

August Bruno

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Expected May 2025
M.S. Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	May 2022
B.A. Economics and Mathematics, Hobart College, NY	May 2017

Research Fields

Economics of Parenting, Labor Economics, Environmental Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Working Papers

"Parenting Decisions and Child Skill Development" - Job Market Paper

Abstract: I develop and estimate a dynamic model of child cognitive and non-cognitive skill development in a Markov Perfect Equilibrium framework, where both parents and children play an active role in the child skill development process. Children choose how much of their time to allocate toward studying, while their parents make time allocation decisions, and decide whether to adopt an authoritarian, authoritative, or permissive parenting style. Each parenting style influences child skill development through two channels, they augment child study time decisions, and have a direct (potentially negative) impact on cognitive and non-cognitive skills. I use the estimated model parameters to show that an authoritative parenting style is best at increasing child cognitive and non-cognitive skills, while a permissive parenting style is typically the worst. This provides evidence that the distinction between these non-authoritarian parenting styles is important to consider in the economics literature.

"Estimating Heterogeneous Marginal Environmental Effects on Electrical Grids: Regularized Panel Data Regression Approach" (*with Andrew J. Yates, Andrew Capron, and Valentin Verdier*)

Publications

"Can Bitcoin Mining Increase Renewable Electricity Capacity?" (*with Andrew J. Yates, and Paige Weber*), *Resource and Energy Economics*, 2023

"U.S. West Coast Droughts and Heat Waves Exacerbate Pollution Inequality and Can Undermine Emission Control Policies?" (*with Amir Zeighami, Jordan Kern, Andrew J. Yates, and Paige Weber*), *Nature Communications*, 2023

Works in Progress

"Parenting Decisions When Child Discount Factors Are Endogenous"

"Child Time Allocation, Parenting Style, and Child Development"

Research and Teaching Experience

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant: Intermediate Microeconomics 2024

Instructor: Intermediate Microeconomics 2024

Research Assistant for Andrew Yates 2021 - 2024

Research Assistant for Carolina Demography 2022 - 2023

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Teaching Assistant 2016 - 2017

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (2022, 2023, 2024)

UNC Chapel Hill Applied Microeconomics Seminar (2023, 2024)

UNC Greensboro Brown Bag Seminar (2024)

Honors and Awards

Robert Gallman Graduate Scholarship (UNC) Spring 2022

Phi Beta Kappa (Hobart College) 2017

Technical Skills

Julia, STATA, Python, LaTeX, Git

References

Luca Flabbi (*Advisor*)

Professor of Economics

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Andrew J. Yates

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