Austin Knies

Economics Ph.D. Candidate

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Economics 2018 - 2024
Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

Master of Arts, Economics 2018 - 2020
Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN, USA*

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Business Economics, *Honors Scholar* 2013 - 2017
Louisiana Tech University, *Ruston, LA, USA*

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
Indiana University

RESEARCH

Research Interests: Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Information Frictions

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

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

Ongoing Research:

"Physician Information Costs and the Rise of Telehealth during the COVID-19 Pandemic" Latest Draft: May 2023
Working Paper

Abstract: The use of synchronous telemedicine services rose dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, but to what extent should telehealth be used going forward? Using 2018-2022q1 claims data from Optum's de-identified Clinformatics®Data Mart Database, I characterize the evolution of telehealth and face-to-face modalities for office and outpatient evaluation and management (E/M) service claims, where telehealth coding has been the most frequent. I find telehealth usage is associated with higher likelihood of patient mortality and ER visit within 6 months of E/M service claim, with strongest impact for Medicare Advantage plan members, for established patients, and for patients with no referring provider. To explain these findings, 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. In doing so, I provide a mechanism to explain differences in health outcomes and quantify differences in information costs across visit modalities. Estimated average increases in physician information costs range between 5 to 29 percent with telehealth usage after March 2020. These findings reinforce existing literature that suggest telehealth is best used when expanding access to care for low-risk patients and as a complement rather than a substitute to in-person care.

"Effects of Public Price Transparency Tools on Shopping for Health Care" Latest Draft: February 2023
Working Paper

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," *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