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EMPLOYMENT	August 2018 - present Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University
EDUCATION	2018 Ph.D. in Economics, Texas A&M University
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Political Economy, Environmental Economics
HONORS AND AWARDS	2021 College of Business Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching - Undergraduate 2020 Undergraduate Teaching Award - Department of Economics
RESEARCH	<p>"The Impact of Election Fraud on Government Performance" (Revise and resubmit, Journal of Public Economics)</p> <p><i>I examine how election fraud affects the type of government corruption and red tape that inhibits economic growth, as measured by building permit approvals in the Philippines, which are often delayed due to requests for bribes. To identify effects, I exploit a switch to automated elections in 2010 that made committing fraud more difficult. Estimates from a research design comparing changes over time in previously high-fraud and low-fraud towns indicate that automated elections significantly reduced election fraud, and that this led to a sharp and sustained 15 percent increase in the number of building permits approved annually.</i></p> <p>"Does Subsidized Flood Insurance Alter Location Incentives? Evidence from the National Flood Insurance Program" with Jonathan Scott. (Revise and resubmit, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists)</p> <p><i>Despite the large costs of covering flood losses, little is known about whether the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) affects households' decisions to sort into more flood-prone locations. In this paper, we leverage the Federal Emergency Management Agency's lengthy, plausibly exogenous process of mapping risky communities as a necessary determinant of full entry into the NFIP, thereby granting eligibility to homeowners in these communities for highly subsidized flood insurance. We find that the NFIP had an overall positive effect on the population size of communities enrolling into the program, but a significantly larger impact on the relatively more flood-prone locations—causing an additional 5 percent increase in population per one standard deviation increase in historical flood risk. Our findings highlight the potential for nationally subsidized flood insurance to contribute to flood damages by altering incentives to reside in risky areas.</i></p> <p>"Electoral Cycles in Politician Effort" (Reject and resubmit, Journal of Development Economics)</p> <p><i>I determine whether pressure from upcoming elections affects an effort-based measure of government performance: evacuations in preparation for tropical cyclones in the Philippines. Unlike measures used in previous studies, this isolates politician effort because the costs of maintaining shelters and transporting people to shelters are borne by national agencies. Governors need only coordinate these resources. By comparing performance over time in provinces whose governors are eligible to seek re-election to provinces whose governors are ineligible, I find that pressure from upcoming elections causes a 14 percent increase in evacuation rates.</i></p>

“The Effect of Fiscal Transfers on Local Economic Development” with Ludigil Garces and Karl Jandoc

Many countries rely on a system of fiscal transfers to support local governments. We examine the effect of such transfers on local budgets and economic development by exploiting a 1991 decentralization reform in the Philippines that resulted in newly created cities getting a large and permanent increase in fiscal transfers from the national government. Comparing outcomes over time in pre-existing cities to cities created after the 1991 reform, we find strong evidence of spending increases in the new cities, followed by increased economic activity – new cities exhibit an increased nighttime light intensity of about 10 percent. Our estimates are robust to controlling for regional shocks, town-specific time trends, and population changes over time. These findings provide evidence against tax and spending crowd out, and suggest that larger transfers to developing areas may instead generate greater activity through an increase in government capacity.

“Taxes and the Labor Supply of the Stars” with Daniel Keniston

We use a longitudinal dataset of Hollywood movie performers to present the first long-run estimates of the effect of top marginal tax rates on high-earners' labor supply. Our data span the years 1927 to 2014, almost the entire modern US tax regime. We find that changes to marginal tax rates in high tax brackets have no significant effect on the number of films a movie star makes each year. However, in years with high taxes stars produce more highly rated movies with award-winning directors, potentially substituting prestigious films for pecuniary gains.

“Economic WARNings: The Impact of Negative News on Racial Animus” with Adam Bestenbostel

Racially charged rhetoric often surrounds layoff events, with specific minorities often blamed for the loss of "American jobs." We examine whether information about impending mass layoffs causes racial animus. Our data consist of information on mass layoff notices linked to Google Search Trends and FBI Hate Crime Statistics. We compare outcomes across areas that vary in the timing of news of impending layoffs. Results indicate an increase in both racist searches (1.5 percent) and hate crimes (23 percent) following layoff notices.

“Cognitive Dissonance in the Use of Scientific Estimates: Evidence from COVID-19 and Implications for Climate Policy” with Jonathan Scott

Objective information from credible sources is critical for efficient policy that involves uncertain outcomes. This paper presents evidence that scientific projections are under-utilized in decisions involving dynamic risks. We leverage the COVID-19 pandemic, using plausibly exogenous updates to the dominant model on death projections and show revealed mitigation actions were largely driven by contemporary outcomes over scientific predictions. Further, we document behavior consistent with cognitive dissonance: agents favor scientific forecasts when they predict more optimistic outcomes. When taken to the context of climate policy, we demonstrate that these estimates would imply an undervaluing of carbon costs of 50 percent.

“An Empirical Test of Anti-Muslim Bias: Evidence from Property Values” with Meradee Tangvatcharapong

We examine whether mosques depress home values in Michigan, which forms the basis for opposition to new mosques. We link administrative data on the universe of property transactions in Detroit and Hamtramck to the opening dates of new mosques. We then compare sales prices over time for properties closer to newly opened mosques to properties that are slightly farther away. Unlike related studies using data from other settings, our results show that exposure to new mosques do not significantly depress housing prices, implying weak evidence for religious discrimination, if it exists.

PRESENTATIONS	2022 Vanderbilt University, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference (scheduled)
	2021 Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings
	2020 Bolivian Conference on Development Economics, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference
	2019 Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference
	2018 Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference
	2017 Economic Science Association - North America, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, Symposium for Agricultural and Applied Economics Research
	2016 Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Banff Empirical Microeconomics Workshop
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee Service: Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy, European Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Peace Research Club Adviser: Economics and ITF (International Trade and Finance) Club at LSU, 2018-present
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES	President, Civic Orchestra of Baton Rouge College Mentor, Baton Rouge Youth Coalition