

Crime Lab Title: Research Director
Reporting to: Executive Director

Our Focus

The U.S. has the highest rate of homicide among any developed nation in the world. The U.S. also has by far the highest rate of incarceration among any high-income nation, with over 2.2 million people currently incarcerated nationwide. Both of these problems disproportionately affect our most economically disadvantaged and socially marginalized communities.

Taken together, all levels of government in the U.S. spend well over \$200 billion per year on the criminal justice system (including police, courts, and corrections). Yet we have made little long-term progress on these problems. The homicide rate in America today is about the same as it was in 1950, or even 1900. This stands in stark contrast to the enormous progress the U.S. has made toward reducing mortality rates from almost every other leading cause of death. One key reason we have not made more progress on these problems is a striking lack of rigorous evidence about what actually works, for whom, and why.

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab aim to change this by doing the most rigorous research possible in close collaboration with city government and non-profits. Using randomized controlled trials, insights from behavioral economics, and predictive analytics, the Crime Lab and Education Lab partner with government agencies and frontline practitioners to help cities identify, design, and test the policies and programs with the greatest potential to reduce crime, improve education, and maximize the social good per dollar spent.

Who We Are

The Faculty Director of the University of Chicago Crime Lab is Jens Ludwig, the McCormick Foundation Professor of Social Service Administration, Law and Public Policy at the University of Chicago and the co-Director of the University of Chicago Education Lab with Jonathan Guryan, Associate Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, faculty fellow at the Institute for Policy Research, and a courtesy member of the Economics Department and the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University. Ludwig is an economist by training and in 2012 was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science. Guryan is a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research, a research consultant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, and an associate editor of Labour Economics.

The Crime Lab received a \$1 million award from the MacArthur Foundation in 2013 as recognition for effectiveness and creativity – the organizational equivalent of the MacArthur “genius prize” for individuals. Crime Lab and Education Lab projects have helped identify cost-effective ways to prevent youth from dropping out or becoming involved in violence, which have received national news coverage in outlets like the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post, and have led government policymakers like Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel to adopt and support scale-up with public-sector resources. One example is the Youth Guidance Becoming a Man program, which was featured prominently in President Obama’s announcement of the My Brother’s Keeper initiative to help improve the life outcomes for young minority men.

The Role

The University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab are seeking a full-time Research Director to contribute to the scientific and intellectual leadership for the Crime Lab. In this role the Research Director will help to manage and mentor research and project staff, providing scientific direction and ensuring the rigor and quality of all work. The Research Director would also be expected to direct a portfolio of applied research projects in association with faculty members and research teams focused on reducing crime and violence and improving life outcomes for disadvantaged youth.

Education and experience required:

Applicants must have a Ph.D. by fall 2018 in public policy, economics, criminology, statistics, computer science, or other relevant field with substantial policy and research experience. Preference will be given to those with proven experience working with interdisciplinary research teams and agency and community stakeholders.

To Apply:

Submit CV/resume, cover letter, writing sample, and reference contact info

<https://jobopportunities.uchicago.edu>, requisition **102508**.

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