

Abstract :

We analyze delinquent networks of adolescents in the United States. We develop a theoretical model showing who the key player is, i.e. the criminal who once removed generates the highest possible reduction in aggregate crime level. We also show that key players are not necessarily the most active criminals in a network. We then test our model using data on criminal behaviors of adolescents in the United States (AddHealth data). Compared to other criminals, key players are more likely to be a male, have less educated parents, are less attached to religion and feel socially more excluded. They also feel that adults care less about them, are less attached to their school and have more troubles getting along with the teachers. We also find that, even though some criminals are not very active in criminal activities, they can be key players because they have a crucial position in the network in terms of betweenness centrality.

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Yves Zenou is professor of economics at Stockholm University and Senior Research Fellow at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics. His research interests include: Social interactions and network theory, urban economics, segregation and discrimination of ethnic minorities, criminality and education.

Yves Zenou was previously a Professor of Economics at the University of Southampton, UK, and a Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, the European University Institute and Tel Aviv University. He is currently the Editor of Regional Science and Urban Economics, and Associate Editor of the Journal of Public Economic Theory, the Journal of Urban Economics, the Journal of Urban Management, the Scandinavian Journal of Economics, and Annals of Economics and Statistics.



The Center for Research in Economic Analysis of the University of Luxembourg is pleased to invite you to the **Lunchtime Seminar in Economics:**

Criminal Networks: Who is the Key Player?

Yves Zenou
Stockholm University

February 16, 2011
13:00 – 14:00

Campus Limpertsberg
Central Building – Room BS001
162a, avenue de la Faïencerie
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Lunch is planned for the participants

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