

Ryan Safner, Ph.D

Associate Professor of Economics

George B. Delaplaine, Jr. School of Business, Hood College, Frederick, MD

safner@hood.edu | ryansafner.com

Academic Appointments

Hood College, Frederick, MD

<i>Associate Professor of Economics</i>	2022—
<i>Assistant Professor of Economics</i>	2019—2022
<i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics</i>	2016—2019

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

<i>Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics</i>	2015—2016
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George Mason University, Fairfax, VA

Adjunct Lecturer	2015
Graduate Lecturer	2013—2015

Education

Ph.D — Economics, <i>George Mason University</i>	2015
Dissertation: <i>Essays on the Institutional Analysis of Copyright & its Alternatives</i>	
M.A. — Economics, <i>George Mason University</i>	2013
B.A. — Economics, <i>University of Connecticut</i>	2011

Research

Research Interests

The political economy and economic history of public goods, innovation & technological growth, and intellectual property, using the tools of game theory, new institutional economics, market process economics, and public choice. I blog on some of these issues at [Increasing Returns](#).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

5. Safner, Ryan, 2022, "Honor Among Thieves: How 19th Century American Pirate Publishers Simulated Copyright" *Economic Governance* (forthcoming)
4. Tarko, Vlad, and Ryan Safner, 2022, "International Regulatory Diversity Over 50 Years: Political Entrepreneurship Within Fiscal Constraints," *Public Choice* 193(1-2): 79-108
3. Safner, Ryan, 2021, "'Public Good' or 'Good for the Public?'" Political Entrepreneurship and the Public Funding of Scientific Research," *Journal of Private Enterprise*, 36(1): 17-44
2. Safner, Ryan, 2016, "Institutional Entrepreneurship, Wikipedia, and the Opportunity of the Commons," *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 12(4): 743-771.
1. Safner, Ryan, 2016, "The Perils of Copyright Regulation," *Review of Austrian Economics*, 29(2): 121-137.

Under Review

Gangotena, Santiago and Ryan Safner, “The Production of Increasing Returns: Physical Technology, Institutional Technology, and the Pitfalls of Production Functions” (*Structural Change & Economic Dynamics*, Revise & Resubmit Requested)

Safner, Ryan, “I Don’t Always Teach the History of Economic Thought, but when I Do, I Prefer an NCAA-style Tournament” (*Journal of Economics Teaching*, Revise & Resubmit Requested)

Works in Progress

(Undergraduate coauthors in **bold**)

Distributing Patronage: Censorship, Freedom of the Press, and Copyright in the English Transition from Natural State to Open Access Order

Pirate Thy Neighbor: The Protectionist Roots of U.S. Recognition of Foreign Copyrights

Kickstart My Art: Is Crowdfunding a Substitute or a Complement to Intellectual Property Laws?

A Tale of Two Capitals: Modeling the Interaction Between Ideas, Physical Capital, and Growth

Cryptocopyright? The Prospects of Protecting Intellectual Property on the Blockchain

The Network Origins of Economic Growth (with Santiago Gangotena)

Is Augury for the Birds? (with **Sainabou Jallow**)

The Division of Labor, Increasing Returns, and Competitive Firms

Teaching

I have taught a wide variety of economics electives and principles courses. At Hood college, I regularly teach intermediate microeconomics (every semester), econometrics (every fall), and economics electives (1-2 each semester). See links below to my individual course websites, where **all material is made public**. See also [my blog](#) for posts relevant to teaching and pedagogy, particularly related to econometrics, data science, and workflow.

The most recent semester of each course below links to my custom course website.

Hood College

ECMG 212 — Statistics for Economics & Management (S2017)

ECON 205 — Principles of Macroeconomics (F2018)

ECON 304 — International Political Economy (F2017)

ECON 306 — Microeconomic Analysis (F2016; S2017; F2017; S2018; F2018; S2019; F2019; S2020; F2020; S2021; F2021; S2022; [F2022](#))

ECON 315 — Economics of the Law ([S2021](#)) [**Developed course**]

ECON 316 — Game Theory (S2019; [F2021](#))

ECON 317 — Economics of Development (F0291; [F2021](#))

ECON 324 — International Trade (F2016; F2018; [F2020](#))

ECON 326 — Industrial Organization (S2017; [S2020](#))

ECON 410 — Public Economics (S2018; S2020; [S2022](#))

ECON 452 — History of Economic Thought (F2020, [F2022](#))
ECON 480 — Econometrics (F2016; F2017; F2018; F2019; F2020; F2021, [F2022](#))
MGMT 399 — Internship for Business (S2018)

Wake Forest University

ECN 150 — Introduction to Economics (F2015; S2016)
ECN 271 — Special Topics: Austrian Economics (S2016)

George Mason University

ECON 385 — International Economic Policy (Summer 2013; F2013; S2014)
ECON 403 — Austrian Economics (Summer 2015)
ICES — High School Economics Workshops (Summer 2012; cotaught with Paul Mueller)

Conference Presentations

2019, "A Tale of Two Capitals," *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Fort Lauderdale, FL.
2019, "Magic Internet Money? How Blockchain Technology Might Revolutionize the 21st Century Economy," *Phi Kappa Phi Lecture*, Hood College
2018, "Distributing Patronage: Intellectual Property in the Transition from Natural State to Open Access Order," *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.
2017, "The Network Origins of Economic Growth", *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Tampa, FL.
2016, "Ideas, Institutions, and Technological Progress," *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Washington, DC.
2015, "Institutional Entrepreneurship, Wikipedia, and the Opportunity of the Commons," *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, New Orleans, LA.
2015, "Pirate Thy Neighbor: The Protectionist Roots of International Copyright," *Public Choice Society Annual Conference*, San Antonio, TX.
2015, "Wiki-nomics: Bringing Institutions Back into Copyright Analysis with a Case Study of Wikipedia," *Public Choice Society Annual Conference*, San Antonio, TX.
2014, "Crowdfunding Creative Goods, Crowding out Intellectual Property?" *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
2014, "Learning by Doing: Who's Learning? Who's Doing? and other Production Function Myths," (with Santiago Gangotena), *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Atlanta, GA.
2014, "'Public Goods' or 'Good for the Public?' - Endogenizing Public Goods," *Association of Private Enterprise Education Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, NV.
2014, "A Structural Analysis of Regulatory Capitalism" (with Julia Norgaard and Vlad Tarko), *Association of Private Enterprise Education Annual Conference*, Las Vegas, NV.
2014, "Democracy and Political Cost - A Framework for Understanding Political Entrepreneurship in an Entangled Political Economy", *Public Choice Society Annual Conference*, Charleston, SC.
2013, "Copyright Since 1976: An Interventionism Framework," *Southern Economic Association Annual Conference*, Tampa, FL.

2013, "Towards an Institutional View of Ideas, Copyright, and Piracy," *Institute for Humane Studies: Symposium on Scholarship and a Free Society*, Arlington, VA.

Professional Development

2021, *Institute for Humane Studies* Discussion Colloquium: Scientific Research and Economic Growth

2014, *Institute for Humane Studies* and *The Liberty Fund, Inc.* Advanced Topics Seminar: City-States as an Alternative to Nation States. Arlington, VA

2013, *Institute for Humane Studies: Symposium on Scholarship and a Free Society*. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* and *The Liberty Fund, Inc.* Advanced Topics Seminar: The Growth of Government. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* Advanced Studies Seminar: The Challenges and Future of Liberty. Arlington, VA

2012, *Institute for Humane Studies* Workshop: Career Development Workshop. Arlington, VA

Academic Awards and Grants

Hood College Center for Teaching Academic Innovation Grant 2022

F.A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2021

Hood College Center for Teaching Academic Innovation Grant 2019

Hood College Board of Associates McCardell Professional Development Grant 2018

Hood College Board of Associates McCardell Professional Development Grant 2017

F.A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2015

F.A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2014

Earhart Foundation Fellowship 2014-2015

Mercatus Center Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship 2014

Graduate Student Travel Fund Grant (George Mason University) 2014

Earhart Foundation Fellowship 2013-2014

F. A. Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) 2013

Dunn Foundation Fellowship 2012-2013

Consulting

Member of City of Frederick Mayor's Strategic Opportunities Advisory Team, Economic Resilience Work Group, Ted Gregory, chair (2018)

2018 Report of the Strategic Opportunities Advisory Team

Data-Driven Frederick, Advisory Board Founding Member (2022—Present)

Service

To Hood College

Panel discussant for "The Crisis in Ukraine" Panel, Hood College, March 11, 2022

Member of Curriculum Committee (Fall 2018—Spring 2020)

Committee Chair (Fall 2019—Spring 2020)

Member of SPIRES Committee (Fall 2019—Spring 2021)

Inaugural SPIRES symposium (April 2021)

Member of TEDx Committee (Fall 2021)

Chaired search committee for Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (2019-2020) position (successful hire)

Taught mini-course "Magic Internet Money? How Blockchain Technology Could Revolutionize the 21st Century Economy," Accepted Students Day, April 6, 2019

Panel discussant for "The EU: Dead At 60?" Panel, Hood College, September 7, 2018

Created and approved new economics course: ECON 315 — Economics of the Law (2020)

Proposed change to Economics major, approved by the Curriculum Committee (Spring 2018)

Taught mini-course "A Pirate's Life for Me — The Economics of Intellectual Property and (Digital) Piracy", Accepted Students Day, April 11, 2018

Taught mini-course "A Pirate's Life for Me — The Economics of Intellectual Property and (Digital) Piracy", Accepted Students Day, April 8, 2017

Panel discussant for "Globalization and Its Discontents" Panel, Hood College, March 2, 2017

Committee chair for Departmental Honors Thesis undergraduate students:

Jakob Stubits (2022-2023)

Maria Silva (2021-2022)

Anubhooti Regmi (2021-2022)

Natalie Kolosieke (2020—2021)

Kevin Ciocco (2020—2021)

Valentin Donchev (2019—2020)

Emily Stubits (2019—2020)

Elias Nicholson (2018—2019)

Nicholson, Elias, 2019, "Regulation and Discrimination: Race and Interest Rate Mark-Ups in the Auto Loan Industry," [*Issues in Political Economy* 28\(1\)](#)

Zack Miller (2016—2017)

Committee member for Departmental Honors Thesis undergraduate students:

Jared Knowles (2016-2017)

Jaclyn Bealer (2016-2017)

Department Library Liason (2016-Present)

To Wake Forest University

Committee member for Senior Thesis undergraduate student Adrian Martino (WFU, 2016)

To the Profession

Reviewer for *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Review of Austrian Economics*

Scientific Committee Member for *Panconomist*

Faculty reviewer for *Institute for Humane Studies'* Humane Studies Fellowships (2016, 2017)

Professional Memberships

American Law & Economics Association

Society for the Development of Austrian Economics

Southern Economic Association

American Economic Association

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Skills

Languages

English (native)

Russian (basic)

Spanish (intermediate)

Software

R, tidyverse, tidymodels (ML), Stata, Python (learning), SQL, Git, Excel

LaTeX, Markdown, Quarto