

ZACHARY TOBIN

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EDUCATION

Arizona State University	Doctor of Philosophy, Economics	Expected May 2022
University of Texas at Austin	Master of Arts, Economics <i>Overall GPA: 4.0</i>	May 2016
University of Miami	BBA, Economics Minor: Mathematics, Finance, Music <i>Overall GPA: 3.73</i> Cum Laude	May 2015

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

RESEARCH

Job-Market Paper

“Competition in the Non-Profit Sector: Evidence from a Charter School Expansion in North Carolina”

Abstract: The number of schooling options available outside of the traditional public system has risen rapidly for American households over the past few decades, but the spillover effects of school competition on the students that remain enrolled in traditional public schools are still not well understood. While existing studies of school competition often choose to model public schools as stand-ins that do not make strategic decisions or similarly to for-profit firms, I argue that theories of competition among non-profit charities more accurately capture the incentives of public school educators. Using data from a large-scale charter school expansion that occurred in the state of North Carolina following a policy change in 2011, I find that charter competition had a negative effect on the academic achievement of students that remained enrolled in traditional public schools, and I also provide evidence of some relevant underlying mechanisms. In particular, I find that competition is associated with an increase in the provision of consumption amenities to households that do not directly improve academic achievement. Further, I find that the negative effects of competition on test scores are even larger in situations in which traditional public schools are competing with charters managed by for-profit organizations. Overall, these results raise important questions not just about the efficacy of school choice as a tool for improving academic performance, but also about the fundamental objectives of a school.

Working Papers

- “Transitional Aid and the Efficacy of School Competition”
- “Assessing Racial Disparities in Postsecondary Education” with Esteban Aucejo

Current Research Projects

- “Gender Wage Gap: The Role of Mismatch” with Esteban Aucejo and Domenico Ferraro

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University

- August 2018-Present: Research Assistant for Professor Esteban Aucejo

EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

- Western Economic Association International 96th Annual Conference: Summer 2021
- Education Group Work-in-Progress Seminar, London School of Economics: Summer 2021
- Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting: Spring 2021
- Association for Education Finance and Policy 46th Annual Conference: Spring 2021
- Economics of Education Graduate Student Conference: Fall 2020

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- Instructor, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECN 312): Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant

- Teaching Assistant, Labor Economics (ECN 421): Fall 2020, Fall 2019
- Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECN 312): Spring 2021, Spring 2020
- Teaching Assistant, Economic Development (ECN 360): Fall 2018
- Teaching Assistant, Microeconomic Principles (ECN 212): Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2017

REFERENCES

Esteban Aucejo (Chair)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: USA, Canada

Skills: Stata, Matlab, R, Microsoft Office Suite

Languages: English (native), Spanish (basic)