

Department of Economics presents
Economics Workshop



Siobhan O'Keefe

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"Baby's Gone: The Effects of Increased Sentencing Severity on Fertility and Family Formation"

Over the last several decades, the United States' incarceration rate has steadily increased. By 2011, close to one percent of the adult population was experiencing some form of correctional supervision. Although incarcerated men are physically separated from their communities, their absence may still affect those who are left behind. Using the change in incarceration caused by a sentencing reform in North Carolina, together with an intensity of treatment research design, I show that effective incarceration policies have spillover effects on family formation patterns. In the wake of the policy change, unmarried and young black women reduced their fertility, and the composition of births shifted towards women of higher socioeconomic status. At the same time, I find that among those who gave birth, the quality of partner matches decline. Also, white women are less likely to be married, but there is no effect on marriage rates for black women.

Siobhan is a PhD Candidate in Economics at UC Davis specializing in applied microeconomics.

**Wednesday
Sept. 26, 2018**

**BBC 223
3:00-5:30pm**

*FREE, open to
the public*

Economics Workshops offer an opportunity for SJSU students, faculty and invited guests to enjoy academic research presentations by scholars from around the world in their areas of expertise. Following most workshop events, the Barstool Economists group meets at a local eatery, where conversations with the speaker may be continued in a less formal environment.

For information on upcoming workshops,
Please see our website: www.sjsu.edu/economics/events.