

B. Holt Dwyer

PHD CANDIDATE, ECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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Education

B.A. in Economics

CERTIFICATE (MINOR) IN APPLICATIONS OF COMPUTING

Princeton University

2015

PhD in Economics (In Progress)

FIELDS: MACROECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

University of California, San Diego

Aug. 2018 - Present

Research

Procuring Growth? Firm-Level Effects of Procurement Contracts

Working Paper

WITH EDOARDO BRIGANTI, RICARDO GABRIEL, VICTOR SELLEMI

- We examine the impacts of demand shocks on firm growth using highly competed contracts from the FPDS linked to restricted-access firm-level data in the LDB. Results show employment but not average wage impacts that are most pronounced for the smallest firms. Future work will disentangle the effect of MSA-level defense spending shocks into direct and spillover effects.

This is Air: The ‘Non-Health’ Effects of Air Pollution

ARRE

WITH SANDRA AGUILAR-GOMEZ, JOSH GRAFF-ZIVIN, MATTHEW NEIDELL

2022

- Surveys the literature on performance, cognition, and decision-making effects of air pollution and discusses hidden costs of amelioration and avoidance.

Farming on the Margin: The Green Revolution and Farm Sizes in India

Working Paper

- Using a shift-share IV design, I identify the effects of the Green Revolution on the distribution of farm sizes in India using district panel data. Results suggest that Green Revolution productivity increases are responsible for a large increase in the number of extremely small farms, potentially delaying structural transformation.

Whose Woods are These? State Forest Deforestation in Indonesia

Working Paper

- Using a regression discontinuity along the boundary of state-owned forest, I examine the effects of maintained forest designation and the mechanisms driving the effects. Results suggest that the boundary has a small but meaningful effect on deforestation, operating primarily through constraints on the expansion of oil palm.

Experience

University of California, San Diego

TEACHING ASSISTANT

San Diego, California

September 2019 - Present

- Led discussion sections, held office hours, checked and graded exams for Economics Department
- Courses including macroeconomics, public policy, globalization, and international monetary economics

Federal Reserve Board

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 2015 - Jul. 2018

- Helped develop toolbox for DSGE-VAR estimation of TFP shocks in a network production model
- Helped develop and calibrate in-house macro banking model; ran regulatory policy simulations in Dynare
- Assisted with research on topics including policy surprises, solution methods for DSGE models, and crisis prediction

Skills & Competencies

- Extensive experience with R, Matlab (including Dynare), Stata; comfortable coding in Python, SQL
- Proficient with GIS analysis in QGIS, R