Andrew Proctor

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Personal Information:
Gender: Male
Data of Birth: Nov. 3, 1987
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Placement director:
Professor Abhijeet Sing, Stockholm School of Economics
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References:

Professor Erik Lindqvist
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Professor Arnaud Maurel
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Professor Anna Dreber Almenberg
Stockholm School of Economics
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Research Fields:
   Education and labor economics; applied and structural microeconometrics.

Graduate Studies:
   Stockholm School of Economics, August 2016 to present
   Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
   Expected Completion Date: May 2022

   Duke University, August 2019 to present
   Visiting PhD student in Economics (sponsor Peter Arcidiacono)

   Swedish Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University, Jan. 2019 – June 2019
   Visiting PhD student in Economics

   Universisteit van Amsterdam, 2015 to 2016
   Master of Science in Econometrics
   Thesis Title: Intergenerational Effects of Stratified Educational Financing in Tiebout School
          Choice, 1922-2015 (grade of distinction)

Undergraduate Studies:
Bachelor of Arts in History (*Magna Cum Laude*), Furman University, 2010.

General course in Economic History, London School of Economics, 2009.

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2019	Data Analysis in R (Masters course), Stockholm School of Economics, Lecturer.
Fall 2018	Empirical Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Seminar Teacher for Erik Lindqvist.
Spring 2018	Data Analysis in R Short Course, Stockholm School of Economics, Lecturer.
Fall 2017	Empirical Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Seminar Teacher for Per Hjerstrand.

Research Experience and Related Employment:

Fall 2018	Stockholm School of Economics, research assistant to Prof. Anna Dreber Almenberg and Erik Snowberg.
Summer 2009	London School of Economics, Research assistant to Dr. Eric Golson.
2011-2012	City of Billings (MT) Community Development Division. Supported the Mayor's Committee on Homelessness through the federal AmeriCorps program. Primary duties included data analysis and research, management of public awareness campaigns, and facilitation of related community groups.

Grants and Fellowships:

2019-2021	Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius Foundation Grant for doctoral research abroad. 500,000 Swedish kronor.
2020-2021	Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU). Research grant of 196,100 Swedish kronor.

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Research

Job Market Paper

Did the apple fall far from the tree? Dynamics of educational and labor market inequality when households are uncertain about childrens´ ability

This paper examines the effect of uncertainty and learning about ability on intergenerational correlations in education and labor market outcomes, when children and their parents utilize family signals to inform initial beliefs about ability. I examine this question by using a cohort study and rich administrative data to estimate a dynamic discrete choice structural model of education and occupational decisions, incorporating multidimensional ability and Bayesian uncertainty about ability, starting from family-driven priors.

Publications

Crowdsourcing hypothesis tests: Making transparent how design choices shape research results (with Landy et al). *Psychological Bulletin* (2020)*, 146(5), 451-479.* doi:10.1037/bul0000220

To what extent are research results influenced by subjective decisions that scientists make as they design studies? Fifteen research teams independently designed studies to answer five original research questions related to moral judgments, negotiations, and implicit cognition. Participants from 2 separate large samples (total N > 15,000) were then randomly assigned to complete 1 version of each study. Effect sizes varied dramatically across different sets of materials designed to test the same hypothesis: Materials from different teams rendered statistically significant effects in opposite directions for 4 of 5 hypotheses, with the narrowest range in estimates being d = -0.37 to + 0.26. Meta-analysis and a Bayesian perspective on the results revealed overall support for 2 hypotheses and a lack of support for 3 hypotheses. Overall, practically none of the variability in effect sizes was attributable to the skill of the research team in designing materials, whereas considerable variability was attributable to the hypothesis being tested. In a forecasting survey, predictions of other scientists were significantly correlated with study results, both across and within hypotheses. Crowdsourced testing of research hypotheses helps reveal the true consistency of empirical support for a scientific claim.

Work in Progress

Gender differences in perceived abilities and career sorting (with Shubha Bhattacharya and Patrizia Massner)

Despite the increase in female labor force participation over the last decades, occupations and college majors continue to exhibit high levels of segregation between genders. Do gendered biases in beliefs about abilities affect this career sorting? In this study, we investigate the role of gender differences in self-perceived abilities on human capital investment paths, such as choice of subject in upper secondary schooling and the choice of college major. Using nationally representative panel survey data from the Evaluation Through Follow-Up (ETF) Study in Sweden, we document the presence of large gender-biases in self-perceptions of subject-specific ability by gender. We explore the magnitude and consequences of gender-biased beliefs for career sorting by structurally estimating a dynamic model of human capital investments that incorporates limited information about ability, with ability beliefs that may deviate from rational expectations through biased beliefs. By estimating the structural model using longitudinal ETF survey data matched to Swedish administrative data, we examine the extent to which gender-specific biases in self-perceived abilities can explain educational and occupational sorting in the Swedish labor market.

Bundling Frictions of Tiebout Choice in the sub-Metropolis

Tiebout choice assumes that there exists a sufficient number of communities in a housing market to allow each household to choose a residence that matches their preferences for residential characteristics, which in the simplest versions of the Tiebout model consists of only preferences for public goods. In practice, the residential choice decision bundles a number of residential characteristics that household care about, including public goods like schooling, but also the quality and type of housing, the composition of one's neighbors (and students' peers), distance from work, and many other attributes still. This diverse array of considerations implies that the requisite number of communities in order for a household to obtain its desired bundle may be very large — a condition perhaps approximated only in large urban metropolises. This paper considers the extent to which departures from this assumption affect allocative efficiency and welfare in smaller housing markets. This question is analyzed by estimating an equilibrium sorting model of the housing market for several markets of varying sizes. Counterfactual analysis then characterizes the welfare costs of bundling schooling quality with non-schooling amenities, both across market sizes and by household type within a given market size.

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Careers of the Extremely Intelligent (with Erik Lindqvist and Jonas Vlachos)

Does it pay to be a genius? Vast parallel literatures have documented both the importance of cognitive skill for labor market outcomes, as well as the rise in "superstar" top earners in an increasingly polarized skill environment. Yet little is known about the returns to extreme levels of cognitive skill, nor how labor market outcomes have evolved for the extremely intelligent. The paucity of studies is arguably due to lack of adequate data: Because, almost by definition, only a small fraction of the population has very high cognitive skill, most datasets used in the literature are too small to allow precise estimation of how outcomes change at the high end of the cognitive skill distribution. In this paper, we use data from aptitude tests performed as part of universal military conscription in Sweden to study the relationship between labor market outcomes and cognitive skill. Our data set includes information on cognitive skills for more than 1 million men born between 1951 and 1975. Using this data, we find that although returns to cognitive ability are monotonically increasing and slightly convex for scores up to approximately +2 standard deviations, marginal returns began to fall and eventually become negative. We further provide preliminary evidence about the reasons for these decreasing returns to cognitive skill.

A Modified Klein-Spady Estimator for Binary Choice Models (with Per Hjerstrand and Joakim Westerlund)

One of the most cited studies within the field of binary choice models is that of Klein and Spady (1993), in which a semiparametric estimator is proposed that makes no assumption concerning the functional form of the choice probability function. However, although theoretically appealing, the estimator has been found to be difficult to implement. This paper proposes a modified version of the Klein-Spady estimator, which is shown to be relatively easy to implement, is numerically more stable and performs better in simulations relative to the Klein-Spady estimator.