

Alexander Marsella

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EDUCATION

West Virginia University

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics; Doctoral Supervisor Dr. Brad Humphreys

- Fields: Urban, Public, Health

Morgantown, WV

Expected 2023

West Virginia University

Master of Arts, Economics

Morgantown, WV

August 2018 - May 2021

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science, Economics; Math Minor

West Chester, PA

August 2014 - May 2018

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Insuring legislative wealth transfers: theory and evidence
(w/ B. Cutsinger and Y. Zhou) | *Public Choice*

2022

Readership and citations as alternative measures of impact
(w/ A. Cardazzi and R. Congleton) | *Constitutional Political Economy*

2021

On the stability of US politics: post-sample forecasts and refinements of the Congleton-Shughart models (w/ R. Congleton and Y. Kim) | *Public Choice*

2020

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

Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the West Philadelphia Promise Zone | *Job Market Paper* - Available on SSRN | Under Review

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-robust 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, with some important caveats. 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) | *Under Review*

2022

Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States (w/ P. Calcagno and Y. Zhou) | Available on SSRN | (Revise & Resubmit at *Contemporary Economic Policy*)

2021

GRANTS & AWARDS

Burks Family Fund for Economic Research (WVU)

2021

Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia

Hayek Fund for Scholars (IHS)

2021

Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia

Humane Studies Fellowship (IHS)

2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	
Southern Economic Association Conference	2021
<i>The effect of crowds on petty-crimes and law enforcement: A natural experiment from European football leagues</i>	
Mid-Continent Regional Science IMPLAN Conference	2021
<i>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction 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, \LaTeX , GIS

REFERENCES

Brad R. Humphreys, PhD

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Phone: 304-293-7871

Affiliation: West Virginia University

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

Jane Ruseski, PhD

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Phone: 304-293-7835

Affiliation: West Virginia University

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

Daniel Grossman, PhD

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Phone: 304-293-7860

Affiliation: West Virginia University

Relationship: Dissertation Committee Member, Associate Professor of Economics