

## **Thesis Abstract**

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### **“Education, Employment and Criminal Capital: Evidence from Juvenile Offenders” (Job Market Paper)**

This paper develops and estimates a dynamic model of employment, schooling and crime with endogenous human and criminal capital that incorporates the evolution of mental health and self-control. I use this model to understand how the dynamic interaction between human and criminal capital influences the life cycle choices of juvenile offenders. The estimation is based on seven years of observations on a sample of juvenile offenders from Maricopa County (Phoenix) and Philadelphia County (Philadelphia). My results indicate that criminal capital accumulates faster than human capital, which reduces the deterrent effects of detention, education, and employment. Also, years of school have the most significant contribution to the accumulation of human capital, and lower self-control is associated with incarceration, criminal engagement, and unemployment. I discuss the consequences of school and wage subsidies on employment and criminal engagement and find that, depending on the age at the intervention, both policies can generate long-run crime reduction.

### **“On the Heterogeneous Effects of Incarceration”**

Using data from a survey of juvenile offenders, I estimate the effects of incarceration, by facility type, over the perception on the personal costs of punishment and non-cognitive skills as measured by the Weinberger Adjustment Inventory (WAI). I find evidence that effects vary by age and facility type. Younger offenders placed in adult facilities experienced the most significant decrease in non-cognitive skills. Also, older offenders placed in adult facilities do not change much their perception about the personal costs of punishment. I later discuss the implications for reoffending and high school graduation.