

IAIN BAMFORD

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Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

Fields of Specialization

Primary Field: Urban/Regional Economics

Secondary Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, International Trade

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Columbia University	2015-2022 (<i>expected</i>)
M.Phil. in Economics, Columbia University	2018
M.A. in Economics, Columbia University	2017
M.Sc. in Economics, London School of Economics (with Distinction)	2014
B.Sc. in Economics, University of St Andrews	2013

Job Market Paper

Monopsony Power, Spatial Equilibrium, and Minimum Wages

Abstract: What role does labor market competitiveness play in determining the spatial distribution of economic activity? To answer this question, we develop a model of monopsony power in spatial equilibrium. Workers and firms are free to locate in any labor market, and the degree of market power a firm enjoys depends on the number of competing firms in its location. We show the model can rationalize concentrations of economic activity and the city-size wage premium through an endogenous labor market competitiveness channel. Using administrative data from Germany, we estimate that labor markets are more competitive in larger cities. Calibrating the model to match this reduced-form evidence, we find endogenous labor market competitiveness can explain 37% of the city-size wage premium and 14% of all agglomeration. We use our new framework to study the spatial and welfare implications of the 2015 German national minimum wage law. A traditional spatial model that ignores variation in monopsony power across space predicts large unemployment effects in smaller, lower-wage labor markets, contradicting the reduced-form

evidence on the law. Accounting for spatially-varying monopsony power, we find the enacted national law outperforms an alternative policy with a lower level of the minimum wage in East Germany, while a law that takes into account variation in productivity and competitiveness significantly outperforms both.

Work in Progress

Pedestrianization and Business Visits: Evidence from NYC Open Streets (with Pablo Warnes)

Persistence in Segregation: Evidence from City Segregation Ordinances

The Right to Buy: Migration and Gentrification

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Donald Davis (Columbia University)	<i>Fall 2021, Summer 2018, Summer 2017</i>
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Research Assistant for Bentley Macleod (Columbia University)	<i>Spring 2018</i>
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Research Assistant for Francois Gerard (Columbia University)	<i>Fall 2016</i>
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Research Assistant for Daniel Sturm (London School of Economics)	<i>Fall 2014, Spring 2015</i>
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Research Assistant for Johannes Spinnewijn (London School of Economics)	<i>Spring 2015</i>
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Research Assistant for Reka Juhasz (London School of Economics)	<i>Spring 2015</i>
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Teaching Fellowships

Economics of New York City Instructor: Donald Davis	<i>Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019</i>
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Financial Economics Instructor: Tamrat Gashaw	<i>Fall 2018</i>
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Intermediate Microeconomics
Instructor: Qingmin Liu

Fall 2017

International Trade
Instructor: Reka Juhasz

Spring 2017

Honors and Awards

Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University

2019-2020

Program for Economic Research: Field or
Experimental Research Grant Award (\$3,800)

2020

Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award: Best Fourth
Year Application (runner-up)

2018

Dr. Edwin P. and Dr. Beatrice G. Reubens
Travel and Research Fund, Columbia
University

2018

Dean's Fellowship, Columbia University

2015-2020

References

[Donald R. Davis](#)

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[David E. Weinstein](#)

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[Réka Juhász](#)

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Personal

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