Bruno Kömel

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh — Pittsburgh, PA
Ph.D. in Economics — *Expected 2026*
M.A. in Economics — *2022*

University of Virginia — Charlottesville, VA
M.Sc. in Accounting — *2018*

Covenant College — Lookout Mtn., GA
B.A. in Business (Accounting/Finance) — *2017*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Development Economics, Political Economy, Public Economics, Labor Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"Monitoring and Delivering: Evidence from Dropout Rates in Brazil"

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Is Tobacco (Farming) Good for You?" (With Marcela Camargo)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship — 2024
The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Arts and Sciences Graduate Summer Fellowship — 2023
The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship — 2021
The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Labor and Development Brown-bag, *University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA* — 2023
Applied Microeconomics Brown-bag, *University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA* — 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics — University of Pittsburgh

Teaching Assistant (Average Teaching Effectiveness Score)

Econometric Theory 1 – *Ph.D.* (4.9/5) — Fall 2022, 2023
Empirical Methods – *Ph.D.* (4.9/5) — Spring 2023, 2024

Insrtuctor (Average Teaching Effectiveness Score)

Intermediate Macroeconomics (4.7/5) — Summer 2024

CERTIFICATES

Inclusive STEM Teaching: *2024*

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Languages: R, Python, Stata, LaTeX

Research Abstracts

Monitoring and Delivering: Evidence from Dropout Rates in Brazil

Working Paper

This paper provides evidence that randomized audits in Brazil led to an improvement in some outcomes for public school students, but were relatively ineffective in improving the provision of other public services. I find causal evidence that the audits led to a decrease in the dropout rates in municipal elementary and middle schools by 0.37 percentage points, which corresponds to a ten percent decrease. A back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that one fewer student dropped out, per school, per two years, as a result of these municipal audits. This amounts to approximately one third of the estimates of the decrease in dropout rates resulting from *Bolsa Família*, a large conditional cash transfer program in Brazil. I also find suggestive evidence that this effect is driven by the audits disciplining audited mayors. Additionally, I show that the effectiveness of the audits in decreasing dropout rates is dependent on a municipality's reliance on conditional cash transfers, and on the amount of irregularities uncovered during the audit. These results support the notion that monitoring can effectively realign the incentives of politicians and their constituencies.

Wind of Immigration

Work in Progress

The advent of the steamboat changed the world as people knew it. The effective shrinking of the globe that took place when the steamboat was adopted, and by the same coin when the sailboat was all but abandoned, has been shown to have profoundly influenced trade relations between countries, and to have long-lasting impacts on economic development. It is not so clear, however, the interaction between these effects and the migration that plausibly ensued with the adoption of steamboats. This paper uses heterogeneity in the timing of the adoption of steam technology to study the economic growth impacts of the increased migration that took place as a result of these advancements. Further, the paper seeks to reconcile some previous evidence in the literature to formalize the mechanisms through which these historical phenomena impacted economic growth.

Service

Graduate Student Mentor   2022-2024

Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh

Benevolence Team Member   2022-Present

Renaissance Church

Languages

Portuguese: Native

English: Fluent