

Arseniy Braslavskiy

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EDUCATION

University of Maryland (UMD)

Ph.D. in Economics

expected 2026

M.A. in Economics (GPA: 3.95/4)

2022

New Economic School & Higher School of Economics (NES & HSE)

Semester Abroad: University of Groningen

B.A. in Economics (GPA: 8.5/10)

2020

WORKING PAPERS

Beyond the Flypaper Effect: Crowding-In from Federal Investment in Public Transit *Job Market Paper*

I examine how targeted federal grants affect state and local spending on public transit. The analysis uses comprehensive U.S. expenditure data from 2000–2019 and exploits an exogenous shock from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA funds were apportioned to Urbanized Areas through preexisting formula programs, independent of potential changes in transit investment. Using ARRA apportionments as an instrument, I find that each \$1 of exogenous federal grants generates a \$0.20 annual increase in capital transit spending from all sources. This average effect reflects two distinct phases between 2009–2019: an initial rise in federally funded expenditures with no displacement of state or local spending (the flypaper effect), followed by substantial crowding-in of state funding to the same localities. I develop a conceptual model of local officials' investment decisions that distinguishes between guaranteed and flexible funding from each source, the latter requiring costly negotiation. In this framework, the initial flypaper effect arises from the stickiness of guaranteed funds, while the subsequent state crowding-in results from increased negotiation for flexible funding. This negotiation can be driven by two mechanisms: (i) higher returns to additional investment or (ii) lower costs of negotiation. Empirical evidence on the nature of additional spending rejects the first mechanism, while cross-state variation in institutional settings supports the second. Taken together, these results suggest that federal grants empowered local officials to secure additional flexible state funding by reducing the cost of negotiation, leading to a disproportionate and persistent increase in total public transit spending.

In the Weeds of Traffic Fatalities: Revisiting the Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws *Reject and Resubmit at the Journal of Law and Economics*

This study re-examines the finding by Anderson, Hansen, and Rees (2013) that medical marijuana laws *decrease* traffic fatality rates by 10.4%. I demonstrate that legalizing states were already experiencing declining fatalities prior to legalization, even after controlling for state-specific linear trends in a Two-Way Fixed Effects model. To address these pre-trends, I apply the Imputation Procedure (IP) by Borusyak, Jaravel, and Spiess (2024), which estimates state-specific trends using only not-yet-treated observations. Depending on the inclusion of potentially confounding

covariates, my IP estimates suggest either a 12% *increase* or a zero effect on fatalities. I also show that the average state effect differs substantially from the average individual effect, indicating large heterogeneity across states. Much of the original negative result is driven by California, which accounts for over half of the population-weighted estimate. This state consistently exhibits one of the largest estimated negative effects and one of the steepest negative pre-trends.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Pressure to Spend: Transportation Project Selection under ARRA

Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Interdisciplinary Transportation Fellowship

Where the Road Leads: Can Infrastructure Investment Drive Technology Adoption?

With R. Benjamin Rodriguez

Feudalism and Democracy: Evidence from Weimar Germany

With Kartikeya Batra, Ethan Kaplan & Weizheng Lai

Bureaucrats in Fiscal Federalism

TEACHING

Instructor:

ECON325 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, UMD	Summer 2022
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Teaching Assistant:

ECON456 Law and Economics, UMD	Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
ECON326 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, UMD	Fall 2024
ECON325 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, UMD	Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Discrete Mathematics and Statistics, HSE	Fall 2017, Spring 2018

Middle School Elective Teacher:

Economics, Mathematics, and Computer Science	2016 - 2017
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GRANTS & AWARDS

Fellowships:

Interdisciplinary Transportation Fellowship, Sloan Foundation (\$36,000)	2025-2026
Faculty-Student Research Award, UMD (\$10,000)	2023
<i>With Kartikeya Batra, Ethan Kaplan & Weizheng Lai</i>	
Summer Research Fellowship, UMD (\$5,000)	2023
First-Year Summer Research Fellowship, UMD (\$2,000)	2021

Prizes:

Graduate Research Competition Winner, Pennsylvania Economic Association	2025
Three Minute Thesis: College-Level Winner, UMD	2025

Visiting Day Poster Competition: First Prize, UMD	2025
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Travel Grants:

Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, UMD	2025
Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, UMD	2024
International Conference Student Support Award, UMD	2024

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2025: SEA Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL (scheduled); APPAM Fall Research Conference, Seattle, WA (scheduled); Markets & Society Conference, Falls Church, VA (scheduled); UEA North American Meeting, Université du Québec à Montréal (scheduled); PEA Annual Conference, Penn State Berks; Urban Economics Day, GWU; SGE Annual Conference, AU; Climate Change: Impacts & Responses, Online; AEA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (poster, video interview).

2024: Warsaw International Economic Meeting, University of Warsaw.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for the <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i>	
Graduate Student Senator, University Senate, UMD (<i>elected</i>)	2025-2026
Poster Evaluator, McNair Scholars Research Conference, UMD	2025
Representative, Provost's Graduate Student Advisory Council, UMD	2024-2025
"Externalities" Soccer Team Captain, Department of Economics, UMD	2024
Member, Economics Graduate Student Association, Department of Economics, UMD	2021-2022

OTHER EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Research Assistantships:

Prof. Allan Drazen, UMD	Fall 2022
Prof. Luminita Stevens, UMD	Summer 2021
Prof. Chenyu Yang, UMD	Summer 2021
Prof. Cemal Eren Arbatli, HSE	2019-2020
Prof. Victoria Dobrynskaya, HSE	2019

Other Positions:

Graduate Computing Assistant, UMD	Fall 2021, Spring 2021
Intern, McKinsey & Company, Moscow	2019

Computer Skills: Python, Stata, ArcGIS & QGIS, MATLAB, R

Languages: Russian – Native; English – Fluent; German, Czech – Beginner

REFERENCES

Prof. Melissa Kearney
University of Notre Dame
mkearne9@nd.edu
574-631-6393

Prof. Maureen Cropper
University of Maryland
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301-405-3483

Prof. Ethan Kaplan
University of Maryland
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301-405-3501