

# Ryan Safner

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

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

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## Academic Appointments

### Associate Professor of Economics

HOOD COLLEGE

Frederick, MD

2022–

### Assistant Professor of Economics

HOOD COLLEGE

Frederick, MD

2019–2022

### Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

HOOD COLLEGE

Frederick, MD

2016–2019

### Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Winston-Salem, NC

2015–2016

### Adjunct Lecturer

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA

2015

### Graduate Lecturer

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Fairfax, VA

2013–2015

## Education

### George Mason University

PH.D — ECONOMICS

Fairfax, VA

2015

### George Mason University

M.A. — ECONOMICS

Fairfax, VA

2013

### University of Connecticut

B.A. — ECONOMICS

Storrs, CT

2011

## Research

### INTERESTS

Public goods, innovation & technological growth, and intellectual property, using the tools of game theory, new institutional economics, market process economics, and public choice

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. Safner, R. (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, R. (2016). Institutional entrepreneurship, wikipedia, and the opportunity of the commons. *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 12(4), 743–771.
3. Safner, R. (2016). The perils of copyright regulation. *Review of Austrian Economics*, 29(2), 121–137.

### UNDER REVIEW

1. Tarko, V., & Safner, R. (2021). Varieties of regulatory regimes. *Public Choice (Revise & Resubmit Requested)*.
2. Safner, R. (2021). *I don't always teach the history of economic thought, but when i do, i prefer an NCAA-style tournament.*
3. Safner, R. (2021). *Honor among thieves: How 19th century american pirate publishers simulated copyright protection.*
4. Gangotena, S., & Safner, R. (2021). The production of increasing returns: Physical technology, institutional technology, and the pitfalls of production functions. *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics (Revise & Resubmit Requested)*.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. Safner, R. (2020). *Distributing patronage: Censorship, freedom of the press, and copyright in the english transition from natural state to open access order.*
2. Safner, R. (2020). *Pirate thy neighbor: The protectionist roots of u.s. Recognition of foreign copyrights.*
3. Safner, R. (2020). *Kickstart my art: Is crowdfunding a substitute or a complement to intellectual property laws?*
4. Safner, R. (2021). *Mutually assured litigation.*
5. Gangotena, S., & Safner, R. (2021). *A tale of two capitals: Modeling the interaction between ideas, physical capital, and growth.*
6. Gangotena, S., Romero, P., & Safner, R. (2020). *The network origins of economic growth.*

## Teaching

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### SUMMARY

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.

### 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](#))
- 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](#))
- ECON 480 — Econometrics (F2016; F2017; F2018; F2019; F2020; [F2021](#))
- MGMT 399 — Internship for Business (S2018)

### WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

- ECN 150 — Introduction to Economics (Fall 2015; Spring 2016)
- ECN 271 — Special Topics: Austrian Economics (Spring 2016)

### GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

- ECON 385 — International Economic Policy (Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)
- ECON 403 — Austrian Economics (Summer 2015)
- ICES — High School Economics Workshops (Summer 2012, cotaught with Paul Mueller)

## Talks

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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*

## Service

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## 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—)
  - 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:
  - Maria Silva (2021-2022)
  - Anubhooti Regmi (2021-2022)
  - Natalie Kolosiekie (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 (Fall 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

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- Languages:
  - English ★★★★★
  - Russian ★★★☆☆
  - Spanish ★★★☆☆

- **Software:**

- R: ★★★★★
- Stata: ★★★★★
- Python: ★☆☆☆☆(learning)