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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, August 2024

Dissertation Title: *Nonprofit Organizations in Macroeconomics*

Main advisor: David Lagakos

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2023

B.A., Economics, University of Richmond,
Richmond, VA, 2018

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics, Public Economics, Labor Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Kiiru, Elaine, Alexander Wolman, and Renee Haltom (2018) “[Have Yield Curve Inversions Become More Likely](#),” *Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Economic Brief*.

WORKING PAPERS

“[Growth, Inequality, and Nonprofit Contributions](#)” September 2022. Job Market paper.

“[Innovative Nonprofits: Evidence from Patents](#),” January 2024.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Local Bias in Nonprofit Contributions”

PRESENTATIONS

Science of Philanthropy Initiative Conference, Indianapolis, IN, 2024

International Conference on Empirical Economics, Virtual 2024

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

GivingTuesday Data Commons Fellowship, GivingTuesday, 2023

Outstanding Student in Economics, University of Richmond, 2018

Boatwright Full-Tuition Scholarship, University of Richmond, 2014-2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Model Risk Specialist, Atlantic Union Bank, January 2024 - Present

Research Fellow, Boston University (to Stephen Terry), January 2022 - May 2023

Research Associate, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (to Alex Wolman and Andreas Hornstein), June 2018 - August 2020

REFeree EXPERIENCE

The Economic and Labour Relations Review, Economic Quarterly

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2023 (In Person) and Summer 2024 (Online)

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2021 (In Person)

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, Python, LaTeX, STATA, MATLAB, SQL

CITIZENSHIP: United States

REFERENCES

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Growth, Inequality, and Nonprofit Contributions (Job Market Paper)

The nonprofit sector is a small part of the economy that has potentially outsized effects on welfare and has grown in the past 30 years. One important distinction between nonprofit organizations and for-profit firms is that many nonprofits receive charitable contributions. Contributions to nonprofits have risen from 1.2 percent of GDP to around 1.7 percent of GDP, while the income distribution has become more unequal over this period. In a model with non-homothetic preferences for positive charitable contributions and other consumption, increasing GDP produces more than the observed increase in charitable contributions, while increasing inequality slightly decreases charitable contributions.

Innovative Nonprofits: Evidence from Patents

In endogenous growth theory, patenting is motivated by profits. However, this paper finds that nonprofit organizations own about two percent of granted patents in the United States. Furthermore, nonprofit patents document important contributions to innovation. Text analysis shows that nonprofit patents make disproportionate contributions to technological categories that have positive externalities, such as medical, green, and basic research. High citations and high novelty relative to impact, as measured by the similarity between past and future patents, suggest that nonprofit patents generate notable spillovers. These contributions not only enhance technological and societal impact but also align closely with the nonprofits' prosocial missions.