

Austin Knies

Economics Ph.D. Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics Indiana University, <i>Bloomington, IN, USA</i>	2018 - 2024 (Expected Graduation Date: May 2024)
Master of Arts, Economics Indiana University, <i>Bloomington, IN, USA</i>	2018 - 2020
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Business Economics, Honors Scholar Louisiana Tech University, <i>Ruston, LA, USA</i>	2013 - 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Research Fellowship recipient, <i>IU College of Arts and Sciences</i>	2022 - 2023
Adam Smith Fellowship recipient, <i>Mercatus Center</i>	2021 - 2022
Complex Networks and Systems National Science Foundation Research Traineeship Program Summer Affiliate, <i>IU Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering</i>	2021
Nominated Student Representative, <i>IU College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Awards</i>	2021
Best Graduate Paper Award recipient, <i>Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)</i>	2021
Best Third Year Presentation Award recipient, <i>Hoosier Economics Conference (Indiana University)</i>	2021
W. Phillip Saunders Award for Outstanding Introductory Economics Associate Instructor recipient, <i>Department of Economics, Indiana University</i>	2021
Hayek Fund for Scholars Research Stipend recipient, <i>Institute for Humane Studies</i>	2021
Don Lavoie Fellowship recipient, <i>Mercatus Center</i>	2020 - 2021
College Graduate Fellowship recipient, <i>Indiana University</i>	2018 - 2019

EXPERIENCE

Teaching:

Associate Instructor, ECON-B 251 (Fundamentals of Economics for Business I) <i>Indiana University</i>	Spring 2022
Associate Instructor, ECON-E 251 (Fundamentals of Economics I) <i>Indiana University</i>	Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
Associate Instructor, ECON-E 201 (Intro to Microeconomics) <i>Indiana University</i>	Fall 2019, Spring 2020
Tutor, ECON 510 (Managerial Economics) <i>Louisiana Tech University</i>	Spring 2017

Research:

Research Assistant for Angela Campbell, School of Public Health <i>Indiana University</i>	Summer 2023 - Present
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Research Interests: Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Information Frictions

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

Job Market Paper: “Health Outcomes, Information Costs, and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic”
Latest Draft: August 2023

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.

Ongoing Research:

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

Latest Draft: February 2023

Publications:

“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

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:

Presentation, “Physician Information Costs and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *12th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)*. Presented on June 12, 2023.

Presentation, “Physician Information Costs and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Midwest Economics Association, 87th Annual Meetings*. Presented on April 2nd, 2023.

Presentation, “Physician Information Costs and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Eastern Economic Association, 49th Annual Conference*. Presented on February 25th, 2023.

Presentation, “Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care,” *Hoosier Economics Conference at Indiana University*. Presented on April 30th, 2021.

Poster Session, “A Recursive Logit Model with Choice Aversion and Its Application to Transportation Networks,” *6th Annual Conference on Network Science and Economics*. Presented on March 26th, 2021.

Additional Projects:

“Fraud Detection with Medicare Provider Data” 2022
Erdős Institute’s Fall 2022 Code Data Science Boot Camp
Collaborators: Jonathan Leslie