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JORI BARASH

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (in progress), University of Texas at Austin — May 2025 (Expected)
M.S. in Economics, University of Texas at Austin — 2019 – 2021
B.S. in Economics/Mathematics, University of Southern California — 2013 – 2017

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Industrial Organization, Market Design, Applied Microeconomics

REFERENCES

Robert Town
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University of Texas at Austin
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Victoria Marone
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WORKING PAPERS

Should Physicians Choose Their Reimbursement Rate? Menu Design for Physician Payment Contracts.

The optimal design of physician reimbursement contracts is complicated by the presence of asymmetric information between physicians and patients. Common reimbursement arrangements like a piece rate (“fee-for-service") or a flat fee (“capitation") are widely believed to incentivize wasteful spending or inadequate treatment. Health insurers, including government insurance programs, typically offer physicians a single reimbursement option: fee-for-service, capitation, or some mixture between the two. However, a physician's socially efficient reimbursement arrangement may vary with unobserved characteristics like cost of effort, productivity, and altruism. I show how instead offering physicians a menu of reimbursement contracts can improve welfare. Depending on the correlation in their private information, the physicians with a high efficient piece rate are also those who most value a high rate. I write down a model of physician treatment decision-making and estimate model primitives using detailed administrative data on Norwegian primary care physicians and their patients. I then solve for the optimal menu of reimbursement contracts, which incentivizes greater treatment of patients with high initial unmet need. Physicians perceive that the average patient's benefit from incremental treatment is equivalent to 5 percent of initial expenditure. Gains are largest for older, chronically ill, and rural patients who see physicians with low altruism and high marginal cost.

Do New Patients Displace Existing Patients' Treatment?

This paper estimates the effect of a physician’s number of registered patients ("enrollment”) on short-run treatment intensity in the context of Norwegian primary care. I instrument for enrollment with quasi-random administrative patient assignments. The estimated effect of enrollment is negative but small for several measures of treatment intensity. For example, with one new patient registration, the average physician spends 3 fewer minutes per month across incumbent patients. Descriptive evidence suggests that crowd-out exacerbates under-treatment. Crowd-out is larger among physicians who reach their stated capacity or initially work part-time. Drawing on a model of physician decision-making, this heterogeneity implies that capacity constraints dominate income effects in explaining

crowd-out. With capacity constraints, increasing the number of physicians may more effectively reduce crowd-out than incentives for greater treatment per physician. Fixing physician supply, an alternative patient assignment rule could reduce crowd-out from administrative assignment by 86 percent.

Why Don't Graduation Incentives Work? Match Quality and Financial Aid Design (Draft Available Upon Request).

Recent policy changes limit the scope for university admission decisions to equitably ration spots. I investigate whether selective universities can instead use graduation-contingent loan forgiveness to allocate spots to the students who most benefit from attendance. Identifying variation comes from an existing loan forgiveness program that incentivized greater on-time graduation. Participants' relatively high graduation rates appear to be driven by selection on ability into loan take-up rather than program effects. Exploiting a discontinuity from Pell Grant eligibility, I find no detectable effect of loan take-up on course load, course completion, part-time work, on-time graduation, or earnings. I also document how selective universities increase graduation more for some students than others. I incorporate selection on unobserved ability into a structural model of students' college choice, loan forgiveness take-up, and graduation. Using model estimates, I show how a counterfactual loan forgiveness program could shift college choice, leading to greater welfare, statewide graduation, and demographic equity.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

Targeting Aid During a Crisis: Speed, Selection, and Subsidy Design (with Lauri Kytömaa).

In times of crisis, means-tested government programs sometimes relax eligibility standards to deliver aid faster. With adverse selection and less time to screen beneficiaries, relaxed eligibility may increase expenditure on non-targeted populations and decrease pass-through to households from private intermediaries, with both mechanisms lowering efficacy. The tradeoff between speed and eligibility standards is motivated by the relatively untested premise that faster delivery meaningfully improves outcomes. This paper shows that timely subsidized modification of distressed mortgages could have further reduced U.S. foreclosures in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. We exploit a simulated instrument based on the spatial distribution of financial shocks. Using a dynamic structural model of servicers' modification and foreclosure choices, we characterize how the optimal modification subsidy varies with time from delinquency, servicer volume, and market conditions.

Experience Learning and Externalities: Plant-Based Substitutes.

Environmental policy frequently subsidizes low-pollution products, but this approach can be relatively expensive given information frictions and ineffective given consumer heterogeneity. For example, plant-based meat has a lower carbon footprint than most animal products, but it is unclear ex-ante whether economies of scale are sufficient to spur widespread adoption. Motivated by reduced-form evidence of large changes in behavior after first purchase, I estimate demand for these products with a 10-year nationwide household panel, allowing for imperfect information about quality and rich consumer heterogeneity. I evaluate the effect of counterfactual vouchers and marginal costs on consumer surplus and CO2 emissions. Contrary to conventional wisdom, lower prices are unlikely to induce large-scale substitution, but offering vouchers to inexperienced households accelerates the pace of adoption and cost half as much as the averted social cost of carbon.

Admission, Tuition, and Housing: The Relative Effects of Guarantees on the College Outcomes of Low-Income Students (with Stella Flores, Matt Giani, and Richard Murphy).

Selective universities may soon be limited to race-neutral approaches for promoting diversity. We provide evidence on the complementarity between guarantees and targeted outreach. The Texas

Advance Commitment guarantees free tuition to admitted students with family adjusted gross incomes below $65,000. Exploiting this discontinuity among admitted students, we observe a large change in total aid, but no evidence of a change in enrollment. We investigate whether information frictions explain the null effect with a randomized control trial. The trial targets high school seniors eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and in the top 10% of their class. The first wave of the study included 32 high-poverty schools, with 16 randomized to receive outreach that included proactive guarantees of free tuition, housing placement, and a housing scholarship. Results are preliminary and subject to change: relative to outreach alone, outreach with guarantees increased applications by 18 percent and admissions by 10 percent. Point estimates are larger for students with guaranteed admission.

PREDOCTORAL PUBLICATION

Heuristic to Bayesian: The evolution of reasoning from childhood to adulthood. (with Isabelle Brocas, Juan D. Carrillo, and Niree Kodaverdian) ***Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization***, 159, March 2019.

SERVICE

Coordinator, Economics Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2022 – 2024
Undergraduate Research Mentor, University of Texas at Austin:

- Alexander Vu (Placement: Yale Pre-Doc) 2022 – 2023
- Laura Yon Fall 2023 – Present
- Alexander Leon-Hernandez Spring 2024 – Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Supervised Research (Originating Instructor) Spring 2024
Health Economics (TA to Dr. Victoria Marone) Spring 2022, 2023
Introduction to Econometrics (TA to Dr. Helen Schneider) Fall 2020–2024
Public Economics (TA to Dr. Schneider) Spring 2021
Introduction to Microeconomics (TA to Dr. Schneider) Fall 2019, Spring 2020

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Victoria Marone June 2021 – May 2024
Research Assistant to Isabelle Brocas & Juan Carrillo Jan 2016 – Jan 2018
Senior Analyst at Analysis Group (economic consulting) August 2017 – July 2019
Dynamic Structural Econometrics Summer School August 2022

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

International Industrial Organization Conference 2024
Norway Health Economics Seminar
Kansas Health Economics Conference
American Society of Health Economics

PROGRAMMING

Proficient in Python, Stata, R, Matlab, LaTeX
Familiar with: SQL, SAS, Excel/VBA