

Chase S. Eck, PhD

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APPOINTMENTS

<i>Health Economist</i>	2021–present
Health Policy, Quality, & Informatics Program	
Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety	
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center	
<i>Instructor</i>	2021–present
Department of Medicine–Health Services Research	
Baylor College of Medicine	

EDUCATION

The University of Arizona	Tucson, AZ
Ph.D. in Economics	May 2021
<i>Fields: Health Economics, Labor Economics</i>	
M.A. in Economics	January 2018
Northwestern University	Evanston, IL
B.A. in Economics and Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences	June 2014
B.S. in Mathematics	
Certificate in Managerial Analytics, Kellogg School of Management	

RESEARCH

Working Papers

“Call the (Certified Nurse) Midwife: The Effect of Scope-of-Practice Laws on Costs, Outcomes, and Sorting” (Job Market Paper)

In the United States, there are substantial restrictions on who can provide healthcare and how they do so. These labor market restrictions seek to improve quality, but may also increase the cost to provide services and limit consumer choice. I examine this tradeoff by using plausibly exogenous variation in the strictness of Scope-of-Practice laws for Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs). Half of all states have relaxed their SOP laws to allow CNMs to practice and prescribe independently of a physician. I estimate the effect of granting CNMs full independence on hospital facility costs using administrative data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and inpatient discharge records from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). Using a difference-in-differences research design, I find that allowing CNMs to practice independently substantially reduces hospital facility costs per birth and the use of intensive procedures, such as cesarean sections. These cost reductions are concentrated in hospitals that are well-positioned to integrate CNMs into their practice. I find that maternal health outcomes, as measured by the rate of Severe Maternal Morbidity, also improve. Using a structural choice model, I decompose the overall effect of the policy into savings generated from increased hospital efficiency and savings due to changing selection of patients into hospitals. I find that the savings are primarily driven by increased hospital

efficiency for low-risk patients and higher-risk patients select into higher-cost hospitals after the law change. These effects are attenuated by market concentration and a high density of OBGYNs.

“The Effect of Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards on the Food Consumption of SNAP Recipients”

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food assistance to nearly 44 million Americans each year. I document a substantial increase in the program’s ability to stimulate food consumption from 1990 to 2010, as measured by the marginal propensity to consume food (MPCf) out of SNAP. I provide the first evidence for a mechanism driving this increase: the transition from paper coupons to Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. Using plausibly exogenous variation over states and time I estimate that the introduction of EBT doubles the MPCf out of SNAP and accounts for 25 percent of its observed increase.

“Family Support in Hard Times: Dynamics of Intergenerational Exchange after Adverse Events,”
with Jessamyn Schaller, *Under Review*

We use an event-study approach to examine changes in intergenerational financial transfers and informal care within families following wealth loss, job exit, widowhood, and health shocks. We find sharp reductions in parental giving to adult children following negative shocks to parents’ wealth and earned income, particularly in low-wealth households. Parental giving also decreases with some health shocks and increases following spousal death. Meanwhile, children of low-wealth households increase financial transfers to their parents following adverse shocks and children in both high- and low-wealth households increase their provision of informal care to parents following a wide range of adverse shocks.

Published Papers

Kern, Mary C., Jeanne M. Brett, Laurie R. Weingart, and Chase S. Eck. “The “fixed” pie perception and strategy in dyadic versus multiparty negotiations.” *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes* 157 (2020): 143-158.

“Misclassification error when identifying job stayers in the Current Population Survey.” *Economics Bulletin* 38, no. 2 (2018): 1077-1082.

Work in Progress

“Why does SNAP improve infant health? Evidence from the EBT rollout”

“Evaluating care coordination initiatives in an outpatient setting”

Presentations

2021: ASHEcon 2021; Scope of Practice and Medical Licensure Virtual Conference; Congressional Budget Office; The Brattle Group; IQuEST–VA Houston/Baylor College of Medicine; Federal Communications Commission; Food and Drug Administration; Federal Trade Commission; Center for Economic Studies–U.S. Census Bureau; Office of Evaluation Sciences–General Services Administration

2020: Indiana University; The University of Arizona

2019: ASHEcon 2019; The University of Arizona Labor Brownbag

Research Assistant

Prof. Jessamyn Schaller, University of Arizona	Summer 2018 & 2019
Prof. Diane Schanzenbach, Northwestern University	Summer 2013
Prof. Jeanne Brett, Northwestern University	Fall 2011–Spring 2014

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$24,355)	2020
Eller Center for Management Innovations in Healthcare Research Grant (\$5,000)	2020
Graduate and Professional Student Council REAP Grant (\$1,500)	2019
Ed Zajac Prize for the best third year paper (departmental award)	2019
Steve Manos Prize for best second year paper (departmental award)	2018
Thomas R. Brown Fellowship	2016
Highest Order of Excellence at Northwestern University	2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sole Instructor of Record

Econ 481: Economics of Wage Determination	Fall 2019
Econ 300: Microeconomic Analysis for Business Decisions (Online)	Winter 2018, Summer 2019, & Summer 2020
Econ 300: Microeconomic Analysis for Business Decisions (In-Person)	Summer 2018
Econ 200: Basic Economic Issues (Online)	Winter 2017 & Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant BNAD 596A: Statistical Machine Learning with Applications	Spring 2021
Econ 550: EMBA Business Strategy	Fall 2020
Econ 200: Basic Economic Issues (Online)	Fall 2020
Econ 200: Basic Economic Issues (Online)	Spring 2020
Econ 325: Historical Development of Financial and Economic Institutions	Spring 2019
Econ 460: Industrial Organization	Fall 2018 & Spring 2019
Econ 323: Economics of Sports	Fall 2018
Econ 300: Microeconomic Analysis for Business Decisions	Fall 2017
Econ 200: Basic Economic Issues	Spring 2017
Econ 150: An Economics Perspective	Fall 2016 & Fall 2017

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Organizer, Economics Graduate Student Workshop Series	2017–2020
Institute Director for UA Graduate and Professional Student Council	2017–2018
Chair of The Undergraduate Budget Priorities Committee	2011–2014
Member of the search committee for Northwestern's CFO	2014
Member of the executive committee of the Norris Student Center Renovation study	2014
Fellow - Northwestern Chapter of the Roosevelt Institute	2011–2013

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate at TGG Group	9/2014 - 8/2016
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- Worked under the direction of Daniel Kahneman to design and build a behaviorally-informed evaluation and compensation system for a Fortune 50 company
- Worked under the direction of Daniel Kahneman and Steve Levitt to redesign and build an insurance sales website for a large insurer, focusing on improved choice architecture

- Learned and applied Data Science skills in a business setting to support the above projects, including setting up data storage and cleaning pipelines, linear regression modelling, and data visualization

REFERENCES

Ashley Langer (*Dissertation Chair*)

Assistant Professor of Economics
The University of Arizona
alanger@eller.arizona.edu

Gatuum Gowrisankaran (*Committee Member*)

Professor of Economics
Peter and Nancy Salter Chair in Healthcare Management
The University of Arizona
gautamg2@gmail.com

Gary Solon

Professor Emeritus
University of Michigan
gary.r.solon@gmail.com

John Drabicki (*Teaching Reference*)

Vice Chair of Economics
McCoy/Rogers Faculty Fellow
The University of Arizona
drabicki@email.arizona.edu