

Alexander Marsella

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EDUCATION

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

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

Expected 2023

- Fields: Urban, Public, Health
- Dissertation employs advanced causal inference techniques to study public policy using spatial data.

West Virginia University

Morgantown, WV

Master of Arts, Economics

August 2018 - May 2021

- Coursework included Econometrics 1 through 3, Public Economics 1 & 2, Health Economics 1 & 2, Law & Economics, and Urban Economics.

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

West Chester, PA

Bachelor of Science, Economics; Math Minor

August 2014 - May 2018

- Coursework included full sequence of calculus, linear algebra, differential equations, calculus statistics, and real analysis.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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

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| Do Place-Based Crime Reduction Policies Work?: Evidence from the West Philadelphia Promise Zone <i>Job Market Paper</i> - Available on SSRN <i>Under Review</i> | 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. | |

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| Supervised Injection and NIMBY in Philadelphia: A Contingent Valuation Experiment | In-Progress |
| Soda Taxes and Fecundability: Evidence from US Cities | In-Progress |

WORKING PAPERS

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| 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 Review</i> | 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 <i>Contemporary Economic Policy</i>) | 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

Applied Economic Research (Senior Capstone) <i>Instructor of Record</i>	Fall 2022
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 - Asynchronous, Online</i>	Fall 2020

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

AD HOC JOURNAL REFEREE

Managing Sport and Leisure

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

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GIS