

RYNE ROHLA

PERSONAL

WEBSITES: students.ses.wsu.edu/rohla PHONE: (425) 359-3027
rynerohla.com EMAIL: ryne.rohla@gmail.com
CITIZENSHIP: United States UPDATED: October 30, 2020

APPOINTMENTS

AUG 2019 — | Postdoctoral Research Fellow, **University of California, Los Angeles** LOS ANGELES, CA
JUL 2020 | *Anderson School of Management*

EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D., 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*

FIELDS

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

PUBLICATIONS

PRIMARY

- M. Keith Chen, Kareem Haggag, Devin Pope, and Ryne Rohla. “Racial Disparities in Voting Wait Times: Evidence from Smartphone Data.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Forthcoming (2020).
- NBER Working Paper No. 26487
- Coverage: *Scientific American*, *Washington Post*
- Gregmar Galinato and Ryne Rohla. “Do Privately-Run Prisons Increase Incarceration Rates?” *Labour Economics*, 67 (2020).
- Elisa F. Long, M. Keith Chen, and Ryne Rohla. “Political Storms: Emergent Partisan Skepticism of Hurricane Risks.” *Science Advances*, 6, no. 37 (2020).
- 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

SECONDARY

- Ron Johnston, Ryne Rohla, Kelvyn Jones, and David Manley. “Voting for Trump and the Electoral Mosaics of US Metropolitan Areas: Exploring Changing Patterns of Party Support by Neighborhood.” *Cities*, 86 (2019): 94-101.
- Ron Johnston, Kelvyn Jones, David Manley, and Ryne Rohla. “The Geographical Polarization of the American Electorate: A Country of Increasing Electoral Landslides?” *GeoJournal*, (2018): 1-18.
- Ryne Rohla, Ron Johnston, Kelvyn Jones, and David Manley. “Spatial Scale and the Geographical Polarization of the American Electorate.” *Political Geography*, 65 (2018): 117-122.

CURRENT RESEARCH

WORKING PAPERS

- “Causal Estimation of Stay-at-Home Orders on SARS-CoV-2 Transmission” (with M. Keith Chen, Yilin Zhuo, Malena de la Fuente, and Elisa F. Long)
- “Determinants of Precinct-Level Voting in the 2008-2016 American Presidential Elections”
- “The Partisan Tithes: Revealed Preferences for Political Similarity in Church Attendance” (with M. Keith Chen)

TEACHING

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

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

- 2019 “The Partisan Tith: Revealed Preferences for Political Similarity in Church Attendance.” UCLA Anderson Behavioral Decision Making seminar, Los Angeles, CA, November 2019.
- 2018 “The Partisan Tith: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Attendance.” Washington State University School of Economic Sciences seminar, Pullman, WA, November 2018.
- “The Partisan Tith: 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
- Proficient Knowledge: R, Stata, ArcGIS

REFERENCES

M. Keith CHEN
Associate Professor of Economics
University of California, Los Angeles
Phone: (310) 825-7348
Email: keith.chen@anderson.ucla.edu

Raymond BATINA
Professor of Economics
Washington State University
Phone: (509) 335-8057
Email: rgb@wsu.edu

Gregmar GALINATO (*chair*)
Associate Professor of Economics
Washington State University
Phone: (509) 335-6382
Email: ggalinato@wsu.edu

Benjamin COWAN
Associate Professor of Economics
Washington State University
Phone: (509) 335-2184
Email: ben.cowan@wsu.edu

1 *“The Partisan Tithe: Revealed Preferences for Political Homogeneity in Church Attendance”*

Using 270,000 geocoded church addresses, national precinct election results, and anonymized smartphone location tracking data for twelve million Americans to establish travel behavior, this chapter analyzes how individuals value partisanship in church selection, attendance, and time allocation. First, instrumenting for home-church distances with work-church distances, the additional distance an individual chooses to travel to attend a politically like-minded church is calculated. The lower bound on average churchgoer willingness to pay to mitigate partisan disagreement is \$20-60 per year in fuel costs, 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 abate political distance. Second, selection model estimates demonstrate daily attendance rate declines among the politically-mismatched which suggest an additional \$7-17 in yearly fuel expenditure and \$160-265 in church donations would be paid if political differences were removed. The combined “partisan tithe” represents at least 16-42% of average yearly Christian church donations under normal partisan salience and 23-53% under high salience. Time spent at church is also discussed with mixed findings. Finally, I examine individuals who changed churches after the election, finding those with higher initial political disagreement levels were more likely to change churches, especially among Republican-precinct residents, and the strength of subsequent partisan sorting increased with higher initial disagreement.

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 dasyymmetrically 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: Tracking Hurricane Evacuation Behavior Using Smartphone Data”*

The 2017 hurricane season devastated much of the U.S. gulf coastline, with two of the worst hurricanes in history: Harvey (107 deaths, \$125B in damages) and Irma (134 deaths, \$50B in damages). Despite extensive warnings and some mandatory evacuations, the majority of affected residents did not evacuate their homes before the storms hit, complicating rescue efforts and recovery. We empirically examine predictors of hurricane evacuations using a large GPS dataset for 2.7 million smartphone users in Florida and Texas. Combined with data at the census-block and voting-precinct level, we find that demographics such as income, education, and race/ethnicity, among others, significantly predict the propensity and speed of evacuation. Interestingly, one of the strongest predictors of willingness to evacuate was the 2016 Democrat/Republican Presidential vote share, but only after the emergence in 2017 of conservative-media dismissals of hurricane warnings, fueled by climate-change skepticism. Using a spatial regression-discontinuity design, we confirm the causal impact of hurricane advisories by comparing evacuation rates for residents just on opposite sides of county boundaries who received differential hurricane alerts. Our results could help the National Hurricane Center better design and target hurricane warning systems, and assist state and local governments with deploying evacuation assistance to vulnerable populations.

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.