

TOBEY KASS

Personal Data

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Citizenship: USA

Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Ph.D.	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2022
M.A.	Economics	University of Minnesota	2018
A.B.	Mathematics and Economics	Mount Holyoke College	2016
	<i>summa cum laude</i> minor in Latin		

Dissertation

Title: “Essays on Contingent Work”

Dissertation Committee: Jeremy Lise, Mariacristina De Nardi, Joseph Mullins, Joel Waldfogel

Expected Completion: May 2022

Honors and Awards

2019	<i>Third Place</i> , Third Year Paper Competition, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2017-2018	<i>Edward Coen Graduate Fellowship</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2016-2017	<i>Beverly and Richard Fink Graduate Fellowship</i> , Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
2016	<i>Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society</i> , Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
2016	<i>Virginia Galbraith Graduate Fellowship</i> , Department of Economics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
2016	<i>Mary Lyon Scholar</i> , Department of Economics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

- 2016 *Phoebe Tulman Perlman Prize*, Department of Economics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2016 *Virginia Galbraith Undergraduate Prize*, Department of Economics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2015 *Jennifer Dawn Landry '93 Memorial Award*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2014 *Sarah Williston Scholar*, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2013 *Mildred L. Sanderson Prize*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Teaching Experience

- 2017-2018 *Head Grader*, Principles of Microeconomics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2014-2016 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2013-2016 *Department Tutor*, Department of Classics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2013 *Department Tutor*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts

Research and Work Experience

- 2019-Present *Research Assistant* to Ellen McGrattan and Anmol Bhandari, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 2018-2019 *Research Assistant* to Thomas Holmes, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Summer 2014 *Research Assistant* to Christy Huebner Caridi, Marist Bureau of Economic Research, Poughkeepsie, New York
- Summers *Junior Commercial Real Estate Appraiser, Research Assistant, and Report*
- 2012-2015, *Editor*, Valuation Consultants Incorporated (Real Estate Appraisal),
- January 2014 Newburgh, New York

Presentations

- “Extending Unemployment Insurance to Contingent Workers,” presented at the Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute Alumni Conference, June 2021; Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting, July 2021
- “Income-Based versus Rent-Based Housing Subsidies in the Presence of Search Frictions,” University of Minnesota Third Year Student Conference in Applied Microeconomics, June 2019

Computer Skills

Julia, Python, Selenium (for Web Scraping), Stata, MATLAB, R, LaTeX

Abstracts

“Extending Unemployment Insurance to Contingent Workers” (job market paper)

This paper studies the implications of extending unemployment insurance to contingent workers. I document greater dispersion and larger changes in hours worked by contingent workers than by traditional employees, as well as an 11 percent gap in hourly wages. Guided by these results, I develop a model in which individuals choose between contingent work and traditional employment. Contingent work offers hours flexibility to individuals but traditional employment earns a higher wage in equilibrium and has the security of unemployment insurance. Firms hire traditional employees before observing their TFP and must pay administrative costs to hire or fire traditional employees. They can hire (less productive) contingent workers flexibly without these constraints. I find that extending unemployment insurance to contingent workers would generate welfare losses of 2.8 percent in consumption-equivalent units, decreases GDP by 3.0 percent, and increases the aggregate unemployment insurance bill from 2.7 percent of GDP to 7.0 percent.

“Income-Based versus Rent-Based Housing Subsidies in the Presence of Search Frictions”

Many developed countries provide housing subsidies to low-income renters. Recipients in the U.S. pay a fixed percentage of their income towards housing, and the subsidy covers the remaining cost. In other countries, the subsidy is instead calculated as a percentage of the contract rent. This paper documents evidence of search and matching frictions in the rental housing market and examines how these frictions impact the costs and benefits of income-based and rent-based housing subsidies. I develop a directed search model of the rental housing market and analyze the equilibrium effects of subsidies. Under rent-based subsidies, higher matching frictions increase costs for both the households and the subsidy provider. On the other hand, when subsidies are based on income, households bear most of the additional costs of increased matching frictions. In general, income-based subsidies distort households' search behavior more than when subsidies are rent-based.