November 28, 2023

Institute for Social Research

426 Thompson Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48106

To Whom it May Concern:

I am applying to the position of Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Social Research, Population Studies Center of the University of Michigan.

My research agenda, including my job market paper, published work, and work in progress, is comprised of work in applied microeconomics. My specific fields of interest are public economics, labor economics, applied econometrics, and urban economics.

My job market paper, *Beyond the Local Impacts of Place-Based Policies: Spillovers through Latent Housing Markets*, proposes an approach to study spillover effects of local policies that propagate non-spatially through latent markets. While the approach is particularly relevant for place-based economic development, it can be adapted to other contexts. I exemplify the approach with a place-based policy and estimate spillover effects within latent housing markets. The empirical findings inform conclusions on overall effectiveness and redistribution that differ from analysis using only direct treatment effects.

My research agenda contains two projects in line with the objectives of the NIA. First, co-authored with V. Joseph Hotz and Emily Wiemers, we explore the relationship between life expectancy and income volatility in the U.S. As part of our paper, we present novel estimates of life expectancy that combine race-specific and income-specific estimates so that we can estimate life expectancy for race x income groups. We correlate these estimates with income volatility to find a negative correlation for low-income households, even with positive income shocks. This paper is under review, which is why I do not attach it to my application.

Second, along with JoonYup Park, we propose to study the decisions of households in the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP, also known as Section 8). We propose to combine administrative data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with commercial data on rental listings. The combination of these data sources will allow us to quantify the weekly choice sets, i.e., the available units that fulfill household- and location-specific criteria. Given the role of the HCVP in subsidizing senior housing, we propose to separately analyze the choice sets by age and family structure. With this description of choice sets, we can pursue modeling avenues that can lead to analysis of counterfactual policy interventions that may expand the availability of affordable housing for different demographic groups, including the elderly. If provided the opportunity of the post-doctoral fellowship, this is the main project I would work on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Anna Ziff