

Robert Martin Winslow

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Education

- 2024 **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Minnesota
Committee: Fatih Guvenen, Kjetil Storesletten, Thomas J. Holmes
- 2016 **B.S. in Mathematics**, University of Kansas
Graduation with highest distinction
Minor-equivalent in Computer Science

Research Interests

Unemployment, Social Networks, Machine Learning

Appointments

- 2024 - Assistant Professor of Economics, Beacom School of Business, University of South Dakota
- 2019 - 2024 Graduate Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
- 2017 - 2019 Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota

Honors and Awards

- 2023 *Winner*, Machine Learning Competition, Minnesota Big Data Institute (MEBDI), University of Minnesota
- 2021 - 2024 *Distinguished Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota
- 2021 - 2024 *Distinguished Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota

Works in Progress

“How much did Bonus Unemployment Insurance Payments During the COVID Pandemic Depress Aggregate Employment?” (Job Market Paper)

“Combining Behavioral Choice with a Branching Process Model of Disease”

Publications

- 2019 “Graph 2-Rankings” with Jordan Almeter, Samet Demircan, Andrew Kallmeyer, and Kevin G. Milans in *Graphs and Combinatorics*

Presentations

- 2024 Conference on Network Science and Economics (Minneapolis, MN)
Mountain Plains Business Conference (Vermillion, SD)
Missouri Valley Economics Association Conference (Kansas City, MO)

Teaching

University of South Dakota:

Fall 2024 *Principles of Macroeconomics*

University of Minnesota:

2019 – 2024 *Intermediate Macroeconomics*

2017 – 2019 Teaching Assistant for *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Principles of Macroeconomics*

Service

Referee: Macroeconomic Dynamics

University of South Dakota:

2024 - MBA Assessment Committee

Skills

Programming Python, Javascript, SQL, Julia, Matlab

Languages English (native), Chinese (beginner)

Paper Abstracts

“How much did Bonus Unemployment Insurance Payments During the COVID Pandemic Depress Aggregate Employment?” (Job Market Paper)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefit recipients rose to unprecedented levels. This spike in benefits was especially dramatic for the number of recipients collecting partial benefits—UI benefits earned while working part time—which doubled from around 8% of total UI recipients pre-pandemic to 16% in early 2021. This rise coincided with some key temporary changes to the UI program, most prominently the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), which paid a fixed \$600 bonus to all workers collecting any amount of UI benefits. The FPUC induced a substantial cliff in disposable income for many workers, such that returning to full-time or near-full-time work would result in a loss of hundreds of dollars of weekly income, compared to working part-time just under the threshold required to collect benefits. This paper seeks to understand the effect this program had on aggregate employment and underemployment. To that end, I construct a job search model with moral hazard in which workers have the option to work part-time (even when they have full time job offers) and collect partial UI benefits. I calibrate this model to the pre-pandemic and then study the effects during the pandemic, using it to quantify the extent to which this newly introduced incentive discouraged workers from returning to full-time work.

“Combining Behavioral Choice with a Branching Process Model of Disease”

Whether a disease outbreak dies out early or expands into a full blown- epidemic depends not only on the average spread of disease, but also on the variation between individuals in how likely they are to spread the disease to others. The source of this variation is, in part, due to the fact that different people have differing levels of contact with others. In a behavioral model in which people choose the level of contact they have with others in response to new of disease outbreak, highly connected people respond qualitatively different from people with few social connections. When transmissibility is high, highly connected people can become fatalistic.

Professional References

Prof. Timothy J. Kehoe, University of Minnesota, guvenen@umn.edu

Prof. Kjetil Storesletten, University of Minnesota, kstoresl@umn.edu

Prof. Thomas J. Holmes, University of Minnesota, holmes@umn.edu