ANUAR ASSAMIDANOV

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EDUCATION

Claremont Graduate University 2020 - 2024
Ph.D. in Economics *Claremont, CA*
Dissertation: "Essays on Crime and Discrimination"
Committee: Gregory DeAngelo (chair), Fernando Lozano, Scott Cunningham

Claremont Graduate University 2019 - 2020
M.A. in Economics *Claremont, CA*

Nazarbayev University 2011 - 2015
B.S. in Mechanical Engineering *Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economics of Crime, Law and Economics, Labor Economics, Causal Inference, and Machine Learning

RESEARCH

Human Discretion and Algorithmic Insights in Parole Supervision Decision-Making (Job Market Paper)

In this paper, I conduct an in-depth examination of the interplay between predictive algorithms and human discretion in parole supervision decisions. Leveraging a unique methodological framework combining Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) and random assignment, I explore the impact of parole officers' override decisions on recidivism rates. Our analysis indicates a significant increase in recidivism as parolees transition from standard to high supervision based on algorithmic risk scores alone. However, when parole officers' override decisions are incorporated, harsher decisions consistently result in lower recidivism rates, while lenient decisions have no significant impact. These findings highlight the crucial role of human discretion in algorithm-based decision-making and provide important insights into potential improvements for predictive algorithms. The study contributes to the ongoing discourse on the role of human intervention in algorithmic recommendations within the criminal justice system.

Pandemic Safeguards and Household Safety
(with Scott Cunningham, Greg DeAngelo, Uyen Le, and Rebecca Thornton)

A flurry of research has examined the effect of COVID-19-related policies on family violence with considerable variation in approach, often producing conflicting results. In this paper, we provide four main contributions to the existing literature. First, we utilize up-to-date estimation methods developed by Goodman-Bacon (2021) and Callaway and Sant'Anna (2020) to account for the differential timing in implementing COVID-19 policies and compare our estimates with traditional two-way fixed effects. Second, we use the most comprehensive data from the United States from 30 jurisdictions across 18 states to ensure that our conclusions are not reached due to data selection issues. Third, we evaluate three COVID policies: shelter-in-place, school closures, and daycare closures. Fourth, we use two measures of family violence: adult domestic violence and child violence. We find that school closure significantly doubled the number of child abuse calls per day from the mean. However, daycare closure significantly reduced 1.2 calls of child abuse calls per day. We detect no effect for shelter-in-place or daycare closure orders and document a reversal of our estimates' direction when using Callaway and Sant'Anna (2020). to measure the impact of daycare closure relative to a two-way fixed effect.

Discrimination and Constraints: Evidence from The Voice
(with Muhammad Salman Khalid and Morgan Stockham)

Gender discrimination in the hiring process is one significant factor contributing to labor market disparities. However, there is little evidence on the extent to which gender bias by hiring managers is responsible for these disparities. In this paper, I exploit a unique dataset of blind auditions of *The Voice* television show as an experiment to identify own gender bias in the selection process. The first televised stage audition, in which four noteworthy recording artists are coaches, listens to the contestants "blindly" (chairs facing away from the stage) to avoid seeing the contestant. Using a difference-in-differences estimation strategy, a coach (hiring person) is demonstrably exogenous with respect to the artist's gender, I find that artists are 4.5 percentage points (11 percent) more likely to be selected when they are the recipients of an opposite-gender coach. I also utilize the machine-learning approach in Athey et al. (2018) to include heterogeneity from team gender composition, order of performance, and failure rates of the coaches. The findings offer a new perspective to enrich past research on gender discrimination, shedding light on the instances of gender bias variation by the gender of the decision maker and team gender composition.

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS

Effect of AI-driven Recommendation System on Worker Productivity and Service Quality
with Josie Xiao

- Utilized a field experiment to answer the question of how machine learning-driven integration into call center operations impacts organizational productivity and work performance.
- Developed recommendation system using cutting-edge Deep Learning and Machine Learning models
- Analyzed the effect of implementing a smart recommendation system on the quality of work for an organization that relies on memorization, experience, and on-spot decision-making.

Recidivism Forecasting Challenge
with Muhammed Selman

- Predicted recidivism using person and place-based variables with the goal of improving outcomes for those serving a community supervision sentence.
- Utilised Xgboost, Adaboost, LightGBM, CatBoost, Autoencoder, and Logistic Regression algorithms using Python libraries

Online Advertisement and Human Trafficking
with Beata Luczywek

- Built a Deep Learning model to identify human trafficking occurrences from online advertisements
- Examined the effect of the criminalization of prostitution on human trafficking

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- Computational Tools for Economists (Master's), *California State University, Fullerton* Spring 2023
- Python Programming (Undergraduate), *Cal Poly Pomona* Spring 2023
- Introduction to Statistics (Undergraduate), *Pitzer College* Fall 2022, Spring 2023
- Machine Learning in Economics (Master's), *California State University, Fullerton* Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant

- Machine Learning in Asset Pricing (Master's), *Claremont Graduate University* Fall 2021
- Causal Inference and Research Design, *Remote Student Exchange Course* Fall 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

93rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (planned) Fall 2023
Technology, Data, and Economics; Economics of Gender *New Orleans, LA*

17th Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (planned) Fall 2023
Decision-making in Criminal Justice *Chicago, IL*

16th All-California Labor Economics Conference (planned) Fall 2023
Technology and Labor Decisions *Santa Barbara, CA*

98th Annual Conference, Western Economic Association International Summer 2023
Gender Discrimination *San Diego, CA*

2022 American Society Criminology Annual Meeting Fall 2022
Lightning Talk: Findings and Insights from the National Institute of Justice Recidivism Forecasting Challenge *Atlanta, GA*

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Prize Winner in "Recidivism Forecasting Challenge" ($19,500) Summer 2021
Machine Learning Contest hosted by National Institute of Justice

NBER Grant on Women, Victimization, and COVID-19 Fall 2020
with S. Cunningham, R. Thorton, G. DeAngelo, and Y.Le

Criminal Justice Reform Fellowship Spring 2020
Claremont Graduate University

Blaisdell Economics Fellowship 2019-2021
Claremont Graduate University

CGU Fellowship - Economics 2019-2021
Claremont Graduate University

MISCELLANEOUS

Technical Skills:	Python, Stata, R, SQL, LaTeX, Tableau, Github, Git, Web Scraping, GIS
Language	English (fluent), Kazakh (native), Russian(fluent) and Turkish (fluent)
Citizenship	Kazakhstan (US Visa Status: F-1; with an option for STEM OPT Extension)

REFERENCES

Professor Gregory DeAngelo
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Professor Scott Cunningham
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Professor Radha Bhattacharya (Teaching)
Department of Economics
California State University, Fullerton
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