

Rebecca Royer
ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO

Placement Director	Kaspar Wuthrich		kwuthrich@ucsd.edu
Placement Coordinator	Andrew Flores	(858) 534-1867	econ-jobmarket@ucsd.edu

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics	Phone: (774) 287-4692
University of California, San Diego	Email: rroyer@ucsd.edu
9500 Gilman Drive	Website: https://www.beckyroyer.com/
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508	

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics, University of California, San Diego, expected completion 06/2024
Committee: James Andreoni (Co-chair), Gordon Dahl (Co-chair), Sally Sadoff, Anya Samek, and Emanuel Vespa
B.S. in Mathematics and Economics with honors, Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa, 2015

REFERENCES

James Andreoni, Professor of Economics, UC San Diego, jandreoni@ucsd.edu
Gordon Dahl, Professor of Economics, UC San Diego, gdahl@ucsd.edu
Emanuel Vespa, Associate Professor of Economics, UC San Diego, evespa@ucsd.edu
Anya Samek, Associate Professor of Economics and Strategy, UC San Diego, asamek@ucsd.edu

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Behavioral Economics, Labor Economics, Experimental Economics

PUBLICATIONS

“Robustness of Rank Independence in Risky Choice.” with B. Douglas Bernheim and Charles Sprenger, 2022
Bernheim and Sprenger (2020) devise and implement a novel test of rank-dependent probability weighting both in general and as formulated in cumulative prospect theory. They reject both hypotheses decisively. Cumulative prospect theory cannot simultaneously account for the rank independence of “equalizing reductions” for three-outcome lotteries, which it construes as indicating linear probability weighting, and the relationship between equalizing reductions and probabilities, which it interprets as indicating highly nonlinear probability weighting. In the current paper, we explore the robustness of the first finding, rank independence of equalizing reductions (and hence of decision weights), with respect to alternative experimental procedures

WORKING PAPERS

“Belief polarization about racial discrimination in hiring: Evidence from an information experiment”, October 2023 (Job Market Paper)

Political polarization is growing in the US, as Democrats and Republicans increasingly disagree not just on ideologies, but even on facts. Given the economic consequences of polarization, it is important to understand whether and how information can affect belief divergence. Using an online sample of 1100 Democrats and 1100 Republicans, I conduct an information experiment to examine the belief gap between Democrats and Republicans about the extent of hiring discrimination against Black workers in the US. I find that providing labor market information, namely wage gap information, fails to close the belief gap. While Democrats use this information to update their beliefs about racial discrimination in hiring, Republicans do not find it relevant. Consistent with the literature, I find that providing direct

evidence on racial discrimination in hiring closes the belief gap. This information, however, widens the disagreement between Democrats and Republicans about whether hiring discrimination is a problem, likely due to motivated reasoning. Together, the findings highlight the role that divergent interpretations of information can have in the persistence of belief polarization.

“The Long-Term Impact of Early Childhood Investment on Reducing Covid-19 Learning Loss” with Shruti Jha, John A. List, and Anya Samek, October 2023

We leverage a randomized evaluation of an early childhood program to study the impact of early life investments on resilience to negative shocks. When the children in our study were 3-5 years old, they were randomized to a preschool program, a parenting program or to a control group. Ten years later, the children were exposed to school shut-downs during the Covid-19 pandemic. With nearly 900 observations, we show that the parenting program had a protective causal impact on the decrease in academic test scores during the year that schools were closed. While the control group saw a 0.31 SD decline in standardized test scores after Covid-19, the parenting group saw only a 0.12 SD decline. We provide a conceptual framework and evidence on potential mechanisms driving this effect.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Gender Differences in Response to Feedback: Evidence from Performance Labels on Standardized Exams” (with Frances Lu)

“Tests of Discrimination Aversion” (with James Andreoni)

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD

UCSD EconLab Manager, James Andreoni, Summer 2020-Spring 2022

Head Research Assistant, Daniel Benjamin and Miles Kimball, 2016-2018

Research Assistant, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Economics Department, 2014-2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant for MGT 160 Experiments in Firms (undergraduate), Prof. Sally Sadoff, Fall 2023

Teaching Assistant for MGT 410 Strategy (MBA), Prof. Anya Samek, Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant for ECON 143 Experimental Economics (undergraduate), Prof. James Andreoni, Winter 2021

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Grant (\$10,000), 2023

UCSD Economics Diversity Research Fellowship (\$5,000), 2022

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant #SES-2117463 (\$25,000) (PI: Andreoni, Co-PI: Royer), 2021

UCSD Clive Granger Research Fellowship, 2021

NSF Graduate Research Fellow, 2018-2023

UCSD Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, 2019 & 2020

UCSD Regents Fellowship, 2019

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations

2023: Advances with Field Experiments (AFE), Economic Science Association North American Regional Meeting (ESA)

2021: Economic Science Association North American Regional Meeting

Conference Participation

2023: Behavioral Economics Annual Meeting (BEAM), Advances with Field Experiments (AFE),
Economic Science Association North American Regional Meeting (ESA)

2022: Behavioral Economics Annual Meeting (BEAM); Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in
Behavioral Economics; UCSD Rady Spring School in Behavioral Economics

2021: Behavioral Economics Annual Meeting (BEAM)

OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: United States, United Kingdom

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Proficient)

Skills: Stata, oTree, Python, HTML