

Austin Knies

Economics Ph.D. Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
Indiana University
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

Dissertation Committee:

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

2018 - 2024

(Expected Graduation Date: May 2024)

Master of Arts, Economics

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

2018 - 2020

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

Louisiana Tech University, *Ruston, LA, USA*

2013 - 2017

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

EXPERIENCE

Teaching:

Associate Instructor, ECON-B 251 (Fundamentals of Economics for Business I)

Spring 2022

Indiana University

Associate Instructor, ECON-E 251 (Fundamentals of Economics I)

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

Indiana University

Associate Instructor, ECON-E 201 (Intro to Microeconomics)

Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Indiana University

Tutor, ECON 510 (Managerial Economics)

Spring 2017

Louisiana Tech University

Research:

Research Assistant for Angela Campbell, School of Public Health

Summer 2023 - Present

Indiana University

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: September 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