Non-Christians and non-denominational evangelicals exhibit strongest willingness to travel to close political distance. Second, a panel of daily church attendance durations in the months before and after the 2016 presidential election is constructed. Difference-in-difference estimates demonstrate a widening gap between those with high and low political agreement likelihoods in time spent at church as the election approaches. Third, an examination of individuals who changed churches after the election suggests individuals with initial higher political disagreement levels were more likely to change churches and the strength of the subsequent partisan sorting increased with higher initial disagreement likelihoods.

- 3 “*The Effect of Partisanship and Political Advertising on Close Family Ties*”

Research on growing American political polarization and antipathy primarily studies public institutions and political processes, ignoring private effects including strained family ties. Using anonymized smartphone-location data and precinct-level voting, we show that Thanksgiving dinners attended by opposing-party precinct residents were 30-50 minutes shorter than same-party dinners. This decline from a mean of 257 minutes survives extensive spatial and demographic controls. Dinner reductions in 2016 tripled for travelers from media markets with heavy political advertising—an effect not observed in 2015—implying a relationship to election-related behavior. Effects appear asymmetric: while fewer Democratic-precinct residents traveled in 2016 than 2015, political differences shortened Thanksgiving dinners more among Republican-precinct residents. Nationwide, 34 million person-hours of cross-partisan Thanksgiving discourse were lost in 2016 to partisan effects.

- 4 “*Do Privately-Owned Prisons Increase Incarceration Rates?*”

This article measures the effect of establishing private prisons on incarceration rates and other incarceration-related outcomes in the United States. We test two plausible mechanisms by which private prisons may influence the rate of receiving a prison sentence over probation: through corruption-induced over-incarceration” or by lifting capacity constraints from overcrowding. We develop a model to show that enforcement authorities faced with capacity constraints or are more susceptible set non-optimal stringent sanction levels which increase incarceration rates at the intensive and extensive margins. Using instrumental variables regressions at the state and individual levels, we find evidence consistent with the corruption-based mechanism for specific crime types. Private prisons are more likely to increase prison sentences when there is more sentencing leeway such as with public order, drug or property crimes. Individual-level analyses suggest the corruption mechanism increases incarceration likelihood asymmetrically by crime type and demographic subgroup.