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Prediction markets have been proposed for a variety of public policy purposes, but no one has considered their application in perhaps the most obvious policy area: crime. This Article proposes and examines the use of prediction markets to forecast crime rates and the potential impact on crime policy, such as changes in resource allocation, policing strategies, sentencing, post-conviction treatment, and so on.

First, we argue that prediction markets are especially useful in crime rate forecasting and criminal policy analysis because information relevant to decisionmakers is voluminous, dispersed, and difficult to process efficiently. After surveying the current forecasting practices and techniques, we examine the use of standard prediction markets—such as those being used to predict everything from the weather to political elections to flu outbreaks—as a method of forecasting crime rates of various kinds.

Second, we introduce some theoretical improvements to existing prediction markets that are designed to address specific issues that arise in crime rate forecasting. Specifically, we develop the idea of prediction market event studies that could test the influence of real and hypothetical policy changes on crime rates. Given the high costs of changing policies, such as issuing a moratorium on the death penalty or lowering mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes, these markets provide a useful tool for policymakers operating under uncertainty.

But, the event studies and the other policy markets we propose face a big hurdle because predictions about the future imbed assumptions about the very policy choices they are designed to measure. We offer a method by which policymakers can interpret market forecasts in a way that isolates or unpacks underlying crime factors from expected policy responses, even when the responses are dependent on the crime factors.

Finally, we discuss some practical issues about designing these markets, such as how to ensure liquidity, how to structure contracts, and the optimal market scope. We conclude with a modest proposal for experimenting with markets in this policy area.

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The growth of amateur photography hosting websites has increased public access to a large and diverse body of photographic works. This experience has enriched the public and has facilitated exposure for artists that would otherwise remain unknown. But these photographers have increasingly become victims of unscrupulous businesses who pirate the amateurs' works for profit. Because these artists rarely register the copyrights in their photographs, they are often denied a suitable remedy. Unprotected amateurs are thus increasingly denying public access to their works. A solution to this problem is possible: a business model that an amateur photography website can use to register large numbers of photographs inexpensively and efficiently. This model offers profit for photography hosting websites and protection for amateur photographers. It will therefore result in a more flourishing and diverse body of work available to the public.

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Modern society is profoundly tied to the energy sources that power it. From the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, fossil fuels have supplied that energy, enabling a modern, mobile society now largely dependent on oil and gasoline. When the unsustainability of this reliance became apparent in the 1970s, the U.S. government began a series of programs which subsidized the ethanol production process in an effort to create an alternative to oil imports. This Note explores the history of governmental support for ethanol, as well as the achievements and limitations of those programs. Drawing upon the inherent limitations of the present programs, this Note will argue for a movement away from corn-based ethanol toward alternative energy programs which have greater potential to solve America's oil addiction.

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