

Alexander Marsella

610-306-0025 | acm0043@mix.wvu.edu | [linkedin.com/in/alexmarsellaecon/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexmarsellaecon/)

EDUCATION

West Virginia University <i>Doctor of Philosophy, Economics; Doctoral Supervisor Dr. Brad Humphreys</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fields: Urban, Public, HealthDissertation employs advanced causal inference techniques to study public policy using spatial data.	Morgantown, WV <i>Expected 2023</i>
West Virginia University <i>Master of Arts, Economics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coursework included Econometrics 1 through 3, Public Economics 1 & 2, Health Economics 1 & 2, Law & Economics, and Urban Economics.	Morgantown, WV <i>August 2018 - May 2021</i>
West Chester University of Pennsylvania <i>Bachelor of Science, Economics; Math Minor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Coursework included full sequence of calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, calculus statistics, and real analysis.	West Chester, PA <i>August 2014 - May 2018</i>

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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: *Vice, Violence, and Unhealthy Behaviors in an Urban Setting*

Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the West Philadelphia Promise Zone <i>Job Market Paper</i> - Available on SSRN <ul style="list-style-type: none">This paper studies the effect of the West Philadelphia Promise Zone Initiative on weekly violent crime rates in a high-crime area of West Philadelphia, where a series of public safety and quality of life improvement grants were dispersed from 2014 to 2019. Results using a difference-in-differences analysis with tract, year, and week fixed effects along with cluster-robust and bootstrapped standard errors provides causal evidence of a reduced rate of violent crime, primarily assaults and aggravated assaults. Multiple specifications of a synthetic control model predict that crime would have trended significantly upward in the Promise Zone area had the zone not been established. Dynamic difference-in-differences and propensity score matching are also employed, finding similar results and effect sizes. By the end of 2019, the Promise Zone ultimately descends to the average level of violent crime experienced across Philadelphia. A cost-benefit analysis indicates that the crime reducing effects of the Promise Zone may offset the cost of federal grant investment in public safety in the zone.	2021
Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia: A Contingent Valuation Experiment	In-Progress
Soda Taxes and Fecundability: Evidence from the Philadelphia Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax	In-Progress

WORKING PAPERS

Insuring Rents (w/ B. Cutsinger and Y. Zhou) Available on SSRN (Major Revision at Public Choice)	2021
Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States (w/ P. Calcagno and Y. Zhou) Available on SSRN (Under Review)	2021

GRANTS & AWARDS

Burks Family Fund for Economic Research (WVU) <i>Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia</i>	2021
Hayek Fund for Scholars (IHS) <i>Survey Collection: Safe-Injection and NIMBYism in Philadelphia</i>	2021
Humane Studies Fellowship (IHS)	2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Causal Inference <i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Spring 2022
Intermediate Microeconomics <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Fall 2021
Principles of Microeconomics - Two Sections <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Spring 2021
Survey of Economics <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Fall 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economic Association Conference <i>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	2021
Mid-Continent Regional Science IMPLAN Conference <i>Does Place-Based Crime Reduction Work?: Evidence from the Philadelphia Promise Zone</i>	2021
Public Choice Society Conference <i>Income Inequality and Party Alternation: State-Level Evidence from the United States</i>	2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

JOURNAL REFEREE

Managing Sport and Leisure

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

R
L^AT_EX
GIS