

Steven Mello

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Employment

2020 – Assistant Professor of Economics, Dartmouth College
2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, NYU Furman Center

Affiliations

2022 – Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau
2020 – Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research

Education

2019 Ph.D. Economics, Princeton University
2015 M.A. Economics, Princeton University
2011 B.A. Economics (with Honors), Hamilton College

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary Public economics, labor economics
Secondary Inequality, discrimination, crime, law and economics, urban economics

Publications

“Police discretion and public safety” (with Felipe Gonçalves)
Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, forthcoming.
“Fines and financial wellbeing”
Review of Economic Studies 92(5), September 2025.
“A few bad apples? Racial bias in policing” (with Felipe Gonçalves)
American Economic Review 111(5), May 2021.
“More COPS, less crime”
Journal of Public Economics 172, April 2019.

Working Papers

“Selection bias and racial disparities in police use of force” (with Felipe Gonçalves and Emily Weisburst).
Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Political Economy*
“Diversity training and employee behavior: Evidence from the police” (with Matthew Ross, Stephen Ross,
and Yuling Han). Revise and resubmit, *AEJ: Economic Policy*
“Historical redlining and disparities in neighborhood violence” (with Aaron Cho).
Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Urban Economics*
“The value of policing: Measuring the tradeoff between crime control and use of force” (with Justin Holz,
Andrew Jordan, and Taeho Kim). *Under review*
“The big economic consequences of small shocks: Evidence from minor car crashes” (with Andrew Barr,
Jonathan Eggleston, and Alexander Smith)

Research in Progress

“The criminal and labor market impacts of arrests”
(with Eric Chyn, Felipe Gonçalves, Elisa Jácome, and Emily Weisburst)

“The economic value of credit scores” (with Apoorv Gupta and Jonathan Zinman)

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2023	Junior Faculty Fellowship, Dartmouth College
2023	Rockefeller-Haney Fellowship, Dartmouth College
2023	Albert Rees Dissertation Prize, Princeton University
2021	Burke Research Initiation Award, Dartmouth College
2020	Excellence in Reviewing Award, <i>AEJ: Applied</i> and <i>AEJ: Policy</i>
2018 – 2019	Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University
2018 – 2018	Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University
2013 – 2018	Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
2013 – 2015	Industrial Relations Section Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
2011	Taussig Undergraduate Article Award, Omicron Delta Epsilon
2011	Senior Prize in Economics, Hamilton College
2011	Soper Thesis Prize, Hamilton College
2010	Arthur Levitt Center Public Affairs Center Fellowship, Hamilton College
2009 – 2010	Academic All-NESCAC Team

Research Grants

2024 – 2027	Dean of Faculty Post-Bacc Program Pilot Grant (Co-PI)
2025 – 2026	Arnold Ventures Project Planning Grant (Co-PI)
2023	Rockefeller Center Faculty Research Grant (PI)
2020 – 2023	U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development #H21696 (Co-PI)
2022	Rockefeller Center Faculty Research Grant (PI)
2020 – 2022	U.S. Dept of Justice #2019-CK-WX-K028 (PI)

Invited Talks and Presentations

2025 – 2026	ViCE Seminar, Yale Law School, University of Zurich, LSU Chicago-LSE Conference on Economics of Crime and Justice* [†]
2024 – 2025	Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, UC-Berkeley, APPAM, University of South Carolina, WashU Criminal Justice Conference (presenter; discussant); Arnold Ventures, Princeton SPIA, TxEWCW, NBER SI (x2)
2023 – 2024	Buffalo, NBER L&E (discussant), TxEWCW (discussant), Texas A&M, SED
2022 – 2023	Duke, Brown, FRBNY, Princeton IRS Centennial Conference, Montana State Empirical Micro Conference, NBER SI (discussant)
2021 – 2022	Case Western, UBC, SEA (presenter; discussant), SDSU, Opportunity Insights, NBER SI
2020 – 2021	Vassar
2019 – 2020	Princeton, Georgetown McCourt, Rochester, Chicago Booth, Boston University, Dartmouth, NYU Furman Center, Centre for Economic Performance
2017 – 2018	NBER SI*, Transatlantic Workshop on the Economics of Crime*, ASSA
2016 – 2017	Hamilton College

* *coauthor presentation*; [†] *scheduled*

Teaching Experience

Dartmouth College

Economics 28: Public Finance and Public Policy
(Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2025)

Economics 20: Econometrics

(Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)

Princeton University

Teaching Assistant, ECON 343: Economic Inequality (Spring 2017)

Tutor, WWS 507: Quantitative Analysis for Policymakers (Fall 2016)

Tutor, WWS Junior Summer Institute (Summer 2016)

Guest Lectures

Graduate Public Finance, Texas A&M University (Spring 2024)

Economics of Crime, Bogota Summer School in Economics (Summer 2020)

Professional Activities

Referee *Quarterly Journal of Economics, American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics,, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization, American Law and Economics Review, Economic Journal, Applied Economics Letters, Nature: Human Behavior, Journal of Politics, Criminology and Public Policy, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics, European Research Council*

Grant reviewer, Arnold Ventures (2026–)

Organizer, Dartmouth Economics Internal Junior Seminar (2021–2023, 2025–)

Program Committee, APPAM Annual Research Conference (2025)

Co-Organizer, Dartmouth Applied Economics Seminar (2021–2023)

Session Chair – Police Conduct, ASSA Annual Meeting (2022)

Research Assistant Experience

2015 – 2016 Research Assistant for Prof. Janet Currie (Princeton University)
2015 Research Assistant for Prof. Ilyana Kuziemko (Princeton University)
2012 – 2013 Research Assistant, Industrial Relations Section (Princeton University)
2011 – 2012 Research Assistant, Prof. John Donohue (Stanford Law School)

Other Activities

2015 – 2016 Graduate Student Advisor, Princeton Development Lab
2014 – 2016 Social Chair, Princeton Graduate Economics Club
2013 Princeton Men's Club Lacrosse Team
2008 – 2011 Delta Upsilon International Fraternity (Chapter President, 2010)
2007 – 2011 Hamilton College Varsity Football
2009 – 2010 Volunteer Football Coach, Bedford (NH) High School

Skills

Computing: Stata, R, SQL, Unix, L^AT_EX