

# Benjamin Blemings

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Dyson School of Applied Economics  
Cornell University  
137 Reservoir Ave  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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## Appointments

### Cornell University

Postdoctoral Researcher, Center for Veterinary Business and Entrepreneurship 2021-2023

### Claremont Graduate University

Research Fellow, School of Social Science, Policy, and Evaluation 2022-

## Education

### West Virginia University

Ph.D., *Economics* 2021

### Miami University (OH), Departmental Honors

2011-2015

B.S., *Quantitative Economics*

Adviser: Dr. William Even

## Research

**Interests:** Human Capital/Education, Causal Inference

**Fields:** Health, Urban/Regional, Public

## Teaching

**Instructed:** Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (X2), Microeconomic Principles (X3 Online, X2 In-Person), Survey of Economics (Online)

**Assisted:** Business Statistics, Microeconomic Principles, Graduate Microeconomic Theory

**Interests:** Applied Econometrics, Economics of Education, Economics of Opportunity

## Working Papers

### “Merit Aid Renewal Beyond A Cutoff”

(Submitted) [Link](#)

*NARSC 2020 Graduate Student Paper Competition Winner*

[Website Link](#)

**Abstract:** Financial aid renewal requirements are ubiquitous and give students a concrete goal which is a promising strategy for students transitioning beyond high school. Yet, our understanding of merit-based aid’s renewal requirements could be deepened with alternative identification strategies that address selection into these programs with publicly known academic eligibility cutoffs. This paper estimates how receiving West Virginia’s merit-based Promise scholarship affects students’ likelihood of meeting academic renewal requirements using an unmanipulated birthdate cutoff and an internally valid fuzzy regression discontinuity. In contrast to known entry test requirements, density tests do not find significant enrollment differences at the birth cutoff. Scholarship-receiving students are 24 percentage points (pp) more likely to exceed the credits requirement and 31 pp more likely to exceed the GPA requirement, on average. There are no significant effects of crossing this birth cutoff, when crossing it does not also result in receiving the scholarship which means the effects are driven by student’s responses to the requirements and not relative age effects. These estimates are externally valid for complier students away from the cutoff, but not to GPA targets of non-compliers due to never-takers out-performing untreated compliers. These estimates advance knowledge on how responsive students are to renewal goals, particularly their relative responses to credits or GPA targets and how externally valid those estimates are, informing design of financial aid renewal incentives.

**“Does Peer Leadership, Communication, and Attitude Affect Self-Perceptions and Grades?”** (*with Scott Cunningham & Matthew Pearson*) (Submitted) [Link](#)

**“Running Away to College? Domestic Terrorism and Location Preferences”**

**“Violence Displacement from Sea to Land: Evidence from Wind-Induced Somali Piracy Reductions”** (Submitted) [Link](#)

**“Hoggin’ the Road”** (*with Margaret Bock & Alexandre Scarcioffolo*) (Submitted) [Link](#)

**“Corporate Acquisitions and Ownership of Veterinary Clinics: Local Market Power and Differing Targets”** (*with Clinton Neill*) (Submitted) [Link](#)

**“COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy, Uptake, and Veterinary Service Foot Traffic”** (*with Clinton Neill*)

**“The Impacts of Sow Gestation Crate Laws on Pork Supply and Consumer Value Perceptions”** (*with Clinton Neill & Peilu Zhang*) [Link](#)  
(Revisions Submitted to *Food Policy*)

## Book Chapters

**“Public Security Enhances Private Security in Reducing Harm from Maritime Piracy”**  
(Revisions Accepted at Handbook of Public and Private Security)

**“Does Private Security Complement Police in Reducing Crime?”**  
(Revisions Accepted at Handbook of Public and Private Security)

## Presentations

Southern Economic Association (2020-2022), North American Regional Science Council (2019-2022), Eastern Economics Association (2019, 2020, 2023), Public Choice (2019), Applied Economics in Regional and Urban Science (2018), Economics of Corruption (2017), Southern Regional Science Association (2022), Association for Education and Finance Policy (2021), American Economic Association (2022), Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (2022), Kansas University, Wayne State University, Southern Utah University, Cornell University-Health Economics

## Referee

International Review of Law and Economics (X2), Contemporary Economic Policy (X3), Economics of Governance, Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, International Journal of Sports Finance

## Workshops Taught

Regression Discontinuity                      WVU Summer Empirical Workshop 2021-2022  
Data Management, Publication Table Creation                      Claremont Graduate University 2021

## Membership

American Economic Association, Royal Economic Society, American Agricultural Economics Association

## References

**Daniel Grossman, Ph.D.**

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Department of Economics  
West Virginia University  
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**Scott Cunningham, Ph.D.**

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