Dr. John R. Lott, Jr. has held research or teaching positions at various academic institutions including the University of Chicago, Yale University, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford University, UCLA, and Rice University, and was the chief economist at the United States Sentencing Commission during 1988 and 1989. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from UCLA.

Nobel laureate Milton Friedman noted: "John Lott has few equals as a perceptive analyst of controversial public policy issues."

Lott is a prolific author for both academic and popular publications. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and written nine books, including three editions of "More Guns, Less Crime" from the University of Chicago Press.

He has been one of the most productive and cited economists in the world. Among economics, business and law professors his research is currently the 27th most downloaded in the world. During 1969 to 2000 he ranked 26th worldwide in terms of quality adjusted total academic journal output, 4th in terms of total refereed papers published, and 86th in terms of citations.