

# Case Tatro — PhD Candidate

Department of Economics, Binghamton University

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Citizenship: USA

## Education

**Binghamton University**

*PhD, Economics*

**Binghamton, NY**

2021–2026 (*anticipated*)

**Hamilton College**

*BA, Economics*

**Clinton, NY**

2014–2018

**Research and Teaching Interest:**

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

**Dissertation Committee:** David Slichter (chair), Ozlem Tonguc, Sulagna Mookerjee

## Research

### Working Papers.....

**Is the red-blue gap in mortality due to state policy?** *Under Review at Journal of Urban Economics*

**abstract:** Age-adjusted mortality rates are higher in “red” states, i.e., states with high support for the Republican Party. We ask whether this is due to state-level policies or simply due to confounding variables such as culture. We implement three research designs: a border county design, a regression discontinuity design, and a novel design exploiting the partisanship of distant parts of a state. Our point estimates suggest that Democratic state government slightly decreases mortality, but most estimates are insignificant, and in all designs we find that the correlation between partisanship and mortality is predominantly driven by confounding.

### Works in progress.....

*Is the red-blue achievement gap due to state policy?*

**abstract:** In the US, the general consensus is that Democrats exhibit greater support for education, including funding education more generously. Consistent with this fact, students in Democratic states score higher on standardized tests than Republican states. I implement two research designs and ask whether Democrats cause these differences in test scores through state-level policy. I find that Democrats do seem to increase test scores, although my estimates are imprecisely estimated. Further, despite the view that Democrats promote equity in education, I do not find that Democrats close achievement gaps between white and black students, male and female students, or rich and poor students.

*How does advice change when the advisor can be punished? A lab experiment.*

*Does a teacher have a different value-added measure for the top and bottom portions of the student achievement distribution within the same classrooms?*

## Conference Acceptances and Presentations.....

- Econometric Society, 2024 North American Summer Meeting
- Canadian Economics Association, 2024 (Online)

## Conference Attendances.....

- Center for Teaching and Learning Economics (CTALE), 2024 (Online)
- Southern Economic Association, 2024

## Teaching Experience & Training

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### *Awards*

- Campus-wide Graduate-Student Teaching Award, 2024

### *Instructor*

- Environmental Economics, Fall 2025 (*in-person*)
- Microeconomic Theory, Summer 2024, Summer 2025 (*in-person*)

### *Teaching Assistant:*

- Natural Resource Economics, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 (*includes guest lectures*)
- Environmental Economics, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 (*includes guest lectures*)
- Microeconomics (Ph.D.), Fall 2023 (*includes discussion sections*)
- Historical Perspectives of Economic Growth, Spring 2023 (*includes guest lectures*)
- International Monetary Policy, Fall 2022 (*includes guest lectures*)
- Macroeconomic Theory, Spring 2022 (*includes discussion sections*)
- Microeconomic Theory, Fall 2021 (*includes discussion sections*)

### *Department Tutor*

- Ph.D. Microeconomics Comprehensive Exam Tutor, Summer 2023, Summer 2024

### *Evidence-Based Teacher Training*

- Scholarly Teaching (Student), Fall 2023
- Wicked Graduate Teaching Workshop (Guest Lecturer & Attendee), Fall 2024
- Evidence-Based Teaching Institute (Attendee), Spring 2025

## Services

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**2022 – 2024:** President of the Economics Graduate Student Organization at Binghamton University

**2022 – Present:** Conference Organizer, Cliometrics Conference

**2022 – Present:** Club Water Polo Graduate Student Advisor

## Skills

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**Languages:** English (native)

**Computer Skills:** SQL (Advanced); Visual Basic (basic); SAS (proficient); STATA(advanced); R(proficient); Python (intermediate)

## Interests

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**Economics Youtube Channel:** In Case of Econ Struggles–Over 2000 Subscribers, 300 Videos, and 200,000 views.

**Hobbies:** Swimming; Water Polo; Aviation Enthusiast

*May 4, 2025.*