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
University of California San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92093-0508

Phone: (774) 287-4692
Email: rroyer@ucsd.edu
Website: https://www.beckyroyer.com/

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, American University, 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

Charles Sprenger, Professor of Economics, California Institute of Technology, sprenger@caltech.edu

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Behavioral/Experimental and Labor Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Belief polarization about racial discrimination in hiring: Evidence from an information experiment", September 2023

> Substantial research examines the recent rise of political polarization and its potential sources. In this paper, I investigate a novel channel of belief polarization: divergent interpretations of information. I conduct an online experiment with Democrats and Republicans in the US to study beliefs about hiring discrimination against Black workers, a topic on which Democrats and Republicans are polarized. I find that Democrats' beliefs about racial hiring discrimination are responsive to information on racial wage disparities, while Republicans' beliefs are not. As a result, wage gap information fails to reduce (and even increases) the partisan difference in beliefs about hiring discrimination. Moreover, even after both groups agree about the extent of racial hiring discrimination, participants change their opinions about whether it is a problem in line with politically motivated reasoning. Together, these findings highlight key challenges in using information to reduce polarization.

PUBLICATIONS

"Robustness of Rank Independence in Risky Choice." with B. Douglas Bernheim and Charles Sprenger, *AEA Papers & Proceedings*, 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

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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

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

"Tests of Discrimination Aversion" (with James Andreoni)

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

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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITES

Presentations

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

    2021: Economic Science Association North American Regional Meeting (ESA)

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