

# John D. Pedersen

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Economics Department

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Citizenship: USA

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*(Last updated: September 2019)*

## Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Binghamton University (SUNY), Expected May 2020

M.A. in Economics, Binghamton University (SUNY), March 2017

B.S. in Mathematics and Economics, American University, May 2015

## Research Fields

Labor Economics, Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## Works in Progress

- "Voting for Transit: The Labor Market Impact of Public Transportation Improvements"
- "Skills and the Geography of Economic Opportunity" with Sulagna Mookerjee and David Slichter

## Teaching Experience

- As instructor (Binghamton University):
  - Intermediate Microeconomics (U), Summer 2019
  - Poverty and Discrimination (U), Summer 2018, Winter 2019
- As Teaching Assistant (Binghamton University)
  - Microeconomic Theory (U), Fall 2019
  - History of Economic Growth (U), Spring 2019
  - International Monetary Theory (U), Fall 2018, Spring 2019
  - Labor Economics (U), Fall 2015, Spring 2018

- Labor Economics (G), Spring 2018
  - Introduction to Econometrics (U), Spring 2017
  - Macroeconomic Theory (U), Fall 2017
  - Principles of Macroeconomics (U), Spring 2016
  - East Asian Development (U), Fall 2016
- As Tutor (American University), tutored the following subjects at all levels from Spring 2014 to Spring 2015:
  - math (U)
  - statistics (U)
  - economics (U)

## **Research Experience**

- Research Assistant for Robert Lerman (Urban Institute), Summer 2014
- Research Assistant for Mary Hansen (American University, Economics - Historical Bankruptcy Project), 2012-2015

## **Presentations**

- Urban Economics Association Conference, October 2019
- Eastern Economics Association Conference, March 2019

## **Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards**

- Tuition Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship, Binghamton University, 2015-2019
- Provost Doctoral Summer Fellowship, Binghamton University, 2016-2019
- Omicron Delta Epsilon, 2014
- American University Fed Challenge Team, Won second at Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Federal Reserve Challenge, 2014
- Provost Scholarship, American University, 2011-2015
- Eagle Scout, 2011

## University Service

- Vice-President of Economics Department Chapter of Graduate Student Organization, 2017-2018
- Senator for the Economics Department to the Graduate Student Organization, 2016-2017
- Graduate Student Representative on Library Committee, 2016
- Treasurer for Economics Department Chapter of Graduate Student Organization, 2015-2016

## Language

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

## Skills

Proficient with R, Stata, arcGIS,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , and Excel

Beginner with Eviews

## References

### **Professor Solomon Polachek (Advisor)**

University Distinguished Professor  
Department of Economics  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Phone: (+1) 607-777-6866  
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### **Professor David Slichter**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Phone: (+1) 217-493-9538  
Email: slichter@binghamton.edu

### **Professor Clifford Kern**

Bartle Professor  
Department of Economics  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Email: ckern@binghamton.edu

# Voting for Transit: The Labor Market Impact of Public Transportation Improvements

## Abstract

Does better access to public transportation improve workers' ability to access quality jobs? I study the labor market impact of public transportation investment in the United States using a regression discontinuity design. In certain locales, public transit investments are, in part, assigned following local ballot measures on tax and spending proposals. I use ballots that narrowly passed or failed to identify the effects of transit spending. As expected, passage increases operational expenditure and ridership. If increased transit provision reduces labor market frictions, we could expect to see increased job-to-job flows and hiring rates. However, I find precise zero effects on job-to-job flows, and increases in funding do not result in a significant impact on hiring rates for workers overall, for high school graduates, or for college graduates. Employment increases in metropolitan areas that pass these measures, but this appears to be due to modest increases in population.