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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

Prof. Guido Kuersteiner	gkuerste@umd.edu	(301) 405-3493
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2022
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2019
B.A. Economics and History, Oberlin College, 2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Political Economy
Secondary: Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics

DISSERTATION

Essays on Political Geography and Distributive Politics

Committee: Prof. Ethan Kaplan (Chair), Prof. Allan Drazen, Prof. Nolan Pope

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Congressional Pork-Barrel Incentives: Evidence from the Timing of Redistricting Announcements”

A large literature suggest that U.S. politicians are active participants in geographically targeting funds to their district. However, the motivations for politicians to pursue pork-barrel spending have not been tested empirically. In this paper I propose using redistricting announcements as a natural experiment to identify if politicians respond to changes in electoral incentives. During redistricting, congressional representatives learn mid-term what their new district will look like in the subsequent election, creating differential incentives for targeting within their current district. Put simply, a representative who uses pork to help win re-election no longer has an incentive to target pork to places within their district that they will not seek to represent in the future. I find that after a redistricting announcement is made, areas that remain in their district receive \$1.15-\$1.8 in federal project grants per-capita (30% of mean per-capita project grants) than areas that will be redistricted, indicating that members of Congress are forward-looking.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Local Distributive Politics: Party Matching, Majority Representation and State Intergovernmental Transfers,” work in progress

“Political Control Over Redistricting and the Partisan Balance in Congress,” work in progress, with Kenneth Coriale and Ethan Kaplan

“Economics and Epidemics: Evidence from an Estimated Spatial Econ-SIR Model,” work in progress, with Mark Bognanni, Doug Hanley and Kurt Mitman

“Did the Affordable Care Act Reduce Bankruptcies?,” work in progress, with Mark Bognanni, Doug Hanley and Kurt Mitman

“Voting with Your Brain, Your Gut, ... or Simply Holding Your Nose?,” work in progress, with Allan Drazen

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Current Issues in American Economic Policy (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant, Thinking Like an Economist (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant, American Economic History (undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. Jorg Spenkuch, Northwestern, Summer 2021

Research Assistant, Prof. Allan Drazen, University of Maryland, Fall 2020

Research Assistant, Prof. Ethan Kaplan, University of Maryland, Summer 2019, Spring 2021

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, September 2013- May 2016

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2021-2022

Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, University of Maryland, Spring 2019

Summer Research Fellowship, Department of Economics, University of Maryland, 2018

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2020: Virtual Macro Seminar, Institute for International Economic Studies (coauthor presented)

LANGUAGES

English (native)

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Stata, qGIS, Python (intermediate), SQL

REFERENCES

Prof. Ethan Kaplan	University of Maryland	edkaplan@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3501
Prof. Allan Drazen	University of Maryland	drazen@econ.umd.edu	(301) 405-3477
Prof. Jorg Spenkuch	Northwestern	j-spenkuch@u.northwestern.edu	(847) 467-0921