

# Austin Knies, Ph.D.

US Citizen

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## EDUCATION

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### Doctor of Philosophy, Economics

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

*Dissertation Committee:*

Emerson Melo, Kosali Simon, Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Seth Freedman, Stefan Weiergraeber

August 2018 - May 2024

### Master of Arts, Economics

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

August 2018 - February 2020

### Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Business Economics, *Honors Scholar*

Louisiana Tech University, *Ruston, LA, USA*

September 2013 - May 2017

## EXPERIENCE

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Health Economics Senior Analyst

*Abt Global*

Expected Start: June 2024

Research Assistant for Angela Campbell, School of Public Health

*Indiana University*

June 2023 - Present

Research Assistant for Jia Xiang, Kelley School of Business

*Indiana University*

January 2024 - May 2024

Associate Instructor for Introductory Microeconomics Coursework

*Indiana University*

Fall 2019 - Spring 2022

## RESEARCH

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**Research Interests:** Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Information Frictions

**Coding Languages:** R, Stata, Python, MATLAB, Fortran

### Publications:

“Healthcare Visit Modality Among Older Adults: Telehealth and Subsequent Emergency Department Use”

2024

*Telemedicine Reports, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2024, Pages 152-157*

Co-authors: Kosali Simon, Emily Hayden

“A Recursive Logit Model with Choice Aversion and Its Application to Transportation Networks.”

2022

*Transportation Research Part B: Methodological, Volume 155, January 2022, Pages 47-71*

Co-authors: Jorge Lorca, Emerson Melo

### Ongoing Research:

“Health Outcomes, Information Costs, and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic”

*Job Market Paper*

Latest Draft: April 2024

*Abstract:* How has the increase in synchronous telemedicine services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic impacted patient health outcomes? Using 2018-2022q1 claims data from Optum’s de-identified Clinformatics® Data Mart Database, I examine differences in telehealth and face-to-face care for office and outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) service claims, where telehealth coding has been the most frequent. Telehealth usage is associated with higher likelihood of patient mortality and ER visit within 6 months of E/M service claim, where I find an average effect of 5 additional deaths and 13 additional ER visits per 1,000 patients in the post-March 2020 period. To explain observed differences in health outcomes across visit modalities, I model the physician-patient interaction as a costly information acquisition problem, where rationally inattentive physicians learn about the patient’s health status through costly signals. Estimated increases in information costs with telehealth usage range between 5 to 29 percent on average after March 2020. These findings quantify the consequences of using telehealth as a substitute for in-person care.

“Refining the Analysis of Medicare Plan Choices and Utilization: A Disaggregated Approach”

*Working Paper*

Latest Draft: February 2024

Co-authors: Michael DeDad, Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Alexandre Skiba

“Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care”

*Working Paper*

Latest Draft: September 2023

**Funding:**

*Research Data Funding, IU Social Science Research Commons.* “Social and Neighborhood Determinants of Healthcare: Medical Appointments No-Show Rates in Urban and Rural Indiana.” \$4800. PI: Patrick Shih. Co-PI: Volodymyr Lugovskyy, Austin Knies

*Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies.* “Heterogeneous Information Processing and Health Insurance Choice.” \$2500. PI: Volodymyr Lugovskyy. Co-PI: Michael DeDad, Austin Knies, Emerson Melo, Alexandre Skiba

*Hayek Fund, Institute for Humane Studies.* “Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care.” \$750. PI: Austin Knies

**Presentations:**

*13th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)* [Accepted] 2024

*Southern Economic Association, 93rd Annual Meeting.* 2023

*12th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon).* 2023

*Midwest Economics Association, 87th Annual Meetings.* 2023

*Eastern Economic Association, 49th Annual Conference.* 2023

*Hoosier Economics Conference at Indiana University.* 2021

**Posters:**

*Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), 2023 Fall Research Conference* 2023

*6th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics.* (Virtual) 2021

**Additional Projects:**

“Fraud Detection with Medicare Provider Data” 2022

*Erdős Institute’s Fall 2022 Code Data Science Boot Camp*

Collaborators: Jonathan Leslie

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Dissertation Research Fellowship recipient, *IU College of Arts and Sciences* 2022 - 2023

Adam Smith Fellowship recipient, *Mercatus Center* 2021 - 2022

Complex Networks and Systems National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Program  
Summer Affiliate, *IU Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering* 2021

Nominated Student Representative, *IU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Awards* 2021

Best Graduate Paper Award recipient, *Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)* 2021

Best Third Year Presentation Award recipient, *Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)* 2021

W. Phillip Saunders Award for Outstanding Introductory Economics Associate Instructor recipient,  
*Department of Economics, Indiana University* 2021

Hayek Fund for Scholars Research Stipend recipient, *Institute for Humane Studies* 2021

Don Lavoie Fellowship recipient, *Mercatus Center* 2020 - 2021

College Graduate Fellowship recipient, *Indiana University* 2018 - 2019