

ASSAF Y KOTT

<https://www.assafkott.com/>
assaf_kott@brown.edu

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Toru Kitagawa	TORU_KITAGAWA@BROWN.EDU	401-863-3836
Graduate Administrator: Angelica Spertini	ANGELICA_SPERTINI@BROWN.EDU	401-863-2465

Office Contact Information

70 Waterman
Providence, RI, 02912
781-308-8465

Undergraduate Studies:

BSc, Physics, Hebrew University, 2012
MA, Economics, Hebrew University, Magna Cum Lauda, 2017

Graduate Studies:

Brown University, 2017 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “*Essays on Investments in Children*”
Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References:

Professor Anna Aizer
Department of Economics
Brown University
401-863-9529
anna_aizer@brown.edu

Professor Jesse M Shapiro
Department of Economics
Harvard University
617-496-3165
jesse_shapiro@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Peter Hull
Department of Economics
Brown University
peter_hull@brown.edu

Professor Jesse Bruhn
Department of Economics
Brown University
jesse_bruhn@brown.edu

Publications:

“Does Remedial Education at Late Childhood Pay Off After All? Long-Run Consequences for University Schooling, Labor Market Outcomes and Inter-Generational Mobility” (with Victor Lavy and Genia Rachkovski), *Journal of Labor Economics*. Volume 40, Number 1, January 2022, pp. 239–282

Research Papers:

“Income Shocks, School Choice, and Long-Term Outcomes: Lessons from Child Allowances in Israel” (Job Market Paper)

I study how a shock to household income during childhood affects educational decisions and long-term educational outcomes. For identification, I leverage a birthday cutoff rule in a reform to child allowances in Israel, which resulted in similar families receiving substantially different amounts of income. To improve statistical efficiency, I exploit variation in the shock’s intensity by extending the recentered treatment approach in Borusyak and Hull (2021) to a regression discontinuity setting. For Jewish boys, losing USD 1,000 reduces the probability of matriculating high school by 2.3 percentage points (10%); however, I find limited evidence that the reduced child allowances affected other groups. This heterogeneity is explained by Jewish boys’ sorting into lower-quality ultraorthodox schools that are unavailable for the other demographic groups. Transitioning to these ultraorthodox schools could appeal to parents since they provide amenities not found elsewhere, such as longer hours of care, meals, and transport. However, these schools are also among the worst performing in the country. My findings highlight parents’ educational decisions as a mechanism driving the long-term consequences of income shocks during childhood.

The Long-Run Effects of Public Universal Pre-K

I estimate the effect of attending public pre-K at age three on matriculating high school at age eighteen. My setting is municipalities with an Arab majority in Israel that experienced a universal public pre-K expansion in 2000-2004. Leveraging the staggered rollout of the expansion for identification, I find that attending pre-K positively affects performance in high-school matriculation exams in the Hebrew and Arabic languages. A marginal treatment effect (MTE) analysis reveals a reverse selection on gains: children who benefit the most from pre-K are the least likely to enroll.

Research Papers in Progress

The Income Effects of Reducing Unconditional Cash transfers on Families in Israel (With Hani Mansour, Naomi Gershoni, Rania Gihleb, and Yannay Shannan)

The Long-Term Impact of Healthcare Accessibility in Middle Childhood: Evidence from Medicaid Expansion in the 1990s (With Chien-Tzu Cheng)

“The Impact of Early Childhood Education in North Dakota: Non-cognitive Skills, Universal Access, and Parental LFP” (With Jesse Bruhn and Justin Doromal)

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Economics of Education, Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Public Economics, Inequality, Demography

Teaching Experience:

Fall, 2022 & Fall, 2020	Intermediate Microeconomics, TA for Professor Pedro Dal Bo
Summer, 2019	Economania, Brown University Pre-College Program, Instructor
Fall, 2018	Intermediate Microeconomics, TA for Professor Fahri Ulusoy
Summer, 2018	Economania, Brown University Pre-College Program, Instructor
Summer, 2018	Econometrics, Brown University Pre-College Program, Instructor

Research Experience:

2021	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professors Jesse Bruhn
2019-2020	Brown University, Research Assistant for President Christina Paxson
2018-2019	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Jesse Shapiro
2016-2017	Hebrew University, Research Assistant for Professor Victor Lavy
2016-2017	Hebrew University, Research Assistant for Professor Ori Heffetz

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Spring, 2022	Inequality Project Fellowship, Brown University
2022	Bravo Center Research Grant, Brown University
2017	Zalman Shiffer Award for a Graduate Student, Hebrew University

Professional Activities:

2022	<i>Presentations:</i> PAA conference, PSTC colloquia, Brown Applied Micro Lunch Seminar, APPAM (scheduled)
2021, 2020	<i>Presentations:</i> Brown Applied Micro Lunch Seminar
2019-2020	Co-organizer of Brown Applied Micro Lunch Seminar
2021-present	Trainee, PSTC, Brown University

Other Employment:

2014-2016	Economist, <i>ERCG</i> , Israel
2013-2014	Internships Coordinator, <i>New Spirt</i> , Israel

Other Information

Languages:	Hebrew (native), English (fluent), Arabic (intermediate)
Programming:	STATA, Python, R