

Hedieh Tajali

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Philanthropy, Education, Health

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Texas A&M University, expected May 2022
M. S. Economics, University of North Texas, 2016
M. S. Economics, Allameh Tabatabaei, Tehran, Iran, 2011
B. S. Economics, Allameh Tabatabaei, Tehran, Iran, 2008

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Effect of Teacher Strikes on Support for Schools

Opinion polls suggest that the public supports teacher strikes. I examine the impact of teacher strikes on voluntary financial support for schools as a revealed-preference measure of support. I use data from DonorsChoose.org, an online crowdfunding platform for school teachers to fund their classroom projects, combined with teacher strikes' timing and locations across the United States. Variation in the timing of the strikes across school districts does not affect overall private contributions. I do not find any changes in fundraising activities around the strikes.

PUBLICATIONS

Legal Access to Reproductive Control Technology, Women's Education, and Earnings Approaching Retirement. (with Jason Lindo, Mayra Pineda-Torres, and David Pritchard), *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2020.

What do historical changes in legal access to reproductive health care technology tell us about the long-run effects of such changes? We investigate this question using data from the Health and Retirement Study and an identification strategy leveraging variation in exposure to legal changes in access across cohorts born in the same states. We find positive effects on educational attainment that align with prior work but are not statistically significant. We also find positive effects on working in a Social Security-covered job in women's 20s and 30s but no evidence of positive effects on women's earnings in their 50s.

WORKING PAPERS

Charitable Giving Responses to Education Budgets (with Jonathan Meer). *NBER, Working Paper* 29331.

Do changes in government spending affect voluntary contributions to those recipients? We examine how changes in K-12 education budgets impact donations to teachers using data from DonorsChoose.org, an online crowdfunding platform for public school teachers to raise money for their classrooms. Using a district-year panel and instruments to address the endogeneity of budgets, we find evidence for crowd-out of private giving, though the magnitudes are fairly small in this setting and do not offset a large proportion of a budget change. These results are driven by entirely teachers' posting of requests, illustrating the importance of considering the demand side of the charitable giving market.

Effects of the Minimum Wage on the Nonprofit Sector (with Jonathan Meer) [Under Review]

The nonprofit sector's ability to absorb increases in labor costs differs from the private sector in a number of ways. We analyze how nonprofits are affected by changes in the minimum wage utilizing data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Internal Revenue Service, linked to state minimum wages. We examine changes in reported employment and volunteering, as well as other financial

statements such as revenues and expenses. The results from both datasets show a negative impact on employment, driven primarily by states with large statutory minimum wage increases. We observe some evidence for a reduction in the number of nonprofit establishments, but few consistent patterns on revenue, expenses, or the use of volunteers.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Can Nonprofits Help Buffer the Negative Impacts of Poverty?
The Effect of Teacher Strikes on District Budgets
Do Late Donors Learn from Early Donors in Crowdfunding?** (with Piruz Saboury)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant
Jonathan Meer, Texas A&M University, Fall 2020 & Fall-Spring 2019
Ellie Qu, Texas A&M University, Summer 2020
Ragan Petrie, Texas A&M University, Summer 2018
David Molina, University of North Texas, Spring 2015
Esfandiar Jahangard, Allameh Tabatabaei, 2007-2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor
Principles of Microeconomics (Online), Texas A&M University, Summer 2020 & Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant
Principles of Microeconomics (Online), Texas A&M University, 2021-2022, Spring 2020 & 2016-2018
Advanced Econometrics, University of North Texas, Spring 2016
Advanced Microeconomics, University of North Texas, Spring 2016
Mathematical Economics, University of North Texas, Fall 2015
Academic Assistant, Tutoring Lab, University of North Texas, Fall 2014
Principles of Macroeconomics, Allameh Tabatabaei, 2006-2007

CONFERENCES (SCHEDULED*)

2021: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Presentation*), Western Economics Association International (Virtual Presentation*), ASHECon Annual Conference, ASSA Annual Meeting
2020: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (Virtual Presentation*), Science of Philanthropy Conference, Western Economics Association International (Virtual Presentation*), ASHE-Con Annual Conference, ASSA Annual Meeting
2019: Science of Philanthropy Conference (Presentation*), Texas Health Economics Conference (Texas A&M University)
2018: 29th Annual Health Economics Conference (Baylor University), Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (Baylor University)

WORKSHOPS (SCHEDULED*)

2021: WZB-Recent Advances in the Economics of Philanthropy Workshop (Virtual Presentation*)
2020: E-economics of Education Graduate Student Workshop, AEA Continuing Education: Mastering Mostly Harmless Econometrics
2018: Graduate Student Summit for Diversity in Economics–Women in Economics (University of California, Berkeley), Methods in Experimental Economics Research Workshop (Texas A&M University)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee: Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Oxford Economic Papers; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly	
HONORS AND AWARDS	<p>Texas A&M University, College of Liberal Arts, Charles H. Gregory Class of '64 Graduate Strategic Fellowship, 2021</p> <p>Texas A&M Private Enterprise Research Center, Graduate Student Fellow, 2020-2021</p> <p>ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship, 2021</p> <p>Humane Studies Fellowship, 2020 & 2021</p> <p>Texas A&M University, The Department of Economics Research Fellowship, 2020</p> <p>Texas A&M Private Enterprise Research Center, M. H. Webber Scholarship, 2019</p> <p>University of North Texas, The Aaron Wuensch Memorial Scholarship for the Top Graduate Student, 2015-2016</p>	
LANGUAGES	Persian (native), English (fluent)	
REFERENCES	<p>Jonathan Meer (Chair) Department of Economics Texas A&M University jmeer@tamu.edu</p> <p>Jason Lindo Department of Economics Texas A&M University jlindo@tamu.edu</p>	<p>Ragan Petrie Department of Economics Texas A&M University rpetrie@tamu.edu</p> <p>Ellie Heng Qu Bush School of Government & Public Service Texas A&M University hqu@tamu.edu</p>

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