

Benjamin Freyd

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EDUCATION	<i>Ph.D. in Economics</i> , UCLA		2022 (expected)
	Title: <i>Essays in Labor Economics</i>		
	Fields of Concentration: Labor Economics, Economic Geography, Applied Microeconomics		
	<i>M.Sc in Economics</i> , Paris School of Economics		2015
	<i>M.Sc in Applied Mathematics</i> , Ecole Centrale Paris		2015
REFERENCES	<i>B.Sc in Mathematics & Physics</i> , Ecole Centrale Paris		2011
	Prof. Moshe Buchinsky (Co-chair)	Prof. Maurizio Mazzocco (Co-chair)	
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	Prof. Stuart Gabriel	Prof. Daniel Haanwinckel	
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WORKING PAPERS	110 Westwood Plaza	315 Portola Plaza	
	Los Angeles, CA 90095	Los Angeles, CA 90095	
	stuart.gabriel@anderson.ucla.edu	haanwinckel@econ.ucla.edu	
	Labor Market Polarization and the Growth of Service Employment: Routinization or Consumption Spillovers? (Job Market Paper)		
	In the US in recent decades, there has been a substantial reallocation noncollege employment to low-pay service occupations. Together with the rise of college-educated workers' incomes, this has strongly contributed to the overall increase in wage inequality. Two main explanations, routinization and consumption spillovers, have been proposed to explain this occupational shift. Although the determinants of these two theories are highly spatially correlated, studies that have exploited regional variations to identify these mechanisms have so far only considered each explanation in isolation, raising confounding concerns. We highlight these concerns and provide reduced-form evidence that both theories operate simultaneously to drive growth in service employment. To strengthen our case, we extend the structural framework proposed in Autor and Dorn (2013) to include consumption spillovers through non-homothetic preferences. We estimate key parameters and assess the relative importance of each theory using simulations from the model. Relative to a model featuring homothetic preferences, our specification yields 57% more regional disparities in the growth of service occupations, which can be interpreted as the contribution of consumption spillovers. While the routinization hypothesis quantitatively dominates, our reduced-form and structural evidence point to sizeable consumption spillover effects that cannot be neglected.		

**WORK IN
PROGRESS****When Google is Moving in: the Consequences of Technology Firms' Entry on the Housing Market**

Using housing transaction-level data provided by Zillow, I study the house price impact of major tech office openings spanning from 2004 to 2018 and a variety of US locations. I employ a difference-in-differences strategy with treatment and control groups matched on their geographical proximity, comparability along demographic and housing observables and similarity in house price pre-trends. I find that house prices close to the new office location rise nearly 10% above those in the control area, within 2 years of the opening. While the difference subsides somewhat, it is still around 7% five years after opening, suggesting a persistent effect. These effects are substantially stronger than in the existing literature, which finds price rises in the order of 1-2% for Walmart and coffee shop openings respectively. That suggests a mechanism specific to high-tech industries. The literature having emphasized important agglomeration forces for this sector, I verify that the high-skill workforce rises 200% in the treatment area after the opening. This indicates that major tech companies have a signaling role when they first move into a new neighborhood, making other high-skill firms follow suit.

Deregulated Temporary Contracts and Permanent Workers' Outcomes

European labor markets have long been blamed for being overregulated, a criticism to which a common response has been to allow temporary contracts under special circumstances. A 2003 French Supreme Court decision allowed selected service sectors to use renewable temporary contracts for jobs that are permanent in nature. Using a difference-in-differences strategy, I show that this was associated with a 2 p.p. increase in the share of temporary contracts in those sectors, relative to other service sectors. More remarkably, wages of permanent workers in targeted sectors dropped by nearly 4% over 5 years, while other service sector wages kept growing at the same rate. France normally exhibits extreme downward rigidity in wages. This finding is not explained by a change in workforce composition and rather points towards an increase in the bargaining power of employers, who gained access to a more flexible contract that does not impose severance payments. This exposes the existence of spillovers between permanent and temporary workers and underlines the limitations of temporary contracts as a means of flexibilizing the labor market.

The Political Consequences of the Housing Affordability Crisis

(joint with Stuart Gabriel, Gary Painter and Gregor Schubert)

PROGRAMMING

Proficient: R, Python, Git, LaTeX
Familiar: SQL (PostgreSQL through R), Matlab, Mathematica

LANGUAGES

English, French

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Fellow, UCLA	Sept. 2017 – present
Graduate-Undergraduate Mentor, UCLA	Jan 2021 – present
Research Assistant to Prof. Stuart Gabriel, UCLA	Dec. 2018 – Jun 2019
Junior Economist, OFCE – Sciences Po, Paris, France	Sept 2015 – Aug 2016

**HONORS AND
AWARDS**

Ziman Center Data Grant, UCLA	Apr. 2021
Howard and Irene Levine Program in Housing and Social Responsibility Research Grant, UCLA	Sept. 2019
Undergraduate TA Award, UCLA	Apr. 2019
Economics Department Fellowship and TAsip, UCLA	2016-2022