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Clint Harris

Contact Information

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Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Wisconsin-Madison 2019-Present

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Purdue University	2019
Committee Chair: Victoria Prowse	
M.S., Economics, Purdue University	2016
B.A., Economics, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	2014
B.A., Marketing, Taylor University	2009

Research Fields

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Econometrics

Working Papers: Economics

“Identifying and Estimating Perceived Returns to Binary Investments”

Abstract: I introduce a new method for estimating agents’ perceived returns to binary investments that exploits the mechanical relationship between perceived prices and perceived returns in binary choice settings. Identification is achieved using instruments for prices that are uncorrelated with both price misperceptions and unobserved components of perceived returns. The method provides estimates of perceived returns in terms of compensating variation, which naturally implies effects for subsidies and taxes. These estimates condition on observed characteristics, allowing for heterogeneity in predicted subsidy and tax effects across types of individuals. Because these estimates are of distributions instead of point elasticities, they imply effects that are nonlinear in policy magnitude. I demonstrate the advantages of the new method relative to two related alternatives in a series of data simulations.

“Estimating the Perceived Returns to College”

Abstract: The primary determinant of an individual’s college attendance is their perceived lifetime return to college. I infer agents’ perceived returns by exploiting the dollar-for-dollar relationship between perceived returns and tuition costs in a binary choice model of college attendance. This method has the advantage of estimating perceived returns in terms of compensating variation without assuming rational expectations on actual returns. Estimating the

model using both maximum likelihood and moment inequalities, I find that the scale of the distribution of perceived returns is an order of magnitude lower than past work has found when assuming rational expectations on income returns. The low variance I find in perceived returns implies high responses to financial aid. I predict a 2.6 percentage point increase in college attendance from a \$1,000 universal annual tuition subsidy, which is consistent with quasi-experimental estimates of the effects of tuition assistance on college attendance. Because I estimate the complete distribution of perceived returns, my results can be used to predict heterogeneous effects of counterfactual financial aid policies.

“Coworker Gender Preferences: Effects on Gender Gaps in Occupational Selection and Wages”

Abstract: This paper analyzes the effect of occupational gender composition on job-specific labor supply for workers of each gender. I construct a static model of job selection wherein preferences regarding coworker gender composition produce gender-specific compensating differentials. I estimate the model using maximum likelihood to identify the underlying coworker gender preference parameters. Based on estimated compensating differentials, men’s preference is highest for occupations that are 60% female and lowest for female-dominated occupations. Women prefer jobs that are female-dominated, and are least satisfied with jobs that are 25% male all else equal.

Works in Progress: Economics

“School Attendance and Crime: Evidence From the Chicago Teacher Walkout,” with Mary Kate Batistich and Kendall Kennedy

“Holding out or Holding up: Bargaining over Future Earnings under Learning by Doing”

“Estimating Returns to Unobserved Education Choices”, with Haiqing Zhao

“Joint Estimation of Perceived and Pecuniary Returns to College”

“Separating Perceived Credit Constraints from Perceived Returns to College using Binary Attendance Decisions ”

“Looking out for Number 1,2,...,T: Explaining Time Preferences with Identity Persistence and Altruism”

Working Papers: Multidisciplinary

“Student Regional Origins and Student Entrepreneurship,” with Jon Eckhardt, Chuan Chen, Bekhzod Khoshimov, and Brent Goldfarb, **Revise and Resubmit at Regional Studies**

“Student Entrepreneurship at Land Grant Universities: Evidence from the University of Wisconsin-

Madison,” with Chuan Chen, Bekhzod Khoshimov, Jon Eckhardt, and Brent Goldfarb

Conference and Seminar Presentations

Southern Economics Association	November 2020
EALE SOLE AASLE World Conference	June 2020
Southern Economics Association	November 2019
European Association of Labour Economists	September 2019
Case Western Reserve University	May 2019
U.S. Census Bureau	April 2019
Kansas State University	January 2019
Southern Economics Association, Washington D.C.	November 2018
National Tax Association, New Orleans	November 2018
Krannert Ph.D. Research Symposium	October 2018
Midwest Economics Association SOLE Sessions, Evanston, IL	March 2018
Midwest Economics Association, Cincinnati, OH	March 2017
Krannert PhD Research Symposium, West Lafayette, IN	November 2016

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Introductory Microeconomics	Summer 2016
Recitation Instructor, Principles of Economics	Spring 2015
Teaching Assistant, Labor Economics	Fall 2018
Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomics	Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2018
Teaching Assistant, MBA Microeconomics	Fall 2014, Fall 2015
Teaching Assistant, MBA Macroeconomics	Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Referee Experience

Management Science

Honors and Awards

Krannert Certificate for Outstanding Research, Purdue University	2019
Krannert Ph.D. Research Symposium Top Presentation Award, Purdue University	2018
Certificate for Distinguished Recitation Teaching, Purdue University	2015