



INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON
OSTROM WORKSHOP

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Michael Makowsky

Clemson University

Monday, November 8: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Virtual via Zoom: [Click here for link to Zoom meeting](#)



Firearms and Violence Under Jim Crow

We assess firearm access in the U.S. South across the 20th century by measuring the fraction of suicides committed with firearms. Black residents of the Jim Crow South were disarmed during the 1920's, failing to reach firearm parity until re-arming themselves during the Civil-Rights Movement of the 1950's. Firearms offered an effective means of Black self-defense in the Jim Crow South. Lynchings decreased with greater Black firearm access. During the Civil Rights Movement Black firearm access had no effect on Black deaths from homicide, but rather decreased Black deaths registered as firearm accidents, corroborating accounts of frequent misclassification of homicides as accidents in that era. These results are robust to multiple identification strategies, including identification through variation in firearm prices and law enforcement manpower.

Michael Makowsky is associate professor in the John E. Walker Department of Economics at Clemson University. His research focuses on law enforcement, crime, political economy, and the role of social goods in decision-making. Dr. Makowsky has published studies in the *American Economic Review*, *Review of Economic Studies*, and the *Journal of Law & Economics*. He has written extensively on the consequences of, and policy-solutions to, revenue-motivated law enforcement.

Ostrom Workshop
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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all Ostrom Workshop presentations will be virtual until further notice. Join instantly using the link above. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu)