

Benjamin T. Blemings

Phone: (304)-216-3069
Email: bbleming@mix.wvu.edu
Web: www.benblemings.com
Updated: October 16, 2020

Department of Economics
West Virginia University
1601 University Avenue
Morgantown, WV 26501

Education

West Virginia University
Ph.D., *Economics*

Expected Graduation: May 2021

Miami University (OH)

B.S., *Quantitative Economics*, Departmental Honors

2011 - 2015

Thesis: How Alcohol Sales Affect Crime at College Football Games

Adviser: Dr. William Even, Ph.D.

Research Areas

Interests: Economics of Education, Human Capital, Causal Inference

Fields: Public, Health, Regional/Urban

Teaching Interests

Areas: Principles of Economics, Microeconomics Fields, Statistics, Econometrics

Fellowships, Honors, Awards

Research Assistantship, *Center for Free Enterprise* 2016 -

Teaching Assistantship, *West Virginia University- Business and Economics* 2015 -

Undergraduate Summer Scholarship (USS), *Miami University* 2015

Teaching

Instructor: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Principles of Microeconomics (X3 On-line, X2 In-Person), Survey of Economics (Online)

Teaching Assistant: Business Statistics, Principles of Microeconomics (X2), Advanced Microeconomic Theory

Working Papers

“No Birthdate Retakes: Evidence on College Merit-Based Aid and Academic Performance From Multiple Eligibility Discontinuities” (JMP) [Link](#)

Abstract: Prior treatment estimates of myriad effects of merit-aid could be biased by selection into sample or known minimum eligibility cutoffs. This paper formally models, then tests viability and validity of an extension to estimating effects of merit-aid that improves upon assessing merit-aid’s impacts. Assuming students finish 1 grade/year on average, the Kindergarten cohort birthdate cutoff for beginning school can be used as discontinuous variation in college scholarship receipt. The effect of aid on credits and GPA are not as different as previously estimated. Different effects by gender are found. Robustness checks are inconsistent with relative age bias or differences in sample. The rules for the design are widespread, making this design relevant for identification challenges in education policy.

“Alcohol Sales to College Football General Seating Reduces Crime: Evidence from NIBRS, Sales Legalizations, and the Minimum Legal Drinking Age”

Under review at Journal of Health Economics [Link](#)

“Unintentional Effects of International Aid on Violence: Evidence from Somali Piracy & Ocean Wind Speeds” *(with Greg DeAngelo)* [Link](#)

Submitted to Journal of Political Economy

“Disamenity or a Signal of Competence? The Empirical Political Economy of Local Road Maintenance” *(with Margaret Bock)* [Link](#)

“Hoggin the Road: Pork Slaughterhouses Increase Truck Traffic, Reducing Road Quality” *(with Margaret Bock and Alexandre Scarcioffolo)*

Works in Progress

“Peer Effects on Non-Cognitive Ability” *(with Scott Cunningham & Matthew Pearson)*

“Returns to Workplace Utilization: Evidence From High School Recruiting and Barely Starting in the NBA” *(with Alex Cardazzi)*

Conference Presentations

Eastern Economics Association, 2020

Boston, MA

Public Choice, 2019

Louisville, KY

Eastern Economics Association, 2019

New York City, NY

Applied Economics in Regional and Urban Science, 2018

Morgantown, WV

Economics of Corruption, 2017

Passau, Germany

Referee

Contemporary Economic Policy (X2), Journal of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, International Journal of Sports Finance

Book Chapters

“Economics of the NFL” in *Handbook of Sports Economics*, Downward, P., Frick, B., Humphreys, B. Pawlowski, T., Ruseski J., and Soebbing B. eds., Sage Publications, in press.

Other Experience

WVU Hearts of Gold Service Animals, *Certified Dog Handler*

2016 -

Phantom Fireworks, *Seasonal Tent Operator*

2016 - 2019

NWN Corporation, *Consultant*

September 2017

WVU Office of Student Accounts and Financial Aid, *Data Analyst*

2015 - 2016

Membership

American Economic Association

References

Adam Nowak, Ph.D. (Advisor)
Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
West Virginia University
Email: Adam.Nowak@mail.wvu.edu

Daniel Grossman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
West Virginia University
Email: Daniel.Grossman@mail.wvu.edu

Bryan McCannon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
West Virginia University
Email: Bryan.McCannon@mail.wvu.edu

Scott Cunningham, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Baylor University
Email: Scott.Cunningham@Baylor.edu