

Michael R. Coury

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EDUCATION	Candidate for PhD in Economics, University of Pittsburgh	exp. May 2022
	M.A. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh	2017
	B.S.E. in Bioengineering; B.S. in Economics, University of Pittsburgh	2016
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Primary Interests: Public Economics, Environmental Economics Secondary Interests: Economic History, Political Economy	
WORKING PAPERS	"Crime and Demand for Police" <i>Job Market Paper</i>	
	"Climate Risk and Preferences over the Size of Government: Evidence from California Wildfires" Revise and Resubmit at <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i>	
	"The Value of Piped Water and Sewers: Evidence from 19th Century Chicago" <i>with Allison Shertzer, Matthew Turner, and Toru Kitagawa</i>	
	"Spring Forward, Students Left Behind: Daylight Saving Time and Standardized Test Performance"	
WORKS IN PROGRESS	"Reversing the River: Environmental Quality and Land Value in Chicago" <i>with Allison Shertzer</i>	
	"Natural Disasters, Local Government Finance, and Federalism"	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor, University of Pittsburgh	
	Sports Economics (online, eval: 4.5/5.0)	Summer 2020
	Introduction to Microeconomics (eval: 4.5/5.0)	Summer 2019
	Game Theory Principles (eval: 4.8/5.0)	Summer 2018
	Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh	
	Introduction to Macroeconomics (eval: 4.6/5.0)	Spring 2019
	Intermediate Macroeconomics (no eval)	Fall 2018
	Advanced Microeconomic Theory II (PhD level, eval: 4.5/5.0)	Spring 2018
	Introduction to Microeconomics (eval: 4.4/5.0)	Fall 2017
RELEVANT POSITIONS	Research Assistant for Professor Allison Shertzer	Fall 2020-present
HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS	Social Science Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2019
	Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2018
	Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2016
	Most Outstanding Bioengineering Senior Design Project, University of Pittsburgh	2016
	University Honors College Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh	2011-2016
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY	Referee: <i>Labour Economics</i>	

REFERENCES	<p>Professor Allison Shertzer (co-chair) Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh 4999 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Pittsburgh, PA 15260 E-mail: shertzer@pitt.edu</p>	<p>Professor Randall Walsh (co-chair) Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh 4999 Wesley W. Posvar Hall Pittsburgh, PA 15260 E-mail: rwalsh@pitt.edu</p>	<p>Professor Andrea La Nauze (advisor) Department of Economics, University of Queensland 39 Blair Dr. Brisbane, QLD, Australia E-mail: lanauze@uq.edu</p>
WORKING PAPERS ABSTRACTS	<p>"Crime and Demand for Police" <i>Job Market Paper</i> This paper studies how exposure to crime affects demand for policing using a unique setting where both crime and support can be measured at a highly localized level. Specifically, I use precinct level returns from ballot measures in San Francisco to provide the first causal evidence on how individuals' support for police responds to local exposure to crime. I find that each additional violent crime leads to an increase in support for police union-endorsed ballot positions ranging from 2.9 percentage points for homicides to 0.4 percentage points for lesser crimes. The effect is strongest in areas with high concentrations of white residents.</p> <p>"Climate Risk and Preferences over the Size of Government: Evidence from California Wildfires" Revise and Resubmit at <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> How does exposure to risk shape individual preferences for an expanded state? I use variation in California wildfire activity to study how demand for government services evolves following exposure to climate change-associated disaster events. I find that Census block groups experiencing a large fire in the two years preceding a biennial Congressional election increase support by 0.7 percentage points for ballot initiatives which expand government spending and taxation and by 2.6 percentage points in support for ballot initiatives endorsed by pro-environment interest groups. The effect of fire exposure is stronger in more Republican areas and decays with distance.</p> <p>"The Value of Piped Water and Sewers: Evidence from 19th Century Chicago" <i>with Allison Shertzer, Matthew Turner, and Toru Kitagawa</i> Record city-level investments in public health infrastructure are credited with facilitating the remarkable increase in life expectancy that occurred in American cities at the end of the 19th century, yet little is known about the household valuation of access to such transformational public goods. We assemble a novel dataset of property transactions from archived editions of the <i>Chicago Tribune</i> to document the effect of sewer infrastructure on urban land valuation as the sanitation system expands street by street in the 1870s and 1880s, allowing us to provide the first estimates of the capitalized benefits of these projects relative to their historic costs.</p> <p>"Spring Forward, Students Left Behind: Daylight Saving Time and Standardized Test Performance" This study analyzes the effect of transition into Daylight Saving Time (DST) on the high-stakes standardized test performance of high school students. I leverage a 2007 policy change in the United States as a natural experiment which moved the transition date into DST immediately prior to statewide graduation exams in Ohio. Using a difference-in-difference estimation with a panel of nearly 900 school districts, I find transition into DST lowered exam passage rates between 1.0 and 2.9 percentage points.</p>		
PROGRAMMING SKILLS	Stata, ArcGis, Python, R, L ^A T _E X		
PERSONAL	Citizenship: United States		
PLACEMENT OFFICERS	<p>Prof. Stefania Albanesi (412) 648-1741 email: albanesi@pitt.edu Ms. Jamie Tattersall (412) 648-1399 email: jat205@pitt.edu</p>		