

# RYNE ROHLA

Washington State University  
School of Economic Sciences  
101 Hulbert Hall  
Pullman, WA 99164

## PERSONAL

---

WEBSITES: [students.ses.wsu.edu/rohla](http://students.ses.wsu.edu/rohla)      PHONE: (425) 359-3027  
[rynerohla.com](http://rynerohla.com)      EMAIL: [ryne.rohla@wsu.edu](mailto:ryne.rohla@wsu.edu)  
CITIZENSHIP: United States      UPDATED: September 12, 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: Behavioral Economics, Economics of Religion and Culture

## PUBLICATIONS

---

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  
Ron Johnston, Kelvyn Jones, David Manley, and Ryne Rohla. “Spatial Scale and the Geographical Polarization of the American Electorate.” *Political Geography*, 65 (2018): 117-122.

## CURRENT RESEARCH

---

### WORKING PAPERS

“Do Privately-Owned Prisons Increase Incarceration Rates?” (with Gregmar Galinato)  
- Revise and resubmit: *Journal of Public Economics*  
“Determinants of Precinct-Level Voting in the 2008-2016 American Presidential Elections”  
“The Partisan Tith: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Attendance”  
(with M. Keith Chen)

### IN PROGRESS

“Political Storms: Differential Partisan Evacuation Responses Amid the Politicization of Hurricane Irma”  
(with M. Keith Chen and Elisa Long)  
“Social Disruption After Mass Affective Shocks: Evidence from Mass Shootings and the 2016 Election”  
(with M. Keith Chen)  
“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)  
“The Political Geography of Wildfire Damage” (with Crystal Kolden)

## TEACHING

---

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

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

---

### PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Partisan Tittle: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Selection and Attendance.” Western Economics Association International, Vancouver, BC, June 2018.
- 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.

### BROWN BAG TALKS

- 2018 “Consequences of Political Polarization on Individual Behavior: Hurricane Evacuations, Social Isolation, and Church Attendance.” Washington State University *Half-Baked Ideas* seminar, Pullman, WA, September 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.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

---

- 2018 School of Economic Sciences Excellence in Research Award, *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*

## MEDIA

---

### COVERAGE AND COLLABORATIONS

National precinct election result map: *New York Times*, *FiveThirtyEight*, *Washington Post*, *CityLab*, *The Outline*, *Business Insider*, *Spokesman-Review*

## SKILLS

---

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

## REFERENCES

---

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M. Keith CHEN<br>Associate Professor of Economics<br>University of California, Los Angeles<br>Phone: (310) 825-7348<br>Email: <a href="mailto:keith.chen@anderson.ucla.edu">keith.chen@anderson.ucla.edu</a> | Gregmar GALINATO ( <i>chair</i> )<br>Associate Professor of Economics<br>Washington State University<br>Phone: (509) 335-6382<br>Email: <a href="mailto:ggalinato@wsu.edu">ggalinato@wsu.edu</a> |
| Raymond BATINA<br>Professor of Economics<br>Washington State University<br>Phone: (509) 335-8057<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rgb@wsu.edu">rgb@wsu.edu</a>                                                      | Benjamin COWAN<br>Associate Professor of Economics<br>Washington State University<br>Phone: (509) 335-2184<br>Email: <a href="mailto:ben.cowan@wsu.edu">ben.cowan@wsu.edu</a>                    |

- 1 *“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 and instrumenting for home locations with work locations, the additional distance an individual chooses to travel to attend a politically like-minded church is calculated. The average churchgoer spends \$30-40 per year in fuel costs to reduce partisan disagreement by half, with the lowest estimates belonging to Mainline Protestants and polities which practice church assignment. Non-Christians, evangelicals, and conservative Protestants exhibit the 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.

- 2 *“Determinants of Precinct-Level Voting in the 2008-2016 American Presidential Elections”*

This paper uses the first national, multi-year, geocoded precinct-level dataset for American presidential elections to determine key groups and motivations driving recent electoral outcomes. After dasymmetrically matching precinct geographies to demographic data, ecological inference techniques demonstrate widening racial and education-based polarization. Race estimates vary with assumed spatial heterogeneity level, but may suggest less initial racial sorting than commonly believed, especially for black voters. Counterfactuals reveal changing subgroup partisanship drove the 2016 outcome more than differential turnout. Regression analyses decompose changes in turnout and partisan support between cycles, finding declining importance of economic characteristics in favor of identity-related measures. Last, an instrumental variables analysis explores causal effects of the fracking boom on local voting, finding strong support for retrospective voting. Groups benefiting from expanded resource extraction increased turnout and Republican support while opposing groups—Native Americans and graduate degrees holders—may have become more Democratic when exposed to local fracking utilization.

- 3 *“Political Storms: Differential Partisan Evacuation Responses Amid the Politicization of Hurricane Irma”*

The 2017 hurricane season devastated much of the U.S. Gulf Coast, with two of the worst hurricanes in history: Harvey (107 deaths, \$125B in damages) and Irma (134 deaths, \$65B in damages). Despite extensive warnings and mandatory evacuations, many residents did not leave before the storms hit, complicating rescue and recovery efforts and endangering lives. Using location data for millions of smartphone users in Florida and Texas, we demonstrate disparities in propensity and speed of evacuation by race, income, and education in response to hurricane alerts, an effect causally estimated using spatial regression discontinuity design. For Harvey and 2016’s Hurricane Matthew, no significant evacuation differences exist between Democratic and Republican precinct residents. In the days following controversial comments by Rush Limbaugh attributing Irma warnings to a climate change agenda, a significant and enduring disparity in evacuation rates by precinct partisanship forms, an effect which intensifies for residents of catchment areas exposed to more radio stations airing Limbaugh programming.

- 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.