



SÉMINAIRE

PRISON CONDITIONS AND RECIDIVISM: EVIDENCE FROM FRANCE

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**Lemma - 4 rue Blaise Desgoffe,
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The next [LEMMA](#) seminar will host [Benjamin Monneray](#). He is an Associate Professor of Economics at Paris Nanterre.

His research interests lie in law and economics, economics of crime, political economy, and microeconometrics.

Abstract: This paper investigates the effect of prison conditions on risk of recidivism, following the universe of prison releasees in France from 2016 to 2019. Using a rich set of public and hand-coded information on all correctional facilities, prison conditions are considered both at the prison-level (e.g. overcrowding, suicide rates, geographic isolation) and at the individual level (e.g. access to work programs), allowing for a deeper understanding compared to prior research. Exploiting the binding geographical assignment of convicts to prisons, our results suggest a small beneficial effect of soft, reentry-oriented prison conditions on recidivism in France.