

Craig Sylvera
Curriculum Vitae, October 2021

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Vanderbilt University
Department of Economics
Nashville, TN 37235

Graduate Education

Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics
Ph.D Candidate in Economics, May 2022 (Expected)
Dissertation Title: Black Representation In Muncipal Government
References:

Brian Beach
Lesley Turner
William Collins

brian.beach@vanderbilt.edu
lesley.j.turner@vanderbilt.edu
william.collins@vanderbilt.edu

M.A. in Economics, 2018

Undergraduate Education

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
B.S. in Finance, 2016

Research Interests

Primary: Labor and Demographic Economics
Secondary: Economic History, Urban Economics, Public Economics

Working Papers

“Black Mayors & Black Communities”

Do Black communities economically benefit from the election of a Black mayor? Leveraging elections where a Black candidate wins mayor for the first time and that Black Americans often reside near each other, I use a stacked difference-in-differences strategy allowing for heterogeneous treatment effects by ZIP-code racial composition to estimate the effect breakthrough Black mayors have on location-specific economic activity. I find majority-Black ZIP codes experience gains in all areas of economic activity relative to non-Black communities. Gains to the number of businesses in majority-Black zip codes are found in industries where the mayor and department heads exert influence over city contracts suggesting these figures are influencing the distribution of city funds. To provide evidence these gains are experienced by Black residents, I turn to the decennial Census and American Community Survey and find a 27 percent reduction in the Black–White self-employment gap on average. However, there exists a positive relationship between the Black–White self employment gap and relative self-employment gains suggesting institutional and historical factors may limit Black economic progress in areas of high disparity. These findings suggest a role for the government to reduce Black textendash White disparities in entrepreneurship by eliminating informational and structural barriers to participation.

Works-in-Progress

“Economic Impact of Black Lives Matter Protests” (with Oscar O’Flaherty)

Protests occurred in hundreds of cities across the United States in response to the police killing of

George Floyd on May 25th, 2020. Although many of the protests remained peaceful, some protests turned violent. This paper estimates the differential impact of violent protests on business activity at the city level. Cities with non-violent protests experienced a 1 percentage point decrease in businesses open for the duration of the protests. In contrast, violent protests caused a 3 percentage point decrease. These impacts revert after several weeks in both violent and non-violent protest cities.

“Does The Election Of Black Candidates Improve Race-Specific Policing Patterns?”
“Black Mayors, Adjacent Jurisdictions, And Economic Reallocation”

Presentations

2021

Vanderbilt Empirical and Applied Microeconomics Seminar
Missouri Valley Economics Association Conference

Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University, Instructor

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics 2019

Econ 2160: Strategic Analysis 2020

Vanderbilt University, Teaching Assistant

GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Econ 8400: Introduction to Economic History, Prof. Peter Rousseau 2020

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi 2021

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Heather Luea 2019, 2020

Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi 2021

Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Heather Luea 2017

Econ 2220: Latin American Development, Prof. Ana de Vides Regina Andrade 2018, 2019

Other Research Experience

Vanderbilt University, Research Assistant - Discovery Grant 2019