

Alexander Marsella

610-306-0025 | acm0043@mix.wvu.edu | <https://alexmarsella.github.io>

EDUCATION

West Virginia University <i>Doctor of Philosophy, Economics; Doctoral Supervisor Dr. Brad Humphreys</i> • Fields: Urban, Public, Health	Morgantown, WV <i>Expected 2023</i>
West Virginia University <i>Master of Arts, Economics</i>	Morgantown, WV <i>August 2018 - May 2021</i>
West Chester University of Pennsylvania <i>Bachelor of Science, Economics; Math Minor</i>	West Chester, PA <i>August 2014 - May 2018</i>

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Insuring legislative wealth transfers: theory and evidence (w/ B. Cutsinger and Y. Zhou) <i>Public Choice</i>	2022
Readership and citations as alternative measures of impact (w/ A. Cardazzi and R. Congleton) <i>Constitutional Political Economy</i>	2021
On the stability of US politics: post-sample forecasts and refinements of the Congleton-Shughart models (w/ R. Congleton and Y. Kim) <i>Public Choice</i>	2020

DISSERTATION: *Three essays in applied microeconomics: Philly style*

Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the West Philadelphia Promise Zone <i>Job Market Paper - Available on SSRN</i> <i>Under Referee Review</i>	2021
• This paper studies the effect of the West Philadelphia Promise Zone initiative on violent crime rates in a high-crime area of West Philadelphia, where a series of educational, public-safety, and quality-of-life improvement grants were disbursed from 2014 onward. My difference-in-differences analysis with two-way fixed effects and cluster bootstrapped standard errors provides the first causal evidence of a modest (approximately 10%) reduction in violent crime, primarily assaults, attributable to this program. By the end of 2019, violent crime in the Promise Zone descended to around the average level across Philadelphia. A synthetic difference-in-differences estimator corroborates this result. In addition, I find a significant reduction in violent crime in and around schools given GEAR UP and Promise Neighborhood grants, two of the largest grants facilitated through the Promise Zone program.	
Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia: A Contingent Valuation Experiment	In-Progress
Soda Taxes and Fecundability: Evidence from US Cities	In-Progress

WORKING PAPERS

The effect of monitoring and crowds on crime and law enforcement: A natural experiment from European football (w/ B. Humphreys and L. Perez) <i>Under Referee Review</i>	2022
Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States (w/ P. Calcagno and Y. Zhou) <i>Available on SSRN</i> <i>Revise & Resubmit at Contemporary Economic Policy</i>	2021

GRANTS & AWARDS

Best Doctoral Student Award <i>West Virginia University Economics Department</i>	2022
Burks Family Fund for Economic Research (WVU) <i>Survey Collection: Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia</i>	2021
Hayek Fund for Scholars (IHS) <i>Survey Collection: Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia</i>	2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Intermediate Microeconomics, Instructor of Record	Spring 2023
Applied Economic Research (Senior Capstone), Instructor of Record	Fall 2022
Causal Inference, Teaching Assistant	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics, Instructor of Record	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics, Instructor of Record	Fall 2021
Principles of Microeconomics (Two Sections), Instructor of Record	Spring 2021
Survey of Economics (Asynchronous, Online), Instructor of Record	Fall 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economic Association Conference	2021
<i>Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	
Southern Economic Association Conference	2021
<i>The effect of monitoring and crowds on crime and law enforcement</i>	
Mid-Continent Regional Science IMPLAN Conference	2021
<i>Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	
Public Choice Society Conference	2020
<i>Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States</i>	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Economics, Public Economics, Health Economics, Non-market Valuation, Policy Analysis

AD HOC JOURNAL REFEREE

Managing Sport and Leisure

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

R, GIS in R, \LaTeX

REFERENCES

Brad R. Humphreys, PhD

Email: brhumphreys@mail.wvu.edu

Phone: 304-293-7871

Affiliation: West Virginia University

Relationship: Academic Advisor, Dissertation Committee Chair, and Professor of Economics

Jane Ruseski, PhD

Email: Jane.Ruseski@mail.wvu.edu

Phone: 304-293-7835

Affiliation: West Virginia University

Relationship: Dissertation Committee Member, Professor of Economics, and Economics PhD Coordinator

Daniel Grossman, PhD

Email: daniel.grossman@mail.wvu.edu

Phone: 304-293-7860

Affiliation: West Virginia University

Relationship: Dissertation Committee Member, Associate Professor of Economics