

# CAGLAR ONAL

[onal@uwm.edu](mailto:onal@uwm.edu) | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Webpage](#) | Milwaukee, WI - US

(Current as of September 2022)

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</b> Ph.D. in Economics	Aug. 2018 – (Expected 2023) Milwaukee, WI
<b>University of Missouri</b> M.A. in Economics	Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2017 Columbia, MO
<b>Istanbul University</b> B.S. in Economics	Sep. 2008 – June 2014 Istanbul, Turkey

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics, Crime Economics, Policy Analysis, Health Economics, Family and Gender Economics

## RESEARCH

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*"Employment Effects of Automatic Criminal Record Expungements"* (Working Paper) (Under Review)  
(Richard Perlman Outstanding Paper Award in Labor Economics)

**Abstract:** Several states have enacted broad automatic expungement laws, such as Clean Slate and expungement for cannabis-related offenses, that destroyed millions of criminal records. Advocates of the automatic expungement laws propose that removing criminal record information might help people with records to improve their economic outcomes by removing barriers to employment. However, this policy might have adverse effects on disadvantaged demographic groups. When risk-averse employers realize that there are many people in the labor market whose criminal background cannot be observed because of automatic expungement, they might hesitate to hire job applicants from demographic groups that are likely to include the majority of ex-offenders, particularly black people with no sort of college education. I test this hypothesis by exploiting the adoption and timing variation of the automatic expungement policies across states. I apply the difference-in-differences and event-study approaches as my identification strategies using individual-level monthly CPS (Current Population Survey) data. The results show that the automatic expungement laws decrease the probability of employment by 3.99 percentage points (7.79%) for low-educated black people. The magnitude of the effect is higher when I restrict the sample to young black individuals with no high school diploma. Their probability of employment is reduced by 10.8 percentage points (27.69%).

*"The Impact of Recreational Cannabis Laws on Black Women's Marriage"* (Working Paper) (Under Review)

**Abstract:** The incarceration rate of black males has increased since the war on drugs began in the 1970s. This has coincided with a decline in the marriage rate for black females. In this paper, I test this link directly by using the relaxation of existing cannabis legislation over the past decade, which has led to a reduction in the drug-related arrests of blacks. Also, I present difference-in-differences estimation results and an event-study that show that legalizing recreational cannabis increases the odds of marriage for low-educated black females. The link is larger for low-educated, low-income females.

*"The Effect of ACA Medicaid Expansions on Income Inequality" (with Sezen Ozcan Onal, and Scott J. Adams) (In Progress)*

**Abstract:** This paper analyses how income inequality is affected by access to healthcare. Specifically, we examine the effect of Medicaid expansions under the Affordable Care Act law and the role of Community Health Centers (CHCs) in this framework by using a dynamic panel model. Our preliminary findings suggest that CHCs have a decreasing effect on income inequality in the expansion states.

*"Impact of Children's Medicaid and CHIP Access on Mothers" (In Progress)*

**Abstract:** In this study, I analyze the potential relationship between children's health care access and mothers' saving and labor market outcomes using individual-level, confidential data from the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79) and the corresponding NLSY Child/Young-Adult sample (NLSY-CYA). To account for the endogeneity of health care eligibility, I adapt the instrumental variable strategy, and construct a simulated eligibility instrument using a national sample of CPS children.

*"Impact of Children's Early Access to Health Care on Crime" (In Progress)*

*"Machine Learning Approach to Predict Long-Term Chronic Diseases" (In Progress)*

## EXPERIENCE

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### Research Assistant to Prof. Scott J. Adams

May 2022 - Present

*Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

- Collected, cleaned, edited, and summarized a panel dataset using Stata and R.
- Designed econometric models (difference-in-differences, event-study, and synthetic control) to find a causal relationship between Medicaid expansion and income inequality.
- Run regressions on Stata and R. Wrote a draft.

### Instructor

September 2020 - Present

*Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

#### Economics Statistics (ECON 210)

*Fall 2020 (online), Spring 2021 (online), Fall 2021 (in-person), Spring 2022 (in-person)*

Taught Economics Statistics for 4 semesters to over 100 college students. I prepared syllabus, assignments, exams, and lecture notes. Gave lectures on the following topics:

- How to clean, edit, summarize and visualize data.
- Probability, discrete and continuous distributions. Random sampling techniques.
- Statistical inference: t, z, chi-square tests. Confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, regression analysis, correlation.

#### Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 103)

*Summer 2021 (online)*

The course material covers three broad components. The first part is devoted to building concepts that are crucial for understanding models of micro-economic behavior. It is followed by an actual analysis of the micro-economic models. I finish the course by addressing practical applications of the models.

**Teaching Assistant**, grading and leading discussion sessions  
*Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee*

September 2018 - December 2021

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 103)  
*Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020*

Economic Theory: Microeconomics (ECON 701)  
*Fall 2021*

Economic Applications of Game Theory (ECON 404)  
*Fall 2020*

## SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

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Richard Perlman Prize for Outstanding Paper in Labor Economics <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	2022
Chancellor's Graduate Student Award <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	2021
Chancellor's Graduate Student Award <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	2020
Chancellor's Graduate Student Award <i>University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	2018
The Republic of Turkey, Ministry of National Education	2015 <i>Scholarship for Master's Study in the USA</i>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Applied Microeconomics Seminar Series <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	January, 2021
Midwest Economics Association 86th Annual Meeting	March, 2022
Applied Microeconomics Seminar Series <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee</i>	April, 2022
Midwest Economics Research Group (MERG) <i>Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse</i>	August, 2022
Southern Economic Association 92nd Annual Meeting	November, 2022

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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### Econometrics/Machine Learning:

- Causal Inference • DiD • IV • Synthetic Control • Least Squares Regression • Logit • Probit
- Regression Discontinuity • Panel Data • Time Series • Principal Component Analysis
- Bayesian Estimations • Linear Discriminant Analysis • K-Nearest Neighbors • Lasso
- Random Forests • Neural Networks • Supervised Learning • Unsupervised Learning

### Technical Proficiencies:

- Stata • Python (NumPy, scikit-learn, pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, TensorFlow)
- R (Base, dplyr, tidyverse, ggplot2, stringr, randomForest, TwoWayFEWeights) • Julia • SQL • Tableau
- Eviews • ArcGis • Excel

**Document Creation:**

- L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X • Microsoft Word • Google Workspace

**Languages:**

- English (fluent) • Turkish (native) • Spanish (beginner) • German (beginner)

REFERENCES

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**Scott J. Adams**

Professor of Economics

University Wisconsin-Milwaukee

[sjadams@uwm.edu](mailto:sjadams@uwm.edu)

**John S. Heywood**

Professor of Economics

University Wisconsin-Milwaukee

[heywood@uwm.edu](mailto:heywood@uwm.edu)

**Scott Drewianka**

Associate Professor of Economic

University Wisconsin-Milwaukee

[sdrewian@uwm.edu](mailto:sdrewian@uwm.edu)