

CASEY C. MCQUILLAN

caseycm@princeton.edu ◇ casey-mcquillan.github.io ◇ 617-827-0256

Placement Director	Gianluca Violante	violante@princeton.edu	609-258-4003
Graduate Administrator	Laura Hedden	lhedden@princeton.edu	609-258-4006

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building
Department of Economics
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544

GRADUATE STUDIES

Princeton University	2020-present
PhD Candidate in Economics	
Expected Completion Date: May 2026	

REFERENCES

Professor Ilyana Kuziemko	Professor David Lee	Professor Owen Zidar
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
Princeton University	Princeton University	Princeton University
kuziemko@princeton.edu	davidlee@princeton.edu	ozidar@princeton.edu

PRIOR EDUCATION

Amherst College	2013-2018
B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude	

FIELDS

Public Finance, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

1. [The Health Wedge and Labor Market Inequality](#) with Amy Finkelstein, Owen Zidar, and Eric Zwick, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, Spring 2023: 425–475.

JOB MARKET PAPER

Incomplete and Endogenous Take-Up of Unemployment Insurance with Brendan Moore, 2025.

Standard models of unemployment insurance (UI) focus on how benefit generosity affects the average claim duration, while assuming perfect take-up. Yet, benefit receipt is highly incomplete with estimates of take-up among eligible workers below 50 percent in the United States. In this paper, we show take-up is an important margin of response: If benefits become more generous, more workers claim benefits in addition to claimants remaining on benefits for longer. Using a sample of likely eligible workers, we leverage a regression kink design to identify the causal effect of weekly benefit level on take-up and total benefits paid. Our results suggest a 10 percent increase in the weekly benefit leads to a 4.7 percent increase in take-up, which drives a 6.2 percent increase in total benefits paid. Previous work that focused only on claim duration did not account for this and thus underestimated the fiscal externality from raising benefit levels. These findings have important implications for policy: accounting for endogenous take-up reduces the optimal benefit level by 29 percent and lowers the value of additional spending to raise benefits by 27 percent.

WORKING PAPERS

- (i) **The Benefits of Unemployment Insurance for Marginally Attached Workers** with Brendan Moore, 2025.

Existing research consistently finds that unemployment insurance (UI) benefits delay job finding with limited effects on job quality, but focuses on changes in UI generosity while holding fixed access to re-employment services. Using employer-employee matched data from Washington State and a fuzzy regression discontinuity design around the eligibility threshold for UI, we find that benefit receipt minimally delays re-employment but substantially improves labor market outcomes. UI increases cumulative hours worked by approximately 15 full-time weeks and earnings by \$14,000 in the two years following job loss, representing 37 percent and 50 percent increases, respectively. These gains are driven by improved job quality, as recipients experience longer tenure and higher wages with their next employer. Effects are larger for workers living near public employment offices, suggesting that access to re-employment services enhances search productivity. Expanding UI access by lowering the eligibility threshold is much more cost-effective than raising benefit levels or extending potential duration, as workers benefit from more stable, higher-paying re-employment that partially offsets its cost.

- (ii) **Barriers to Benefits: Unemployment Insurance Take-Up, Frictions, and Labor Market Consequences** with Brendan Moore, 2025.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) provides income support during job loss, yet take-up remains puzzlingly low, with less than half of eligible unemployed workers in the U.S. claiming benefits. We implement a large-scale field experiment among 50,000 workers in Washington State flagged in real time as likely recent job losers without a UI claim to study the causes and labor supply implications of incomplete take-up. Informational letters increased UI applications by 1.5 percentage points (an 80% increase), with effects concentrated among low-wage workers. We attribute the treatment effects to reduced learning costs rather than improved beliefs about eligibility due to the letters' positive effect on the application rejection rate. Randomized destigmatizing letters induced more applications only among high-wage job seekers. Despite raising UI take-up, we can rule out adverse labor supply effects. We argue work-search requirements serve a dual function: motivating faster re-employment while simultaneously excluding marginal applicants who do not satisfy compliance rules. To interpret these findings and quantify the underlying frictions, we develop and estimate a structural job search model with endogenous UI take-up that rationalizes our experimental effects and informs the design of targeted UI outreach policies.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Specialist, Employment Security Department in WA State	2022 - 2025
Visiting Scholar, National Bureau of Economic Research	2023
Research Assistant to Professor Owen Zidar	2021
Senior Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of New York	2018 - 2020

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations and Seminars (including scheduled)

Seminar for Economics Department at Amherst College	October 2025
Policy Impacts Conference at MIT	July 2025
W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research	November 2024
Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics	August 2024
Tax Policy Colloquium at Loyola Marymount University	November 2023

Refereeing: *American Economic Review: Insights*

TEACHING

Princeton SPI507: Quantitative Analysis for Policymakers (Fall 2024)

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Early Career Scholars Grant, Policy Impacts at MIT	November 2024
Program for Research on Inequality, Princeton University	February 2023
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation	April 2022
Louis A. Simpson Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University	May 2021
Amherst Memorial Fellowship, Amherst College	April 2021
Computation in Economics Fellowship, NYU/Schmidt Futures	March 2019
Phi Beta Kappa Society, Amherst College	May 2018
Summa Cum Laude, Amherst College	May 2018

OTHER WRITINGS

1. [Real Inventory Slowdowns](#) with Richard Crump and David Lucca, *Liberty Street Economics*, (2019).
2. [Is the Recent Tax Reform Playing a Role in the Decline of Home Sales?](#) with Richard Peach, *Liberty Street Economics*, (2019).
3. [To Ban or Not To Ban: Regulating For-Profit Charter Schools](#), Amherst College Honors Thesis, (2018).
4. [Learning From Ferguson: Using Body Cameras and Participatory Governance to Improve Policing](#) with Lucas Turner-Owens, *Harvard Journal of Public African American Policy*, (2015).

Last updated: September 2025