



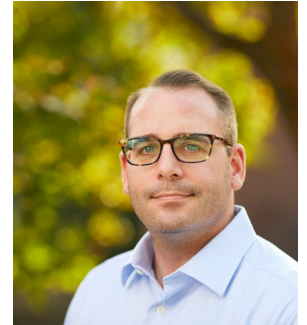
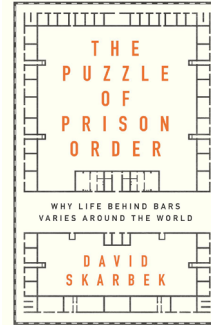
INDIANA UNIVERSITY BLOOMINGTON OSTROM WORKSHOP

Ostrom Book Club: The Puzzle of Prison Order: Why Life Behind Bars Varies Around the World

David Skarbek, Brown University

Wednesday, February 23, 2022: 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

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



Why does prison social order vary around the world? Many people think prisons are all the same—rows of cells filled with violent men who officials rule with an iron fist. Yet, life behind bars varies in incredible ways. In some facilities, prison officials govern with care and attention to prisoners' needs. In others, officials have remarkably little influence on the everyday life of prisoners, sometimes not even providing necessities like food and clean water. In *The Puzzle of Prison Order*, David Skarbek develops a theory of why life in prison varies so much. Drawing on new institutional economics and a vast empirical literature on legal systems, Skarbek offers a framework to understand why life on the inside varies in such fascinating and novel ways, and also how social order evolves and takes root behind bars.

David Skarbek is Associate Professor of Political Science at Brown University. His research examines how extralegal governance institutions form, operate, and evolve. He has published extensively on the informal institutions that govern life in prisons in California and around the globe. His first book, *The Social Order of the Underworld: How Prison Gangs Govern the American Penal System* received the American Political Science Association's William H. Riker Award for the best book in political economy.

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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)