

Bruno Kömel

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EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh

Ph.D. in Economics

M.A. in Economics

Pittsburgh, PA

Expected 2026

2022

University of Virginia

M.Sc. in Accounting

Charlottesville, VA

2018

Covenant College

B.A. in Business (Accounting/Finance)

Lookout Mtn., GA

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

“Wind of Immigration: The Effect of Sailing Technology on Migration Patterns”

“Deconstruction: Crimes Against African-Americans in the Post-Reconstruction Era”

“Is Tobacco (Farming) Good for You?”

RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

2024

Arts and Sciences Graduate Summer Fellowship

The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

2023

K. Leroy Irvis Fellowship

The Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

2021

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

Instructor (Average Teaching Effectiveness Score)

Intermediate Macroeconomics (upcoming)

Summer 2024

CERTIFICATES

Inclusive STEM Teaching: 2024

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Languages: R, Python, Stata, Git, L^AT_EX

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

LANGUAGES

Portuguese: Native

English: Fluent