

# Rhys Llewellyn Thomas

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I am an applied microeconometrician currently completing a PhD at the University of Southampton. My primary research interests are in health and public economics. I have extensive training in microeconomic methods, and I use them extensively in my work. Recently I have also developed my understanding of statistical learning techniques, and I have previously used these methods in my research. Prior to starting my PhD studies, I obtained a BSc. and MSc. in Economics both also at the University of Southampton.

## Education

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University of Southampton - Ph.D Economics	2017 - 2020 ( <i>Expected</i> )
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Working Thesis Title:	<i>“Three Essays in Health Economics”</i>
Funding:	ESRC 1+3 Ph.D Studentship (Advanced Quantitative Methods)
Compulsory Courses:	Labour Economics, Health Economics and Policy & Epidemiological Methods
Additional External Courses:	ECR Workshop: R for Health Economics Partial identification in practice by Adam Rosen (2019) Estimating causal parameters from a high dimensional model using the lasso in Stata by David Drukker (2019) Panel data methods by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge (2018)

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University of Southampton - MSc. Economics (Distinction)	2016 - 2017
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Funding:	ESRC 1+3 Ph.D Studentship (Advanced Quantitative Methods)	
Modules:	Quantitative Economics (70%)	Quantitative Methods (73%)
	Economic Policy in Development (83 %)	Microeconomics (81%)
	Macroeconomics (74%)	Topics in Economic Theory (75%)
	Topics in Macroeconomics (70%)	Panel Data & Microeconometrics (77%)
Dissertation:	<i>“The Effects of Obesity on Employment”</i> Grade: 77%	
Awards:	Dean’s list award for outstanding academic performance (for performance overall, taught component and dissertation)	

## Working Papers

### Spillover Effects of a Diabetes Diagnosis with Emmanouil Mentzakis

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**Abstract:** Diabetes is a unique condition, in that the first line of treatment of the condition is the same as the suggested prevention of the disease, both being positive lifestyle behaviours. It is theoretically possible that by jointly partaking in diabetes treatment, partners of people with diabetes would substantially benefit from their partners' diabetes diagnosis. Using blood data from the Health Survey for England, and a fuzzy regression kink design, we causally estimate the effect of a diabetes diagnosis on health-related behaviours of the individual with diabetes, as well as, their partners. We find that a diagnosis of diabetes results in a significant increase in the probability of exercising and a decrease in the probability of currently being a smoker both for the diabetic individual and their partner. However, we find limited evidence of other lifestyle changes. From a public health perspective, our results are especially important for the evaluation of diabetes related policies, while positive spillovers, particularly within households, should be taken into account in the evaluation process.

### Redistributive effects of public health insurance with Emmanouil Mentzakis

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**Abstract:** Using data from the Oregon Health Insurance Experiment (OHIE) we analyse the redistributive impacts of a publicly financed health insurance expansion. We use a residual inclusion methodology combined with quantile, and ordered logit regressions to estimate the heterogeneity in the effects of health insurance across the income distribution. We find that there are indeed redistributive impacts, even in the small income window we have access to, which would otherwise be concealed in a linear regression. Those at the lower end of the income distribution tend to have a substantial increase in their disposable income as a result of health insurance coverage, while those at the upper end see no change in income.

## Experience

University of Southampton - Lecturer for "Health economics and policy"	January 2020 - Present
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This year I will be the lead lecturer for the masters module "Health economics and policy". The course is aimed at MSc. Public Health students whom have had limited exposure to economics beforehand. The course covers the fundamentals of economics and the main contributions to the field of health economics.

University of Southampton - Teaching Assistant	September 2017 - Present
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Teaching Assistant for the following modules:

- Undergraduate Dissertation (2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020)
- Applied Microeconomics 3 (2019 & 2020)
- Quantitative Modelling in Economics (2019)
- Masters Dissertation (2019)
- Principles of Microeconomics (2017 & 2018)
- Foundations of Microeconomics (2017 & 2018)

**Average Module Evaluation: 4.4/5**

At the Department for Education I worked on two main projects:

- Timpson review of school exclusion - technical note: The analysis in the technical note aimed to estimate non-causal associations between a number of school and pupil characteristics and the probability of being excluded. We were tasked to reduce the bias caused by observable student characteristics. Published report available at [this link](#)
- School-level factors associated with disadvantaged pupil performance: This project involved using statistical learning techniques to analyse the factors most associated with disadvantaged pupil performance.

## Additional Activities & Responsibilities

Conferences :	XXV AIES National Conference (2020)* 30th Congress of the European Economic Association (2020) European Health Economics Association Conference (2020)* ALdE XXIII Applied Economics Meeting (2020)* ATINER Annual International Conference on Health Economics, Management & Policy (2020)* ESRC South Coast DTP Final Year Conference (2019) Economics PhD Workshop, University of Southampton (2018) Family Finance Surveys User Conference (2017)
	<small>*Conferences I was accepted to but was not able to attend due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</small>
Referee Experience:	SSM - Population Health (2020) Heylion (2018)
Administrative	Internal PhD Seminar Series organiser (2018, 2019 & 2020)
Responsibilities:	South Coast DTP Student Representative (2018, 2019 & 2020) Economics PhD Program Student Representative (2020) Undergraduate Economics Programs Validation Student Representative (2020) Organiser of 1st Southampton Applied Workshop (2019) S3RI Data Science Reading Group (2019) Postgraduate Taught Economics Programs Validation Student Representative (2018) SCDTP Final Year Conference Organiser (2017)
Research:	Research assistant to Professor Jackie Wahba and Professor Corrado Giuliatti

## Other Competencies

Languages:	English (native), Welsh (native).
Software Skills:	Stata (Advanced), L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X(Advanced), R Statistics (Intermediate).

References available on request