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Work Experience

2023 - Assistant Professor Smith School of Business at Queen's University

Education:

2023	Ph.D. Economics	Columbia University
2015	B.A Economics	University of California, Berkeley

Fields of Specialization: Labor Economics, Finance, Law and Economics

Working Papers

How Do Firms Respond to Gender Quotas? Evidence from California's Senate Bill 826

Abstract: This study examines the impact of California's SB826, enacted in 2018 and requiring at least one female director on corporate boards by the end of 2019, on financial performance and corporate governance. The quota dramatically increased female representation on boards by 26 percentage points without negatively affecting financial performance from 2018 to 2021. Corporate governance measures remained stable during this period. These results are consistent with both the integration of qualified female candidates and the presence of tokenism. The former suggests that network barriers, rather than a lack of qualified female candidates, contribute to the persistence of all-male boards.

Do Non-Compete Agreements Help or Hurt Workers (with Xiangru Li and Luke Rawling)

Abstract: Non-compete agreements are provisions within employment contracts that prevent workers from joining competing firms. They are widespread in the US workforce, with 15% of workers having such clauses in their contracts at a given point in time. Despite their prevalence, there is limited research on the incentives for workers and firms to use non-compete agreements, and the causal effects of these agreements on worker outcomes. We show theoretically that non-compete agreements shift the nature of allocative inefficiency -- reducing inefficient quits but increasing inefficient retention -- while mitigating the canonical hold-up problem. The model predicts that (i) non-compete agreements are more likely to be used in industries with higher rates of job mobility and (ii) non-compete signers have longer job tenures, higher wages, and receive more firm-provided investment than similar workers without such agreements. Using panel data from the NLSY97 and a difference in difference research design, we estimate the causal impact of

signing a non-compete agreement on various labor market outcomes. We find that non-compete agreements raise job tenures by 6% and wages by 9% within one year, with these effects persisting at least six years. Consistent with the theory, we observe that non-compete signers are concentrated in industries with higher rates of job mobility, though we do not find evidence indicating that signing a non-compete agreement raises observed measures of employer-provided training.

The Effects of Non-Compete Regulation

Abstract: Non-compete agreements are provisions within employment contracts that prevent workers from joining competing firms. Using the Current Population Survey, 18 state-level non-compete policy changes between 1992-2014, and hand-collected data on workers exempt from non-compete enforcement, I study the effects of non-compete regulation on labor market outcomes using a triple-differences research design. I find that a standard deviation increase in non-compete enforcement raises hourly wages by 3-7%, with larger gains for job leavers than job stayers. Non-compete enforcement is not associated with job mobility, unemployment, or labor force participation decisions. The findings are interpreted through the lens of an incomplete contracting model. Under the model's assumptions, non-compete agreements mitigate the market failure of underprovided firm-sponsored general training, thus increasing the worker's productivity. The extent to which the worker is compensated for this increase in productivity depends on labor market competition at the time of contracting. The fact that increased enforcement raises the wages of job leavers more than job stayers is consistent with the model's predictions.

Grants:

CPA Ontario Centre Grant (\$20,000) – (2024)
Moneison Research Grant (\$14,526) – (2024)
Moneison Research Grant (\$12,035) – (2025)
SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$45,550) – (2024)
SSHRC Explore Grant (\$5000) – (2025)

Invited Presentations:

Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar Series at Columbia University (2022)
- Recipient of \$500 honorarium.
Discrimination and Disparities Workshop at University of East Anglia (2022)
Annual Economics Graduate Student Conference of Washington University in St. Louis (2022)
Society of Labor Economists (2024)
Canadian Economics Association (2024)
European Association of Labor Economists (2024)
Southern Economics Association (2024)
Canadian Economics Association (2025)
Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (2025)

Research Experience:

Research Assistant for Sandra Black at Columbia University (2019 - 2021)

Research Assistant for John Donohue at Stanford Law School (2015 – 2017)

Teaching Experience:

Principles of Economics at Queen's University – Professor (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)

Economics of Race in the United States at Columbia University – TA (Fall 2018)

Economics of New York City at Columbia University – TA (Spring 2019)

“Thank-a-Teaching-Assistant” Award from the Center for Teaching and Learning

Service:

Arts and Sciences Graduate Council at Columbia University (2019 – 2021)

Recipient of Honorary Own Award for Leadership and Service (2021)

Journal Reviewing:

AEJ: Applied

Undergraduate and Masters Students Supervised (First Job, Role):

Baturalp Yalcin (UC Berkeley IEOR Department, PhD Student)

Bailey Kraus (Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Staff)

Michael Duarte (Columbia University Economics Department, Full-Time RA)

Margaret Gleason (Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Staff)

Eli Lee (United States Attorneys' Office, Staff)

Adithya Raajkumar (Federal Reserve Board, Staff)

William Pagel (Bank of England, Staff)

Myoungseok Sean Song (UC Berkeley Haas School of Business, PhD Student)

Other Work Experiences:

Consultant for Lumiere Education (2020 - 2022)

Writing Tutor (2012 – 2014)

Skills:

Languages: Proficient in Spanish

Computer and Technical: Advanced proficiency in R and Stata. Proficient in LaTeX, SQL, Linux

Personal:

Born on 08/03/1993

US Citizen